



ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW



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"SCHLOCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW" Hollywood, Aug 21, 1981

(A review of Shock Treatment by Variety, August 26, 1981, Volume 304, Page 20.)

The only shocking thing about "Shock Treatment," followup effort from the creators of the cult classic, "Rocky Horror Picture Show," is that most of thh same people were involved in both pictures. It's hard to believe that in six years this wonderfully creative team could go from the imaginative, sardonic and joyously decadent to the dull, stupid and hopelessly middle-brow. But they have. Although curiosity is bound to produce some initial response at the ticket window, there are going to be a lot of very disappointed fans once this 20th Century-Fox film gets into release.

Few pictures have garnered the devoted following of "Rocky Horror." While flopping in its original launching, once it was put on the midnight circuit it became a sustained, leading attraction. Patrons still wait in line each weekend dressed like characters in the picture for the chance to act out their favorit section of the story with the rest of the audience.

It seems unlikely anyone would want to do the same with "Shock," which doesn't have much of a story. While "Rocky Horror" emerged as a haywire horror genre spoof, "Shock" appears to be an ill-structured takeoff on what can happen when television begins to take over the world.

Essentially screenwriters Richard O'Brien and Jim Sharman have thrown hopelessly square, middle America couple Brad and Janet Majors (They've married since they stumbled upon "Rocky Horror's" haunted castle) into a mythical middle America town where everything exists as part of one large tv program.

Comfining all of the action within a tv studio, the writers almost immediately put Brad and Janet on a game show called "Marriage Maze" (hosted by a German blind emcee who recklessly taps his way to center screen). There it is decided that Brad will be put away for treatment that will teach him "to care." Of course, this is all part of a plot by new sponsor Farley Flavors to snare Janet for himself and make her a star of the airwaves. But all of that is hard to decipher without the studio's production notes.

On hand to aid Janet's conversion are "Rocky Horror" alumni Patricia Quinn, Charles Gray, Nell Campbell and O'Brien himself. Only Gray's deadpan approach manages to rise above the material, which doesn't make much sense and isn't at all amusing.

Cliff De Young and Jessica Harper have taken over as Brad and Janet and both do what they can amid all of the confusion. Harper manages to shine in the only vaguely intrepid musical number, "Little Black Dress" while De Young evokes an appropriately sleazy look in the companion role of Farley Flavors. But it's an uphill battle not really worth fighting.

The basic problem here is that the screenplay, music and lyrics of "Shock" are not nearly ready to be put onscreen nor do they seem to ever have a chance of reaching that stage. Naturally, it was tempting to do a followup to a film as successful as "Rocky Horror." But after six years, is this the best they could come up with?

LAST WEEK

	ATTENDANCE	PRIZES
FRI	79	No drawing
SAT	about 80	Chris Simas

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? WRITE :
R.I. ROCKY, 33 Potter St; Pawtucket, RI 02860