



What would Anita Bryant say? 'Don't dream it; be it,' perhaps?

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"He stared at me
And I felt a change.
Time meant nothing
Never would again.
Let's do the Time Warp
again."

Quick. Name a classic modern movie.

The Godfather, Jaws, The Exorcist, Star Wars, maybe? How about The Rocky Horror Picture Show?

Yes, I realize you've probably never seen (or even heard of) it. But I (and most anyone who has seen it) assure you, this 1975 20th Century Fox film IS a modern classic.

It fell victim however, to Fox's fear that it may not do well, so it received no promotion and ultra limited distribution. But it has earned the dubious honorable title of "cult film," along with generating some mighty unusual phenomenon.

One of the few theatres that Rocky Horror plays is the Grove Cinema in Coconut Grove, and play there it does: SOLD OUT performances every Friday and Saturday at midnight,

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

Film of the '70's is a kinky delight

for the last six months (and still going strong).

Just what is this flick I so highly recommend? (Boy is this going to shoot my reputation out the window for good.)

Essentially it is a fantasy-crazed rock musical, which toys with virtually every classic element of the old science fiction and horror movies. Its main character (are you ready for this?) is Dr. Frank N. Furter, a bisexual tranvestite from the planet Transsexual, in the galaxy of Transylvania, who is creating himself a man ("with blonde hair and a tan"). Already the sci-fi/horror themes can be seen.

Other characters include Brad and Janet, an all-American couple who stumble upon Frank N. Furter's castle, Riff Raff and Magenta (Furter's servants), Columbia, Dr. Scott, Eddie and Rocky Horror (the blonde-haired creation).

But the undeniable star of the show is Tim Curry, who plays Frank N. Furter. His first entrance in the film has him clad in a black Dracula's cape as he struts to the front of the room singing in a powerful and

sensually deep voice:

"Don't get strung out,
by the way I look.
Don't judge a book by its
cover.

I'm not much of a man by
the light of day.
But by night I'm one hell
of a lover!"

On the last line, he drops the cape to reveal himself dressed in positively outrageous drag (replete with black fish-net stockings).

(Ooh-la-la. This man is so delightfully erotic, he could send Anita Bryant dreaming.)

As you've probably already deduced, this film is a bizarre one, but not negatively so. This is no cheap underground flick, but a high-budgeted, first class production.

The sets and costuming are elaborate and the EXCELLENT soundtrack is surprisingly commercial.

But as if the movie alone were not an event in itself, what really has people talking is what occurs in the audience each time The Rocky Horror Picture Show materializes at the theatre.

The members of the Rocky Horror cult return time after time to view it,



Riff Raff (Richard O'Brien), Dr. Frank N. Furter (Tim Curry), and Magenta (Patricia Quinn).

and during each showing, participate madly with the craziness of the film.

Examples: During a wedding scene in the movie, the audience throws rice. On cue in a particular song, the theatre is illuminated with lighters and matches. When Brad and Janet have to run through the rain, the moviegoers put umbrellas and newspapers over their heads. The fans know each character's every move and the words to all the songs, so they call responses to various occurrences in the film.

I've seen Rocky Horror seven times so far (not many compared to a hard core veteran), and they have been seven of the most zany and pleasurable experiences of my existence. I can only pity those who consider themselves too "straight" to treat themselves to it also. As Curry sings near the film's climax:

"Give yourself over to
absolute pleasure.
Swim the warm waters of
sins of the flesh.
Erotic madness beyond
any measure.
And sensual daydreams to
treasure forever.
Can't you just see it?
Don't dream it. Be it..."
Decadent? You bet.
Crazy? That too. But I
assure you one may have to
be told to see it the first
time, but you won't be able
to wait for the second and
beyond.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show is generally proclaimed as "The cult film of the '70's." Trash that. This is THE film of the '70's.

"With a bit of a mind flip.
You're there in the time
slip.
And nothing can ever be
the same.
You're spaced out on
sensation.
You're under sedation.
Let's do the Time Warp
again!"