

## The Rocky Horror Picture Show

### A “sentimental” experience unlike any other

The Rocky Horror Picture Show is a very hard movie to define. When trying to convey its essence to those who haven't seen the film, the conversation almost always inevitably ends with “You just need to see it. Then you'll understand!”

A simple summary of the movie doesn't do it. The movie revolves around a young couple named Brad (Barry Bostwick) and Janet (Susan Sarandon) whose car breaks down one rainy night nearby an impressive mansion. Soon after entering for help, they realize the house is owned by a mad scientist named Dr. Frank-N-Furter (Tim Curry), a sweet transvestite from Transsexual, Transylvania, who has been obsessed with creating the perfect man named Rocky (Peter Hinwood). Craziiness ensues. Though this is in fact the film's basic plot, one would still be no closer to really understanding the film.

Learning some background on the movie doesn't do it either. The musical, released in 1975, based off of a British stage play, and directed and written by Jim Sharman and Richard O'Brien respectively, was made as a parody of science fiction B-movies. The film kind of flopped at first, but soon gained notoriety as a popular midnight showing. It quickly grew a huge cult following and has been shown in theatres weekly for over thirty years, making it the longest running and most successful midnight movie of all time. The film was even chosen for preservation by the Library of Congress in the U.S. National Film Registry. Part of the reason the film has stayed so popular and relevant is because of its highly provocative and comedic themes and its portrayal of sexuality. Another big ingredient to the movie's success is its audience participation. People all over the country still flock to theatres dressed up as their favorite characters to interact with the movie and other audience members. Even by hearing this, however, one still couldn't truly “get” the film.

Listening to the music won't do it. By playing for a friend the classic dance number “Time Warp”, the beautifully moving “I'm Going Home”, the eerie opener “Science Fiction/Double Feature”, or the suggestive “I Can Make You a Man”, you will only prove to further confuse them. The songs, though undeniably catchy, are simply a little baffling without their original context.

Perhaps the reason that this film is so hard to pin down is because it isn't really about any one particular aspect. It is about the experience. You can't really know “Rocky Horror” unless you have experienced the film in all of its campy, strange glory.

If you have never seen the movie and would like to, don't be intimidated by its massive fan base. Thanks to the show Glee, the film is on many people's minds, so now is a perfect time to jump in. Go to your nearest movie store and rent it, or if you can, watch it in a theater with an audience. Eastern's SAC is hosting its own Rocky Horror Picture showing on Saturday, November 6th at the Keen Johnson ballroom at 9:00 PM if you are interested. Now, let's do the time warp again.

