

Forbidden Fruit members Randi Budd, Lora Wickes and Torey Mulvany vamp it up during a rehearsal for "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

Forbidden Fruit performs "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" for a Halloween night showing in EMU Ballroom

By Kelly Woolfolk for the Emerald

"The Rocky Horror Picture Show" turns 25 years old this year and a local performing group is going to celebrate the anniversary in style. Forbidden Fruit presents its fifth annual showing of the cult classic Oct. 31 in the EMU Ballroom.

"We've really planned it for the audience who has never seen it," production director Laura Wickes said. "We encourage audience participation and plant people in the audience who have seen it it."

Wickes, a senior music major, has been involved with the group for three years. Fellow Forbidden Fruit member Jessica Obrist praised the show's otherworldly uniqueness.

"There's nothing else like it," she exclaimed. "Nowhere else can you scream at the screen — you'd get kicked out of [a movie theater] for that, and we actually encourage it."

Obrist, a senior journalism and theater major, said she likes the idea of shedding her "serious, college exterior" for a night and helping to introduce the crazy props, the costumes and any "virgins" in the audience. A virgin is someone who has never attended a public showing of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

Lindsey Vogel, a senior psychology and exercise and movement science major, said she was impressed with Forbidden Fruit the first time she attended a production.

"I liked how people who had seen it a bunch of times could reply to the screen, the whole interaction of it — things like throwing rice, squirting water guns," Vogel said.

Vogel added that she was nervous wearing her costume to the showing but quickly relaxed when she saw that other people were also dressed up for the occasion.

The Forbidden Fruit cast has performed the annual Halloween show on or near the University campus since 1995. This year's 16-person cast is split evenly between veteran and new cast members. There are seven principal cast members, with nine "Trannies" ("short for Transylvanians," said Wickes) who make up the shift crew, understudies and various other roles.

The Office of Student Life and the ASUO Cultural Forum are sponsoring this year's event. Wickes said one reason Forbidden Fruit only puts on one show a year — aside from the fact that members of the cast already have busy schedules—is due to the expense of the production.

"There are huge royalties on ["The Rocky Horror Picture Show"]," she said, adding that all the costumes in the show are either found and altered or handmade by cast members. Obrist then demonstrated by displaying one of her long, feathered gloves that has been altered for this year's show.

Wickes gave her perspective of what the film means to her.

"I believe in the message of it; I believe in casting aside your inhibitions, uncovering your sexuality," she laughed. "A lot of people come to our show — nice, quiet people — and they just go crazy."

The EMU Ballroom doors will open at 10 p.m for the show; a preshow begins at 10:15 p.m. Admission is free for students who wear a costume and show their student ID. Admission is \$3 for students without a costume, and \$5 for the general public.









