



Triangle Productions is going out with a bang thanks to *The Rocky Horror Show*, starring Jami Chatalas Blanchard, Wade McCollum and Kelsey Tyler.

FS: Anything else you want readers to know?

DH: No. I'm just an old fart...I've only missed four nights of performances over 15 years.... But I think there's a time you have to be good to yourself, stay home on Saturday night. I recognize that I have changed people's lives, and it'll be hard to walk away. [M]

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW closes Aug. 20 at Theater Theatre, 3430 S.E. Belmont St. Tickets are \$35 at the door and \$30 in advance from 503-239-5919 or TicketsWest.



Before launching Triangle Productions, Horn was a model from 1978 to the late '80s.

The mighty Columbia

Triangle Productions is ending its 15th season with a smash hit, *The Rocky Horror Show*. While hottie Wade McCollum has rightly gotten most of the attention, producer Don Horn raves that 17-year-old Jerick Hoffer is a talent to watch out for.

In a stroke of gender-bending casting, the Grant High School senior plays Columbia, Dr. Frank-n-Furter's assistant and promiscuous ex-girlfriend (rocker Joan Jett played the part last year on Broadway). Moreover, Columbia's current beau, Eddie, is played by actress Julianna Jaffe (Lea DeLaria on Broadway).

Columbia is Hoffer's first professional role; in order to prepare himself, he showed up at many rehearsals in full drag. "I wanted to know what a wig and fake boobs would feel like," he says, "and whether they'd cause any problems. "I'd get ready at my house and take the

bus," he continues. "Few people could even tell I was a guy. I never got any comments, so I don't know if anyone knew."

The uncertainty continues. In fact, Horn reports overhearing audience members ask each other, "Is that a girl or a boy?"

Hoffer was "discovered" after the 6-foot beanpole won a national thespian competition singing "Sweet Transvestite." He then performed it at Grant, where he was seen by *Oregonian* columnist Jonathan Nicholas, whose daughter is in his class. Nicholas called Horn to tell him about the teen juggernaut, and the rest is, as they say, herstory.

But beyond the young actor's breakout debut, Horn thinks Hoffer is "a light for our community." Out since the age of 13 (he told a friend at his 13th birthday party "and sort of let it go through the crowd" of 70 guests), he is a

founder of Grant's Gay Straight Alliance and this year's Rosebud, the oldest underage gay and lesbian court title in the country.

The lean teen loves playing Columbia because "I get to be an annoying tap dancing presence on stage. She's the only character that gets to scream every five minutes."

Columbia may be the only screamer on stage, but audiences are certainly screaming in delight from this not-to-be-missed performance.

—FS [M]



Up-and-coming actor Jerick Hoffer has audience members scratching their heads in *Horror*.

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