

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW REVIEWED

Jeff Sorensen

The Clackamas Print

Why would anyone go see a 30-year-old movie just to witness what the crowd shouts at the screen? Because it's fun, damn it!

Portland's Clinton Street Theater has been the weekly home of The Rocky Horror Picture Show (starring Tim Curry, Barry Bostwick and Susan Sarandon) since it started showing the movie in April, 1978. After 28 years, it still stands as the longest consecutive run of Rocky Horror performances in the world.

The show, however, is more than just a screening of the Rocky Horror film. The Clinton Street Theater is currently home to two separate acting troupes that simultaneously perform the movie on a stage in front of the screen and sit in the audience, shouting jokes and mocking lines of the movie. After mixing in a few props on stage (as well

as in the audience), the end result is a completely unique and inimitable blend of film and theater that shouldn't be missed.

"The Denton Delinquents" are a recently-formed group that dedicates the second and fourth Saturday of every month to their performances at the Clinton. "The Clinton Street Cabaret," a group that started in 1986 and is celebrating its 20th anniversary, performs on the first, third and sometimes fifth Saturday of every month, including this past Sat., Oct. 21.

The show began with an opening "pre-show" set featuring the Cabaret's M.C., Stan Dietz, who introduced the audience to the rules of the show, as well as shared a taste of what the audience could expect from the cast throughout the night.

Cabaret Director Kristina Freeman, an 18-year-old full-time student at Clackamas, feels the group is lucky to have Dietz lend his talents

to "pump up" the cast and crowd.

"[The part of M.C. is] kind of a special part," Freeman said. "He's got a very special quality. A lot of people don't really have the charisma to do it, and we're lucky that every term he says 'I'm not coming back,' but we end up being able to pull him in."

After the opening part of the show, members of the cast took seats on the stage, where they began audibly mocking the opening trailers on the screen. The cast continued about the evening, shifting props, changing costumes and working to re-create every scene as it appears on the screen.

The audience (including off-stage cast members) also played a large role in the Rocky Horror show. Most of the performance was focused toward audience participation led by the cast, either from the stage or from their seats, and included throwing rice during a wedding scene, mimick-

ing windshield wipers during a rainy scene, or throwing dry toast during a dinner scene.

Others shouted jokes or modifications to lines in the movie, or called the characters on the screen by different names whenever they entered or left a scene, making for an initially disorienting, but ultimately hilarious twist to a movie-going practice shunned by most corporate-owned public theaters.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show steps away from the conventional realm of movies and puts the audience directly in the center of a surreal and entertaining experience that's definitely worth a repeat visit.



LEFT: "This is the part where the choreographer died!" rang out from the crowd as the final song changed and the actors on stage began a vaudeville-style kick routine.



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BELOW: Two Rocky Horror "Virgins" take their initiation a little too far ... with cheers and applause from the crowd.



The Clinton Street Theater hosts Rocky Horror

The Clinton Street Theater sits at the corner of Clinton and SE 26th, and can be reached via their Web site at www.clintonsttheater.com.

Both the Denton Delinquents and the Clinton Street Cabaret will be performing special Halloween Rocky Horror shows Oct. 27 through 29, and Oct.

31, and the admission is well worth the \$8 for all ages.

The cast members admit that newcomers, or "virgins," won't be able to pick up on everything that's happening the first time through, and encourage people to come back and partake in the fun more than once.

The Delinquents' site, at

www.deptondelinquents.com, is still a work in progress, but already has contact information for the group.

The Cabaret can be reached at www.clintonstcabaret.com, where they've also posted suggestions for props and audience-participation lines, as well as a performance schedule through

the end of the year.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Clinton should be familiar to Rocky Horror fans, but contacting either group by way of their Web site should help any "virgins" find out what they need to know to become part of the Rocky Horror experience.

Compiled by Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

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