

Fun in the DARK *Lincoln residents do the Time Warp again*

BY ANTHONY COLMAN
Film Critic

Oh, Rocky!

After a 10 year hiatus, The Rocky Horror Picture Show is back in Lincoln. The Joyo Theater, 6102 Havelock Ave., has brought back the weekly midnight showing of this legendary cult flick, and it's impressive, complete with a full floor-show and enthusiastic audience participation.

Every Saturday night there will be a show at midnight. At least so long as people keep showing up. Which means that every Saturday night, the main street of Historic Havelock will be overrun with deviants, sexual and otherwise.

It's about time, too. The Rocky Horror Picture Show hasn't been shown in a theater in Lincoln since 1988. It hasn't even been shown in Nebraska since 1992, leaving a noticeable void in local culture.

What is The Rocky Horror Picture Show? The RHPS is several things. By itself, it's a movie. A cult movie. The most popular cult movie of all time.

Not a gore-flick as its title seems to imply, it's a campy rock 'n' roll musical spoofing early science fiction and horror movies. The film treads a fine line between homage and parody. The plot blatantly ridicules conformity and convention. It promotes flamboyance, individual expression, alternative lifestyles, alternate sexualities, sexual promiscuity, rebellion against authority, mockery, self-mockery and rejection of society. It's all summed up by the lyrics, "Don't dream it, be it."

The plot revolves around two normal, healthy middle-American kids, Brad and Janet, who are confronted by the decadent morality and inscrutable sexuality of Dr. Frank N. Furter, a transvestite from the planet Transylvania.

The RHPS is the first truly audience par-ti-ci-(Say it!)-pation movie. With its unconventional plot, outrageous imagery, music and oddly paced dialogue, the movie is a perfect framework for audience satire. People yell back lines at the movie, insert dialogue, sing along, dance in the aisles and throw props during

appropriate times in the movie. For instance, during a wedding scene, audience members throw rice. Usually, a local cast will dress as movie characters and act in sync with the movie.

Ultimately, the RHPS is an experience. Each showing of the movie is properly preceded with a pep-rally and the de-virginization. The virgins, those who have never before seen the movie or experienced all that is Rocky Horror, are brought up to the front of the theater and initiated into the cult and culture by having to participate in some humiliating contest in front of the rest of the audience.

Dwight Carter, new owner of the Joyo, said he decided to bring back the RHPS because he remembered what good times he and his wife used to have at the movie.

That the RHPS has been greatly anticipated by Lincoln residents is clearly shown by the turnout. About 250 people have shown up for each of the first two screenings so far — nearly twice what Carter said he was anticipating.

And the level of enthusiasm displayed by audience members has been surprising. Even though no one

has done RHPS locally for years, everybody has brought their props, knows the lines and quite a few have shown up dressed as movie characters.

Carter said that once he decided to start showing RHPS, the people just sort of came out of the woodwork. Many people have come from Omaha and some from as far as Des Moines to help out with the show.

The Joyo Theater is a perfect venue for the RHPS. Its seedy old atmosphere and coziness add enormously to the overall experience.

As one of the cast members was overheard saying, "Who would think to build a theater that looks so much like a dilapidated old castle?"

Plus, the Joyo has a full-sized stage in front of the movie screen, giving cast members plenty of room to really perform.

The quality of the RHPS production at the Joyo is truly amazing, especially for Nebraska. The theater has already been pretty well packed at only the first two showings, and should continue to remain crowded as word-of-mouth gets out.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show

runs every Saturday at midnight. Admission is \$4 for adults, and \$3 for sixteen and under.

Here's a list of props you may wish to bring to "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

- Rice
- Newspaper
- Water pistol
- Lighter/flashlight
- Rubber gloves
- Noisemakers
- Confetti
- Roll of toilet paper (preferably Scott brand)
- Toast (unbuttered)
- Party hat
- Cards

Using props is part of the fun, but it's not meant to damage the theater or ruin someone's costume or makeup. Respect the wishes of the theater and its management. Vandalism and breaking rules may cause your expulsion from the theater.

Jazz in June books first international performer



MEMBERS OF IRIE perform for jazz enthusiasts last Tuesday during Jazz in June at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery. SCOTT MCCLURG/DN

BY BARB CHURCHILL
Staff Reporter

Seven years ago, the Lincoln art scene was stagnant.

The Nebraska Art Association hit on a new idea: free evening jazz concerts in June. Thus, the wildly popular Jazz in June concert series was born.

"About seven years ago, at a conference for young friends of art, I noticed that a lot of the museums around the country were doing jazz concerts in order to bring a whole new audience to art galleries," said Kathy Piper, executive director of the Nebraska Art Association.

So, Piper brought the idea home to Lincoln and asked the Sheldon if they'd like to try it. They agreed, deciding on Tuesday evening because Omaha's Joslyn Art Museum had its free evening concerts on Thursday, and the Sheldon didn't want to split the available audience, Piper said.

Jazz in June has since become one of the most successful free music and art programs ever to hit the southeastern Nebraska area. And, for a while, about an hour after the gates were open for the first concert, it looked

like the concert idea had failed.

"We'd targeted a younger audience, but I remember from that first concert that the first patrons who showed up were in their 80's," Piper laughed. "That made me a little nervous at first."

"But, we get 80-year-old people and 2-year-old people and everything in between," she said.

The Nebraska Art Association succeeded beyond their wildest dreams, as many more people have inquired about the Sheldon Art Gallery, and its outdoor sculpture garden, than ever before, Piper said.

Nancy Dawson, Community Programming Coordinator for the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, agreed with Piper.

"I think that Jazz in June is a wonderful program," Dawson said. "It has been successful beyond anyone's wildest dreams, and it brings people out to the Sheldon and to the Sheldon grounds."

Dawson does community outreach and planning for the Sheldon, but leaves Jazz in June to Piper and

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