



CAITLAIN MCCLEERY, who plays Magenta, belts out a song for the Joyo Theater's production of the "Rocky Horror Picture Show" on Saturday night while the movie plays behind her. SANDY SUMMERS/DN

# Happy Happy Joyo

## Theater makes 'Picture Show' come to life

By JIM ZAVODNY  
Staff writer

While the Joyo Theater may not show all the new blockbuster movies the weekend they are released, it still has more character than any megaplex ever will.

As the only independently owned theater in a town where most are owned by one company, the aged theater has adapted to survive.

The theater plays a mixture of current and older hits for a lower price than most theaters that show new releases: \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens and those 16 and under.

By alternating films on their way out of the larger theaters with older movies, the Joyo hopes to keep people interested in its lineup.

It also showcases something else unique to Lincoln's theater community: "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

The flexibility of the Joyo Theater, 6102 Havelock Ave., prompted owners Donna Carter and her husband, Dwight, to begin screening the legendary cult favorite, which had not been shown on a regular basis in Lincoln since 1986.

Now it runs every Saturday night at midnight to an eager crowd.

Donna Carter admitted to being a bit nervous about screening the notoriously riotous film, and rightfully so.

Film aficionados partake in activities such as squirting water guns and throwing rice—not to mention dressing up as their favorite characters. "We wanted to try it because it's a classic. And we've had people write us thank-you notes telling us how glad they were that we brought it back because Douglas (Theatre Co.) would never show it," Donna Carter said.

After the first showing of "Rocky Horror" in May, actors expressed interest to the Carters in acting out parts from the movie on the theater's stage as the film progresses. The Carters agreed, and three weeks later auditions were held.

This unorthodox style of showing a movie with live actors is a worldwide phenomenon, but unique for this area because the closest shows are in Kansas City, Mo., and Des Moines, Iowa, according to "Rocky Horror" enthusiast Nic Costello.

Costello won a part in the Joyo's live productions of "Rocky Horror," and plays Eddie, a character performed by rotund singer Meatloaf in the film.

He said he enjoys playing Eddie because he is a biker, a rebel without a clue, and also because he is the only cast member who doesn't have to wear women's underwear during the show.

"I have a striking resemblance to Meatloaf, so I dressed up like Eddie and went to the second showing of the show at the Joyo," Costello said.

People who think they can capture the same effect of the live movie by renting it on home video are sadly mistaken, he said. The movie is something you have to experience with an audience, he said.

"The movie, honestly, is really pretty horrible," he said. "Rocky (Horror) was the original bad movie. It was meant to be kind of a spoof on a lot of the '50s movies that came out with aliens and other weird things. And rather than hide sexual innuendoes like they do in many other movies, they just throw it in your face."

"Rocky Horror" fanatics continue to come in flocks to the Joyo for the live performance, and Carter

sees a lot of regulars. The theater seats 309 people, and in the first three weeks the show averaged 250 people a night.

"People refer to 'Rocky (Horror)' as a cult, and it's got kind of a cult following where there are a few people who are kind of fanatical about it," Costello said. "But the average person who goes to 'Rocky (Horror)' is just there to have a good time because they need something to do late at night."

It's not uncommon for people to show up early for the pre-show festivities, when the "Rocky Horror virgins" are sacrificed.

"The reason why the virgin sacrifice got started is because the virgins—the people who have never seen it before—don't necessarily know what to expect. So for their first time we like to get them up and get them involved so that they loosen up a bit and can have a good time," he said.

The Carters are largely responsible for re-igniting local interest in "Rocky Horror," something diehard fans like Costello are thankful for.

"They're great, and they're willing to do anything to make it a good time for people," he said. "I think they're doing it because they're having a good time, and they enjoy the idea of restoring the theater."

Located in Lincoln's historic Havelock district, the Joyo originally resided across the street from its current location and was called the Lyric Theater. During the early '20s, the Lyric became the Joyo and moved into its present building, constructed in 1916.

Carter said almost everything in the Joyo's auditorium is original. The Carters purchased the theater in January from its previous proprietors, Don and Edy Montgomery, who had run the Joyo since 1979.

**"They're great, and they're willing to do anything to make it a good time for people."**

**Nic Costello**

**"Rocky Horror Picture Show" aficionado**

"We're not here to make a ton of money. Our primary goal is to provide affordable entertainment and to get the theater back to its original state, because it was kind of run down when we bought it," Carter said.

When the Montgomerys tore out the first few rows of seats and installed a stage in front of the movie screen during the early '80s, they unwittingly created the perfect atmosphere for "Rocky Horror."

The film has paid off for the new owners, who plan to continue the tradition of regular screenings.

"We're going to show 'Rocky Horror' until that things busts apart," Carter said. "Until there's one person here watching it, we will have it."

Such conviction is the result of a strong dedication to the continued success of the theater. The Carters plan to renovate the Joyo and pass it on to their children, who already are continuing the new family business as concession-stand workers.

"The Joyo is family owned and operated, and I think that you get better service because it's our business," Carter said.

## Speaker's fondness lies with unusual music style

By JASON HARDY  
Senior staff writer

Since its dawn in the early '70s, rap music has been a source of infinite offenses for some and a source of inspiration for others.

Tonight a woman, whose message has been received in a similar fashion, brings her views on the subject of "Rap, Minimalism and Structures of Time in Late 20th Century Culture" to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Susan McClary, chairwoman of the UCLA Department of Musicology, will speak at 7 p.m. in the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater as this year's Geske Lecture, sponsored by the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

Peggy Holloway, assistant dean of the college, said McClary is notorious for her unconventional approach to investigating music and its effects on society.

"She has come at musicology from a feminist point of view—how the experiences of being a woman may color how we experience music," Holloway said. "She's kind of shaken up the status quo for the musical community."

In examining the world of music through a feminist viewpoint, McClary has found a better understanding of how the individual relates to music as well, Holloway said.

"She talks about how a person's life experiences will affect how they hear music, how they perform music and how they compose music," she said. "It was kind of a new way of saying that there is no consensus—that not everyone is going to hear the music the same way."

Though it may seem intuitive to think that each person would have individual experiences with music that are unique, Holloway said, it was a new and somewhat radical claim in the world of musicology.

It was McClary's focus on the value and acceptance of the individual's musical understanding that led Holloway and the Geske committee to recruit McClary for this year's Geske Lecture.

"I think it's very important to UNL students as we are emphasizing diversity on the campus," Holloway said. "Her work validates diversity in the culture and how it's expressed in our music."

Holloway currently teaches the first course at UNL dedicated to the study of women in music. Her class explores the role women play in music and what kind of values and ideas women represent.

The class has been reading some of McClary's previous work, and Holloway hopes McClary's lecture will help students "see if the representations are accurate," Holloway said. "I think it's important to examine what music is saying about people and if we are stereotyping them."

Aside from tonight's lecture, McClary will be on campus today visiting the class on women in music as well as a women's studies class on Wednesday. A reception will follow the lecture tonight, and both the reception and lecture are free and open to the public.