

*Front Row
Centre HOT*

proudly presents Richard O'Brien's

ROCKY HORROR SHOW

Book, music
and lyrics by
Richard O'Brien

*September 6 – 16, 2000
Pumphouse Theatres
2140 Pumphouse Ave SW*

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Give yourself over to absolute pleasure

When the idea of forming FRC Hot (more adult-oriented performances) was first brought up, we knew right away that it would have to be launched with an amazing show. I immediately suggested "The Rocky Horror Show" and, being a huge fan of the cult film, I would be the best person to direct it. The cast has really pulled together to ensure that this is the best show ever put on by Front Row Centre. What I am most looking forward to is the audience participation – the live version of this show has not been seen in Calgary in over a decade and the film is rarely shown anymore. I would like to thank Sandy, Becky, Melissa, Michele and everybody else behind the scenes for all of their hard work, and for making my first show so easy. I would also like to thank my wonderful cast for helping to make this show a dream come true. Without you it would just be me on stage in my underwear. Thanks!

– Kevin Currie, Director

PRODUCER'S NOTE

Don't dream it...be it...

Amidst the elaborate costumes, unusual plot and Chris' (Riff Raff's) pelvic thrust, the underlying message of the "The Rocky Horror Show" can get lost in the shuffle. The show's message is likely what spawned a cult-like following that continues to attract new members around the world. I am proud to be involved in a production that allows people to unleash their masks and be themselves ... uninhibited. It is, however, unfortunate that permission has to be given.

I would like to say that my first experience as a producer has been exhilarating, a bit intimidating and (no surprise) unpredictable. There are too many people to mention in this small space but I would like to single out Kevin, Michele, Melissa and Becky, all of whom made this show as wonderful as it is. I would also like to thank the cast for their undying dedication and commitment to the show. It takes talent to be a performer...but it takes a certain kind of spirit to make it work!

– Sandy Herscovis, Producer

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Front Row Centre Players Society, Calgary's premiere community musical theatre group, is a charitable organization dedicated to making musical theatre experiences available to as many people as possible – affording an outlet for creative expression on stage and behind the scenes. Our auditions are always open to the public, announced through Calgary's free media. Everyone associated with the company is a volunteer. Our only pre-requisite for participation is ENTHUSIASM!

Front Row Centre Players developed in the spring of 1987 from the St. Giles Presbyterian Church Choir, who presented a version of "Godspell". Success created a desire to formalize the company and FRC was born. The first season included a fundraising show and a production of "Jesus Christ Superstar". Since then, Calgary has been entertained by our numerous comedy review shows and major musicals including: "Chicago"; "Guys and Dolls"; "The Sound of Music"; "Fiddler on the Roof"; and "The Music Man". In order to perform some different types of shows that do not fall under our mandate, FRC Hot was created, with "The Rocky Horror Show" being our premiere production.

You, too, can be a part of FRC's growing future. Whether you are an aspiring thespian, an accountant who wants to do the books, a handyperson who can construct sets or just someone with an itch to help others in a creative way, but hasn't found the right niche, we openly invite you into our fold. For more information, call our pager at 234-2611 and leave a message, or e-mail us at frcplayers@aol.com and someone will get back to you.

MEMBERSHIP

You can have even more fun by becoming a member of the **Front Row Centre Players Society**. Membership is a steal of a deal at only \$10.00 per person, with voting privileges for those 16 years of age and older. For this reasonable price you can get membership voting status, our quarterly *Spotlight Newsletter* filled with tidbits about our activities and the local community theatre scene, and an FRC lapel pin.

Sound too good to pass up? Simply complete this form and send it along with a cheque or money order payable to "Front Row Centre Players Society".

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Postal Code: _____

Phone (res/bus): _____

E-mail: _____

Send this form and payment to: **Front Row Centre Players Society, 20 Tarraridge Close NE, Calgary, Alberta, T3J 2P7.** Or you can leave it with our box office staff.

You are not required to volunteer and all donations are eligible to receive a tax receipt.

SONG LIST

(as if you don't know them!)

<i>Science Fiction Double Feature</i>	<i>Touch-a Touch Me</i>
<i>Damn It Janet</i>	<i>Once In Awhile</i>
<i>Over At The Frankenstein Place</i>	<i>Eddie's Teddy</i>
<i>The Time Warp</i>	<i>Planet Schmanet – Wise Up Janet Weiss</i>
<i>Sweet Transvestite</i>	<i>Floorshow/Rose Tint My World</i>
<i>The Sword Of Damocles</i>	<i>I'm Going Home</i>
<i>I Can Make You A Man</i>	<i>Superheroes</i>
<i>Hot Patootie</i>	<i>Science Fiction Double Feature (Reprise)</i>
<i>I Can Make You A Man (Reprise)</i>	

HISTORY OF THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

The RHS was a play written in six months by Richard O'Brien with the working title "They Came from Denton High." The title was changed to "The Rocky Horror Show" and previewed on June 16, 1973 in London. On September 26, 1975, the low budget film version entitled "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" (RHPS) was released to mixed reviews and unimpressive box office appeal. After moving to midnight shows on Friday and Saturday nights in New York it quickly achieved international cult film status that continues today.

The Rocky Horror Show tells the story of a young couple, Brad Majors and Janet Weiss, who get a flat tire while traveling on a stormy night, and seek help at a strange castle in the middle of nowhere. After being shown inside the castle by the domestic staff, Riff Raff and his sister, Magenta, they are introduced to their host, a transvestite mad scientist named Dr. Frank N. Furter and his former concubine, Columbia. Frank invites them to witness the unveiling of his latest creation, a sex slave named Rocky, then insists they stay for the night. Later he sneaks into the young couple's rooms and seduces each of them, leaving them flooded with emotions and previously repressed feelings about their sexuality. As the night progresses, Frank loses control of his creation, his houseguests, and his servants.

The only suggestion of meaning to this film is found in the one of the last songs: "Don't Dream It, Be It." This theme has become definitive of the subculture that has formed around the movie.

THE VIRGIN'S GUIDE TO ROCKY HORROR

So here you are waiting to see "The Rocky Horror Show" (RHS) for the first time, when a strangely dressed person comes up to you and demands to know "Are you a virgin!?" Don't panic, it's not a proposition (although you never know...); anybody who has not seen RHS before is commonly known as a "Virgin". This Rocky Horror Show's Virgin Survival Guide is an indispensable tool to help you through the experience that is "The Rocky Horror Show".

Dress

Optional. While some people look good in a dress, others don't. You may find that after a show or two you may want to wear something a little more outrageous; for now just wear something casual, but follow these steps for attire that should NEVER be worn to RHS:

- 1) Suits. These are worn only by people who thought they were booking tickets for "Cats" but dialed the wrong number.
- 2) Anything tight that may prohibit your movements in any way during "The Time Warp".
- 3) Heels if you are not used to wearing them (ahem, gentlemen). "Break a leg" is meant as a good luck wish for the cast, not a self-fulfilling prophecy for guests.

Dancing

Although not compulsory, you may find that during "The Time Warp" you are the only person in the audience not on your feet. Follow these simple instructions to glide through "The Time Warp" like Fred Astaire (or Riff Raff):



1. It's just a jump in the left
2. And then a step to the right
3. With your hands on your hips, you bring your knees in tight
4. It's the pelvic thrust that really drives you insane
5. Hipswivel till you're driven insane by step 4)
6. Let's do the Time Warp again!

Props

Flashlights can be used during "There's A Light", but lighters and other open flames are always banned as a fire risk. Rice, water and other props thrown in the theatre are also banned for safety reasons. Don't attempt to bring these in or use them or you will find yourself being ejected from the theatre.

Audience Participation

While watching "RHS" you will notice that some of the audience may be talking back to the actors. Remember that audience participation should always be complementary to the show, never just shouting out lines for the heck of it. The following two responses will get you started in the wonderful world of RHS talk-back:

- 1) Brad is referred to as an "asshole" whenever his name is mentioned.
- 2) Janet, on the other hand, is referred to as a "slut".

The idea of Rocky Horror participation is to have fun. These guidelines will help you and the other members of the audience to enjoy the show. Have a blast and good luck!

GAST

Narrator Doug Chambers
Frank Stan Janz
Riff Raff Chris Munroe
Eddie/Dr. Scott Joey Sayer
Janel Natasha Shannon
Magenta/Usherette Lori Simeunovic
Columbia Chris Simms
Rocky Ryan Wagner
Brad Chris Willott

PRODUCTION

Producer Sandy Hershcovis
Director Kevin Currie
Musical Director Melissa Ko
Choreographer Michele Woodward
Stage Manager Becky Dumoulin
Costume Designer Frank Macleod
Costume Construction Heather Fraser Donna Barnfield
Bonnie Wingert Frank MacLeod
Props Jane Winton
Set Design Marguerite Laquinte Francis
Light/Sound Design Kevin Currie
Light Operator Becky Dumoulin
Sound Operator Tereasa Maillie
Running Crew Erin MacRae
Make up Joyce/Dana Simms
FOH Manager Maureen Moffatt
FOH Photography Ken Meisner
Program/Poster Design Karo Design Resources
Audition Accompanist Ralph Perry
Box Office Jim Archibald Anastasia Amber Hughson
Tim Elliott Henny Stuivenberg
Lynda Elliot Pasqualina Iapaolo

BAND

Piano Melissa Ko
Bass Erin Madill
Tenor Sax Mike Jewitt
Synthesizer Janice McCloskey
Percussion Keith Johnston

Special Thanks To

Rosedale United Church, Beacon Martinizing, the staff of the Pumphouse Theatres, Brian Thomas, Chris Persaud, Gerry Scheyen, Moneysworth & Best, Sean Anderson, Sandra Hamel and anyone we may have missed.

PRODUCTION BIOS



Kevin "hop-a-long" Currie

Kevin is making his directorial debut with *Rocky Horror*, which leaves him both proud and slightly nauseous. He has worked with Front Row Centre for five years in productions such as "Godspell". Kevin would like to thank everyone involved in the show, especially the wonderfully weird cast; they made every rehearsal a memorable experience. "Thanks you guys - break a leg!"

Becky "QUIET!!!" Dumoulin

Becky is the glue that holds the cast and crew together. She is the whip that cracks everyone into line. She is your worst nightmare if you are more than 30 seconds late. Becky also stage managed for Front Row Centre's production of "Bells Are Ringing". Working on this show, she is finding that her degree in social work is much more useful than her diploma in theatre arts from Mount Royal College.



Sandy "the hand" Hershcovis

As the gal behind the scenes (literally), Sandy keeps things movin' and groovin' backstage. In her first role as producer, Sandy is drunk with power. Although she freely admits she can't sing or dance to save her life, Sandy has acted in "The Bad Seed" and various Loose Moose Theatre productions, as well as being Stage Manager/Production Manager on numerous shows in Toronto and Calgary. A true brainiac articling for a major accounting firm, Sandy is amazed that her sign language training is going to come in so handy (excuse the pun) for *Rocky Horror*.

Melissa "magic fingers" Ko

Melissa has the unenviable task of making the cast sing loudly (not too difficult) and in tune (quite sketchy at times). A third year music student at the University of Calgary, Melissa also directs three choirs, teaches the Calgary Round-Up Band and plays for the Calgary Stampede and Outrider Bands. In her spare time (!) she lends her musical gifts to FRC productions such as "Sugar" and "Bye Bye Birdie". She would also like everyone to know that "Sebastian the crab is my hero".



Michele "legs" Woodward

Being the Henry Higgins to all of the Eliza Doolittles of the cast, Michele has performed miracles with the dance routines. Michele has been actively involved in community theatre for over 14 years. She has enjoyed performing in a diverse number of roles, most recently a little girl AND teenager AND femme fatale in "Bye, Bye Birdie". She has also produced, choreographed, directed and musically directed other shows. She has greatly enjoyed working with the cast and crew of "The Rocky Horror Show", and looks forward to experiencing first-hand the audience participation during the run!

GAST BIOS



Doug "it's just a jump to the left" Chambers

As the voice of reason in The Rocky Horror Show, Doug is woefully miscast. Don't let his calm, reassuring demeanour fool you – away from the podium Doug is a raging social machine! In addition to understudying every role in this play, Doug has appeared in "Bye Bye Birdie" for Front Row Centre and he has been acting and singing around Calgary for the past three years.

Stan "Mr. Freestyle" Janz

After a freak origami accident tragically cut short his career in exotic dance, Stan went to work as a teacher molding the minds of future generations. A gifted musician and singer, Stan appears all over town with The Drapes. He has also appeared in "The Love Seat Dissidents" for High Performance Rodeo. Stan would like to thank Cindy for being so sympathetic to the blisters obtained from his first (but definitely not last) time in heels.



Chris "googly eyes" Munroe

Once you see The Time Warp, done as only Chris can, you will see why he was made for this role! Chris does not consider himself a comedic actor, and is puzzled when people laugh at him onstage. When not acting with groups such as Calgary Young People's Theatre, All Nations Theatre Society and Front Row Centre, he can be found writing plays that have been described as "a disturbing look into a sick mind".

Joey "who took my chair" Sayer

A lover of llamas and all things Rocky Horror, Joey is fulfilling a lifelong dream being in this production. Joey returns to the stage after a short absence, when he acted in Terry Shane Murder Mysteries and directed shows, including "Torch Song Trilogy". He is a union activist and works for equality of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and the transgendered. He makes a living telling stories to impressionable minds at the Public Library.



Natasha "viva la diva" Shannon

A gifted vocalist and musician well known in Calgary's music scene, Natasha relished the challenge of playing a wayward virgin. A Young Canadians veteran who also performed onstage in Montreal, Natasha currently travels the world as a freelance writer when not performing with The Drapes. She has been bracing herself for the audience participation these past few weeks.

CAST BIOS



Lori "is that her real hair" Simeunovic

With her first appearance onstage – aside from the odd karaoke debacle – Lori is excited to be playing everyone's favourite Transylvanian Tart. Acting and dance lessons have occupied much of Lori's spare time until she recently took the leap onto a real live stage. Lori would like to thank her husband Stojan, whose accent she lifted for her role.

Chris "step away from the caffeine" Simms

This little theatre dynamo is exactly as she appears on stage! Energetic, frenetic and hugely talented, the stage is her second home. A graduate of the Alberta High School of Fine Arts, Chris has tackled a variety of roles in numerous plays, including "Crazy For You", "Fiddler On The Roof" and "42nd Street", among others. Chris wants to dedicate this show to her dad: "Daddy, your little angel has grown up" (ed. note "YOWZA!").



Ryan "electric pelvis" Wagner

Ryan jumped at the chance to parade in front of total strangers in gold underwear. Being the smarty-pants computer science grad that he is, this role is a bit of a stretch for Ryan. This is Ryan's fourth production with Front Row Centre and he is also the director and member of a vocal ensemble called Altra Volta. Ryan would like to thank the cast "for providing such a unique forum for expression."

Chris "love those fishnets" Willott

Having never stripped in public before, Chris was shocked yet thrilled to realize that a raging exhibitionist lurks within. Chris had his acting debut as the angel Michael in a grade one Christmas play and hasn't looked back. For the past three years he has appeared with Front Row Centre players in "The Sound of Music" and "Bye Bye Birdie" among others. You can also see him with the Calgary Opera Chorus this season.





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