

Short Review: “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” (1975) by Dr. John L. Flynn



The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975). 20th Century Fox, UK, color, 100 min. Director: Jim Sharman. Written by: Richard O’Brien (play) and Jim Sharman. Produced by: Michael White. Cast: Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon, Barry Bostwick, Richard O’Brien, Patricia Quinn, Nell Campbell, Meat Loaf, and Peter Hinwood

Rocky Horror is one of the few films that can boast being a science fiction/horror/comedy /sex farce/audience participation/musical. The film opens with Brad (Bostwick) and Janet (Sarandon) leaving a very straight wedding, and stumbling into the castle of Dr. Frank-N-Furter (Curry) and his Transsexual Transylvanian partygoers. Alas, no one helps them to a phone, not even the remote butler (O’Brien), let alone the rude maid (Quinn), or the titular Rocky Horror (Hinwood). Instead, the couple is duped into having sex with the gender-bending doctor. Later, they learn the mad doctor is from outer space, and is to be executed for his extreme lifestyle in full Judy Garland makeup and drag queen attire. Curry has never gotten over this typecasting, while Sarandon says that it is the role for which she will always be remembered. We certainly remember Sarandon in her bra and panties! The music is full tilt rock’n’roll with a big Fifties brass sound. The songs are memorable, and the cult lives on every Friday night at midnight.

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