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THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW



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Play review: 'Rocky' pulls off a party

Globe production brings the retro fun to risqué sci-fi romp

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Matt McGrath stars as Frank 'N' Furter and Jason Wooten as Riff Raff in Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show* at The Old Globe. — Photo by Henry DiRocco.



Written by
**James
Hebert**

12:32 p.m., Sept. 24, 2011

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Merging dance with real life is exciting challenge



The Old Globe's latest musical is not a show for stuffed shirts. It is, however, a show with lots of stuffed shorts.

"Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show*" – the full name of the sexed-up spectacle now scandalizing the respectable at the Balboa Park theater – likes its fishnets filmy and its leather plentiful.

But director James Vásquez's production also boasts a few other, broader qualities: a wicked sense of humor, irresistible musical numbers and a whole lot of startlingly old-fashioned fun.

It's not every play that has the audience both dancing in the aisles and swearing at the stage, but a little interactive smack talk is part and parcel of "Rocky," writer-composer O'Brien's spoofy sci-fi brainchild that first landed on Planet Showbiz in 1973.

The well-timed shouts and use of props by "Rocky" aficionados – phenomena fostered by the deathless 1975 cult movie – were in full play during Friday's opening-night performance, aided by "participation kits" the Globe is

DETAILS

"Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show*"

Old Globe Theatre

When: 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays (no performance Nov. 1); 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays (Oct. 28 performance starts at 7:30 p.m., followed by a Costume Bash); 4 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays; plus 8 p.m. Oct. 31. Through Nov. 6.

Where: Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Tickets: \$29-\$122 (discounts available)

Play review: 'Rocky' pulls off a party



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selling. And the actors seemed entirely game for the give-and-take, even if a line or two wound up steamrolled by a too-enthusiastic fan.

Phone: (619) 234-5623

Online: theoldglobe.org

Strutting at show's center is Matt McGrath as Frank 'N' Furter, the "sweet transvestite" who first spooks, then seduces the innocent visitors Brad (Kelsey Kurz) and Janet (Jeanna de Waal) at his castle from outer space. (The throwaway story is an ode to old, pulpy B-movie "creature features.")

McGrath has a matchless way with both a sneer and a leer, stepping adroitly into the platform boots of perhaps the bitchiest space alien in history. He also has appealing cohorts in (among others) Jason Wooten as the big-voiced sidekick Riff Raff; Laura Shoop as the loyal, licentious Magenta; ace dancer Nadine Isenegger as the spurned Columbia; and Sydney James Harcourt as Rocky, Frank's abundantly muscled lab creation and would-be lover.

David Andrew Macdonald adds an ideal whiff of superiority as the unctuous Narrator, the target of many audience wisecracks.

Donyale Werle's set has that properly lost-in-time feel (with shades of steampunk), aided by projections of vintage movie clips. And the five-piece band, partly visible onstage, rocks through favorites such as "The Time Warp" and "Hot Patootie" with aplomb.

Both story and songs, though, start to sag in the second act, with one too many wistful ballads and mystifying (or maybe just ridiculous) plot twists.

Even so, for a production that lost its original lead actor early on (amid an uproar over past sex-related legal trouble, no less) and then its original director, this "Rocky" rolls out a more-than-respectable party. It's a show that seems (un)dressed for success.

One side note: In Georgia this week, a mayor banned a production of "Rocky Horror" at a city-owned theater for being too risqué. Meanwhile, here in San Diego, among those in the Globe audience on opening night: Mayor Jerry Sanders.

Frank and Co. have fans in high places (besides, of course, outer space).

Be relevant, civil, honest, discreet and responsible.

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THEATER REVIEW

'ROCKY HORROR SHOW' A TIMELESS, FUN ROMP

JAMES HEBERT • U-T

The Old Globe's latest musical is not a show for stuffed shirts. It is, however, a show with lots of stuffed shorts.

"Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show" — the full name of the sexed-up spectacle now scandalizing the respectable at the Balboa Park theater — likes its fishnets stretched and its leather plentiful.

But director James Vásquez's production also boasts a few other, broader qualities: a wicked sense of humor, irresistible musical numbers and a whole lot of startlingly old-fashioned fun.

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The well-timed shouts and use of props by "Rocky" aficionados — phenomena fostered by the deathless 1975 cult movie — were in full play on opening night Friday, aided by "participation kits" the Globe is selling. And the actors seemed entirely game for the give-and-take, even if a line or two wound up steamrolled by a too-enthusiastic fan.

Strutting at show's center is Matt McGrath as Frank 'N' Furter, the "sweet transvestite" who first spooks, then seduces the innocent visitors Brad (Kelsey Kurz) and Janet (Jeanna de Waal) at his castle from outer space.

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David Andrew Macdonald adds an ideal whiff of superiority as the unctuous Narrator, the target of many audience wisecracks.

Donyale Werle's set has that properly lost-in-time feel, and the five-piece band rocks through favorites such as "The Time Warp" and "Hot Patootie" with aplomb. But both story and songs start to sag in the second act, with one too many wistful ballads and mystifying (or just ridiculous) plot twists.

Even so, for a production that lost its original lead actor early on and then its original director, this "Rocky" manages to roll out a bona fide party. It's a show that just might be (un)dressed for success.

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THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW at the Old Globe Theatre

Still Steamy After All These Years

By [Welton Jones \(http://www.sandiego.com/writers/welton-jones\)](http://www.sandiego.com/writers/welton-jones) • Sun, Sep 25th, 2011

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW is still a triumph of form over content. The story is piffle; the presentation is all. What's surprising is how well the thing works, 40 years later.

It was titillating when new: a naughty poke in the ribs, a leering urge to loosen up, an alluring invitation to walk the wild side. Now, in a new stage production at the Old Globe Theatre, it's just a dear old toy that's impossible to dump even though hard use over a long time has bent it all out of shape.

The crude and cheesy old black/white monster films that provided the ROCKY esthetics are receding rapidly into the moldy past, replaced with chemically colored electronic effects that leap out of the screen on demand. And the kinky sex of 1973 is now normal stuff in the classroom, the board room, halls of government and even the dinner table.

Tattoos, to choose just one example, are totally without exotic impact when everybody has one. Trans-sexuals gather in handsome halls for club activity and gender bending on stage is sinking into cliché.

Yet ROCKY HORROR perseveres, worshipped as high holy camp by generation after generation, welcomed warmly by a Globe opening night audience which included three dozen or so enthusiasts costumed for the occasion and ready with responses to favorite lines in the script.

The theatre cannot take credit for such devotion. Blame (or credit) instead the 1976 film version, THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW, an instant cult classic of awesome proportions, dwarfing the influence of such similar (though different) favorites as CASABLANCA, DEEP THROAT and THE SOUND OF MUSIC.

As is widely known, midnight showings of THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW attract faithful crowds of costumed followers who wield props and additional dialogue as if participating in high holy ritual. As with most ancient rituals, time has rounded the edges and faded the color separations. Yet the faithful still flock to another showing, finding fulfillment in form, not content.

The Globe production, staged with energy rampant and focus tight by James Vasquez, makes good compromises with the faithful fans, accustomed to the entirely predictable screen dialogue. A couple of the actors – Matt McGrath as the head freak and David Andrew Macdonald as the suave narrator – have license to engage the audience in repartee but the others DO NOT. This helps keep the texture and tone of the spoof without freezing out the audience and I think it's an excellent compromise for these latter days.

(I don't recall how the 1974 American premiere was staged in Los Angeles, long before the grip of the cult. There may have been some exchanges with the audience but mostly I just remember the steamy, licentious insinuations and the musky atmosphere of

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Sydney James Harcourt as Rocky surrounded by the cast of Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show

Henry DiRocco Photo.

abandon. And NO nudity. Then or now.)

The dark and stormy night lives in Donyale Werle's arrogant decor, pieced together from stuff found discarded in the alley behind the old Republic Pictures studios. Rui Rita's lighting is just as jagged, prone to rude flashes and brooding pools. Costumes are what the piece is really about so Emily Rebholz gets to poke and every seam of certain classical fetishes, getting most (but not all) of the programmed gasps. Frankly, it's no longer easy to get a real rise out of spectators faced with lean young men in garter belts.

For identification purposes, the story goes something like this: Brand and Janet's car breaks down on that dark and stormy night, near an old castle. The folks inside turn out to be aliens from another planet, Janet, parked here temporarily, perhaps, to savor Earthly sexual delights. The headmaster of the house is one Frank 'N' Furter (talk about weary puns!) who not only seduces Brad and Janet separately with the same dialogue but also constructs the gorgeously muscled golem toy of the title. OK?

McGrath makes Furter a tired, jaded libertine running his dude raunch more out of momentum than motivation. He looks a bit wimpy for such a dominator but he does flick precisely the lash of control, even over his audience participants.

Jeanna de Waal has a tight, athlete's body and a fierce concentration as Janet but it's a part that really deserves a classic gumdrop cutie to set up innocence for its fall. Kelsey Kurz's Brad is more like it, thanks to an understanding of "gee whiz" and the way he wears those glasses.

Sydney James Harcourt is an astonishing physical specimen as Rocky and sweetly bewildered at the world he never made. Macdonald, the narrator, is a craftsman with an innuendo and a plausible bit of fantasy maturity for the mix. Among the others, Nadine Isenegger stands out as Columbia, the soft-core spook with the dancing duties.

Richard O'Brien, who wrote the book, lyrics and music in addition to playing a role, must still be stunned at the way this has all morphed. For my part, though, it's the music that impresses the most as we near the fourth decade. It's the usual assortment of stuff, now familiar from hundreds of shows constructed since with perhaps an O'Brien tune or two in the back of the mind. As performed here by Mike Wilkins and a very solid rock quartet, the score is exactly what's needed even if I couldn't remember any of the songs in the parking lot.

I was all ready to be grumpy about dragging out such fluff from another era instead of building something fresh. But, whoa, this contraption still connects!

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Category	Arts (http://www.sandiego.com/arts-and-theatre)
Dates	7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 7 p.m. Sundays through Nov. 6, 2011.
Organization	The Old Globe Theatre
Phone	619 234-5623
Production Type	Play (http://www.sandiego.com/related/production-type/play)
Ticket Prices	\$29 up
URL	www.theoldglobe.org
Venue	Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego

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Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show at Old Globe

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By Jeff Smith | Posted September 24, 2011, 12:31 p.m.



Decades ago, the best show in town was in Ocean Beach, Saturday at midnight. The Strand Theatre screened *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. The audience, dressed as the various characters, carried on a dialogue with the dialogue. Bics flicked, rice flew, and the place went wild. Charger games never had this energy.

The movie urges us "insects" — i.e. repressed humanity — to unleash our inner Epicurean. Out it came at the Strand like Halloween on steroids.

Brad Majors and Janet Weiss are engaged but don't go in for "heavy petting" (which, these days makes *The RHPS* a period piece: August 9, 1974, in fact, since Richard Nixon's giving is farewell address on their car radio). They come to a lightning-laced castle where the guests do the "Time Warp" and the host, Frank N. Furter, is "a sweet transvestite from transsexual Transylvania."

Fans who remember the Strand, or those who go to the Ken or La Paloma these days, may find the Old Globe's live version a taste that's tough to acquire. The band blasts loud and well. Donyale Werle's Gothic set and Emily Rebholz's costumes drip with decadence. But the performances, when compared to the movie, seem...what? Too polished? Too show-bizzy?

In the movie, the great Tim Curry cavorts like an androgynous Greek god. He has two distinct voices: a raucous boom and, often in the next sentence, a delicate, Fay Wray timbre. At the Globe, Matt McGrath has neither. More bitchy than butch, he sings Frank's songs just as songs, not as revelations of character.

McGrath has an unenviable task, since *RHPS* purists will compare him to Curry, the gold standard. McGrath makes up, in part, with funny, caustic asides, but is neither as brash, nor as vulnerable, as Curry.

The evening moves from the movie, in Act 1, to a musical with expanded production numbers and choreography (and fewer chances for the crowd to respond) in Act 2.

To a person, the cast has powerful voices. But in their numbers, the performer comes first, not the character. They also convey a performer's need for approval (on occasion, Jason Wooten's Riff Raff smiles, something eternally creepy Richard O'Brien's Riff Raff would never do in the movie). The film's characters have no need for our approval. They got where they are by swearing it off.

Best of show: David Andrew Macdonald's Narrator/Dr. Scott. Suave and subtle, he has a nice rapport with the audience. And his timing, improvised with the feedback, is excellent.

All that said, I've never seen the Old Globe Theatre more energized. The first-nighters, dressed as Rocky or Columbia or Frank and shouting to their heart's content, made the show.

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The Rocky Horror Show

Reviewed By: **Rob Stevens** · Sep 25, 2011 · San Diego

The light over at Frankenstein's place is shining brightly at the Old Globe Theatre where there's a welcome revival of Richard O'Brien's 1973 rock 'n' roll musical, *The Rocky Horror Show*. Much like the title character, this production is muscular and stripped down, freshly innocent and inherently raunchy.

As the show begins, newly engaged Brad (Kelsey Kurz) and Janet (Jeanna de Wal) seek shelter from the rain at the creepy mansion of Frank 'N' Furter (Matt McGrath), a mad scientist -- and unabashed transvestite -- about to reveal his latest creation: muscle man Rocky (Sydney James Harcourt). The plot takes off from there.

James Vasquez has deftly and swiftly directed the action, and wisely allows both Frank and The Narrator (David Andrew Macdonald) to respond to the audience at will, while the rest of the cast tries to play it straight. Music director Mike Wilkins and his five-piece onstage band make the piece feel like a rock concert, and JT Horenstein's musical staging and athletic choreography are outstanding.

Donyale Werle's two-level set is minimal, using Aaron Rhyne's projections to help establish backgrounds. At times, Emily Rebholz's costumes would make Victoria's Secret models blush with envy while making some in the audience drool with antic (wait for it) pation. Rui Rita's lighting and Kevin Kennedy's sound design are both right on. The one misstep is giving Frank a Veronica Lake hairstyle for his turn as Fay Wray.



Matt McGrath, Sydney James Harcourt
in *The Rocky Horror Show*
(© Henry DiRocco)

Kurz perfectly plays Brad's innocence and looks good in his pristine white boxers (as well as garter belt and pasties). De Waal's Janet is a bit too strong; she needs to play up the characters naiveté more. Harcourt's body looks like chiseled marble, but he moves and grooves with balletic grace.

Nadine Isenegger as Columbia nearly steals the show with her show-stopping tapping during "The Time Warp." Laura Shoop and Jason Wooten pull double duty as the Movie Ushers as well as Frank's brother/sister combo of accomplices, Riff Raff and Magenta, while wailing their numbers to the rafters. Macdonald provides *Masterpiece Theatre*-like gravitas as the Narrator, as well as wheelchair high kicks in his dual role as Dr. Scott.

With his short locks and pasty makeup, McGrath seems to be channeling a 1960s-era Judy Garland at times. But his performance is a touch timid and too sweet, and, as a result, Frank is not always the center of attention even when he should be. Fortunately, though, McGrath

still has time to grow into his bustier.

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The Rocky Horror Show dares Globe audiences not to laugh

By Diana Saenger

Let's Review!

Richard O'Brien's "The Rocky Horror Show" now at the Old Globe Theater, is witty, fun, outlandish and a little bit naughty. Its screams to "be who you are," will shock a few, won't disappoint its fans, and may make some new ones as well. Devotees from way back are immediately drawn in as the show opens when Usherette (Laura Shoop, "Run For Your Wife") and Usher (Jason Wooten, "Hair") sashay down the aisles singing "Science Fiction Double Feature."

Newbies will have no clue what they're singing about, as the words of the song are inaudible. But those who know the show don't care as they begin to clap and sing along, and others will understand from the film-clip background that it's about science fiction movies.



Sydney James Harcourt as Rocky surrounded by the cast of Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show, directed by James Vasquez at The Old Globe. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

What starts out innocent enough quickly enters the "not for the prudish" arena. Brad (Kelsey Kurz, Broadway's "The Merchant of Venice") and Janet (Jeanna De Waal, "American Idiot"), a young engaged couple, have car trouble on a dark and stormy night. When they go to a "castle" for help, they're surprised to find themselves captors of Frank 'N' Furter (Matt McGrath, "Cabaret") a crazed transvestite obsessed by science fiction.

After a few tunes where Brad and Janet try to figure out how to get out of this place, some of Frank's zombie-acting sex fiends jump into Rocky Horrors' theme song, "The Time Warp." The audience comes alive, following the directions of the Narrator (David Andrew MacDonald) to, "jump to the left, a step to the right, hands on your hips," etc.

After the dancing comes the frolic as Frank decides to have his way with his guests beckoning them up to his lab. He has a surprise for both Brad and Janet, who think they are with each other in the dark only to find out later they were not. This is done in silhouette, but is still quite graphic.

The theme of the show clearly exposed, it's nevertheless hilarious, and the fact that the empty seats after intermission could be counted on one hand, says the Globe audience was OK with it.

Look for many standout performances. McGrath is in command of his character sliding from sexy tempter to whining loser, and at times, too boastful about finding the secret of life. His vocal range is huge and every change of tone accompanies each different personality. MacDonald is a hoot as the suave Narrator, and hilarious when he dons his garter belt and fishnet stockings as Dr. Scott.



Kit Treece as a Phantom, Jason Wooten as Riff Raff, Laura Shoop as Magenta, Nadine Isenegger as Columbia and Anna Schnaitter as a Phantom.

Scenic designer Donyale Werle did an excellent job. The faux-stone wall framing the stage to the exotic musical numbers and scientific trappings really is a plus. Costume designer Emily Rebholz met her challenge well with a wardrobe that is alluring, sometimes funny, and always working for the right emphasis.

If you go

What: “The Rocky Horror Show”

When: Matinees and evenings to Nov. 6

Where: The Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park

Tickets: From \$29.

Box Office: (619) 23-GLOBE

Website: www.TheOldGlobe.org

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'The Rocky Horror Show' dares Globe audiences not to laugh



Let's Review BY DIANA SAENGER

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are immediately drawn in as the show opens when Usherette (Laura Shoop, "Run For Your Wife") and Usher (Jason Wooten, "Hair") sashay down the aisles singing "Science Fiction Double Feature."

Newbies will have no clue what they're singing about, as the words of the song are inaudible. But those who know the show don't care as they begin to clap and sing along, and others will understand from the film-clip background that it's about science fiction movies.

What starts out innocent enough quickly enters the "not for the prudish" arena. Brad (Kelsey Kurz, Broadway's "The Merchant of Venice")

and Janet (Jeanna De Waal, "American Idiot"), a young engaged couple, have car trouble on a dark and stormy night. When they go to a "castle" for help, they're surprised to find themselves captors of Frank 'N' Furter (Matt McGrath, "Cabaret") a crazed transvestite obsessed by science fiction.

After a few tunes where Brad and Janet try to figure out how to get out of this place, some of Frank's zombie-acting sex fiends jump into Rocky Horrors' theme song, "The Time Warp." The audience comes alive, following the directions of the Narrator (David Andrew MacDonald) to, "jump to the left, a step to the right, hands on your hips," etc.

After the dancing comes the frolic as Frank decides to have his way with his guests beckoning them up to his lab. He has a surprise for both Brad and Janet, who think they are with each other in the dark only to find out later they were not. This is done in silhouette, but is still quite graphic.

The theme of the show clearly exposed, it's nevertheless hilarious, and the fact that the empty seats after intermission could be counted on one hand, says the Globe audience was OK with it.

Look for many standout performances. McGrath is in command of his character sliding from sexy tempter to whining loser, and at times, too boastful about finding the secret of life. His vocal

range is huge and every change of tone accompanies each different personality. MacDonald is a hoot as the suave Narrator, and hilarious when he dons his garter belt and fishnet stockings as Dr. Scott.

Scenic designer Donyale Werle did an excellent job. The faux-stone wall framing the stage to the exotic musical numbers and scientific trappings really is a plus. Costume designer Emily Rebholz met her challenge well with a wardrobe that is alluring, sometimes funny, and always working for the right emphasis.



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If you go

- **What:** 'The Rocky Horror Show'
- **When:** Matinees and evenings to Nov. 26
- **Where:** The Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park
- **Tickets:** From \$29
- **Box Office:** (619) 23-GLOBE
- **Website:** TheOldGlobe.org



Above: Kit Treece as a Phantom, Jason Wooten as Riff Raff, Laura Shoop as Magenta, Nadine Isenegger as Columbia and Anna Schnaitter as a Phantom in 'The Rocky Horror Show.'



Left: Sydney James Harcourt as Rocky surrounded by the cast.

PHOTOS BY HENRY DIROCCO

Los Angeles Times | ENTERTAINMENT



Culture Monster

ALL THE ARTS, ALL THE TIME

Review: 'Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show' at Old Globe

September 27, 2011 | 12:45 am



This post has been corrected. See note below for details.

Didn't we pass a castle back there? No, San Diego, I don't mean the Mormon spires visible from Interstate 5. The lair of Dr. Frank 'N' Furter, pansexual mad scientist and mascara whore, is just up ahead in "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show," now campily revived at the Old Globe. O'Brien's giddy 1973 sci-fi cult classic has now breached the tasteful bulwarks of regional theater, and one suspects the subscription sales manager is getting some interesting phone calls.

A quick recap for the uninitiated: Squeaky-clean couple Brad (Kelsey Kurz) and Janet (Jeanna de Waal), lost into a convenient rainstorm, seek aid at a peculiar mansion full of people dressed for a 1980s Madonna video. Their host (Matt McGrath), a Dionysus in thigh-highs, quickly divests them of their damp clothes and inhibitions, as they embark on an odyssey of sexual discovery and hard-driving rock numbers (the five-piece band led by Mike Wilkins is excellent, but curiously out of place without wearing corsets).

Channeling Judy Garland and Dirk Bogarde, McGrath ([a last-minute replacement for James Barbour](#)), has the charisma and ease to command an audience, but he's all dolled up with nowhere to go — storywise, that is. For all its nifty rear projections, dry ice, and artfully constructed leather gear, this "Horror" shares the identity crisis of Rocky (Sydney James Harcourt), the naughty doctor's homemade test tube hottie: It doesn't seem to know what it wants to express, other than a lively affection for the 1975 film. But if you aren't a Transylvanian or a devotee of "Glee," you may have trouble even following what's going on.

Underneath its B-movie pastiche, "Horror" can work as a pop midsummer night's dream in which naive lovers are blindsided by their erotic compulsions. But this production, directed by James Vásquez ([also a last-minute replacement](#)), doesn't take the time to let Brad and Janet's story really land. This busy, oddly unsexy staging feels like a speed-thru, a rehearsal in which actors quickly hit their marks but hold back on the emotion until there's an audience. Tongues never leave cheeks; that can be funny, but it doesn't sustain an evening.

Happily, some moments transcend the camp: among them, the lovely "Don't Dream It, Be It," and the ever-irresistible "Time Warp." Jason Wooten's Riff Raff brings real vocal and dramatic power, and Rui Rita's full-frontal lighting rocks the house. It's all harmless enough, and you can even purchase an audience participation bag of goodies in the lobby. But we'll have to wait a little longer on a radical "Rocky Horror" rethink for the 21st century.

-- Charlotte Stoudt, from San Diego

“Richard O’Brien’s The Rocky Horror Show” Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 4 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays. Special performance 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 31; no performance Tuesday, Nov. 1. Ends Nov. 6. \$29-\$85. Contact: (619) 234-5623 or www.theoldglobe.org. Running time: 2 hours.

[For the record: 5:33 p.m. Sept. 27: An earlier version of this review said that audience members are encouraged to bring playing cards, rice and other props for audience participation. In fact, the theater is not allowing props into the theater for the safety of the performers. It is selling \$3 bag in the lobby with a newspaper, mini flashlights, playing cards, balloons and a rubber glove.]

Photo: Kit Treece, from left, Matt McGrath, Laura Shoop, and Andrew Call. Credit: Henry DiRocco.

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THEATER REVIEW

'Rocky' revival can't help but camp out

CHARLOTTE STOUTT
FROM SAN DIEGO

Didn't we pass a castle back there? No, San Diego, I don't mean the Mormon spires visible from Interstate 5. The lair of Dr. Frank-N-Furter, pansexual mad scientist and mascara whore, is just up ahead in "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show," now campily revived at the Old Globe.

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HENRY DiROCCO

LOST: Janet (Jeanna de Waal) and Brad (Kelsey Kurz) find a bizarre kind of shelter from the rain.

'Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show'

Where: Old Globe Theatre, San Diego

When: Through Nov. 6

Tickets: \$29-\$85

Contact: (619) 234-5623 or www.theoldglobe.org

Running time: 2 hours

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The Rocky Horror Show

book, music & lyrics by [Richard O'Brien](#)
directed by [James Vasquez](#)
[The Old Globe](#), San Diego
through November 6

Judging by opening night at [The Old Globe](#), San Diego, fan reaction to [Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show](#) is every bit as over-the-top silly as the attention paid to the 1975 cult film retitled *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. *Rocky Horror* is a 1973(London)/74(LA)/75(Broadway) sendup of early sci fi, class B horror films and offers a curiously appealing view of some gay and wildly campy transgender lifestyles. Fans dress up as Rocky, Dr. Scott, Frank 'n' Furter and the Phantoms and scream obscenities and corny comments at the characters on stage. They also cover their heads with newspapers to avoid the rain, wave flashlights back and forth and move instep to "The Time Warp" in the aisles.

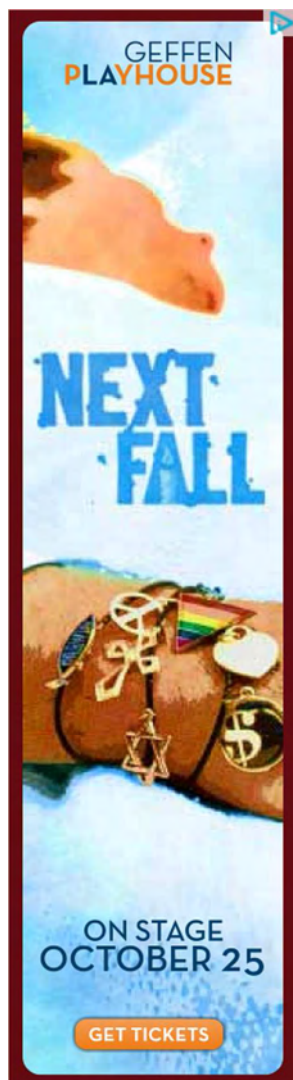
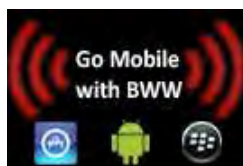
It was 1977 midnight showings of the film that started this audience participation trend, which shows no signs of stopping.

This all new production, with [Matt McGrath](#) replacing [James Barbour](#) and with a change in directors - [Oanh Nguyen](#) left, due to artistic differences - is in greater shape than I anticipated, boasting a truly fine cast and a plethora of cool production values, special effects now under the directorial stamp of [James Vasquez](#). I mean really, don't expect the ultra advanced, high technology of say *Spiderman*, but remember, we're in a time warp, man, it's the 70s, so be totally cool and hang loose!

Frank 'n' Furter could be Elvis or a perverted, transexual Jesus figure, goading us on to experience all the base pleasures that our minds have merely dreamed of. And so it is for Brad ([Kelsey Kurz](#)) and Janet ([Jeanna de Waal](#)), who only want to get married, when we first meet them. When their car breaks down on the way to visit their friend and tutor Dr. Scott, also the Narrator ([David Andrew Macdonald](#)), they stumble on a bizarre castle where Frank 'n' Furter ([Matt McGrath](#)), his female Phantoms and other strange creatures like Riff Raff ([Jason Wooten](#)) and Columbia ([Nadine Isenegger](#)) engage them in a nightmarish evening they will never forget. Frank 'n' Furter, of the Dr.

Frankenstein variety, has created the muscular perfect Rocky (Sydney [James Harcourt](#)) with part of a brain he removed from motorcycle riding Eddie ([Andrew Call](#)). At first, Brad and Janet fear for their lives, but gradually give in, and like servants of Satan partake of every sin. It is Dr. Scott, uncle to Eddie, who shows up at the castle and miraculously saves the couple from a destiny of doom.

The cast is sheer heaven. McGrath - although I prefer Frank 'n' Furter broader and bolder - has the sexual spark and voice akin to a young [Charles Busch](#) in drag. Harcourt is truly delicious as Rocky. de Waal and Kurz are fabulous as Janet and Brad, singing and dancing up a storm. Isenegger, so slick and smooth, steals the show as Columbia, tapping and moving sensationally throughout. Movie star handsome Macdonald is a



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humorous and sexy turn-on as the Narrator and equally delightful as the brainy Dr. Scott. Rabble-rouser [Andrew Call](#) chews up the scenery in his one scene as Eddie. Wooten (Riff Raff) and [Laura Shoop](#) (Magenta) also playing the Ushers, as well as the rest of the ensemble are magnetic performing the steps of [JT Horenstein](#)'s choreography and musical staging.

Musically the rock score is as raucously alive as ever, with the orchestra in plain view behind the castle set, a la *JC Superstar* and other pop rock operas of this genre. The whole set design by [Donyale Werle](#) is dark with eerie strings of colorful lights over the metal grating, and costumes by [Emily Rebholz](#) are scant and appropriately garish. Loved the black outfits with distinct touches of red in "Floor Show/Rose Tint My World".

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Don Grigware is an Ovation nominated actor and writer whose contributions to theatre through the years have included 6 years as theatre editor of NoHoLA, a contributor to LA Stage magazine and



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It's quite a curiosity that young audiences still flock to such an eccentricity after some 40 years and can't seem to get enough. With the world turned upside down, it's perhaps another rebellious sign of the times. Adoration for pop rock and for unadulterated camp reign supreme among gays *and* straights, and that said, the stage *Rocky Horror* may easily join the film within the Cult Hall of Fame.

(rated R: adults only)

(photo credit: Henry DiRocco)

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SAN DIEGO

Regional Reviews by Bill Eadie

The Rocky Horror Show

The Old Globe

The various incarnations of *The Rocky Horror Show* have uneasily straddled lines between tradition and transgression, between parody and camp. Too much transgression and too much reliance on camp can spoil the fun. Too little and the show's a bore. The Old Globe's production of what is now officially called *Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show* is a mixed bag: about the right amount of transgression but too little camp.

The mixed result is probably no surprise, as the production was troubled throughout much of its planning and execution. Eyebrows were lifted when the Globe announced the production as the opener for its fall/winter season; the La Jolla Playhouse might have gotten away with a revival, especially under former artistic director Des McAnuff, but the Globe's mainstage audience is used to more traditional musicals, such as last spring's *Emma*. Eyebrows were lifted again when James Barbour was cast as Dr. Frank 'N' Furter, as theatre watchers here were well aware of Mr. Barbour's troubles with the law several years ago. Sure enough, one of the local papers ran a story, and a conservative talk show host mounted a campaign to pressure the Globe to fire Mr. Barbour (officially, Mr. Barbour left the show to be with his wife during the last stages of their pregnancy). Finally, about two weeks before previews began, director Oanh Nguyen announced that he was departing due to "artistic differences." Mr. Nguyen, the artistic director of Orange County's Chance Theatre, has a reputation for pushing the envelope in his small theatre in a nondescript industrial complex, particularly with revivals of musicals. Apparently, the Globe's management did not want the envelope to be pushed as far as Mr. Nguyen wanted to push it. James Vásquez, a rising local director with a degree from Julliard, replaced Mr. Nguyen.



Sydney James Harcourt and Cast

The plot parodies 1950s horror and science fiction films with a rock score. Newly engaged Brad (Kelsey Kurz) and Janet (Jeanna de Waal) have a flat tire on their way to visiting Dr. Scott (David Andrew Macdonald, who doubles as the narrator), their former science teacher. Making their way through the rain on a dark night to a castle, they discover that they have stumbled into a hedonistic fun house where Dr. Frank 'N' Furter (Matt McGrath) and his manservant Riff Raff (Jason Wooten) are making a creature called Rocky (Sydney James Harcourt). Brad and Janet become caught up in the sexually charged atmosphere, though things turn darker with the arrival of Dr. Scott and the revelation that the whole operation is really from outer space.

From a technical standpoint, the production is sure footed. Donyale Werle (Scenic Design), Emily Rebholz (Costume Design), Rui Rita (Lighting Design), Kevin Kennedy (Sound Design) and Aaron Rhyne (Projection Design) all produce high quality work. JT Horenstein's energetic musical staging and choreography are a highlight, and Mike Wilkins, Mr. Nguyen's musical director at Chance, prepared both the singers and the band well, and conducts with aplomb from a perch at the top of the set.

Finding the right tone proves to be a problem, though. *Rocky Horror* became a cult hit once the film version started to be shown at midnight, and an entire audience participation routine built up at its showings, spread through word-of-mouth. The theatre version wasn't designed to have the audience take over the show, though, so stage directors have to tread lightly in encouraging and discouraging participation. The Globe sells audience members a participation goodie bag, along with instructions about when to use the individual items. Not everyone purchases the bag, though, so the effect is spotty. So, too, are attempts to get the audience to clap along and even dance along (to a reprise of "Time Warp" at the curtain call—there just isn't enough room between the rows for audience members to execute the dance moves).

Mr. Kurtz and Ms. de Waal exhibit good looks and strong voices as Brad and Janet, and Mr. Macdonald is an appropriately droll narrator, though his Dr. Scott is less successful. Mr. Wooton, late of the *Hair* revival cast, tries walking through the audience on chair arms to little effect, and his Riff Raff never seems quite comfortably inside the production. Mr. Harcourt not only has the muscles for Rocky, but he sings and dances up a storm.

Mr. McGrath has some experience from which to draw, as he played the title character in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* Off-Broadway. But, while his singing scores, his presence isn't sexually dangerous enough to draw the audience in with the kind of hypnotic fascination that made those old B-movies so addictive. A little more camp all the way around wouldn't hurt; the older couple who marched up the aisle after the sex scenes in act two at the performance I attended probably would have left in any case.

The Old Globe has produced a technically fine but somewhat under-powered revival of *Rocky Horror*. The show runs through November 6, so perhaps playing it in front of audiences will allow the cast to find that hard-to-discern line between tradition and transgression.

Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show, through November 6, 2011, at the Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, in San Diego's Balboa Park. Tickets (\$29 - \$93) available by calling (619) 23-GLOBE [234-5623] or by visiting the Old Globe's website at <http://theoldglobe.org>.

The Old Globe presents *Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show*, Book, Music and Lyrics by Richard O'Brien. Directed by James Vásquez with JT Horenstein (Musical Staging and Choreographer), Mike Wilkins (Music Direction), Donyale Werle (Scenic Design), Emily Rebholz (Costume Design), Rui Rita (Lighting Design), Kevin Kennedy (Sound Design), Aaron Rhyne (Projection Design), Carrie Gardner, CSA (Casting) and Anjee Nero (Stage Manager).

The cast includes Andrew Call (Eddie, Phantom), Jeanna de Waal (Janet), Sydney James Harcourt (Rocky), Nadine Isenegger (Columbia), Lauren Lim Jackson (Phantom), Kelsey Kurz (Brad), David Andrew Macdonald (Narrator, Dr. Scott), Matt McGrath (Frank 'N'

Furter), Anna Schnaitter (Phantom), Laura Shoop (Magenta, Usherette), Kit Treece (Phantom) and Jason Wooten (Riff Raff, Usher).

Photo: Henry DiRocco

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Charlene and Brenda in Blogosphere

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2011

ABOUT ME

About me and Brenda

San Diego, California, United States

My writing partner is Brenda. She writes what I dare not. I am a member of the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle and write for numerous publications regionally and nationally. Brenda showed up unbidden on a paper tablecloth one night. Her maiden name – McGillicutty – and Burgoo – whatever that is – came along years later, after she'd settled in as my most adventurous companion -- she dances while I sit on the sidelines and weep. She rejoices in young men with curly hair who play "Vocalise" on the cello in a Japanese pagoda, while I hang out with wise old Jews who have long, white beards, listen to chamber music and admire my writing and, secretly, Brenda. Though Brenda adores fine dining, she occasionally confuses octopus and squid and truly does not write well. Where I would give up a good duck paté for sex any day, Brenda hangs out in bars and goes home with someone new every night. It's not that she is promiscuous; she's just wildly epicurean.

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Rocky Horror
and Walter
Cronkite Is
Dead.

Rocky Horror and Walter Cronkite Is Dead.



Charlene Baldridge by Ken Howard

The production's the thing at Rocky

As I sat waiting for the opening performance of the Old Globe's beset production of *Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show* Friday, Sept. 23, I thought of my daughter, Laura, who became quite addicted to the film when she was a teen.

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The Rocky Horror Picture Show was a cult classic. Every weekend, no matter where it played late at night, she and her friends would dress up and go, Laura in a huge men's suit and tie she'd purchased at Goodwill just for those occasions. She was so convincing in coat and tie that I became a bit concerned. My daughter, a budding lesbian? Well, there could be worse things, so off she went with my blessing to the cinema, to act and react with others. *Rocky* was like the great American pastime for the thespian set (she was in drama at Madison High School). Laura and her pals knew all the words, all the moves, and all the responses.

Tribal musicals like *Rocky Horror*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Hair* were the rage, perhaps hoping to usher in the new good news regarding life after so many radical changes like the sexual revolution, the women's movement and earlier the death of God.

Rocky Horror's Transylvanian Tribe (not from Eastern Europe but from the transgender *planet* Transylvania) took up residence at an eerie mansion somewhere "in the velvet darkness of the blackest night."



Kit Treece as a Phantom, Jason Wooten as Riff Raff, Laura Shoop as Magenta,
Nadine Isenegger as Columbia, and Anita Schnaitter as a Phantom
Photo: Henry DiRocco

Newly engaged, the innocent Janet (**Jeanna de Waal**) and Brad (**Kelsey Kurz**) stumble upon the manse one dark and stormy night. There, just as an entire generation, they are introduced to sensuality and sexual pleasure through the ministrations of the cross-dressing, transsexual Dr. Frank 'N' Furter (**Matt McGrath**), who, having discovered the secret of life, has created a new love toy named Rocky (**Sydney James Harcourt**).



Jeanna de Waal as Janet and Kelsey Kurz as Brad
Photo: Henry DiRocco

The story is told by The Narrator (**David Andrew Macdonald**, who morphs into Dr. Scott, a scientist whose home was Brad and Janet's original destination). Frank 'N' Furter's Transylvanian minions are Columbia (**Nadine Isenegger**), the household maid Magenta (**Laura Shoop**) and Magenta's brother Riff Raff (**Jason Wooten**), the major domo of the household. Other residents are human Phantoms played by **Andrew Call**, **Lauren Lim Jackson**, **Anna Schnaitter**, and **Kit Treece**.

As I watched **James Vásquez's** production of *The Rocky Horror Show* unfold and heard the responses shouted out by the young people planted next to me and throughout Friday's capacity audience, I wished that I'd paid closer attention to Laura's explanation in the '60s. I was too busy being square, raising three children in what I hoped was a responsible manner (I admit to the wildness of sneaking off to L.A. to see *Hair*, but we kept it a secret from the children).



Janet (at right, Jeanna de Waal) admires Rocky (Sydney James Harcourt)

Photo by Henry DiRocco

So yes, this review is written by an old fogey that can't fully understand the phenomenon of *Rocky* in the same way as Laura's generation did. I believe, however, that I understand the reasons for its genesis and resurgence. Furthermore, I can appreciate the fine performances and artistry involved in the visual and aural support that make up the whole – a theatrical evening loaded with sensual stimulation that comes and goes in just a bit over two hours.

As Columbia redheaded Nadine Isenegger lights up the stage. Kurz takes Brad far beyond the standard naïf to neophyte sensualist. De Waal's Janet is game but limited in range. Harcourt is a fetching Rocky, not only succulent (oh, those abs and pecs and legs, etc.) but a fine singer as well. I adored Wooten's Riff Raff – golly, what pipes, and possibly the sexiest guy on stage! Shoop's Magenta was vocally shrill. I found McGrath's well-sung Furter inhibited physically. Currently, he seems detached and not at all mad or madcap. Perhaps he'll loosen up as he becomes more comfortable in the role he assumed late in the rehearsal period. This was when the former Furter fled.



Dr. Frank 'N' Furter (Matt McGrath) also admires Rocky (Sydney James Harcourt)
Photo: Henry DiRocco

The superb orchestra comprises conductor **Mike Wilkins** on keyboards; **Stephen Musselman** on electric, 12-string acoustic guitars; **Vince Cooper** on electric, steel string acoustic guitars; **Michael Pearce** on electric bass; and **Tim McMahon** on drums and percussion. Musical staging and choreography is by **JT Horenstein**.

Favorite songs of the old fogey are "Damn It, Janet" and "The Time Warp." **Kevin Kennedy's** sound design is at times so loud that lyrics are obfuscated (especially so in the opening duet between Magenta and Riff-Raff in their Usherette and Usher guises). As for eye candy there's plenty. **Donyale Werle's** scenic design is phantasmagoric as lighted by **Rui Rita**, and **Emily Rebholz's** costumes are inventive beyond fish net and garter belts. Loved the pasties.

Burgoo Rating: Four

Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show continues through November 6 in the Old Globe Theatre at the Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. Performances Tuesdays-Sundays, tickets \$29 and up. See www.theoldglobe.org or phone (619) 23-GLOBE.

For those who love to dress up, there will be a Halloween-themed fundraising event with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dancing and a costume contest with the cast of the show at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28. For the run of this show only, beverages are allowed inside the theatre.

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Wednesday, Sep 28, 2011

Rocky Horror rocks the Old Globe in a rebellious revival

A review of the show that put “sweet transvestite” in the lexicon—Plus, Walter Cronkite is Dead and the rest of the plays in local production

By [David L. Coddon](#)

Matt McGrath (left) and Sydney James Harcourt in Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show. - Photo by Henry DiRocco

Thirty-eight years after it first hit the stage in London, *The Rocky*

0

Horror Show remains a textbook example of style over substance. We don't really care about straight arrows Brad and Janet and why they're unwittingly plunged into a wackedout world of sex-obsessed alien transvestites. No, Brit actor/writer Richard O'Brien's *Rocky Horror Show* is a (mostly) visual and (kind of) aural spectacle of leather and mascara counterculture, a camp, B-movie middle finger to traditional theater and traditional gender.

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The Old Globe's [Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show](#) is very much in that spirit. Its rousing rebelliousness, garters and corsets and multimedia special effects excusably overpower the story. Throw in some kinetic choreography, a crack band and a couple of crowd-pleasing performances (in particular Matt McGrath's strutting Frank N. Furter), and both *Rocky* cultists and horrified tourists are bound to leave titillated and entertained.

The in-theater sound quality isn't always up to the fast-paced vocalizing, and years of *Rocky Horror* assimilation into our pop culture minimizes the show's shock value. But this



production, smartly directed by James Vasquez, is too likable to dismiss. Then there's the audience around you: You might have a cross-dresser seated in your row, or maybe just a fan bearing a glow stick who knows how to dance "The Time Warp."

The show runs through Nov. 6 at the Old Globe Theatre. \$29 and up.

Two women—one a liberal sophisticate, the other a conservative fanny-packer—waiting 90 minutes in an airport lounge for a plane and striking up a conversation is all that happens in San Diego Rep's *Walter Cronkite is Dead*. Well, it's almost all that

happens. That the very strained conversation becomes if not a friendship then at least a realization of mutual respect is the result of solid performances by Ellen Crawford and Melinda Gilb. What might have been static dramedy thankfully is not.

It runs through Oct. 16 at the Lyceum Theatre, Downtown. \$37 and up. sdrep.org

Write to davidc@sdcitybeat.com and editor@sdcitybeat.com.

Opening

Odyssey: Homer's epic poem is given a contemporary, and local, treatment in a production done in collaboration with the Old Globe Theatre's Southeastern San Diego Residency Project. Opens Sept. 30 at the Lowell Davies Festival Theatre in Balboa Park. \$15. oldglobe.org

Trailer Park Queen: A one-woman show by storyteller and spoken-word artist Teresa Gunn, Oct. 1 only at San Diego City College's Saville Theatre, Downtown. Donations asked. musiciansforeducation.org

Now Playing

The Marvelous Wonderettes: Tunes from the '50s and '60s power this musical surrounding the Springfield High School prom. Through Oct. 1 at the Moonlight Amphitheatre in Vista. \$22

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THEATER

Rocky rocks the Globe in a rebellious revival

Thirty-eight years after it first hit the stage in London, *The Rocky Horror Show* remains a textbook example of style over substance. We don't really care about straight arrows Brad and Janet and why they're unwittingly plunged into a wacked-out world of sex-obsessed alien transvestites. No, Brit actor/writer Richard O'Brien's *Rocky Horror Show* is a (mostly) visual and (kind of) aural spectacle of leather and mascara counterculture, a camp, B-movie middle finger to traditional theater and traditional gender.

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MATT McGRATH (LEFT) AND
SYDNEY JAMES HARCOURT

—David L. Coddon

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THEATER REVIEW: Globe's 'Rocky Horror' a loud, proud experience

- Story
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THEATER REVIEW: Globe's 'Rocky Horror' a loud, proud experience

By PAM KRAGEN pkragen@nctimes.com North County Times | Posted: Thursday, September 29, 2011 8:00 am | No Comments Posted

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Henry DiRocco

The cast of "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show" at the Old Globe Theatre. Photo courtesy of Henry DiRocco

"The Rocky Horror Show"

When: 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; 7 p.m. Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays; through Nov. 6

Where: The Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego

Tickets: \$39-\$90 (\$20 rush tickets available for those who show up in costume) for mature audiences

Info: 619-234-5623

Web: theoldglobe.org

For a musical that had as difficult a birthing process as the Old Globe's "The Rocky Horror Show," the big question on opening night was whether the sci-fi comedy would live up its name.

The good news is that the Globe's production of Richard O'Brien's campy 1973 musical is neither rocky, nor a horror. It's a festive, well-designed, snappy and expertly choreographed show, but it bears scars from losing both its original leading man and director during rehearsals this month.

Original star James Barbour bowed out amid controversy over his past (sex with an underage girl 10 years ago), and director Oanh Nguyen left a few weeks later citing artistic differences.

Show associate director James Vasquez quickly stepped in and has clearly steered the show smoothly into port. Less successful is new leading man Matt McGrath as the "sweet transvestite" Dr. Frank 'N' Furter, who doesn't have Barbour's powerful singing voice (nor that of the film version's iconic star, Tim Curry). He also lacks the charisma and presence to pull off the provocative central role. McGrath does, however, have a strong flair for comedy, timing and ad-libs and that serves him well.

For those not familiar with "Rocky Horror," it's good to go in prepared or you're in for a surprise. First staged in London, then transported to the U.S. where it was made into a cult classic 1976 film ("The Rocky Horror Picture Show"), it's the story of two sexually innocent American teens, Brad and Janet, who happen upon a mysterious castle filled with strange singing and dancing aliens from the planet Transylvania.

Their leader is Frank 'N' Furter, a libidinous cross-dresser who's creating Frankenstein-like male Adonises for his personal pleasure. The musical spoofs the bad sci-fi B-movies of the '50s and was influenced by the '70s movement of British glam rock (sparkly costumes, makeup, sexual ambiguity).

The film spawned a legion of fans who for decades have arrived at midnight screenings scantily dressed as their favorite characters, armed with props they hold up or throw at the screen, some dance steps and a vast repertoire of (mostly naughty) one-liners shouted out at key points in the story.

The Globe stage production pays homage to the film fans by offering them \$20 rush tickets if they show up in costume, \$3 prop bags for sale in the lobby, and a script that's been cleverly updated with references and setups for the die-hard fans (on weekend nights, be prepared for a noisy, colorful, fun-loving audience). Also, get ready for some R-rated comedy. Some humorous silhouettes of zany sex acts leave little to the imagination.

It's hard to know where Nguyen's work ends and Vasquez's begins, but the finished product is funny, polished and well-rehearsed. The physical production looks great, particularly Donyale Werle's crumbling theater/fun house set and Emily Rebholz's sexy, updated costumes. Aaron Rhyne's projections add a filmic dimension to the show. Mike Wilkins' musical direction gives a modern rock vibe to the dated '70s score. And JT Horenstein's musical staging and choreography are exceptional.

Unfortunately, the show's too-loud sound design makes it hard to understand many of the lyrics, and it amplifies the flaws in the voices of three key performers (one is shrill, another's flat and a third is unforgivably wobbly).

The cast has two terrific standouts. David Andrew Macdonald is delicious as the smug, oily Narrator, who playfully teases responses from the ever-eager audience; and as castle "butler" Riff Raff, Jason Wooten is an engaging rock tenor. The rest of the performers give it their all, particularly in the well-rehearsed dance numbers ("The Time Warp" and "Hot Patootie"), but their onstage personalities still seem undercooked (perhaps as a result of the bumpy rehearsal process).

On opening night, Macdonald and McGrath interacted playfully with the audience. In the coming weeks, the show is bound to morph and adapt to the crowd, something the film could never do. If you're looking for a party onstage that you're welcome to join, it's worth checking out.

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THEATER
"Rocky Horror"
raises a ruckus
at Old Globe
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“THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW”

The Old Globe's production is festive and well-designed, despite problems leading up to its opening.

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THEATER REVIEW

Globe's 'Rocky Horror' a loud, proud experience

By PAM KRAGEN

pkragen@ncimes.com

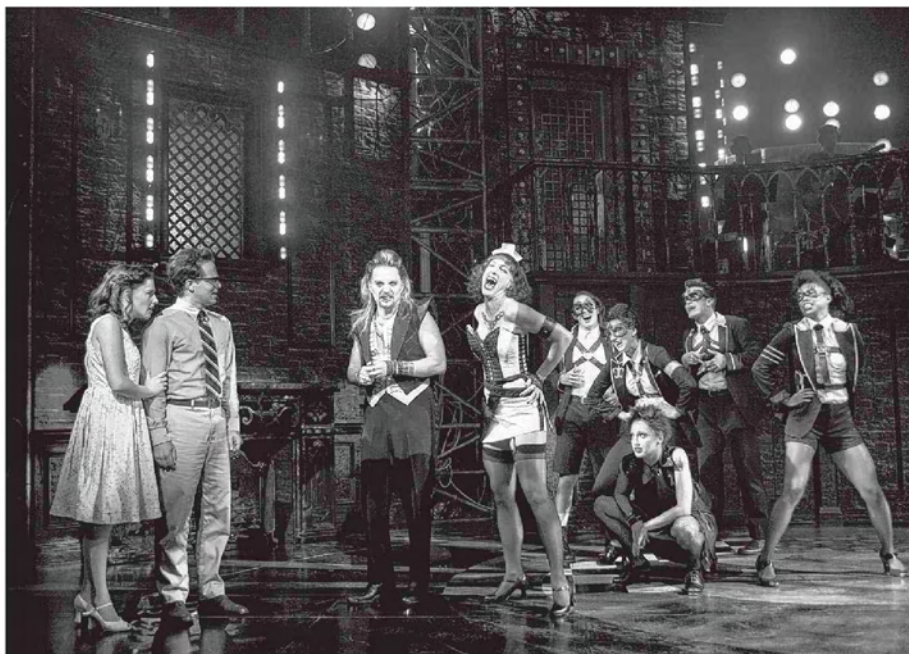
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a filmic dimension to the

The cast of "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show" at the Old Globe Theatre.

Photo courtesy of Henry DiRocco

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“The Rocky Horror Show”–The Old Globe, “Walter Cronkite is Dead”–SD Rep Theatre & “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat



It's about making the best of a bad situation. Like Brad and Janet in “The Rocky Horror Show.” Or the Biblical Joseph, enslaved in Egypt without his “Technicolor Dreamcoat.” Or Patty and Margaret, trapped in an overcrowded airport in “Walter Cronkite is Dead.”

Joe Calarco's 2010 comic duet employs an overused literary trope: foul weather forces two disparate types together. Patty is brash and Southern; proudly blue-collar and Christian. Tight-lipped, uptight Margaret is a well-heeled, Northeastern liberal snob. In no time, they're drinking wine, and revealing secrets, similarities and shared disappointments – in their children, their religion and themselves. The play, effectively directed by Shana Wride at the San Diego Repertory Theatre, offers few revelations, and both playwright Calarco and actor Ellen Crawford make Margaret somewhat less than believable. But Melinda Gilb is spectacular as Patty: perfectly credible and hugely likable in her hyperverbosity. Cronkite is invoked as a symbol of civil discourse – and we could all use a heavy dose of that these days — sitcom-y or otherwise.

And we could all benefit from a little musical diversion – especially of the intentionally outlandish type. Andrew Lloyd Webber's “Technicolor Dreamcoat” was created in 1968 for a school choir. San Diego Musical Theatre returns to those roots, assembling an 18-member children's chorus, age 6-16, for this large-scale production, directed by Ron Kellum. The kids are cute, but don't add much, musically or dramatically.

The adult cast of 25 is strong, headed by former San Diegan and Broadway veteran Eric Kunze, he of the mellow, potent voice, and well-developed pecs and abs. Talented Bethany Slomka is a lively Narrator, but she's overmiked and comes across shrill. Don LeMaster conducts a 15-piece orchestra, which nails the wild pastiche of musical styles.

The Egypt scenes are all glitz – in costume, design and choreography, though I don't know about ancient Israelite women belly dancing in spangled bras. But overall, for this perennial that's equal parts silly and sentimental, the production delivers the goods.

Nothing, however, delivers like Richard O'Brien's "The Rocky Horror Show." The Old Globe production seemed hexed, losing its director and leading man. But James Vásquez and Matt McGrath stepped up to the plate and knocked it outta the park. You've gotta like sex and raunch and sci-fi. And be ready to do "The Time-Warp" at the end. There's one ballad that was understandably cut from the film, but everything else hews close to the beloved midnight cult movie. The show gets off to a slow, un-erotic, non-rocking start. But boy, does it pick up steam, with a terrific cast, great visuals, vocals and band, killer costumes, and titillating choreography.

If you're a "Rocky Horror" virgin, prepare to be violated. If you're a fan, you'll be very well sated. Dress up, go crazy, get into it. Don't dream it, be it!

The San Diego Musical Theatre production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" runs through October 9 at the Lyceum Theatre in Horton Plaza.

"Walter Cronkite is Dead" plays through October 16 at the San Diego Repertory Theatre in Horton Plaza.

"The Rocky Horror Show" continues through November 6 in The Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park.

© 2011 Pat Launer



"Susurrus" – La Jolla Playhouse, "Man of La Mancha" – Welk Resort Theatre & "The Marvelous Wonderettes" – Moonlight Stage Prod.



Did you ever feel confined in a theater? Well, drama has become a walk in the park, thanks to the La Jolla Playhouse, inaugurating its new WoW program, which stands for Without Walls. The experiment begins with an audio play called "Susurrus," referring to a soft murmuring or rustling, like wind in the trees.

Here's how it works. You buy a ticket for a particular timeframe, then show up at the San Diego Botanic Gardens and receive a personal iPod and headphones. The voices inside your head direct you to eight sites around the lush, 37-acre grounds. The story is dark, a jarring juxtaposition in such stunning surroundings.

At first, you're not quite sure what to make of David Leddy's creation. The singing of birds, the flapping of wings, snippets of narrative, excerpts from Benjamin Britten's opera, "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The alternating voices come from a singer, a researcher and the two damaged adopted children of an acclaimed tenor who was triumphing in Britten's opera when rank disclosures were made

Marguerite (Gisèle Casadesus) enjoy a relationship that extends far beyond the smiles. (Photos courtesy Cohen Media group)

carrying these days), he is first seen being stiffed on a job, after which he scrawls his name in childish cursive on a local monument.

He lives with much younger bus driver Annette (Sophie Guillemin) in a trailer next to the family house occupied by his slutty and cruel mother (Claire Maurier). His sideline is gardening the plot next to the house and selling the produce at the local farmers' market. Many of his off-hours, like those of the other villagers, are spent with an assortment of quirky cronies in Francine's bar.

One afternoon, while in the village square counting the pigeon population (he's named them all), Germain encounters nonagenarian Margueritte (two t's because her father didn't spell very well). They strike up a park-bench conversation, which turns into a friendship. Discovering that Germain's reluctance to talk about literature stems from functional illiteracy, Margueritte (Casadesus) begins reading to him from Camus' *La Peste* (*The Plague*). Germain then tells her about gardening, pigeons and the abuse he took from both mother and classmates.

They share sun-dappled afternoons and heartbreak, literature and birdwatching, life and the longing for it. Gradually, Germain awakens the dormant intellect bullied into hiding so long ago. Margueritte harbors her own insecurity: Resident of a nearby retirement home, she may have to move because her family will no longer foot the bill.



Annette (Sophie Guillemin) is probably clueless to the emotional depth within her lover Germain (Gérard Depardieu).



Margueritte thinks there's always time to make a new friend. [Click to see.](#)

I know; it sounds like a sappy TV special. But trust me, these two extraordinary actors lift it well above that level by sheer commitment to the story and through their innate charm, individually and together. Funny, charming and poignant, this quiet little film is a little gem.

My Afternoons with Marguerite is distributed by Cohen Media Group and is unrated. It opens Friday, Sept. 30, at La Jolla Village Cinemas, 8879 Villa La Jolla Drive. \$7.25-\$10.50. 619-819-0236, landmarktheatres.com

ON STAGE

Function follows form

Globe's *Rocky Horror* a fun show despite some overworked designs

BY MARTIN JONES WESTLIN

Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show isn't so much theater as theatrical, but that doesn't make it a bad piece. The silly story and campy special effects are pure gold when they're in the right hands, and "The Time Warp," the show's signature tune, is among modern performance art's cult favorites. The Old Globe Theatre's current turn at the show is quirky, outrageous and fun, and The Globe deserves extra credit for mounting it under certain time constraints (the lead actor and the director abruptly departed rehearsals last month).

Quirky, outrageous and fun, that is, if you don't expect much beyond the spectacle and a few archetypal catcalls from the audience. The visuals and music don't only make the show; they *are* the show, with the trifling escapades of Brad and Janet running an unremarkable second. That's what the originators intended in 1973, when *Rocky* became a leader among the more rough-and-tumble colors emerging in '70s pop culture (*Tommy*, *That Championship Season*, *The Wiz*).

The only thing that's changed since then is our attitude. And maybe our powers of discernment.

The young-and-in-love Brad and Janet have the grave misfortune (or the incredible good luck, depending) of landing near an old castle when their car breaks down in a big fat storm. Turns out the building's denizens are aliens, and Brad and Janet are their impromptu subjects, unwilling (or willing, depending) participants in a fête of earthly sexual pleasure. Dr. Frank 'N' Furter, the transvestite host, seduces both (amid the exact same speeches, an insanely clever touch)—and as further testament to his prowess, he unveils Rocky, his pet neo-Frankenstinian creation.

It's all a great, edgy laff riot, with director James Vásquez exploiting all manner of nuance, from the in-jokes to the characters' offbeat physical traits. Ditto Donyale Werle, whose wacky scene design is part retro, part postmodern and all spot-on scattershot. Emily Rebholz's costumes, Rui Rita's lights, JT Horenstein's choreography and Kevin Kennedy's sound design are born of the same mind, and in a show so heavily dependent on the tech work, that's all you need ask for.



Rocky (Sydney James Harcourt) is only a living figment, but he's damn proud of it.

Still, some visuals are counterintuitive. They tend to blend with the décor rather than enhance it, oversimplifying what's already a piddling yarn. To wit:

Must Frank (Matt McGrath) be outfitted with precisely the same intent as the others are? Not only is he the man of the house; he's the only mad genius for miles around, and on both counts, he's unique. I've always imagined him on stilts, for example—in any event, McGrath's too short for so physically daunting a role.

Must Janet (Jeanna de Waal) be so exquisitely built? Janet's downright pixie-ish amid her naïvete; de Waal is womanly, lithe and confident in her movements, detracting from Janet's "golly-gee" comportment.

Must Rocky (Sydney James Harcourt) be so insanely chiseled? I realize he's a creation, but even so, he's designed to live and breathe. Harcourt's so incredibly muscled that his body looks half-finished.

There are more such observable glitches, but that's all they are—observable. And to boot, they probably won't even register with a younger crowd, who's doubtless heard plenty about *Rocky Horror* from the wildly popular 1975 movie version (which in some cities is a *de rigueur* event even today). They'll have fun with Richard O'Brien's book, music and lyrics as set forth by music director Mike Wilkins and his rock foursome. Better yet, they'll catch a glimpse of cultural history, which after all this time still endears.

This review is based on the opening-night performance of Sept. 23. Richard O'Brien's The Rocky



Riff Raff (James Wooten) and Magenta (Laura Shoop) do the Time Warp (again.) (Photos by Henry DiRocco)

Horror Show runs through Nov. 6 at The Old Globe Theatre's Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. \$29 and up. 619-23-GLOBE, oldglobe.org



That's the way it is

But you couldn't prove it by Rep's evasive *Walter Cronkite is Dead*.

A long time ago, I drew a map of what I call the Federated Republics of America. It features 12 semi-autonomous regions instead of 50 states (it also sets Hawaii and Alaska free), and it's designed to reflect a more fluid national interdependence. Let's face it: As is, the U.S. is just too damn big, with special interests and seat-of-the-pants politics dulling true representation in a country with too few truly committed servants to begin with.

Friends think my map is too radical an idea, which is exactly why I say they should embrace its intent. America was founded on radical thinking, after all, the kind that marks the nation as unique. Joe Calarco's *Walter Cronkite Is Dead*., the current San Diego Repertory Theatre entry, proposes a solution even simpler (and far more extremist) than redistricting—resurrect the lofty etiquette of listening (really *listening*) to the other fella's political point of view, and suddenly, the national divide won't stand a chance.

He's probably right. In fact, he's eminently right. The problem is that his play only hints at the two principals' political leanings—and while his anecdotes are brisk and illustrative, they don't reflect the reality of the national malaise.



Patty (Melinda Gilb, left) and Margaret (Ellen Crawford): Immovable object and irresistible force move and resist. (Photo by Daren Scott)



Flanked by a likeness of President Kennedy, the late Walter Cronkite said truth lies in both sides of the story. (Google image)

In their heart of hearts, Patty (Melinda Gilb) and Margaret (Ellen Crawford) are trying to get to the same place in the national scheme of things—but right now, their politics couldn't be more diametrically opposed. That becomes quickly evident as they share a space in a D.C. airport terminal waiting out a storm with a million others. Patty, a simpering chatterbox from Tennessee, is on her way to London, where she's been with her daughter many times before; Margaret, a refined, liberal D.C. native and a newcomer to flying, is waiting for her son, who's taking her to New York en route to a dream vacay in Moscow.

The women are dressed in red and blue (there's a supreme irony in which is which), with Patty thumping the Bible and Margaret singing the warmed-over praises of the Kennedys. Eventually, they find they have more similarities than differences in their daily lives amid some crushing disappointments.

But they never really settle in to any kind of focused debate about their political sensibilities. And judging from the amount of wine they suck down during the storm, they never will. We're left with a set of suppositions about what their politics *probably* are, but Calarco only conjectures them. The girls' initial small talk evolves into deep-seated revelations, but never on a *concrete* political level—and their ruminations make hash of the reference to Cronkite, to say nothing of his death.

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'Rocky Horror Show' –is that an actor sitting next to you?

0



Carol Davis

By Carol Davis

SAN DIEGO –Okay, so I am a bit out of touch with cult movies, shock value and the like, but give me a break, I'm not that out of touch that cross dressing and men wearing fish net stockings, high heels, bustiers and corsets send me into a tailspin ; been there seen that! Show me something I have yet to see and then. maybe, I'll be shocked.

That said the last place I expected to see Halloween come early with a bevy of big strapping men in that attire, was in the courtyard of the Conrad Preby's Theatre Center (Old Globe Theatre Complex) for the opening night production of the revival of Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show*. Chalk it up to naivete on my part, but in Rocky Horror terms, call it 'the thing to do'.

And as for audience participation, I could have sworn the couple sitting next to my guest and me all night were part of the show. They were shouting out lines even before the actors on stage were saying them. But then again, it's The Rocky Horror thing to do and savor it they did. They were one of many who purchased kits sold in the lobby containing necessary props to virtually put them in the show. I was even given a small light to wave every time the word 'LIGHT' was spoken on stage. I did my part.

As for the show, well let's just call it a rerun of an old sci-fi movie on the stage that's made to please and please it does. "It all started out as an affectionate homage to late night movies and ended up being an affectionately-embraced late-night movie". Thus Richard O'Brien's 1970 rock 'n roll musical began its journey into what it has become; 'the saga of a successful stage musical turned late-night cult classic' and folks of all generations that can remember the 70's embrace it like it happened yesterday. I even caught San Diego's Mayor Jerry Sanders, who was in the audience sitting in front of me on opening night, mouthing the words to the "The Time Warp". Would that my memory was that acute.

Once upon a time on a rain-drenched night newly weds Brad (Kelsey Kurtz) and Janet (Jeanna de Waal) venture out to find help after they get a flat tire on their way to their honeymoon destination. As luck would have it, they 'happen' to see lights (in this otherwise dark and deserted place) coming from a mansion on the side of the road. Carefully, they approach the house. Stop now if you're a prude!

What happens next is at the heart of the show. Sucked into the mansion/castle before they have a chance to change their minds, Brad and Janet encounter a odd assortment of sex crazed transvestite aliens who cow tow to the directions and lead of a handsome young head of the household Frank 'N' Furter. Matt McGrath's Frank 'N' Furter is somewhat of a lightweight who vacillates between his feminine and masculine side and both prove provocatively sexy especially to his groupies.

He's the seducer and mover of this motley group and in case you couldn't guess, he's from transsexual Transylvania. As an aside he is dressed similar to many of those in the audience. (Emily Rebholtz costume designs are appropriately weird). Both Brad and Janet will soon come under his spell (as do the rest) much to their chagrin, astonishment and finally pleasure.

I want to say that what happens in this castle inhabited by alien sex crazed creeps, in this playfully bit of nasty theatre lore stays in the castle. But the cat is out of the bag; the whole world is watching and through a combination (to me anyway) of heavy duty rock'n roll screaming (Kevin Kennedy' sound design) and unsavory conduct on all sides of the coin under director James Vasquez and JT Horenstein's musical staging and choreography, nothing stays sacred.

Things proceed faster than the speed of light with the help of a damn handsome, quite conceited and sexy looking narrator, David Andrew Macdonald, who tells it like it is and gets prompted along the way by folks

like the ones sitting next to me. (No shrinking violet he, he answers back.)

I was reminded by a friend who knows 'Rocky' inside and out, that the show really stands on its own and doesn't need audience participation especially for those seeing it for the first time who might find it more distracting in a theatre setting than say a late night movie, but far be it from me to be a party pooper.

Be that as it may, Sydney James Harcourtz' Rocky (Frank's lab creation and next in line as lover) is a muscle bound gorgeous hunk of an Adonis undressed to the nines wearing nothing but a pair of gold lame skin tight trunks with lots of 'stuff' stuffed into his crotch, with credit again going to Ms. Rebholtz. As you can imagine, the boys and girls are all over him.

Frank's sidekick groupies include Jason Wooten as Riff Raff, whose voice is too big for the theatre but gets to sing his heart out nonetheless; Laura Shoop is his sister/lover and one of the maids, Magenta; and Nadine Isenegger is Columbia, another of Frank's groupies whose tap dance number brings the house down. In fact JT Horenstein's choreography stands out as some of the best.

Donyale Werle's busy, nondescript yet gothic-flavored set is cluttered with lots of paraphernalia from discarded junk. It takes on the trappings of an old sci-fi movie consisting of gadgets from out of space, lots of Rui Rita's blinking lights and a long staircase leading to, I'm guessing, the bedrooms where more naughty shenanigans take place.

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See you at the theatre.

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Organization: Old Globe Theatre

Phone: 619-234-5623

Production Type: Sci-Fi/ Musical

Where: 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Ticket Prices: Start at \$29.00

Webtheoldglobe.org

Venue: Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage

*

Davis is a San Diego-based theatre critic. She may be contacted at carol.davis@sdjewishworld.com

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San Diego, CA



Rocky Horror Show, Not so Horrifying after all!



Carol Davis, San Diego Theater Examiner

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Rocky and his following
Credits: Henry Di Rocco



Slideshow: [Scenes from The Rocky Horror Show](#)

San Diego, CA.---- Ok, so I am a bit out of touch with cult movies, shock value and the like, but give me a break, I'm not that out of touch that cross dressing sends me into a tailspin and men wearing fish net stockings, high heels, bustiers and corsets; been there seen that! Show me something I have yet to see and then I'll be shocked.

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Sydney James Harcourt as Rocky surrounded by the cast of
 Richard O'Brien's "The Rocky Horror Show"
 Photo by Henry DiRocco

'The Rocky Horror Show'

Book, Music and Lyrics by Richard O'Brien
 Directed by James Vasquez

[Old Globe Theatre \(http://theoldglobe.org/tickets/rocky_horror.aspx\)](http://theoldglobe.org/tickets/rocky_horror.aspx), San Diego

Sept. 15 to Nov. 6, 2011

Rocky Horror: it evokes memories of midnight movies,
 bizarre costumes and trademark insults drunkenly yelled

at the screen. A movie so awful it became a classic. The experience you get at the Old Globe's revival of "The Rocky Horror Show," the original musical from 1973, isn't quite the same, but it's close enough and in some ways better.

First off, if you go, and I encourage you to go, go all the way. Wear a costume, brush up on your lines, bring a newspaper, drink one too many beers. This is no show for the inhibited. But be warned, the cast is prepared for you. They know what you're going to shout at them, and they know what they're going to say back.

Plot? Who cares? Boy proposes to girl, boy and girl end up at spooky castle surrounded by freaky, oversexed aliens,

music ensues. Boy and girl, Brad and Janet, are played solidly by Kelsey Kurz and Jeanna de Waal. They are foils and play the parts well. The highlights, of course, are the freaky aliens, led by Matt McGrath as Frank 'n' Furter. It's not intended to be a subtle role and McGrath understands that. Nadine Isenegger gets her own over-the-top award for her turn as Columbia and Sydney James Harcourt, as Rocky, lets the muscles do most of the talking.

Remember the supercilious narrator from the movie? We heap abuse on him (where's your neck?). But again be warned, this narrator (David Andrew Macdonald) bites back. MacDonald is quite droll in his smoking jacket and smirk. At times, he even beckons the crowd to supply the appropriate lines. He also plays Dr. Scott and, at times, both characters at once.

James Vasquez's direction is spirited and well-timed. It's important to note that he was a last-minute replacement (artistic differences, etc.) and stepped up nicely. The set is brilliant—think a Blade Runner-themed strip club with a rock band incorporated into the upper floor.

Rocky Horror: you should go. It's fun and fun is good.

Zane Turner

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RICHARD O'BRIEN'S THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

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WOW!

How does one review the revival of a camp classic? How does a reviewer deal with that oxymoronic juxtaposition of camp and classic? Can something "so bad it's good" actually achieve the status of a classic?



Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show* can't possibly be compared with bona fide classics like *Oklahoma!*, *West Side Story*, *Company*, *Chicago*, or even *Mame* for that matter. The science fiction/horror movie spoof has but the barest hint of a storyline. Its cardboard characters include a transvestite villain, an all-American couple who become his sex partners, a pair of incestuous lovers, and a "creature" about as similar to Frankenstein's monster as young Arnold Schwarzenegger was to ... well, to Frankenstein's monster. In its favor are its bunch of oh-so catchy songs, and at least one dance sequence which has become a classic in its own right. ("Time Warp," if you haven't already guessed.)

Regardless of the reasons, *Rocky Horror* has indeed become a classic. Its 1973 West End World Premiere was followed by a '74 Los Angeles run at the Roxy, a '75 Broadway premiere, and subsequent productions throughout the world leading to what may well be a record number of cast recordings—a grand total of twenty-eight, plus the movie soundtrack. Audience participation at live productions and midnight screenings of 1975's *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* has become legendary, with *Rocky* fans showing up in costume, throwing food, toilet paper, and confetti on the stage at appropriate moments, and shouting out punch lines in unison.



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It's this camp classic that San Diego's Old Globe has now brought back to life, to flashy, flamboyant, spectacular life—to the delight of Rocky Horrorheads far and near.

A flashlight-bearing pair of 1950s movie usher(ette)s (Laura Shoop and Jason Wooten) open the Horror Show with "Science Fiction/Double Feature," whose references to '50s sci-fi/horror classics like *The Day The Earth Stood Still*, *It Came From Outer Space*, and *Forbidden Planet* (and actual black-and-white movie clips projected behind them) hint at what's to come, though it's unlikely that any 1950s movie ever featured a bisexual mad scientist self-described as "just a sweet transvestite from Transsexual, Transylvania."

We're then introduced to nerdy Brad Majors (Kelsey Kurz) and his virginal girlfriend Janet Weiss (Jeanna de Wall), on their way to visit their former science tutor, wheelchair-bound Dr. Everett Scott (David Andrew Macdonald, who also doubles as our suave, smoking-jacketed narrator). A flat tire interrupts Brad and Janet's rain-dampened ride, and before long they find themselves at the door of an ancient castle in search of a telephone.



Welcoming them to "the Frankenstein place" are handyman Riff Raff (Wooten), his sister Magenta (Shoop), and tap-dancing groupie Columbia (Nadine Isenegger), who teach the hapless couple the abovementioned "Time Warp." ("It's just a jump to the left and then a step to the right. With your hands on your hips, you bring your knees in tight. But it's the pelvic thrust that really drives you insane.") This is only a prelude, however, to the grand entrance of the real Rocky Horror star, "Sweet Transvestite" Dr. Frank 'N' Furter (Matt McGrath, in black bustier and bikini bottom, black garter belt and fishnets, and black high heels).

With Brad and Janet soon stripped down to their undies, it's clear that Frank 'N' Furter has some nasty shenanigans in mind, but first he introduces them to his prized creation, a hunky specimen named Rocky Horror (Sydney James Harcourt), whom Frank 'N' Furter has brought to life in the tradition of his sort-of namesake Dr. Frankenstein.

From then on, it's a bit hard to describe, or even for that matter to follow Rocky Horror's bizarro "plot," though it does involve scenes of hetero and homo sex, the introduction of two more characters—Eddie (Andrew Call) and Dr. Scott (Macdonald)—and a quartet of gender-bending "Phantoms" (Call, Lauren Lim Jackson, Anna Schnaitter, and Kit Treece),

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Los Angeles' most
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Los Angeles since

photo credit: **Eric Sch**

who serve as a netherworldly Greek chorus.



Despite a rather rockier than usual journey towards its opening night (both Rocky Horror's original director and its Frank 'N' Furter exited mid-rehearsals amidst media hoopla), you'd hardly know it from the highly polished finished product onstage at the Old Globe. San Diego's very own James Vasquez (one of the few SoCal talents associated with this East Coast-cast-and-designed production) directs with pizzazz and panache, JT Horenstein choreographs with dazzle and originality, and the OC's Mike Wilkins music directs with rock concert-ready punch. Scenic designer Donyale Werle's set blends creepiness and glitz, Emily Rebholz's costumes are deliciously macabre, Rui Rita lights up the stage with Vegas flash as seen through horror movie gels, and Aaron Rhyne scores points for his clever projection designs.

In a charismatic marvel of a performance that perhaps only Cher could equal, McGrath makes for a seductive, spell-binding, scene-stealing Frank 'N' Furter. Kurz and de Wall are so button-cute in their initial Brad-and-Janet scenes that their power vocals and undies-clad sex appeal prove delightful surprises. Wooten and Shoop chew scenery and steal scenes right and left, the best possible compliment one could give a Riff Raff and Magenta. Isseneger is a terrific Colombia, and one heck of a tap dancer to boot. Harcourt is physical perfection—and a deft comedic actor—as Rocky. Macdonald has great fun with two very different roles, and nails them both. Phantoms Call, Jackson, Schnaitter, and Treece couldn't be more triple-threatastic, and unless you read your program, you'll have no idea that Call's James Deanesque Eddie doubles as the Phantom with the heavy metal hair.

Anjee Nero is stage manager and Jess Slocum assistant stage manager.

A decade now having passed since Broadway's last Rocky Horror Show revival, the Old Globe production would seem poised to bring the cult hit back to the Great White Way, to the certain delight of Rocky Horrorheads, ready and eager like last night's to shout out pre-programmed interjections which have become classics in their own right. My personal favorite:

Narrator: It's true there were dark storm clouds....

Audience member: Describe your balls!

Narrator: (continuing) ... heavy, black, and pendulous, towards which they were driving.

In the final analysis, it matters not a whit whether Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show is a true musical theater classic. Quite simply put, it is in a class by itself.

Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through November 6. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:00, Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00, Saturdays at 2:00 and 8:00, Sundays at 2:00 and 7:00. Except Wednesday October 28 at 7:30 (Rocky Horror Costume Bash)



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–Steven Stanley

September 29, 2011

Photos: Henry DiRocco

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THEATER REVIEW: "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show" is delightfully decadent

JEAN LOWERISON - SDGLN THEATER CRITIC
October 7th, 2011

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Anyone who says theater is a musty, stodgy old art form hasn't been to the Old Globe lately.

There you're as likely to find as many spectators as cast members wildly attired in fishnets and leather and carrying flashlights (though probably not pieces of toast) – at least through Nov. 6.

James Vasquez directs the goofball spoof of sci-fi and '50s B-movies, "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show," at the Old Globe through that date.

The 1973 British camp musical didn't catch on here until the 1975 film "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" with Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon and Barry Bostwick, which has remained a staple of midnight screenings ever since.

The plot has clean-cut couple Brad (Kelsey Kurz) and Janet (Jeanna de Waal) with car trouble stumbling into "sweet transvestite" Frank 'N' Furter's castle from (or maybe in) outer space. They're looking for a phone, but what they find is an oddball assortment of space (and spacey) creatures indulging in a visual feast of weird behavior.

Let me count the characters: the host's big-voiced buddy Riff Raff (Jason Wooton), Magenta (Laura Shoop), perhaps too loyal for her own good; Columbia (Nadine Isenegger), who never gets the guy but boy, can she dance; the narrator, David Andrew Macdonald, resplendent in Liberace-look dinner jackets; and Sydney James Harcourt as Rocky (aka Frankenstein's nearly-naked monster), whose muscles have earned him "the Charles Atlas seal of approval."

And of course there's Frank (Matt McGrath) him/herself, in platform boots, black bustier and oh yes, those fishnets.

The story is incidental. This show is for the eyes, not the brain, and Donyale Werle has created an eye-popping (though properly dingy) set, aided by projections of old-timey movies. And there's a rocking five-piece band directed by Mike Wilkins, to bring us such favorites as "Damn It, Janet" and "The Time Warp."

This show lost both its original star and its original director, but doesn't appear the worse for it. Theatergoers will have a great

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Photo credit: Henry DiRocco

Matt McGrath as Frank 'N' Furter and Laura Shoop as Magenta in "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show."

time, and audience participation is encouraged. (You can even buy a "participation kit" at the gift shop, with appropriate participatory items.)

The details

"Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show," plays through Nov. 6 at the Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park.

Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 pm; Thursday through Saturday at 8 pm; matinees Saturday at 4 and Sunday at 2 pm.

For tickets call (619) 234-5623 or visit [HERE](#).

To read more reviews by SDGLN Theater Critic Jean Lowerison, click [HERE](#).

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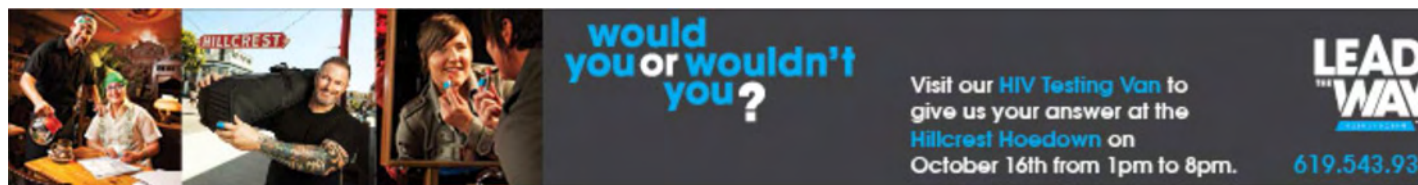


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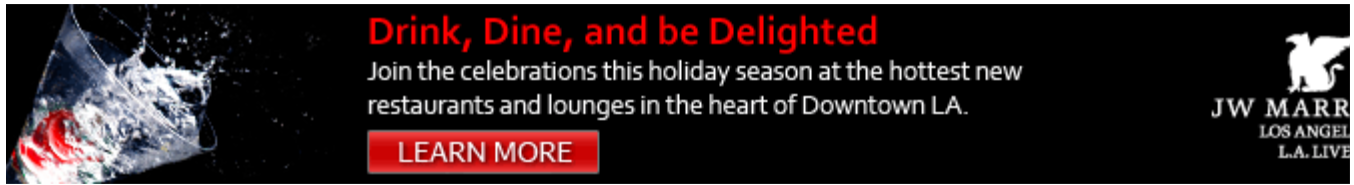
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Reviews: The Rocky Horror Show at The Old Globe Theatre and Milk Like Sugar at La Jolla Playhouse

Posted By: Macho Show Queen · 10/13/2011 3:36:00 PM

I was quite surprised when The Old Globe announced that *The Rocky Horror Show* would be part of their new season. When I think of this theatre I think of Shakespeare more than I think of transvestites, sweet or otherwise. I'd love to hear how season subscribers responded when they heard that this riff on the Frankenstein story was coming to their theatre.

This new production had its own rocky start. Originally James Barbour was to play Frank 'n' Furter but "artistic differences" (or community outrage) meant the part was recast with Matt McGrath.

TRHS lives or dies on the strength of the actor playing Frank 'n' Furter. Given the character's bisexuality (which leans more gay than straight), women and men must find him seductive. Unfortunately, Mr. McGrath generated no heat in the role. He was terrifically odd and charismatic when Los Angeles Opera brought *The Black Rider* to town a few years ago. But none of that was apparent here.



The other key role in the show belongs to the Narrator (David Andrew MacDonald, who is wonderful), who guides us through the story of Brad (an appropriately dorky yet endearing Kelsey Kurz) and his fiancé, Janet (Jenna de Waal), who, having suffered a flat tire, show up at a nearby castle on “a most auspicious evening” seeking to borrow a phone. Riff Raff (Jason Wooten) and Magenta (Laura Shoop) welcome Brad and Janet in on the night when Frank unveils his latest creation Rocky (Sydney James Harcourt, who has both the charm and the body to be a perfect Rocky).

There’s great fun to be had with *TRHS* and the fun that does exist in this production is due to Richard O’Brien—not director James Vasquez and team. This just doesn’t have anywhere near the life it should. Show at Barre succeeded far more in their concert versions earlier this year. They had no sets, a small band, and no real props, yet it was far more exciting. Hopefully another one of those is in the cards soon.

Before seeing *TRHS*, I attended one of the final performances of the superb play *Milk Like Sugar* at the La Jolla Playhouse. Kirsten Greenidge’s powerful show tells the story of three African-American teenage girls who decide to get pregnant at the same time so that they can be “strong lions raising their cubs together.” Inspired by true events, Ms. Greenidge explores class expectations and what it takes to transcend those expectations in a world that values superficiality and commercialism over intellectual depth.

All the performances were terrific, but I must make special mention of Tonya Pinkins, who plays one of the girls’ mothers. I have admired Pinkins greatly since her staggering performance in *Caroline, Or Change* and am convinced there is very little she can’t do.

Milk Like Sugar opens in New York in November. With any luck the show will be presented in Los Angeles early next year.

Photograph by Henry DiRocco.

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Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show

Posted by [admin](#) on 10/14/11 • Categorized as [Arts & Entertainment](#), [Theater](#)

By **Patricia Morris Buckley** | SDUN Theater Critic



Matt McGrath as Frank 'N' Furter. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

In “The Rocky Horror Show,” Dr. Frank 'N' Furter pieces together his creation from other human bits and eventually comes up with something quite muscular and gorgeous. The story of the Old Globe Theatre's production of this show is basically the same.

This musical's rehearsals began with a different lead actor and director. The actor left, citing personal issues, then the Globe replaced director Oanh Nguyen at the last minute with James Vasquez (who also directs the theater's annual "How Grinch Stole Christmas").

The result is a show that still feels a bit fractured and cobbled together. There are places where it's quite tame and others times it goes for the no-holds-barred sexual energy of the movie. But like Frank 'N' Furter's creature, this production has the potential to grow into something quite fun.

Anyone who has seen a midnight showing of the "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" knows that the story isn't the point of the experience. We follow straight-laced and newly engaged Brad and Janet as a flat tire waylays them in a rainstorm-filled night. They find shelter in a castle full of creatures from transsexual Transylvania who try acting human but are really not from this world. Inside, they involuntarily (at first) join an orgy like they've never imagined and are changed forever.

The real fun of this campy show is two-fold. The music is totally infectious, with songs like "Damn It, Janet," "The Time Warp," "Science Fiction Double Feature" and "Touch-A-Touch-A-Touch Me." The interactive quality of the film has kept it a midnight-showing cult favorite for years, with the audience shouting out lines or throwing objects at the screen.

The first act of this Frankenstein's monster of a production is quite different from the second. It's so tame sexually that I had to keep reminding myself this is the theater that premiered "The Full Monty," which included bare male rears.

Thank goodness in the second act we get some interaction, but like the song "Touch-A-Touch-A-Touch Me" says, we need "more, more, more" of that and in the first act. However, the second act supplies elevated sexual content and innuendos. Here's a thought—is the tamer first act like a litmus test to see which audience members can handle the wilder, R-rated second act?

Matt McGrath seems to be still settling into the scenery-chewing role of Frank 'N' Furter, but he's wickedly funny, delightfully sexy and can sing the part beautifully. I loved David Andrew Macdonald as the Narrator and Dr. Scott. He is equal parts swamy and cool and then succumbs hysterically to the mansion's passionate hijinks. Jeanna de Waal shows off an impressive singing voice as Janet, as did Jason Wooten as the off-kilter Riff Raff, who has his own agenda.

Several production elements work to make the stage version quite film-like. Projected lips sing the opening song, just like in the movie, and moving projections create a highly visual cinematic flow. Both elements are quite impressive. Donyale Werle's set has moments that work (such as the aged, breaking proscenium), and others that don't (I missed Frank's elevator). Emily Rebholz's bizarre costumes are creepy and sexy at the same time.

On opening night, audience members dressed as the characters got up in the aisles to dance and use the prop bag for sale in the lobby to recreate the film experience. As the show simmers and gets fully cooked, that kind of interactive experience should be felt by the whole audience. In the end, Frank 'N' Furter's Creature is indeed a beautiful thing and this show has the potential to follow suit.

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Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show*

"THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW"

When: Through Nov. 6

Where: Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park

Tickets: starting at \$35

Info: (619) 23-GLOBE.

Web: www.theoldglobe.org

By Patricia Morris Buckley
SDUN Theater Critic

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Matt McGrath as Frank 'N' Furter and Jason Wooten as Riff Raff.
(Photo by Henry DiRocco)

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ARCHIVE[May, 2011](#)[April, 2011](#)[March, 2011](#)[February, 2011](#)[January, 2011](#)[December, 2010](#)[November, 2010](#)[October, 2010](#)[September, 2010](#)[August, 2010](#)[July, 2010](#)[June, 2010](#)**Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show**January Riddle [Reviews - Theater](#)

Treece, McGrath, Shoop, Call. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

When it comes to the film and theatre phenomenon known as "Rocky Horror," there are those who belong to the cult of knowledgeable fans and those who are clueless virgins. (Those in between are only in limbo on the way to attaining cult member nirvana.) The Old Globe Theatre's outrageous, exuberant current production welcomes both ends of the Rocky spectrum. Diverging from San Diego theatre's usual atmosphere of restraint, it caters to the fans who attend in costume, sing along with the songs, dance in the aisles, and heckle the characters. Newbies find themselves

SPOTLIGHT**It Takes Two at The Welk Resort**[Read more...](#)**Musicals under the Moon at Moonlight Amphitheatre**Lorenzini, Cavanaugh
Parsons. Photo by I[Read more...](#)

morphing into the mix by the end of the fourth number, "The Time Warp," slapping their knees together and performing pelvic thrusts with the best of them. (Directions are in the program.)

This is not a G-rated experience. Classify it closer to R, with the steamy sex scenes done in defined shadow and the potty-mouth language of both the script and the hecklers. You have been warned. If you cannot enjoy the party, stay home.

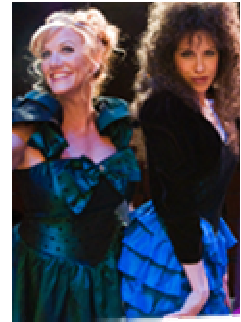
But you would miss one great time, thanks to Richard Vasquez' valiant direction; JT Horenstein's flashy musical staging and choreography, complemented by Donyale Werle's many-splendored scenic design; a zealous onstage rock band, and an extraordinary, body-beautiful cast obviously capable of musical, physical and verbal gymnastics and tantalizingly wrapped in Emily Rebholz's dazzling costumes.

Richard O'Brien's book muddles silly sci-fi and adds a gothic twist, or perhaps it is the other way 'round. Think Mary Shelley meets Boris Karloff. Do not think much, because this is not a deep or logical story. There is a castle in the darkness, inhabited by an alien pseudo-scientist transvestite, Frank n' Furter, his lusty, scrapping followers, and a naïve newly engaged couple, Brad (a convincing Kelsey Kurz) and Janet (a compelling Jeanna de Waal), stranded on a dark and stormy night. Best to let the music and the movement take you on the preposterous journey.

Like any good trip, this one features some off-road exploits. The first show-stopper belongs to Columbia (a lithe and melodic Nadine Isenegger), whose tap interlude adds another dimension to time warping. Another one belongs, hands down, to Rocky (a sculpted and slyly shy Sydney James Harcourt), the delicious hunk 'a man whom Frank 'N' Furter (Matt McGrath) and his spooky staff created in the castle lab.

David Andrew Macdonald, as Narrator, highlights the road less traveled with punchy ad-libs and easy nods to the cheery-jeerers; Laura Shoop does the formidable Magenta proud; and Jason Wooten adds some extra malevolence to Riff Raff. Andrew Call's Eddie grants a noble nod to Elvis. Matt McGrath's Frank 'N' Furter is a bit overwhelmed (Tim Curry set the bar quite high), but his character has grand growth potential with this robust staging and courageous cast.

No Dog Days for San Diego Theatre in August



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We are still in the process of archiving reviews and articles from the old site. If

Be sure to cough up the three bucks for the kit sold in the lobby. Cult members will know what to do with the items inside the bag, and even first-timers will not be left out in the dark and stormy night.

Richard O'Brien's "The Rocky Horror Show" plays through November 6 at San Diego's Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park.

Performances: 7 pm Tues-Weds; 8 pm Thurs-Sat; 7 pm Sun. Matinees on Sat. at 4 pm and on Sun. at 2 pm. No performance on Nov. 1. Special performance with costume ball on Oct. 28 at 7:30 pm.

Ticket prices start at \$29, with discounts for full-time students, patrons 29 years and younger, seniors and groups of 10 or more.

Reservations: www.TheOldGlobe.org or by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE.

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Regional Theater Review: RICHARD O'BRIEN'S THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW (The Old Globe in San Diego)

by Kat Michels on October 8, 2011

in Theater-Regional



BEING A VIRGIN CAN BE ROCKY

Best known for raucous audience participation at midnight screenings, Richard O'Brien's cult movie classic, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* began life on the London stage in 1973. It enjoyed instant success by effectively melding the campy goodness of late night monster movies with ostentatious in-your-face glam rock.

British audiences and critics loved the burlesque of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* where, in this case, an innocent couple's car conveniently breaks down near a castle occupied by a cross-dressing mad scientist from another planet here on Earth to construct a man "with blonde hair and a tan" good for relieving his. . . tension.



It wasn't until Lou Adler brought the play to Los Angeles that a movie version was contemplated. Never embraced by mainstream audiences, the film instead became a late night cult classic. For years it played at midnight screenings across the country, where attendees would dress up as characters from the show, talk back to the screen, sing along, and shout the lines.

Audience pantomime is now so wedded to the *Rocky Horror* experience that even theater-going audiences expect – and are expected – to join in the fun. The Old Globe's current production (renamed in this case *Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show*) takes full measure of this aspect, offering goody bags in the lobby filled with the standard props of *Rocky Horror* play-along like squirt guns, lighters, and toilet paper. Though some Old Globe audience members didn't know their lines (the actors help them along), and other seemed content to sit back and let the pros do the work, many in attendance took up their tasks with gusto – which sometimes made watching the audience more entertaining than the actual show.



The Rocky Horror Show was always something of a bottle rocket. As originally conceived, it was designed to shock as much as entertain. It ignites quickly and sparkles right up through "Time Warp" and Frank's full-on drag entrance mid-Act I ("Sweet Transvestite"), and then falls limply back to earth. The shock value worn away long ago, what remains is no more scandalous than a Can-Can, and the show's structural flaws are ignored only

to the extent one gives in to its fairly tame museum campiness.

Director James Vásquez and choreographer JT Horenstein seem to sense the problems at hand, often winking at us from the stage. The Narrator Dr. Scott (David Andrew MacDonald) delivers some lines and steps behind a set piece, only to have it move away to reveal the actor having a smoke. Dr. Frank-N-Furter (Matt McGrath) breaks through the fourth wall several times, making dry remarks about the other performers, ridiculing the grand staircase on which he trips up and down in heels, and even taking on an audience heckler (planted?).



Unfortunately, even with fine singing performances from Brad and Janet (Kelsey Kurz and Jeanna de Waal), Columbia (Nadine Isenegger), the Phantoms (Kit Treece and Anna Schnaitter) Eddie (Andrew Call), Riff-Raff and Magenta (Jason Wooten and Laura Shoop) and The Creature (Sydney James Harcourt), the forces that be can no more overcome the original's limitations than you can make a man out of mismatched body parts. Kudos to the design team (Aaron Rhyne's creative projections, Donyale Werle's beautiful sets and Emily Rebholz' scintillating costumes) for giving the Old Globe's production a great look.

Nevertheless, the audience, which ranged from little old ladies in pearls to men in fishnet stockings and heels, seemed to enjoy the ride, so if you're willing to forgive the creakiness and a few stretches of tedium, it can still be fun to head up to the lab and "see what's on the slab."

kat @ stageandcinema.com

photos by Henry DiRocco

Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show

The Old Globe in San Diego

scheduled to end on November 6

for tickets, visit <http://www.theoldglobe.org>

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Fishnet stocking, stuffed shorts and decorative pasties

Posted by **admin** on 10/24/11 • Categorized as **Arts & Entertainment**, **Theater reviews**

“Richard O’Brien’s The Rocky Horror Show”



The full cast of “Richard O’Brien’s The Rocky Horror Show,” directed by James Vásquez, has a ball onstage through Nov. 6. (Photo by Henry DiRocco)

Old Globe Theatre

- Tues & Wed 7 p.m.
- Thurs & Fri 8 p.m.
- Sat 4 & 8 p.m.
- Sun 2 & 7 p.m.

Through Nov. 6

619-234-5623

theoldglobe.org

Editor’s note: The Old Globe Theatre is hosting a Rocky Horror Costume Bash on Friday Oct. 28. Join the cast from the show and take part in a costume contest at the Prado at 9:30 p.m. after watching “Richard O’Brien’s Rocky Horror Show.” For tickets to the costume bash visit theoldglobe.org.

“Rocky Horror” at the Old Globe teases and pleases

By Cuauhtémoc Kish | GSD Theater Critic

Fishnet stockings, stuffed shorts and decorative pasties adorn the eerily designed stage (by Donyale Werle) in an updated version of “Richard O’Brien’s The Rocky Horror Show” that will run through

Nov. 6 at the Old Globe Theatre.

True to form, director James Vasquez manages to keep the party atmosphere going both on and off stage, with an engaging combination of shout-outs, lusty choreography and commanding, high decibel song-man-ship.

This rock 'n' roll musical has been entertaining audiences since the early 1970s and it's not going away anytime soon. O'Brien was inspired to create the cult classic from contemporary cultural influences like glam rock and late night sci-fi movies that he loved, and the tale is now very familiar to audiences: two innocents get a flat tire "in the velvet darkness of the blackest night" and find themselves at an eerie mansion occupied by sexy, transvestite aliens. The new guests barely escape with their lives.

"The Rocky Horror Show" has always been an exuberant expression of sensual and sexual pleasure and may shock some of the more sedate season subscribers. It will, on the other hand, always please the devout followers and other audience members just out for a good night's entertainment. The combination of bawdy humor, wacky choreography and memorable musical numbers all contribute to its success.

Matt McGrath plays Frank 'N' Furter, the "sweet transvestite" who seemingly seduces anyone caught in his lustful sight. He manages to snare both of his most recent visitors, Brad and Janet (played by Kelsey Kurz and Jeanna de Waal respectively). McGrath handles the diva persona in impressive high-heeled shoes without missing a beat.

There are no slouches in this marvelous cast. Jason Wooten reprises his role as Riff Raff and tears down the house, while Laura Shoop's Magenta plays rejection with a nicely calibrated vengeance. Sydney James Harcourt, displaying impressive abs, plays a Rocky that pumps his muscles and hits all of his assigned musical notes. David Andrew Macdonald, as the narrator, sets up much of the campy shout-outs with a cool aplomb.

A five-piece band, conducted by Mike Wilkins, keeps the beat with drums, guitar, and keyboards. They happily reintroduce us to the show's favorite sing-a-longs like "The Time Warp" and "Damn It, Janet."

Emily Rebholz obviously had fun designing wildly flamboyant costumes for this liberal group of transsexuals while Rui Rita's lighting design put the spotlight on the naughty.

If you're up for a bit of interactive, hyperactive night, you need go no further than the Old Globe Theatre to enjoy yet another round of "The Rocky Horror Show." You won't be disappointed.

Time Warp. Again.

October 03, 2011



Matt McGrath in *The Rocky Horror Show* Photo: Henry DiRocco 2011

The Old Globe Theater continues to press forward with new work and home-grown revivals as is its wont this season. The fall is underway in Balboa Park with two new offerings that showcase some of the ambitions of San Diego's largest theater company. Probably the most talked about show of the fall south of Los Angeles is the revival of Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show*, which opened up just over a week ago. The show grabbed headlines before it reached the stage after both its original lead and director were jettisoned for reasons political and artistic. Oddly enough, to see the final product a week into its run shows little damage from such contortions. The star, Matt McGrath, seems ideal as the diabolical transvestite Frank 'N' Furter. (The new director for the record is James Vasquez who replaced Oanh Nguyen two weeks before performances.) McGrath's is a little less glam rock and a bit more kinky of a performance compared to the one that most will be familiar, that of Frank 'N' Furter's originator, Tim Curry. But McGrath manages to obliterate those intrusive comparisons. He's surrounded by a lovely enthusiastic cast including Jason Wooten as Riff Raff, Laura Shoop as Magenta, Kelsey Kurz as Brad, and Jeanna de Waal as Janet. They all work hard to keep the energy level fierce and moving forward through this packed, brisk show.

But even though last minute artistic decisions may not wreck the show, it doesn't mean that everything comes off despite the above strengths. The performance I saw was plagued with a variety of sound problems early on. But more problematic than this is the source material itself. *Rocky Horror*, despite its cult status, has never been a bonafide, out of the box hit on either stage or screen at least here in the U.S. The show's M.O. is usually to flop and then live on like some zombie gathering steam in the after life. The charm of both the film version and the live show has always come from the sense of community experience the show engenders in its repetition. The costumes, the shouted responses, the props—all of these add up to something that is much greater than the sum of the show's farcical but crumbling, nonsensical plot. And while the show can rock, as it certainly does at The Old Globe, the performance that may count most in the show is that of the

audience. Presenting *Rocky Horror* in a large theater like The Old Globe engenders a diverse audience that is not completely in on that community experience. And if the newbies outnumber the initiated, the shouted responses to the actors on stage may seem odd and some of the funniest jokes go missing. As is currently the practice for theatrical revivals for *Rocky Horror*, the theater sells “participation bags” filled with approved props for the audience members. And while that encourages safety and makes for an easier clean up, it doesn’t make the show pop and zing like it can. Still the cast goes a long way to sell this sexy campy material, and I found McGrath’s performance alone worth seeing.



Leo Ash Evens as Jamie MacRae and Jon Rua as Alejandro Candelaria Photo: Henry DiRocco 2011

Across at the White Theater was the world premiere of [Matthew Lopez' *Somewhere*](#). The title refers to the famous Leonard Bernstein song from *West Side Story*. The musical and the eventual filming of that show serves as a backdrop to Lopez' play about a family with dreams of fame in New York City in the early 1960s. That Puerto Rican family, the Candelarias, have just been evicted from their apartment in the wake of the urban development project that will destroy their neighborhood to make room for the Lincoln Center. It's the same neighborhood that serves as backdrop for Bernstein's musical, although the action in *Somewhere* resides entirely inside the Candelaria's apartment. The dancing is still there, though, in that all of the Candlaria clan, Inez and her three children Alejandro, Francisco, and Rebecca, are brimming with dreams of fame and artistic endeavor. Lopez mixes the scenes of the play with elaborate dance numbers for everyone in the cast, many evoking the choreography of Jerome Robbins, who serves as a Godot-like figure in the story.

Sadly the structure beyond this is pretty predictable. Will Alejandro who has buried his dream to be a dancer on Broadway be able to drag his family into reality long enough to avoid the wrecking ball when his mother refuses to leave their condemned building? Will the family ever be able to face the truth that the father has abandoned them for a better life in California? The show is predictable and formulaic despite lyrical moments that are meted out so slowly that the 2 hours and 45 minutes of the show feel much longer. The performances are nice, though. Everyone gets to dance here including Priscilla Lopez as Inez, and a wonderful Jon Rua as Alejandro. Leo Ash Evens is the more successful friend of the family, Jamie, who has a wonderful if inexplicably platonic duo number with Alejandro. Lopez' *Somewhere* seems happiest when it's dancing and there is thankfully a lot of it in this otherwise slow, undercooked play.

Labels: [Old Globe Theater](#)

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Knocked out by 'Rocky'

Amanda Robbins | [Oct 04, 2011](#) | [Comments 0](#)

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I'll be honest with you from the start: I know every single lyric, line and dance step of "Rocky Horror Picture Show." I first watched "Rocky Horror" with my mom on a dark and windy October night when I was 12 years old. Don't ask me how many times I've seen the movie — it's a staggering statistic that I don't really want to talk about. I've wanted to see the staged musical live ever since.

"Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show," the strange little musical that spawned 1975's iconic "Rocky Horror Picture Show," opened Sept. 15 at The Old Globe in San Diego. Critically panned during its first, short-lived Broadway run for being too showy and not tacky enough compared to its British roots, this production serves up the perfect mix of cheesy glitz.

Fans of "Rocky Horror" will be overjoyed from the second the iconic red lips ask the audience to silence their phones. The production opens with "Science Fiction Double Feature" sang by Riff Raff and Magenta, moonlighting as the usher and usherette respectively, from the aisles as B-film footage is projected onto the scrim.

From the very beginning, the show's aesthetics are clear. With each change of scene and scenery, the cheese factor is kept at a comfortable high, delighting the audience with each transition. The main set, the lab in Frank N. Furter's gothic castle, is full of useless hoses, knobs and blinking lights in true classic sci-fi fashion. Even the decrepit proscenium arch that frames the stage and the B-film projections take the audience from being mere bystanders to extras in a monster movie of the week.

As for the cast, every member of the relatively small company does a fantastic job. Though their roles are iconic to cult classic lovers, they have explored the quirks and oddities of their characters and found new and fabulous moments. From the dulcet tones of Janet (Jeanna de Waal) to the stunning rock 'n' roll operatics of Riff Raff (Jason Wooten), the show is not lacking in strong vocal performances.

The star of the show, Frank 'n' Furter (Matt McGrath) is no exception. Though Tim Curry's stilettos are hard to fill, McGrath embodies the transsexual transvestite from Transylvania with sassy grace and amazing moments of purely masculine delivery. His departure from Curry's Frank is refreshing, well-executed and helped the show feel current.

Neither the design nor the cast overshadows the other, making the production a cohesive and delightful event. Fans of all ages, whether they've been throwing rice at the screen in cinemas for 40 years or have never made it out to a live screening, will have a great time watching their favorite transvestites re-realized by The Old Globe's cast and will delight at every in-joke and obscure reference to "Rocky" culture. The show's a perfect

package.

However, "Rocky" does not come without shortfalls. As much as I want nothing more than to bask in the glow of this production's perfection, I can't overlook the weaknesses inherent in it.

Though the show is called "Rocky Horror Show," Rocky has historically never been a prominent character, and this production is no different. However, as beautiful and talented Sydney James Harcourt is as Rocky, the actor seems to be giving his character too much intellectual credit. Rocky is a glorified Frankenstein's Monster written to be nothing more than a pretty face and a hot body for sexual objectification. Adversely, Harcourt's Rocky quickly realizes his beauty and consequently finds an unlikely worldliness with it. Even so, I must admit that I still loved him.

Any other problems can be attributed to the book itself — pacing this high-energy, neck-breakingly fast show is a challenge that The Old Globe's team takes in stride. The nature of "Rocky" makes it a flexible and casual affair — any potential slip ups can be explained away as a nuance that actually goes to enhance the purposeful tackiness.

But aside from the production itself, what really makes "Rocky" a worthwhile and necessary theatrical experience is the experience itself. Being a member of an audience full of people rocking fishnets, goggles, top hats and corsets who are actually encouraged to yell out the traditional "Call Backs" and throw the usual props (rubber gloves, cards and balloons) is a one-of-a-kind opportunity. This show is not a black-tie event (unless that black tie is a part of a costume!) and if you can't help but sing along or ask Dr. Everett Scott about his favorite TV shows in the middle of a monologue, you won't be thrown out.

Sure, midnight showings of "Rocky" are priceless, but how often does Frank snark back? For example, the opening lyric of "Don't Dream It, Be It" has Frank intoning, "Whatever happened to Fay Wray?" (referring to the "Scream Queen" of classic horror films), prompting the audience to respond, "She's dead!" McGarth paused, as though at a loss for words as the live band stayed stuck on the melody. After a moment of flustered consternation, McGarth responded with a popped hip and a sassy, "Then she's only a little colder than you, bitch."

Though the cost of admission can get a little steep for good seats and the mileage from here to San Diego might be less than desirable, fans of "Rocky" should make this show a priority. "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show" closes Nov. 6 and a well-done "Time Warp" won't save you if you miss out.

Rating: 5 out of 5

Popularity: unranked [?]

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'50/50' COMES OUT AHEAD

CHANCES: Joseph Gordon-Levitt is a cancer victim, but Seth Rogen manages to keep the mood light.

By Michael Chin
Staff Writer

So, it's not like I'm completely clueless to the massive appeal that actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt has gained in recent years. Just because I still picture little Tommy Solomon the extraterrestrial information officer when I hear the actor's name and still snicker to myself when I think about a scrawny Cameron James trying so hard to look like he knows French well enough to tutor Bianca Stratford doesn't mean I'm blind to the present day. With regret, I have to recognize that the kid has grown up.

"50/50," the latest movie to star said grown-up, puts Adam (Gordon-Levitt) in a position most of us would cringe to even consider: At 27, in the midst of a fledgling career in radio and a serious relationship with a girl named Rachael (Bryce Dallas Howard), he is diagnosed with spinal cancer. Despite how huge of a bummer that is, the film rebounds with support from Kyle (Seth Rogen), Adam's outspoken and vulgar best friend.

Though it's an inexact parallel to make, it's hard not to walk into this film without vague traces of "(500) Days of Summer" lingering in the back of one's head. The two films do have a couple of similarities: Gordon-Levitt in a main role as a funny, ridiculous and socially awkward best friend and underappreciated protagonist.

In the end, though, the two films stand for completely different things. Instead of heartbreak at the hands of a certain Ms. Deschanel, the main conformation here is cancer, and this works well in the film's advantage. Emotions are much more real and heartfelt, and performances by all the supporting actors (even Rogen, who has



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT

Apparently, cancer and arson go together like peanut butter and ladies, or Chinese food and chocolate pudding. You know, naturally.

played the clown in all but a few of his roles) work to support and nuance the intense psychological catastrophe that Gordon-Levitt pulls off nicely.

"50/50" hardly concentrates on romance at all, preferring to use a botched one-night stand as an example of how gravely affected Adam becomes in his sickness. The only real romantic connection presented is a somewhat vaguely developed relationship with Katherine (Anna Kendrick), a young therapist, though it's one that the audience will always choose over the irresponsible and narcissistic dealings of Dallas Howard's Rachael.

The film generally takes a backseat to the visceral aspects of Adam's cancer as well, leaving out some of the more gruesome details in favor of letting Gordon-Levitt

and the rest of the cast deliver on a dramatic level rather than focusing on physical degeneration.

Matt Frewer and Philip Baker Hall round out the cast as a couple of elderly friends Adam makes while in chemo, representing a disparity in felt age present throughout the entire film. Though Mitch (Frewer) and Alan's (Baker Hall) characters are many years older than him, they deal with their condition in a much freer and happier way than Adam, who frequently builds walls around himself.

The subject of age and what that means is obviously a huge part of the film: Adam gets cancer at 27, Mitch and Alan eat weed macaroons as they receive chemotherapy and Katherine seems way too young to be a therapist. On this subject, the film doesn't work

overbearingly to deliver a uniform message. Instead, there are a few subtle hints by the end of the film that show how youth should be enjoyed instead of squandered.

Serge Houde as Adam's Alzheimer's-afflicted father and Anjelica Huston as an annoyingly caring mother are the source of many of the film's painfully attuned emotional twists. Huston especially delivers a stellar performance, driving her worry to the brink of exasperation before turning it into a concern so loving and earnest that this critic was almost compelled to walk out of the theater and call his own mother.

Though it's certainly not the best film of the year to date, "50/50" is still definitely worth seeing. Gordon-Levitt and Rogen work well together, and Gordon-Levitt's

acting is especially well-done considering how he apparently only slipped into the role two days before shooting started after the originally casted James McAvoy dropped out.

What keeps this film from sliding into depression is also what Adam resists to accept for most of the film: optimism. It'd be a long stretch to call the movie feel-good, but it is by no means a downer, either. Rogen's antics and a healthy dose of drug use keep the movie alive and kicking.

Oh, and just in case you're wondering: Yes, Joseph Gordon-Levitt does look weird with a shaved head.

OUR RATING:

★★★★☆ 4/5

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KNOCKED OUT BY 'Rocky'

GLITZ: Currently playing at the Old Globe, "The Rocky Horror Show" provides a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

By Amanda Robbins
Staff Writer

I'll be honest with you from the start: I know every single lyric, line and dance step of "Rocky Horror Picture Show." I first watched "Rocky Horror" with my mom on a dark and windy October night when I was 12 years old. Don't ask me how many times I've seen the movie -- it's a staggering statistic that I don't really want to talk about. I've wanted to see the staged musical live ever since.

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OUR RATING:
★★★★★ 5/5

BLINK-182's NEW 'HOOD'

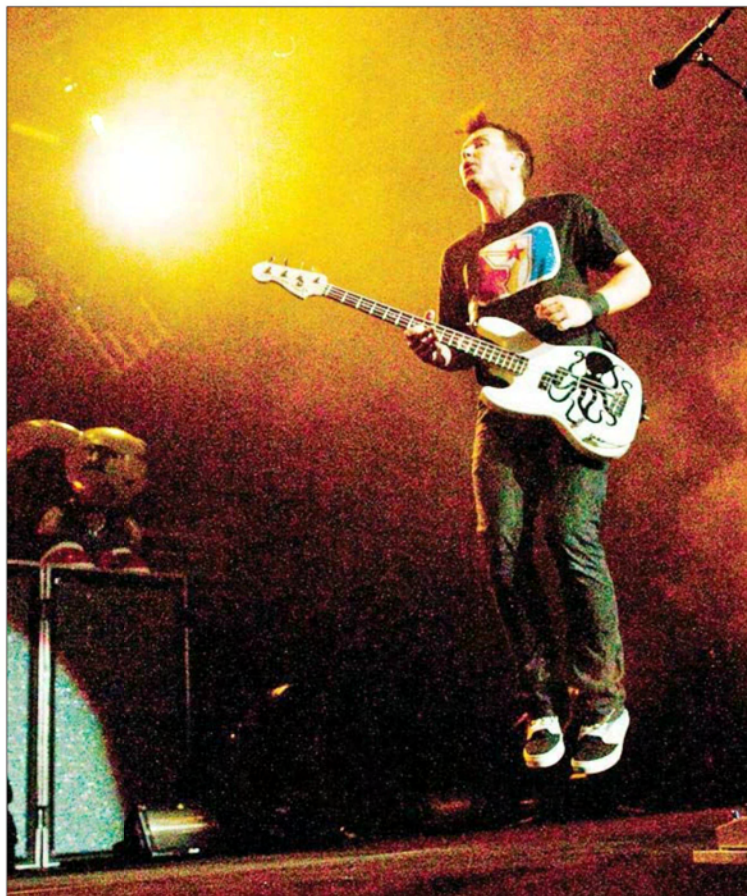


PHOTO COURTESY OF INTERSCOPE RECORDS

After an eight-year hiatus, the trio behind "What's My Age Again?" have finally started to grow up.

RETURN: Blink's big comeback explores new directions and even shows songwriting maturity.

By Shelby Nesheim

The iconic rock band Blink-182 has been extremely popular ever since the release of the album "Enema of the State" in 1999. Featuring hit songs such as "What's My Age Again?" and "All The Small Things," "Enema of the State" managed to skyrocket Blink-182 from a small Southern California garage band to the edgy mainstream band we all came to love. They managed to maintain this popularity throughout much of the new millennium, even though their last self-titled studio album was released in 2003. While their most well-known songs are still widely played, it is mostly out of a nostalgic appreciation from those who loved Blink-182 in their heyday.

However, after an eight-year hiatus, Blink-182 has finally released a brand new album titled "Neighborhoods." This album has been released in both a regular and deluxe format, featuring 10 songs, with three additional songs and an interlude in the deluxe version.

Although the band underwent a great deal of turmoil between their self-titled 2003 album and their most recent release, there is a certain maturity and sense of self-control which seems to have been gained in their music.

After the band's temporary split in 2005, all three members pursued side projects. Most nota-

bly, guitarist and lead vocalist Tom DeLonge founded the band Angels and Airwaves. Though they gained some popularity, mostly due to DeLonge's notoriety, they never quite reached the potential DeLonge had hoped for.

Yet while Angels and Airwaves may have faded out, the unique vocals which Tom used have carried with him onto "Neighborhoods." Upon listening to the first song, "Ghost on the Dance Floor," one is immediately caught off guard by DeLonge's vocals which give the song an eerie familiarity to Angels and Airwaves. These vocals accompanied by the seemingly calm and melodic instrumentation might lead fans to question which band they are actually listening to. This initial song is in no way bad, but a drastic change from the more chaotic and almost spastic melodies of some of Blink-182's older songs such as "The Party Song." As the first song on their album, Blink-182 sends a clear message that they have changed and have matured as a band.

Upon listening to the rest of the album, however, their usual vocals return, accompanied by faster-paced guitar riffs and drumming, giving the listener a calming reassurance that Blink-182 still clings to the edgy rock roots from which they sprung.

Although there is some familiarity in their tracks, the album is also full of surprises. These changes aren't necessarily apparent in the lyrics of the songs, but rather in some of the stylistic choices made on the album, such as including an interlude before the song "Heart's All Gone" on the deluxe version. This instru-

mental interlude is slower and soothing but gives one an almost nostalgic vibe, which leads perfectly into "Heart's All Gone," the song that follows it.

"Love is Dangerous," the final track on the regular album, also stands out, and somehow portrays the best of Blink-182's newly revamped style. This track features restraint in both the aspects of the guitar and drums while having slightly more emotional lyrics. The vocals also stand out, seeming to have a sense of sincerity and desperation in them, enhanced by the haunting echo used on the track.

Overall, "Neighborhoods" allows a very different side of the band to be displayed. The trio seems to be exhibiting far more restraint than their audience is used to, however in such restraint there can be seen a great deal of refinement. The only problem with this is that it was precisely this lack of restraint which made Blink-182 so popular from the start. There was always a sense of excitement to be found in their relatable but off-beat lyrics and their at times chaotically fast guitar and drum rhythms.

Both of these aspects seem to be missing from their new album, featuring instead slightly darker, emotionally charged lyrics with smoother and more sophisticated melodies. None of these changes are bad, however the album is also not necessarily amazing. Their tracks are good, and at the very least one can find a sense of excitement in listening to new works from an old favorite.

OUR RATING:
★★★★☆ 3/5

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Rocky Horror time warps The Old Globe

David Dixon,

Posted on 13 October 2011.



In The Old Globe's production of "Richard O' Brien's The Rocky Horror Show," don't be surprised to see an audience member dressed up as the famous fictional transvestite, Frank 'N' Furter. In fact, don't be shocked if there are young children dressed up as characters from the cult classic phenomenon. This is the first indication it is not another typical day in the land of sophisticated theater.

Here is a brief synopsis for "Rocky Horror" virgins. Janet (Jeanna de Waal) and Brad (Kelsey Kurz) are a couple that represent the epitome of uncool. They speak in a dialect that feels dated in the 1950s. After their car breaks down, Brad and Janet go to a creepy castle hoping to get some much-needed aid, but instead meet an abnormal scientist who, in the words of the narrator (David Andrew Macdonald), takes them on "a night out they were going to remember for a long time."

Before the official opening of The Old Globe's interpretation, it looked like San Diego's night of dazzling entertainment was going to be a colossal failure. The original director left the production because of "creative differences." If that was not bad enough, the lead performer quit because of personal controversy.

Despite the controversy, it turns out "Rocky Horror" is a lot of fun. The new director, James Vasquez, gives legions of fans what they want, while adding more than enough flash to the material.

Matt McGrath is now the flamboyant Frank, and he dominates the stage every chance he gets. A hilarious actor with the singing voice of a rock sensation, McGrath puts his own stamp on the iconic character.

Audience members can participate in the action by buying an affordable prop bag, which includes a section of The San Diego Union-Tribune, a mini flashlight, a balloon and even some cards that can be used in musical numbers such as "Over at the Frankenstein Place" and "I'm Going Home." The brave can yell politically incorrect lines during crucial moments, but certain cast members, such as the fearless McGrath, will comedically insult the gutsy souls right back.

Donyale Werle's scene design is outrageous, as any production like this would require. Most of the misadventures take place in Frank's laboratory, which looks like something between a horror movie set and a raunchy swingers' club.

Although it has been a while since rock music played at The Old Globe, the orchestra could not be better. The band, which includes several acoustic guitarists, a drummer and a keyboardist, is onstage virtually the entire

performance and its sound makes the song “Time Warp” as cool as ever.

If this does not sound like a crowd-pleaser, then what does? As long as patrons have a small idea of what they are getting themselves into, “Rocky Horror” will continue to gain more avid supporters while continuing to satisfy the veterans.

Of course “Rocky Horror” is not a subtle piece of art, but it is a total blast. There’s nothing to stop anyone from taking a “jump to the left, and then a step to the right.”

Tickets and information about “Richard O’Brien’s The Rocky Horror Show” can be found at theoldglobe.org.

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Rocky Horror Show Review



Photo Credit: http://www.theoldglobe.org/pressphotos/Rocky_Horror_Show.html

The Rocky Horror Show

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September 28, 2011

Charlotte Ohrbom, Gabby Catalano, Staff Writers

The national phenomenon that is “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” has returned to stage as its original “The Rocky Horror Show” at the Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park. James Vásquez, a Juilliard graduate who has won awards for his work in theatre, directs the dark and sensational tale of Brad and Janet, who, on a dark and stormy night, are dragged into a whirlwind of terror, pleasure, discoveries, and sensational wonder.

When we entered the theatre, the fog machines had already smoked up the room, creating a creepy ambiance and allowing the audience to become part of the play. This theme of audience involvement was maintained throughout the play, for several audience members had props used during parts of the performance. At one point, the audience used newspapers to cover their heads from the “rain.” During the song “Over at the Frankenstein Place,” audience members armed with small flashlights waved them as if they were at a lighters at a concert.

The play, while having a thoroughly stellar cast, showcased Kelsey Kurz as Brad and Matt McGrath as Frank ‘N’ Furter. Kurz perfectly portrays Brad’s innocent nature, eventually giving into the sexual pleasure that Frank ‘N’ Furter offers him. McGrath, while initially seeming to copy Tim Curry, the movie Frank ‘N’ Furter, eventually grew comfortable in his fishnets, high heels, and corset, allowing his own interpretation of the character to come forth.

The costumes were highly exaggerated and almost campy, but the over-the-topness worked with the play in general. From the narrator’s bedazzled gold and rainbow jacket to Rocky’s miniscule gold shorts, everything fell into place. The muscular and defined Rocky, played by Sydney James Harcourt, did more than exceed our expectations with his shimmering body and perfect portrayal of Frank ‘N’ Furter’s creation.

Overall, the performance was beyond what the movie could ever deliver by keeping the audience engaged and entertained which made us question why the seats were only 85 percent full. Anyone who has enjoyed the movie will enjoy the play, as well as any person who enjoys dark, sexually based humor and won’t mind crazy plot twists.

The play runs through Nov. 5 at the Old Globe. Ticket prices start at 66 dollars.

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Oct 1st, 2011

(Column # 248)

**Arts and
Entertainment**

**Show REVIEWS
& Commentaries !**

**Arts and
Entertainment**



Show REVIEW Commentary (As seen 9/23/11)
Old Globe Theatre:

Richard O'Brien's
"Rocky Horror Show"
"...Most FUN Night in Town!"



Cast of ... ROCKY HORROR Show



In the midst of numerous Broadway-style musicals now playing all over town, **The Old Globe** has cornered surely the most "fun night" performances in the cult-following of the **ROCKY HORROR Show** – playing through November 6th. The previous few weeks prior to their opening on Sept 15th, was a rocky-road for this production – having to change their originally cast star as FRANK 'n' FURTER (*for integrity reasons*), and then – the departure of their show's director (*reported for artistic differences*) – nevertheless, director-choreographer **James Vasquez** stepped-up to the plate – and the show soars!



ZERO IN ON:
ROCKY HORROR Show
Where: SD Old Globe Theatre
Performances: 9/15-11/6
On Line: www.oldglobe.org

Jeanna de Waal & Kelsey Kurtz



(As noted by
 Danielle Magas
 Amato)
 The history of
**ROCKY
 HORROR** is
 the unlikely
 saga of a
 successful
 stage musical
 turned late-

night cult classic. In the early 1970s, actor Richard O'Brien began work on a rock 'n' roll musical he originally called "They Came From Denton High". The show told the story of two innocent American kids – Brad and Janet – who get a flat tire one rainy night, and find themselves at a strange house occupied by even stranger people – who turn out to be aliens – funny, sexy, and singing transvestite aliens. The original production of **The Rocky Horror Show** opened in June, 1973, at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs – an experimental space with a seating capacity of 63. The theatre was transformed into a tiny theatre with platforms that stretched around and above the audience. The production featured a cast that would become familiar to generations of **Rocky Horrors** fans – including **Tim Curry** as FRANK 'N' FURTER. Critics loved the show, and audiences couldn't get enough. After its five-week run at the Royal Court – **The Rocky Horror Show** transferred to a 270-seat theatre on King's Road, and just three months later, it moved to a 400-seat theatre – where it ran for seven years!



Sydney James Harcourt (ROCKY) & Jeanna de Waal



Matt McGrath & ROCKY

From the opening moments the lush cherry-red LIPS appear large on the front scrim, the hoots and cheers from the audience started up – the roller-coaster ride

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Two-Show Days

a life at the theater

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011

The Rocky Horror Show at San Diego's Old Globe

<http://theoldglobe.org/tickets/production.aspx?PID=8949>



Photo by Henry DiRocco.

The first weekend in November, my husband and I finally visited San Diego. We had been meaning to go for years but the flight takes about as long as to Dublin, and the Irish have real Guinness and fantastic accents. So it wasn't until the Old Globe announced it was doing the Rocky Horror Show as a fully staged (i.e., non-movie) musical that I really considered it. Then they cast a few [American Idiot](#) alumni (Andrew Call, Sydney Harcourt James, and Jeanna de Waal), and I was more interested. When I found out that (HOLY CRAP) Kelsey Kurz from the amazing [Huntington Theatre production of Stephen Karam's Sons of the Prophet](#) in Boston was going to be Brad, that did it.

I bought the tickets and emailed hubby from the car on the way out of town. (I think Lisa was driving us to Poughkeepsie to see Michael Cerveris and Michael Esper in the workshop of [Duncan Sheik and Steven Sater's terrible musical The Nightingale](#).) I don't have a lot to say in favor of San Diego itself (if you're not a beach bum, it's pretty much boring architecture and creepily deserted of people, but Balboa Park is fantastic, and we got to see some old friends). But I LOVED

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the show, and I marked Rocky Horror off [my bucket list](#).

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Rocky Horror was seriously, hilariously, totally fun. All three times. I hope they'll bring this particular production to New York soon (with a few cast changes). I mean, that would be a disaster for my schedule and my bank account. But I really, really need it to happen. Unless the audiences are going to be awful. (I'm really not ok with the random yelling from the audience, though more synchronized responses like "slut" every time someone says "Janet" or "asshole" everytime someone says "Brad" are fun and don't interfere with the show.)

- [Novem](#)
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- [July \(7](#)
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- [March \(](#)

The design was great for the space, the costumes were excellent (the bondage-inspired ones for the final scene were INSANE and awesome), the staging was fun, and the choreography (especially for Rocky) was very cool. [The show lost its Frank and its director during rehearsals](#), but I couldn't tell from the performance. I really want them to just ship the whole show (other than a few casting exceptions mentioned below) to New York. Immediately.

First, it was great to see Kurz in a completely different role. He has serious musical-theater comedy chops (and he's SHAMELESS, as obvious from the photo below), and I already loved him in the funny-but-serious Prophets, so I'll pretty much just follow him around to anything he's in from now on. I don't remember Sydney Harcourt James from the Idiot ensemble, but he was amazing as Rocky (especially his dancing--ok, and his 12-pack).

Although I wish her voice hadn't copied Little Nell so much, Nadine Isenegger was great as Columbia, and her tapping was ridiculous in the best way. Laura Shoop and Jason Wooten were delightfully creepy as Magenta and Riff Raff and charming as the story-framing ushers. David Andrew Macdonald as the narrator really held the show together and dealt with the vocal audience with aplomb, and he was fine as Dr. Scott, though that's a bit of a nothing role until the fishnets break out (and he has seriously nice legs). The other "phantoms" were good, Kit Treece in particular.

And now the roles I would want recast ...

Look, I like Matt McGrath. He was good even in that dreadful Nightingale musical workshop, and I liked him a lot in the Atlantic Theater's production of Pinter's The Collection last season. But his voice was a bit thin for Frank 'N' Furter, and though he threw himself into the role, he was just a little below par in charisma. He was sassy and bitchy and domineering and hilarious. But Frank needs to also be irresistible or what little plot there is kind of falls apart.

I just don't like Jeanna de Waal as a performer, so I wasn't surprised that I spent

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the whole time wishing I had seen just about anyone else as Janet. de Waal is a fine technical dancer, and she certainly sings better than Susan Sarandon, but she has no charisma, and I just don't like how her voice sounds. That said, this is probably the role in which she will be best cast, ever. And she didn't ruin the show. So, whatever.

This breaks my heart, but I didn't love Andrew Call as Eddie. (There's a photo out there of him as Rocky in a different production, and I would have loved to see that.) His voice isn't strong enough, and (as with his performance as a St. Jimmy understudy in Idiot) he didn't have that charisma needed to really pull off this Elvis-esque role. But I loved him as one of the phantoms, and his slide down the bannister was thrilling. The boy can DANCE. And he carries a tune fine, but they really do need someone stronger, more magnetic for the role.

Now, back to something happier: KELSEY KURZ. Wow, he was completely fantastic at every moment. He was never not acting, never out of character. And Brad and Janet stand around on the sidelines a lot in this show. de Waal just took up space being not particularly Janet-like most of the time, as though she could only act if she were speaking, when she had specific direction. But Kurz just threw himself into that goofball Brad and went for it (his deliveries in Dammit, Janet were so adorkable), and he constantly reacted to everything going on around him--but not in a way that pulled focus. The more theater I see, the more I realize how difficult that must be, because when someone gets it right, it's just thrilling to watch. I'm so glad that I saw the show three times, not just because it was hella fun, but also because it gave me the chance to watch the background characters during the big numbers.

In conclusion, if you didn't see this show, I feel really sorry for you. It was totally worth the cross-country flight. And I'll be keeping an eye on future Old Globe productions.

Here, have some eye candy:

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Frank and Rocky. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

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In costume for Brad in the finale. Photo by Sydney Harcourt James.

You can check out the production's program here: http://www.oldglobe.org/_pdf/Programs/2011-12/Rocky_Horror_Program.pdf.

Posted by Mel (Two Show Days) at **Friday, December 02, 2011**

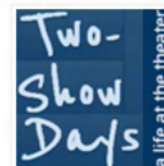


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San Diego Mama

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Mama Mary

Mama Mary is the host of the her own blog The Mama Mary Show, a freelance writer/casting agent/event coordinator, a mom to two spunky little girls and an over-zealous GLEEK.

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Grab Your Props and Head to the Old Globe for The Rocky Horror Show!

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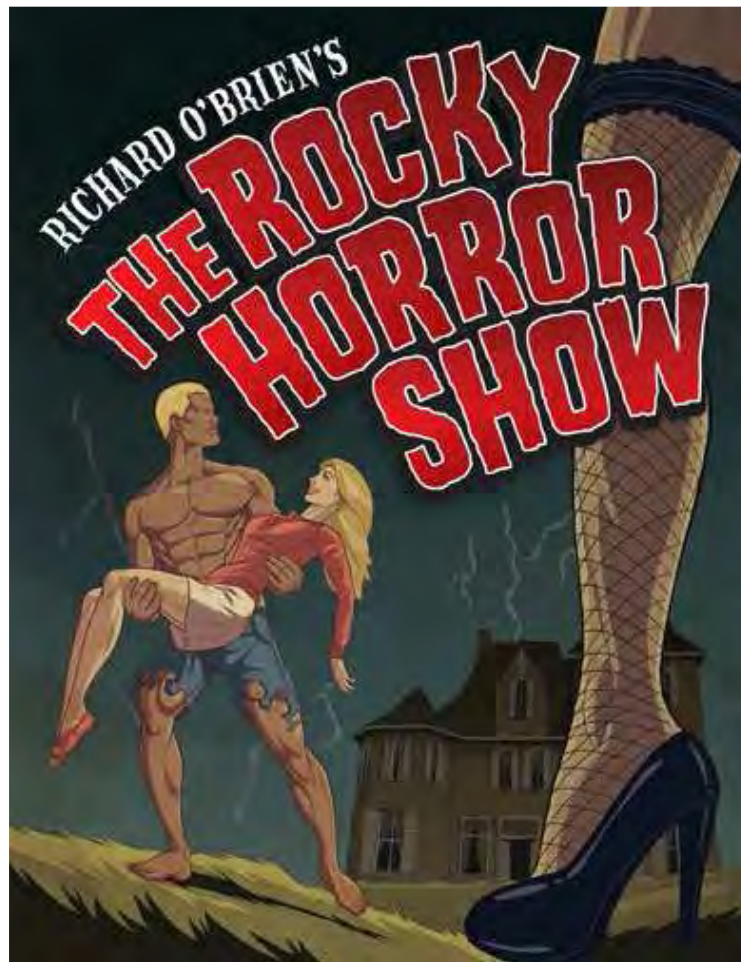


Photo courtesy of The Old Globe.

The sci-fi parody turned cult classic, *The Rocky Horror Show*, has sauntered its way back to the stage in a sexy, snarky and seamless production directed by James Vásquez at the Old Globe Theatre.

Originally, *The Rocky Horror Show* was a stage play created by Richard O'Brien in 1973. After a successful run in London and a not-so-successful run on Broadway, the live show was adapted into a movie by O'Brien and Jim Sharman with the title, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Soon after its theatrical release, the movie producers began midnight screenings, which soon gave rise to the legendary audience participation aspect of the show, including yelling out ad libs, throwing food and using props. Devout RHPs groupies are so numerous that no matter which performance you attend, whether it be live or on the big screen, you are almost always certain to witness the unparalleled phenomenon of the audience "call backs."

My one and only viewing of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* was behind a shroud of booze, way back in the 90's, so my recollection of it is a bit spotty. I of course remember that it was bizarre and that it featured one of my favorite songs "The Time Warp." Based on my vague memory, the pop-culture hype and the underbelly cult-fervor surrounding the show, I had high hopes for this

performance. I am happy to report that it did not disappoint. In fact, it not only met my expectations, it raised them, by a platform.

The cast of this Old Globe production is exceptional. From the moment the usher (Jason Wooten, also plays Riff Raff) and the usherette (Laura Shoop, also plays Magenta) creep onto stage for the opening number, *Science Fiction Double Feature*, the magic begins. Everything about them sets the tone for the salacious world about to be revealed. Then, enters the narrator, played by the suave David Andrew MacDonald. In this role, MacDonald has fused together The Dos Equis *Most Interesting Man in the World* with Tim Meadow's character, *The Ladies Man*, finding a perfect balance between cheeky sex appeal and dry humor. Each time he reappears, you're sure to have a laugh.

Jeanna de Waal and Kelsey Kurz, play Brad and Janet, the two unsuspecting, newly engaged goodie-goodies about to see much more flesh than they ever bargained for. The juxtaposition of their Sandra Dee/Marty McFly-ness next to the tatted, pierced and barely clothed inhabitants of "the castle" is not lost on the audience, and makes their provocative encounters in ACT II even more *intriguing*.

Riff Raff, Magenta and Columbia (Nadine Isenegger) knocked my socks off with the glam rock version of *The Time Warp*. It also made me wish I had worn sheer black thigh highs with a garter under my boots rather than socks.

Then, I fell corset over high heels for Dr. Frank N. Furter, (Matt McGrath) with his *Sweet Transvestite* grand entrance. And, with each subsequent song he sang, I fell more deeply in love. McGrath's sultry adaptation of this character certainly lives up to his "sonic transducer" moniker.

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Photo by Henry DiRocco.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the title character, Rocky Horror, or as I've dubbed him, *Michaelangelo's David Incarnate*, played by Sydney James Harcourt. Someone's been doing his P90X. And, I'm pretty sure he can sing.

Cleveland M
Indy Mam
Nevada Mai
Knoxville Mz
YorkMama.c
Columbus Mz
Coast Mar
Atlanta Mai
DC Mama
Boston Mar



Photo by Henry DiRocco.

A highlight of the show for me was “the Floor Show,” in the second act, a Vegas-style drag/burlesque show complete with feathers, leather, and a lot of skin. The maudlin refrain of “Don’t dream it, be it,” has been on my mind since I walked out of the theatre.

As outlandish and seedy and as the characters and script might be, there is something compelling about *Rocky Horror Show*; something endearing and familiar. Though originally intended to be a spoof, RHS also contains underlying messages of tolerance and acceptance, which is most likely the reason it has achieved its mega-cult-status. It strikes a chord with people. In the midst of making us laugh til it hurts and dance in our chairs, it makes us think and feel okay in our skin. By the time Frank and the gang sing “I’m Going Home,” in the middle of ACT II, I felt like I already was.

Now, if you’re still questioning whether or not this show is for you, I came up with a litmus test of sorts, so you can know for sure. **You know you’ll love this show if:**

- You love to be thoroughly entertained.

- You love comedy in the form of parody, sarcasm and studded leather.
- You've never seen it and are really curious about the hype.
- You've seen the movie a thousand times and have your own prop kit complete with newspaper and flashlight.
- You're not afraid of a little silhouetted, transgender sex, some nipple pinching and the word that rhymes with punt (only used in occasional audience "call backs").
- You have a dark side.
- You deny having a dark side, but really do.
- You want to get into the Halloween spirit but would rather shove a toothpick under your fingernail than go to another haunted house.
- You really enjoy live theatre, good music and a well-produced show.

If any, or all of these descriptions apply to you, then you will love this show.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. The show runs through Sunday, November 6th. Don't miss it!

My final note is to grab a prop kit in the lobby for \$3.00. You don't want to be left in the dark . . .



Disclosure: I loved this show and not just because I was given two complimentary tickets and was allowed to bring my wine into the theatre (but that certainly was a perk!). My opinions are my own.



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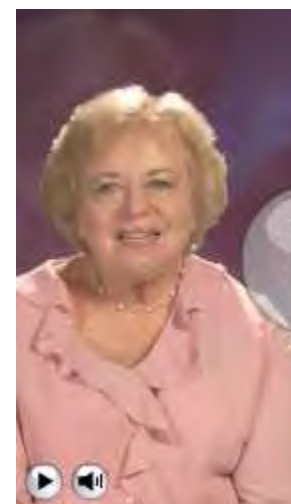
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Rocky Horror at the Old Globe (my review)

Posted On:9/25/11 at 01:09

Spoilers! I apologize if this is too long. I just sat down and wrote everything that came to mind so I hope you all enjoy.

I went to see The Rocky Horror Show at the Old Globe today. I was a bit skeptical that the production would even gel with the, shall we say, disappearance of both the announced lead actor and director, but those fears were quickly alleviated once the show began. They had prop bags on sale in the lobby for three dollars. I figured it wouldn't be Rocky Horror without one so I went ahead and bought a bag. Inside was a newspaper, playing cards, a rubber glove, a balloon and an l.e.d. flash light in the shape of a lighter. I would say about one third of the audience at my performance used the props and it was pretty fun especially during "Frankenstein Place" when all the l.e.d. lighters lit up the house.

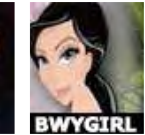
In case you're wondering the show curtain was a simple scrim with the show logo projected onto it. There was also a fake proscenium surrounding the stage that was in shambles and made to resemble a crumbling proscenium arch of an old movie house. Inside of that a red velvet curtain was hung along the top and each front leg of the stage to provide extra masking on either side. This curtain would fly up and off for the castle scenes.

The show itself was

Ethel Barrymore Theatre Si
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designed as a total homage to classic B-movies -- much more so than usual if you can imagine that. It's a lot closer visually to the movie than the last Broadway revival was. I actually enjoy the 2000 Broadway revival very much so I was a little hesitant at first, but I ended up having so much fun that I was able to keep an open mind and enjoy a different take on the material.

The opening announcement was very clever and done with a female voice and the red lips like we see in the opening of the movie projected on to the front scrim. She made the usual comments about recording devices and reminded the audience to turn off their cell phones for the comfort and enjoyment of the actors and fellow audience members. Then she asked that all other electronic vibratory devices please be passed to the front for *her* comfort and enjoyment! Big laugh from the audience on that one.

"Science Fiction Double Feature" was sung by the actress who played Magenta and the actor who played Riff Raff. As far as I know it's usually sung by two women so this was the first major change in that the song was now a duet between a woman and a man. Old black and white footage from B movies was projected on the scrim behind them. It was mostly outer space scenes. None of it was particularly familiar, but some of it did look like it could have easily been from an episode of the original Twilight Zone series.

Both "Science Fiction" and "Damn It, Janet" were sung on the apron of the stage in front of the scrim so there

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was very little space for the actors to move around in which made the scenes slightly static as there was only so much space to utilize. "Damn It, Janet" was sung with the image of a small church chapel projected onto the screen, but it wasn't a frozen image. It was made to look like a movie so the image was in motion and there were little lines, spots and imperfections on the film that you would expect from an old real to real movie projector. It was very effective and much more interesting than just looking at a static projected image.

The car scene was a lot of fun visually. The lights were appropriately spooky, there was a lot of fog on the stage floor and they used the special effects rain light/projector similar to the one used in Beauty and the Beast and Wicked to make it look like it was raining. That effect is one of my favorites so I was glad to see it used well here too.

The castle set became visible behind the scrim as Brad and Janet sang "Frankenstein Place." The band was set up on stage on the second floor at the top of the stairs and Jason Wooten as Riff Raff was hit with a spot and totally nailed his solo. Jason was probably my favorite actor in this production, but I guess I'm a little biased because he did also play Riff Raff in the 2000 Broadway revival after Raúl Esparza left. The castle interior was a unit set made up of three sections, all aged and looking dilapidated, with a staircase descending on the stage left side. This would later be mentioned by Frank as he continually climbed up and



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down the stairs and made some quip about Sunset Boulevard. (Who didn't see that coming?)

I'm pretty sure there were some "Thriller" moves thrown in for the "Time Warp" choreography. That pretty much sums up the originality of the choreography for the whole show. Enough about that.



Matt McGrath was wonderful as Frank. He looked pretty good in the costume, but his first entrance was made with a see-through cape so there was no big reveal once the cape came off. The reveal was complete just as soon as he made his entrance which was a total deviation from the way it's usually done, but not a problem. It worked just fine. Sydney James Harcourt is a total hottie so, of course, he's perfect for Rocky. He made his entrance in a frosted glass enclosure which came up from the stage floor. This was the same glass enclosure which Frank used to kill Eddie. There was no chainsaw to be found in this production so Frank pretty much just used a machete to hack away at Eddie and then trapped him in the glass enclosure. After pushing a few buttons they created the illusion of Eddie's head exploding and blood splattered all over the front of the frosted glass from the inside. It was gruesome.

The "love scenes" were done pretty much just as they are in the movie, behind a scrim with the outline of a bed and a pink and blue light to differentiate between the two rooms. There was no bed for "Touch-A-Touch-A-Touch Me" so Rocky and Janet did some awkward

dance with Rocky posing a lot and lifting Janet in the air in suggestive positions.

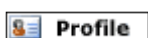
I loved Kelsey Kurtz as Brad. He was totally adorable and a very likable actor. I enjoyed him immensely. He did a great job of providing the audience with a little sanity on a stage full of outlandish characters. The other big change: "Once in a While" was a duet! Instead of it being a solo just for Brad they also had Columbia up on the staircase singing the chorus sections with Brad and clutching Eddie's leather jacket. It's always been one of my favorite songs in the show, but admittedly problematic, and this was a wonderful take on it. I'm not sure I would like it to always be this way and I'm very fond of the 2000 Broadway orchestrations for this song so I would miss that, but for what this was, it worked and it was very beautiful.

The floor show was very extravagant. They lowered a very expensive looking red curtain with gold fringe and Frank made his entrance dressed in a Blonde wig and a silver sequined dress. I'm not sure if he was supposed to be dressed as Fey Wray, but that's what I assumed in the theatre. The entire number probably got the biggest response from the audience. Matt's line before "I'm Going Home" was his most impressionable moment on me, personally. The "Wait!" was very loud and then as he said "I can explain..." he pretty much completely dropped the character, dropped the act and just sat down and finally showed his real Frank... the guy underneath all that make-up and I have to say that the song and that

	<p>moment never really hit me as hard as it did today and it was mostly because of his delivery of that one line. It was a glimmer of brilliance in an otherwise fairly simple and straight-forward approach to the character.</p> <p>The house blasting off was achieved, of course, with a projected real to real image on the front scrim and "Super Heroes" was very beautifully done lit up from behind the scrim with stars projected on the front of the scrim and stars that lit up on the house ceiling and on the sides of the proscenium. It was a beautiful end to a very fast-paced and exciting production that, while very literal in its approach and not quite as imaginative and abstract as the last Broadway revival, was still very enjoyable and a sh*t ton of fun.</p> <hr/> <p>Work that silver magic.</p> <p>Updated On: 9/25/11 at 01:09 AM</p>
<p>thismyshow</p> <p> Profile</p> <p>Broadway Star joined:2/21/11</p>	<p>Rocky Horror at the Old Globe (my review)</p> <p>Posted On:9/25/11 at 01:43</p> <p>Would you consider this broadway transfer worthy?</p>
<p>Gaveston2</p> <p> Profile</p> <p>Broadway Star joined:6/28/11</p>	<p>Rocky Horror at the Old Globe (my review)</p> <p>Posted On:9/25/11 at 01:52</p> <p>Thank you, CATSNYrevival!</p>
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CATSNYrevival



Broadway Legend
joined:3/1/04

about it in the theatre and my first thought was that it would probably be better in a small house Off-Broadway. But, that's me thinking purely money wise from a producer's stand point.

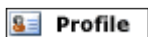
The sets and costumes are definitely taking inspiration from the movie so that could make it more familiar and touristy than the 2000 Broadway revival, but Rocky Horror is always going to be specifically for a niche audience so producers would have to be willing to take a gamble with the show yet again and I don't really see that happening. I would love to see it transfer to Broadway though.

Work that silver magic.

Updated On: 9/25/11 at 01:52 AM



husk_charmer



Broadway Legend
joined:10/19/06

Rocky Horror at the Old Globe (my review)

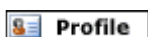
Posted On:9/25/11 at 02:46

Great review!

One side note, "Science Fiction" is only supposed to be sung by one female, usually the one playing Magenta (the character is named Trixie...sometime Columbia plays it). It was the 2000 revival, to my knowledge, that brought in Columbia to the mix (and Riff -Raff when Bach was in the role).

<http://www.youtube.com/huskcharmer>

Wicked Fanatic



Stand-by
joined:3/31/09

Rocky Horror at the Old Globe (my review)

Posted On:9/25/11 at 03:25

Thanks for your GR8 review. I'm seeing it on October 2nd and this makes me very excited to see it!

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CINEMATIC MECHANIC

[RICHARD O'BRIEN'S THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW \(OLD GLOBE\): 78% – SWEET](#)

[Colin Mitchell](#) | Sep 30, 2011 | [Comments 0](#) |



Sydney James Harcourt as Rocky surrounded by the cast of Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show at The Old Globe. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

SWEET

But director James Vásquez's production also boasts a few other, broader qualities: a wicked sense of humor, irresistible musical numbers and a whole lot of startlingly old-fashioned fun.

[James Hebert – San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

BITTERSWEET

All that said, I've never seen the Old Globe Theatre more energized. The first-nighters, dressed as Rocky or Columbia or Frank and shouting to their heart's content, made the show.

[Jeff Smith – San Diego Reader](#)

SWEET

The good news is that the Globe's production of Richard O'Brien's campy 1973 musical is neither rocky, nor a horror. It's a festive, well-designed, snappy and expertly choreographed show, but it bears scars from losing both its original leading man and director during rehearsals this month.

[Pam Kragen – North County Times](#)

BITTERSWEET

The Old Globe has produced a technically fine but somewhat under-powered revival of Rocky Horror. The show runs through November 6, so perhaps playing it in front of audiences will allow the cast to find that hard-to-discern line between tradition and transgression.

[Bill Eadie – TalkinBroadway](#)

SWEET

If you are in the mood for a bit of an experience, you might want to check it out. It's not so horrific after all.

[Carol Davis – San Diego Examiner](#)

SWEET

Furthermore, I can appreciate the fine performances and artistry involved in the visual and aural support that make up the whole – a theatrical evening loaded with sensual stimulation that comes and goes in just a bit over two hours.

[Charlene Baldridge – Charlene and Brenda in the Blogosphere](#)

SWEET

The Old Globe's Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show is very much in that spirit. Its rousing rebelliousness, garters and corsets and multimedia special effects excusably overpower the story. Throw in some kinetic choreography, a crack band and a couple of crowd-pleasing performances (in particular Matt McGrath's strutting Frank N. Furter), and both Rocky cultists and horrified tourists are bound to leave titillated and entertained.

[David L. Coddon – San Diego City Beat](#)

BITTER

But this production, directed by James Vásquez (also a last-minute replacement), doesn't take the time to let Brad and Janet's story really land. This busy, oddly unsexy staging feels like a speed-thru, a rehearsal in which actors quickly hit their marks but hold back on the emotion until there's an audience. Tongues never leave cheeks; that can be funny, but it doesn't sustain an evening.

[Charlotte Stoudt – LA Times](#)

SWEET

This all new production, with Matt McGrath replacing James Barbour and with a change in directors – Oanh Nguyen left, due to artistic differences – is in greater shape than I anticipated, boasting a truly fine cast and a plethora of cool production values, special effects now under the directorial stamp of James Vasquez.

[Don Grigware – BroadwayWorld](#)

SWEET

Despite a rather rockier than usual journey towards its opening night (both Rocky Horror's original director and its Frank 'N' Furter exited mid-rehearsals amidst media hoopla), you'd hardly know it from the highly polished finished product onstage at the Old Globe. San Diego's very own James Vasquez (one of the few SoCal talents associated with this East Coast-cast-and-designed production) directs with pizzazz and panache, JT Horenstein choreographs with dazzle and originality, and the OC's Mike Wilkins music directs with rock concert-ready punch.

[Steven Stanley – StageSceneLA](#)

RICHARD O'BRIEN'S ROCKY HORROR SHOW

[Old Globe Theatre](#)

1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

7 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays (no performance Nov. 1); 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays

(Oct. 28 performance starts at 7:30 p.m., followed by a Costume Bash)

4 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays; plus 8 p.m. Oct. 31, 2011

Through Nov. 6, 2011

Tickets: \$29-\$122 (discounts available); (619) 234-5623

Running Time: 2 hours



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RICHARD O'BRIEN'S
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'Rocky Horror Show' cast announced

Old Globe production set to begin in mid-September

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Preview performances for the Old Globe's "The Rocky Horror Show" revival begin Sept. 15, with opening night on Sept. 23.

Written by
Arielle Sallai

4:31 p.m., Aug. 11, 2011

It looks like the transvestite from Transylvania is a leading man: Broadway actor James Barbour ("A Tale of Two Cities," "Beauty and the Beast") will play time-warping transvestite Frank 'N' Furter in the Old Globe's production of Richard O'Brien's "The Rocky Horror Show," executive producer Lou Spisto announced Thursday.

The rest of the cast — directed by Oanh Nguyen — includes Jeanna de Waal as Janet, Sydney James Harcourt as Rocky and Kelsey Kurz as Brad.

Barbour, the leading man in drag, is a baritone known for his romantic roles: He was nominated for a Drama League Award for his performance as Edward Rochester in the Broadway musical adaptation of "Jane Eyre."

Preview performances for the "Rocky Horror" revival begin Sept. 15, with opening night on Sept. 23. Tickets are currently only available by subscription, but single tickets go on sale Aug. 19 at midnight.



James Barbour will be Frank 'N' Furter in the Old Globe's production of "The Rocky Horror Show."

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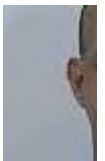
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Fall Arts Preview: 'Superstar' is marquee event

Des McAnuff's Playhouse encore shapes up as an autumn theater highlight

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Paul Nolan (center) plays the title role in the Stratford Shakespeare Festival's revival of "Jesus Christ Superstar," a production that director Des McAnuff brings to La Jolla Playhouse (his longtime artistic home) this fall. — Andrew Eccles



Written by
**James
Hebert**

'Jesus Christ Superstar' hasn't exactly been left to wander in the showbiz wilderness since its 1971 premiere; the breakout musical by composer [Andrew Lloyd Webber](#) and lyricist Tim Rice still gets resurrected regularly around the world.

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11:47 a.m., Aug. 28, 2011

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'Mormon' fulfills mission: Big Tonys haul

But here's what's different about the production that hits [La Jolla Playhouse](#) in November: The Mac is back.

That's [Des McAnuff](#), who revived the then-dormant Playhouse in 1983, guided it to national, [Tony Award](#)-winning prominence, and served two stints as its artistic director. Now, for the first time since he left [La Jolla](#) in 2007, McAnuff is set to return — bringing with him a “Superstar” staging that has been the hot summer ticket at Canada's esteemed [Stratford Shakespeare Festival](#) and is likely headed to Broadway.

The Playhouse engagement came about quickly, announced in July as a replacement for the previously scheduled “Finding Neverland,” now shelved indefinitely. But for current Playhouse artistic chief Christopher Ashley, the development has in one way been four years in the making.

“The first day I took over this office, I said, ‘When do we get you back? How do we get you back?’ ” Ashley recalled of his talks with McAnuff, who is now Stratford's artistic director. “Des at the Playhouse has to (happen).

“And to have him back with this show that is so heralded, and creating so much excitement — I feel as though the stars were aligned.”

“Jesus Christ Superstar,” which premiered on Broadway 40 years ago this summer, tells the story of Christ's final days, and of his complex relationships with Mary Magdalene, the Apostles and the conflicted antihero Judas Iscariot. The musical, which introduced such songs as “I Don't Know How to Love Him” and “Superstar,” was among the earliest major successes for Lloyd Webber, whose subsequent megahits include “Cats,” “Evita” and “The Phantom of the Opera.”

McAnuff, who first began talking with Lloyd Webber about directing a revival some 15 years ago, says both co-creators have been “very supportive” of the Stratford production.

“This has been, I guess, churning and bubbling away in my brain for a long time,” says McAnuff, whose Playhouse-launched “Jersey Boys” is nearing its six-year anniversary on Broadway. “And I think it has turned out very well.”

Also coming up:

“Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show”: The spoofy show that spawned a cult movie (not to mention endless torrents of toast, part of its audience-participation ethos) makes its Globe debut. Director Oanh Nguyen of Chance Theatre in Orange County leads a production that now includes Broadway veteran [Matt McGrath](#) as the raunchy, cross-dressing renegade Frank 'N' Furter. (McGrath has played the title role off-Broadway in “Hedwig and the Angry Inch,” a kind of spiritual cousin to Frank.) Sept. 15 to Nov. 6. [Old Globe Theatre](#). \$29-\$122. (619) 234-5623 or [oldglobe.org](#).

“Hair”: The touring version of Diane Paulus' much-praised “Hair” revival gives us a trifecta of big, throwback rock musicals. This latest take on the

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Sexy 'Rocky Horror Show' comes to rock the Old Globe stage

By Diana Saenger

For more than 35 years, "The Rocky Horror Picture" film or since 1973, Richard O'Brien's stage production, "The Rocky Horror Show," have each brought die-hard fans out of the woodwork to see these productions time and time again. Directed by James Vasquez, The Old Globe brings "The Rocky Horror Show" to San Diego through Nov. 26.



Matt McGrath as Frank 'N' Furter and Jason Wooten as Riff Raff. Henry DiRocco

The funny and stylishly bizarre musical is about Brad (Kelsey Kurz) and Janet (Jeanna de Waal) a young couple who have a flat in the middle of nowhere. They get help from Dr. Frank N. Furter, a mad scientist who reveals he's a transvestite. Transported into a time warp, Brad and Janet get an introduction to a sexual revolution that opens a world of surprises.

Directors through the years have said the show has remained vibrant generation after generation because of its overriding message about finding one's self.

The story is about getting rid of any emotional baggage, being joyful and celebrating life. At its center is this anti-hero audiences fall in love with and kind of feel a connection to.

When searching for a cast, The Old Globe looked for actors with amazing voices who were sexy in a different way. These include: Andrew Call (Eddie, Phantom), Sydney James Harcourt (Rocky), Nadine Isenegger (Columbia), Lauren Lim Jackson (Phantom), David Andrew Macdonald (Narrator, Dr. Scott), Anna Schnaitter (Phantom), Laura Shoop (Magenta), Kit Treece (Phantom) and Jason Wooten (Riff Raff).

Matt McGrath plays Frank 'N' Furter, a master of disguise and madman who claims to have discovered the secret to life.

The Globe's creative team is Donyale Werle (Scenic Design), Emily Rebholz (Costume Design), Rui Rita (Lighting), Kevin Kennedy (Sound), Aaron Rhyne (Projection) and Anjee Nero (Stage Manager).

The biggest dance number in the show, "Time Warp," has created its own pop culture following. The show's choreography is by JT Horenstein with music direction by Mike Wilkins.

If you go

What: "The Rocky Horror Show"

When: 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays; 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 4 p.m. Saturdays; 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays; 8 p.m. Oct. 31 (Halloween); no show Nov. 1. Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15-Nov. 26

Where: The Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park

Tickets: From \$29.

Box Office: (619) 23-GLOBE

Related events: oldglobe.org for schedule of post-show forums, costume parties

Note: The show contains no nudity or unacceptable language, but it has a lot of camp and suggestive scenes.

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Sensational 'Rocky Horror Show' rocks Old Globe stage

BY DIANA SAENGER

For more than 35 years, "The Rocky Horror Picture" film or since 1973, Richard O'Brien's stage production, "The Rocky Horror Show," have each brought die-hard fans out of the woodwork to see these productions time and time again. Directed by James Vasquez, The Old Globe brings "The Rocky Horror Show" to San Diego, through Nov. 26.

The outrageously funny and stylishly bizarre musical is about Brad (Kelsey Kurz) and Janet (Jeanna de Waal) a young couple who have a flat in the middle of nowhere. They get help from Dr. Frank N. Furter, a mad scientist who reveals he's a transvestite.

Transported into a time warp, Brad and Janet get an introduction to a sexual revolution that opens a world of surprises.

Directors through the years have said the show has remained vibrant generation after generation because of its overriding message about finding one's self.

The story is about getting



Matt McGrath as Frank 'N' Furter and Jason Wooten as Riff Raff in 'The Rocky Horror Show.'

HENRY DIROCCO

rid of any emotional baggage, being joyful and celebrating life. At its center is an anti-hero audiences fall in love with and kind of feel a connection to.

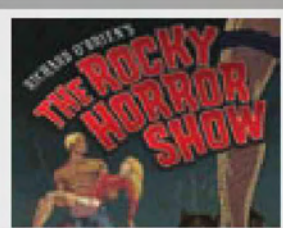
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If you go

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- **When:** Sept. 15-Nov. 26
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 - 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays
 - 4 p.m. Saturdays
 - 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays
 - 8 p.m. Oct. 31 (Halloween)
 - Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m.
 - No show Nov. 1
- **Where:** The Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park
- **Tickets:** From \$29
- **Box Office:** (619) 23-GLOBE
- **Related events:** oldglobe.org for schedule of post-show forums, costume parties
- **Note:** The show contains no nudity or unacceptable language, but it has a lot of camp and suggestive scenes.

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: Rancho Santa Fe Review
Publishing Date: September 08, 2011
Circulation: 6,253
Page Number: 8
Article Size: 47 sq inch
Ad Value: \$777.20

Sensational 'Rocky Horror Show' comes to Old Globe

BY DIANA SAENGER
Contributor

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Janet get an introduction to a sexual revolution that opens a world of surprises.

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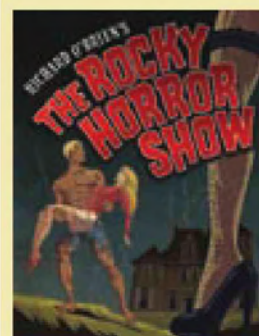
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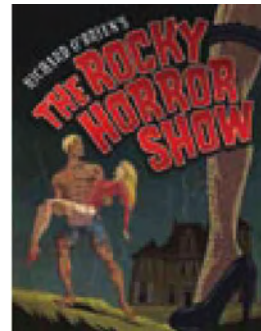
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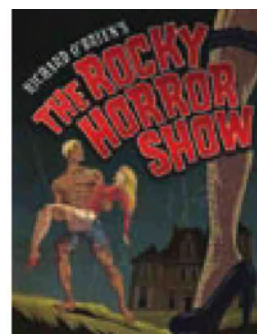
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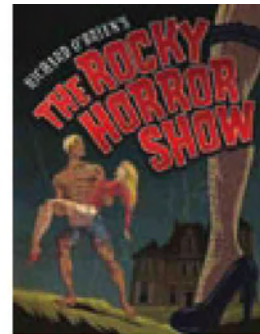
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Retro show jumps (and bumps) its way to Globe revival

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Laura Shoop, Jason Wooten, Nadine Isenegger and Andrew Call (clockwise from top left) are among the cast members of "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show" at the Old Globe. — Henry DiRocco



Written by
**James
Hebert**

6 p.m., Sept. 9, 2011

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Talk about a time warp. "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show" is (to borrow from its best-remembered song) just a jump to the left — and a step back into the righteous '70s.

"We sort of like to talk about it as being lost in time and lost in space," says James Vasquez of the racy and retro 1973 stage musical, which he's now directing for the Old Globe Theatre.

"I think what's really exciting about this production is we're being faithful to 'The Rocky Horror Show,'" Vasquez says. "We're being faithful to the style, and to what the fans know. However, it's 2011. We have a really sexy, talented cast that brings a really current energy to it. And the music has been orchestrated in such a way that it has much more of a current feel, (while) still being 100 percent faithful to the style of the show and what fans expect.

"But we absolutely are paying homage to the '50s B-movies, the sci-fi movies. And some of the things that made ('Rocky Horror') kitschy in 1973."

New Zealander Richard O'Brien's enduring sci-fi spoof follows the misadventures of a clean-cut young couple named Brad and Janet, who stumble into the "sweet transvestite" Frank 'N' Furter's mystery castle and become enmeshed in the odd goings-on there. The score includes such fan favorites as "Dammit, Janet!" "Touch-a, Touch-a, Touch-a, Touch Me" and the dance-along number "The Time Warp" (with its helpful instructions, *It's just a jump to the left / and a step to the right.*)

As anyone familiar with the audience-participation aspect of "Rocky Horror" knows, you never can tell when a tossed slice of toast might fly past your temple — at least at midnight screenings of the perennially popular 1975 movie. But when the musical lands at the Globe next week, that aspect is likely to be less boisterous than is typically witnessed during the film version.

"We're hoping nobody actually throws things at us onstage," Vasquez admits (although he says the Globe probably will sell "participation kits" containing a few theater-safe items). As far as a

DETAILS

"Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show"

Old Globe Theatre

When: Previews begin Sept. 15; opens Sept. 23

Where: Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Tickets: \$29-\$122

Phone: (619) 234-5623

Online: theoldglobe.org

Cuing the crowd

A look at some "Rocky Horror" audience traditions. Go ahead, try these at home. (But probably not at the Globe.)

Rice: Tossed at the wedding scene near



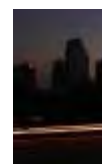
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Photo



'Superstar' is marquee event

more general party mood, though, “we’re prepared for audiences that shout nothing back, and we want to be prepared for audiences that are very vocal.”

This show about a couple whose path veers off into very unexpected territory has had a couple of serious detours of its own. First, in August, the production lost its lead actor, after it was reported he had pleaded guilty in 2008 to misdemeanor counts involving sexual encounters with a teenage girl seven years earlier. (The Globe said he left due to issues with his wife’s pregnancy.)

Then, about a week ago, the show’s original director left the production. The theater cited “artistic differences” in that departure. Vasquez, a Juilliard School graduate and Escondido native who has built a strong reputation locally as a director over the past few years, then took over the show. (He had previously been its assistant director; Vasquez also directs the Globe’s annual production of “Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!”)

“No bones about it, it’s an odd situation,” says Vasquez, who declined to discuss the specifics behind the turmoil. “But I will say, the cast is unbelievable. When I officially took over the production, the cast and I sat down and we made a decision among us that we needed to move forward and sort of put everything in the past.

“That’s what we’ve done. The cast is enthused, the support from the staff has been unbelievable. Really at this point the goal is to get the best, most raucous show up on that stage. And I think we’re on a path to do that.”

Leading that cast is Matt McGrath as Frank. The Broadway veteran has some experience in portraying flamboyant, cross-dressing stage dynamos: He did a stint off-Broadway in the title role of “Hedwig and the Angry Inch.”

Of course, no stage creation is quite comparable to O’Brien’s, with its story line of hard-partying space visitors and a Frankenstein-esque character named Rocky. The whole show is both an homage to and a satire of old creature features.

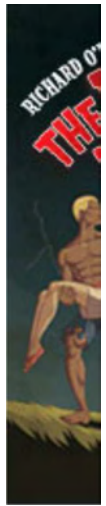
the show’s beginning.

Toilet-paper rolls: Flung when Brad says, “Great Scott!”

Toast: Thrown when Frank proposes (what else?) a toast during a dinner scene.

Flashlights: Switched on during the verse “There’s a light,” from the song “Over at the Frankenstein Place.”

Rubber gloves: Snapped in sync to Frank’s actions onstage.



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A 'Rocky' timeline

1973: Richard O'Brien introduces director Jim Sharman to his newly created “Rocky Horror” after the two meet in Australia. The show goes up on London’s West End in the summer of ’73, and quickly moves to a bigger theater, beginning a run that will last seven years.

1974: “Rocky Horror” opens in Los Angeles, with Tim Curry from the original London cast playing Frank. (Rock-star-to-be Meat Loaf also joins the ensemble.) The following year, the production moves to Broadway — and promptly flops.



“You have to try and figure out, what are the aliens’ missions, what were they sent here to do, or to take from us or teach to us?” says McGrath. “I keep getting the impression they’re here to figure out what it is to have a good time. And Frank tries to manipulate people and get them to play by his rules.

“He’s trying to have such a good time, and he’s missing it. He creates someone for himself (Rocky), and that person falls in love with someone else. He’s trying to control everything. And you just have to let it go, man.”

Speaking of people letting things go: McGrath adds that those who know “Rocky” mostly for the toast-tossing and other audience antics might be surprised by this over-the-top show’s capacity to involve an audience with such old-fashioned story attractions as love and longing and a quest for identity.

“It becomes a communal experience,” he says of the show. “As all theater really is.”

1975: The show is made into a movie starring Susan Sarandon, Barry Bostwick and, once again, Curry. “Rocky” creator O’Brien himself plays Riff Raff, as he did in the original stage production. The movie becomes a cult classic, and (thanks mostly to a tradition of midnight showings) eventually becomes the longest-running film release of all time.

2000: Christopher Ashley, now artistic director of La Jolla Playhouse, directs a Broadway revival (and earns his first Tony Award nomination). His cast includes Dick Cavett, Alice Ripley and Joan Jett. Later replacements include celebrities from the comic duo Penn & Teller to the junk-TV host Jerry Springer.

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Page 1 of 4

'HORROR' AT THE GLOBE

Richard O'Brien's rowdy musical hits
the stage with 'a really current energy'

“ We absolutely are paying homage
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Matt
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JAMES HEBERT • U-T

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SEE 'ROCKY HORROR' • E4

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Online: theoldglobe.org

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'ROCKY HORROR' • Production hit a few speed bumps, but director is confident



**Matt McGrath (left)
as Frank 'N' Furter
and Jason Wooten
as Riff Raff.
HENRY DIROCCO**

Cuing the crowd

A look at some "Rocky Horror" audience traditions. Go ahead, try these at home. (But probably not at the Globe.)

Rice: Tossed at the wedding scene near the show's beginning.

Toilet-paper rolls: Flung when Brad says, "Great Scott!"

Toast: Thrown when Frank proposes (what else?) a toast during a dinner scene.

Flashlights: Switched on during the verse "There's a light," from the song "Over at the Frankenstein Place."

Rubber gloves: Snapped in sync to Frank's actions onstage.

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FROM E1

screenings of the perennially popular 1975 movie. But when the musical lands at the Globe next week, that aspect is likely to be less boisterous than is typically witnessed during the film version.

"We're hoping nobody actually throws things at us onstage," Vasquez admits (although he says the Globe probably will sell "participation kits" containing a few theater-safe items). As far as a more general party mood, though, "we're prepared for audiences that shout nothing back, and we want to be prepared for audiences that are very vocal."

This show about a couple whose path veers off into very unexpected territory has had a couple of serious detours of its own. First, in August, the production lost its lead actor, after it was reported he had pleaded guilty in 2008 to misdemeanor counts involving sexual encounters with a teenage girl seven years earlier. (The Globe said he left due to issues with his wife's pregnancy.)

Then, about a week ago, the show's original director left the production. The theater cited "artistic differences" in that departure. Vasquez, a Juilliard School graduate and Escondido native who has built a strong reputation locally as a director over the past few years, then took over the show. (He had previously been its assistant director; Vasquez also directs the Globe's annual production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!")

"No bones about it, it's an odd situation," says Vasquez, who declined to discuss the circumstances behind the turmoil. "But I will say, the cast is unbelievable. When I officially took over the production, the cast and I sat down and we made a decision among us

"Horror" through history

1973: Richard O'Brien introduces director Jim Sharman to his newly created "Rocky Horror" after the two meet in Australia. The show goes up on London's West End in the summer of '73, and quickly moves to a bigger theater, beginning a run that will last seven years.

1974: "Rocky Horror" opens in Los Angeles, with Tim Curry from the original London cast playing Frank. (Rock-star-to-be Meat Loaf also joins the ensemble.) The following year, the production moves to Broadway — and promptly flops.

1975: The show is made into a movie starring Susan Sarandon, Barry Bostwick and, once again, Curry. "Rocky" creator O'Brien himself plays Riff Raff, as he did in the original stage production. The movie becomes a cult classic, and (thanks mostly to a tradition of midnight showings) eventually becomes the longest-running film release of all time.

2000: Christopher Ashley, now artistic director of La Jolla Playhouse, directs a Broadway revival (and earns his first Tony Award nomination). His cast includes Dick Cavett, Alice Ripley and Joan Jett. Later replacements include celebrities from the comic duo Penn & Teller to the junk-TV host Jerry Springer.

that we needed to move forward and sort of put everything in the past.

"That's what we've done. The cast is enthused, the support from the staff has been unbelievable. Really at this point the goal is to get the best, most raucous show up on that stage. And I think we're on a path to do that."

Leading that cast is Matt McGrath as Frank. The Broadway veteran has some experience in portraying flamboyant, cross-dressing stage dynamos: He did a stint off-Broadway in the title role of "Hedwig and the Angry Inch."

Of course, no stage creation is quite comparable to O'Brien's, with its story line of hard-partying space visitors and a Frankenstein-esque character named Rocky. The whole show is both an homage to and a satire of old creature features.

"You have to try and figure out, what are the aliens' missions, what were they sent here to do, or to take from us or

teach to us?" says McGrath. "I keep getting the impression they're here to figure out what it is to have a good time. And Frank tries to manipulate people and get them to play by his rules."

"He's trying to have such a good time, and he's missing it. He creates someone for himself (Rocky), and that person falls in love with someone else. He's trying to control everything. And you just have to let it go, man."

Speaking of people letting things go: McGrath adds that those who know "Rocky" mostly for the toast-tossing and other audience antics might be surprised by this over-the-top show's capacity to involve an audience with such old-fashioned story attractions as love and longing and a quest for identity.

"It becomes a communal experience," he says of the show. "As all theater really is."

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"Oh, Rocky!" Sydney James Harcourt Heats Up The Old Globe

by Lisa Linsev

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Seated :: Matt McGrath (Frank N Furter) and Sydney James Harcourt as Rocky (standing)

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One of the many "strange things" that happen is the birth of a hunky man named Rocky, who in this production is played by sexy **Sydney James Harcourt**. Based on the behind-the-scenes details Harcourt shared, (with very few Rocky-esque grunts and groans), audiences should prepare to let loose and have fun.

Rocky Horror is really a wild madcap, risqué show, what are rehearsals like?

Rehearsals have been amazing. This is the most fun I've had in theatre. The group is so cohesive. It feels like summer camp, where everybody becomes

friends. Everyone is working hard and there are no slackers or complainers-with each rehearsal we get more and more amped up.

How have you and your cast mates prepared for an audience that will inevitably talk back at you?

We started off rehearsals focusing on the story, what story are we trying to tell? We did not focus on how the audience would respond. There was a first read-through, then the first week we focused on the dance numbers, staging, all of the craft. By the third week we did a full run-through and then after that we began to focus on what the audience might say. We're aware of a lot of the places in the script where people always say things, but we know they will also shout what is on their mind in the moment. And those are the best moments, when something unexpected is said. We will acknowledge it, not ignore it. The show really will celebrate the cult following and be very

Digital

interactive.

I see from your biography, this show is really a new direction for you.

Yes, I started out in a very traditional Broadway show, Bells Are Ringing, a nice whole- some show and what not. Then I was in Lion King and everyone knows what that is about-a lot of costume work and dance, it was also wholesome and earnest. Next I was cast in American Idiot, which is right in your face with sex, drugs, rock-n-roll-Rocky Horror is not too far away from it. Both are contemporary rock shows with great vocals.

So you're an east coast boy?

Yes, it is my first time in San Diego, it's my first time visiting the West Coast for more than a couple days-I'm kinda in love. I did The Wiz in Texas and it was like 113 degrees for 47 days straight. We never went outside; just from one air-conditioned place to the next. Here it is beautiful, especially because they put us up in a hotel right next to Balboa Park. I'm seriously thinking about moving here permanently.

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I am looking forward to the costuming (or lack thereof) !

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Can you reveal any of the special effects or should they stay a surprise?

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How did you prepare for this role?

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How have you and your cast mates prepared for an audience that will inevitably talk back at you?

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Jason Wooten as Riff Raff. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

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WRITTEN FOR THE RAGE MONTHLY BY LISA LIPSEY

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Oh Rocky!!

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COMES TO THE OLD GLOBE** by lisa lipsey



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'I'm just a sweet trans-vestite from transsexual, Transylvania'

'Rocky Horror' struts into the Old Globe, pumps and all

BY GORDON BENNET, *San Diego LGBT Weekly*



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Matt McGrath as Frank 'N' Furter
and Jason Wooten as Riff Raff

After a summer season of classic theater productions – including Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus* and Shakespeare's epics *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Tempest* – The Old Globe is getting a little funky with its next production. The cross-dressing, man-making, time-warping Frank 'N' Furter and his castle-filled ghoulish inhabitants take over the Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, opening Sept. 15 for a two-month run.

Of course, one question begs to be asked. Will The Old Globe Theatre and its patrons be ready for *The Rocky Horror Show*, doctor? Director James Vasquez and The Old Globe are hoping they are.

Vasquez, a San Diego resident, is quickly becoming a household name in the San Diego theatrical community as well as around the country. In an interview with *San Diego LGBT Weekly* he explained what sets this production apart from the many other *Rocky Horror* stage productions people have seen.

"The story is such a fantastic homage to Sci-Fi and B-horror films," said Vasquez. "So we want to be faithful to that, and tip our hats to what people have come to love about *The Rocky Horror (Picture) Show*.

"But it's also 2011," he continued. "The music for our production has been re-orchestrated in such

a way to give it a little harder of an indie rock feel. The fantastic and sexy design of the world – set, costumes, choreography and lighting – match and support that deconstructed indie sound. And then you layer on top of it all, the incredible contemporary voices of the cast! We definitely intend to give audiences a wild night of theater, hopefully unlike anything they've seen before on the Globe stage.”

Vasquez also wanted to bring out the heart of the piece as opposed to it being no more than a spectacle, which a lot of people tend to expect given the cult following the film has.

“So often *The Rocky Horror Show* is thought of as a big ole piece of nonsensical camp,” Vasquez explained. “That’s definitely a part of it, and where a lot of the fun lies. But there’s also a whole lot of heart within the story. Our young heroes, Brad and Janet, start their journey with a very idealist view of the world. Over the course (of time) they learn about themselves, emotionally and sexually, and come together at the end different people, making them stronger as a team. And, of course, the iconic character of Dr. Frank ‘N’ Furter, teaches us to not be afraid to let our personal freak flags fly! ‘Don’t dream it, be it!’”

Rocky Horror started out as a stage production in London back in 1973, and then became the cult film most of us know and love in 1975, starring the talents of the then unknown Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon and Barry Bostwick.

Old Globe Executive Producer Louis G. Spisto lists in his program notes that although most audiences know *Rocky Horror* through the film version, he hopes audiences enjoy the experience of seeing it as it was originally intended – live on stage.

The stage version is different for obvious reasons. One of the major differences is what can, and cannot, be thrown on stage during the show. Most participants and cult followers of the movie know what they should bring to the movie theater to participate in the fun of the film. But the live version is scaled back a bit so as not to endanger the actors on stage.

The stage version premiered at The Roxy Theatre in Los Angeles in 1974, ran for a year and then opened on Broadway in 1975. The show was panned by critics and closed after only 45 performances. It was then revived on Broadway in 2000 and ran for two years.

Filling the enormous pumps of the sweet transvestite, Dr. Frank ‘N’ Furter, will be actor Matt McGrath. McGrath, a Broadway veteran himself, is replacing actor James Barbour who had to exit his contract due to issues with his wife’s pregnancy.

Most audiences will recognize McGrath from his television (*Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, *Now and Again*, and *New York Undercover*) and film appearances (*Broken Hearts Club*, *Boys Don’t Cry* and *The Imposters*). His Broadway, and Off Broadway, credits are many and varied and have included shows like *Cabaret*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*.

Vasquez, a replacement as well, is no stranger to Old Globe audiences. He has been dance captain for *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* since 2003 and took over as director last year for the same production.

“The Globe has been unbelievably supportive, and given me opportunities I’d never dreamed I would get this early in my directing career,” said Vasquez. “I grew up seeing shows at The Globe, (and) had my first professional acting job on the Cassius Carter stage when I was 15.”

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“Well, aside from the incredibly sexy, talented and half naked cast of men and women in high heels, fishnets and false eyelashes ... the show encourages everyone to find their own inner rock star. It’s a story about living out loud, being comfortable with who you are, and, most importantly, celebrating who you are.

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The Rocky Horror Show will run at The Old Globe Theatre from Sept. 15 through Nov. 6. Tickets can be purchased online at oldglobe.org, or by calling the theater at 619-23-GLOBE (234-5623).

Audience par-tici-pation

If getting the chance to throw things in a theater, sing along with the actors, dressing in drag and shouting out random lines from the show is your thing, then missing *The Rocky Horror Show* at The Old Globe would be a mistake.

Rocky Horror the stage version is being presented at The Old Globe this month and while it is very close to the film version there will be some changes.

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Lighter: During the “There’s a light” verse of “*Over at the Frankenstein Place*,” illuminate the theater with the lighter.

Rubber gloves: During and after the creation speech, Frank ‘N’ Furter snaps his rubber gloves three times. You should snap your gloves in sync.

Cards: During the song “*I’m Going Home*” Frank ‘N’ Furter sings, “Cards for sorrow, cards for pain.” You should shower the theater with cards.

The Globe also encourages audience members to feel free to “dress in their finest Rocky Horror fashions (as long as they don’t interfere with the sightlines or comfort of other audience members),” a Globe spokesperson said.

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For patrons who really want to show their true *Rocky Horror* colors, there will be a *Rocky Horror* Costume Bash on Friday, Oct. 28, starting at 7:30 p.m. After the special Halloween performance, guests dressed in their most fabulous costumes will party with the cast of the show in Balboa Park’s Prado ballroom. In addition to cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and dancing, a costume contest will be held. For more information about this event, contact The Globe’s development department at 619-231-1941, Ext. 2380.



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Saturday, October 15, 2011

Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show Camps Out at The Old Globe



**Matt McGrath and Sydney James
Harcourt. Photos by Henry DiRocco**

No one could have guessed that when **Richard O'Brien** combined his love of late night sci-fi movies (*The Day the*



Earth Stood Still, *Flash Gordon*) with the look and sound of 1970s glam rockers like David Bowie (*The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust* and *Spiders from Mars*) a cultural phenomenon was about to be born. What started as a way to have a few laughs became the granddaddy cult classic of them all, *The Rocky Horror Show*.

Watching sweet transvestite Frank 'N' Furter and his minions from the alien planet of transsexual Transylvania may not be as shocking as it once was, but the show still continues to fulfill its original purpose, push a few buttons, and offer up one helluva good time. If you haven't seen a production in awhile, do yourself a favor and make the drive down to The Old Globe in San Diego. Director **James Vazquez** and **JT Horenstein**, responsible for the musical staging and choreography, have put together a stylish *Rocky* that keeps the laughs coming...and coming.

Audience engagement is alive and well. You can purchase an audience participation kit with props to throw and instructions about what to shout, and when, before the show begins. And I have to say, there's something really funny about looking over and seeing otherwise serious theatre patrons (many over the age of 60) raising newspapers over their head, waving lights, and shouting "Say It!" when Frank takes a long pause during the word "antici....pation."



The story set-up finds innocent lovebirds Brad and Janet stranded during a rainstorm in the middle of nowhere, giving the phrase, "it was a dark and stormy night," a whole new

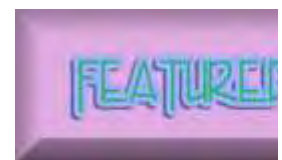


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meaning...especially when they land on the doorstep of sweet transvestite Dr. Frank 'N' Furter. Inside the Frankenstein place they find a kind of over-stimulated time warp where their own sexual boundaries are about to be crossed, cross-dressing is the rage, and nothing is really what it seems. It's all quite silly, and intended to be such, so be prepared to give yourself over to the campy humor for maximum enjoyment.

A kickass onstage band led by musical director **Mike Wilkins** and full throttle performances by the cast keep the energy in high gear, played out on Donyale Werle's kitschy neon/techno-themed set. Grainy black and white projections by **Aaron Rhyme** enhance the 1950s movie house feel along with **Rui Rita's** textural lighting and **Emily Rebholz's** bawdy, colorful costumes.

The role of Frank 'N' Furter comes with a long legacy attached, including the original performance of Tim Curry immortalized on film, but a seductive **Matt McGrath** puts his own spin on it with his playful yet menacing presence. The way he tosses a smart aleck aside to the audience over his shoulder is absolutely hysterical, while posing with his hip thrust to the right pouting like a Goth Tinkerbell in black bustier, fish nets stockings and heels. His nemesis, **David Andrew Macdonald**, is the handsome, tall drink of water who narrates the show before turning into his alter ego, Dr. Scott.



Cast of The Rocky Horror Show

Laura Shoop and **Jason Wooten** double as the Ushers who invite you into the show and brother and sister/lovers Magenta and Riff Raff. Wooten is a straight up hard rocker with a wicked high tenor who previously played the role on



***The 1940's Radio I Co-op, Hollywood**

***A Christmas Wests The Troubies @ The Theatre, Toluca Lak**

***A Cinderella Christ Portal Theatre, N, H**

***Anne of Green Gal Theatre, Anaheim**

***Annie - Cabrillo Mi Thousand Oaks**

***A Sentimental Jou of Doris Day - El Po N, Hollywood**

***A Snow White Chr Portal Theatre, N, H**

***Bring It On: The M Ahmanson Theatre,**

***Candide - Kentwo Westchester Playhc**

***Carnevil - Sacred I Co., Los Angeles**

***Come Fly With Me Theatre, Hollywood**

***Damn Yankees - O Productions @ GEM Garden Grove**

***Don't Hug Me, I'm Secret Rose Theatre Hollywood**

Broadway and Shoop's throaty European accent plays well in tandem.

As the sweet and virginal Janet and her obtuse boyfriend Brad, **Jeanna de Waal** and **Kelsey Kurz** have a few tricks up their sleeves, none the least of which are their own surprisingly powerful singing voices, and **Nadine Isenegger's** Columbia is a spitfire of angst who taps up a storm. And then there's Rocky (**Sydney James Harcourt**), created by Frank 'N' Furter as the perfect companion - muscular, athletic and sexy...and yes boys and girls, he can sing, dance and move in ways that will amaze you.

The Old Globe's splashy and enticing "science fiction double feature" is a winner from beginning to end so rock out with the show before it closes on November 6th!

An additional upcoming event for you die-hard *Rocky* fans out there is the **Rocky Horror Costume Bash** on October 28th. See the performance and join the cast at the after-party in the Prado Ballroom, complete with a DJ, dancing and costume contest. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be provided by the Cohn Restaurant Group. Plus, director James Vasquez will be on hand to teach the "Time Warp." [Click Here](#) for ticket information for the costume bash.

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Do the Time Warp at The Old Globe

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'ROCKY HORROR' STRUTS INTO THE OLD GLOBE. PUMPS AND ALL

BY GORDON BENNET
San Diego LGBT Weekly

**'I'M JUST
A SWEET
TRANS-
VESTITE
FROM
TRANSSEXUAL,
TRANSYLVANIA'**

After a summer season of classic theater productions – including Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus* and Shakespeare's epics *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Tempest* – The Old Globe is getting a little funky with its next production. The cross-dressing, man-making, time-warping Frank 'N' Furter and his castle-filled ghoulish inhabitants take over the Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, opening Sept. 15 for a two-month run.

Of course, one question begs to be asked. Will The Old Globe Theatre and its patrons be ready for *The Rocky Horror Show*, doctor? Director James Vasquez and The Old Globe are hoping they are.

Vasquez, a San Diego resident, is quickly becoming a household name in the San Diego theatrical community as well as around the country. In an interview with *San Diego LGBT Weekly* he explained what sets this production apart from the many other *Rocky Horror* stage productions people have seen.

"The story is such a fantastic homage to Sci-Fi and B-horror films," said Vasquez. "So we want to be faithful to that, and tip our hats to what people have come to love about *The Rocky Horror (Picture) Show*."

"But it's also 2011," he continued. "The music for our production has been re-orchestrated in such a way to give it a little harder of an indie rock feel. The fantastic and sexy design of the world – set, costumes, choreography and lighting – match and support that deconstructed indie sound. And then you layer on top of it all, the incredible contemporary voices of the cast! We definitely intend to give audiences a wild night of theater, hopefully unlike anything they've seen before on the Globe stage."

Vasquez also wanted to bring out the heart of the piece as opposed to it being no more than a spectacle, which a lot of people tend to expect given the cult following the film has.

"So often *The Rocky Horror Show* is thought of as a big ole piece of nonsensical camp," Vasquez explained. "That's definitely a part of it, and where a lot of the fun lies. But there's also a whole lot of heart within the story. Our young heroes, Brad and Janet, start their journey with a very idealist view of the world. Over the course (of time) they learn about themselves, emotionally and sexually, and come together at the end different people, making them stronger as a team. And, of course, the iconic character of Dr. Frank 'N' Furter, teaches us to not be afraid to let our personal freak flags fly! 'Don't dream it, be it!'"

Rocky Horror started out as a stage production in London back in 1973, and then became the cult film most of us know and love in 1975, starring the talents of the then unknown Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon and

see **ROCKY HORROR**, page 18 >>

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» **ROCKY HORROR** from page 16

Barry Bostwick.

Old Globe Executive Producer Louis G. Spisto lists in his program notes that although most audiences know *Rocky Horror* through the film version, he hopes audiences enjoy the experience of seeing it as it was originally intended – live on stage.

The stage version is different for obvious reasons. One of the major differences is what can, and cannot, be thrown on stage during the show. Most participants and cult followers of the movie know what they should bring to the movie theater to participate in the fun of the film. But the live version is scaled back a bit so as not to endanger the actors on stage.

The stage version premiered at The Roxy Theatre in Los Angeles in 1974, ran for a year and then opened on Broadway in 1975. The show was panned by critics and closed after only 45 performances. It was then revived on Broadway in 2000 and ran for two years.

Filling the enormous pumps of the sweet transvestite, Dr. Frank 'N' Furter, will be actor Matt McGrath. McGrath, a Broadway veteran himself, is replacing actor James Barbour who had to exit his contract due to issues with his wife's pregnancy.

Most audiences will recognize McGrath from his television (*Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, *Now and Again*, and *New York Undercover*) and film appearances (*Broken Hearts Club*, *Boys Don't Cry* and *The Imposters*). His Broadway, and Off Broadway, credits are many and varied and have included shows like *Cabaret*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*.

Vasquez, a replacement as well, is no stranger to Old Globe audiences. He has been dance captain for *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* since 2003 and took over as director last year for the same production.

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Matt McGrath
as Frank 'N' Furter

Jason Wooten
as Riff Raff

AUDIENCE PAR-TICI- PATION

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Frank 'N' Furter's turn at the Globe

Posted by **admin** on 9/23/11 • Categorized as **Arts & Entertainment**, **Interviews**

Matt McGrath plays more than just a sweet transvestite.



Matt McGrath conjures up the iconic Frank 'N' Furter at the Old Globe. (Photo by Henry DiRocco)

By Anthony King | GSD Editor

With much antici...pation—and a couple of pre-production hiccups—The Old Globe is staging the queer classic “Richard O’Brien’s The Rocky Horror Show,” over 35 years after the big-screen adaptation starting Tim Curry and Susan Sarandon shook up Hollywood and launched a cult of time-warping followers. Opening night is set for Friday, Sept. 23.

“The Rocky Horror Show” has as much a place in the LGBT community as short shorts and feather boas, so it was a delightful surprise when The Old Globe theater company announced Matt McGrath as replacement for the iconic role of Frank ‘N’ Furter. While McGrath was originally asked to star in the production, due to scheduling conflicts he had to pass. James Barbour was cast, but left during rehearsals due to a family conflict. In the end, McGrath was able to come to San Diego to take the stage, and perhaps steal the show.

No stranger to playing for the gays, McGrath is probably most recognized for his portrayal of the cute gay-nerd, Howie, in “The Broken Hearts Club: A Romantic Comedy” back in 2000. But McGrath has been acting gay on and off for many years, including his role as a troubled teen in the play “Amulets Against the Dragon,” Brandon Teena’s cousin in “Boys Don’t Cry,” and the lead in an off-Broadway production of “Hedwig and the Angry Inch.”

In a phone interview during McGrath’s busy rehearsal schedule, he talked candidly about his initial

interest in “The Rocky Horror Show” production and his memories of working on the film “Boys Don’t Cry.” The interview was done before The Old Globe announced a change in directors, too, although McGrath hints at the difficult relationship between actor, director, and ensemble. San Diego resident James Vásquez was announced as the production’s new director, replacing Oanh Nguyen earlier this month. Nguyen left because of artistic differences.

Gay San Diego: Can you talk a little bit about when and how you were approached for the show? I know the original actor had to leave suddenly.

Matt McGrath: Ahh, what happened. So, I got a phone call from the, I guess the associate here... I had to make a decision right away.

GSD: Was this the first you had heard of it?

MM: They called me before to audition for it originally, or they called for my availability, I guess, and I was not available... It was going to overlap a little bit with another project that I was working on, and so I just didn’t even want to waste their time because I knew I had to do that other project. So then, what happened was, when it all kind of came about so suddenly, I was done with the other project. So, I could get on a plane.

GSD: Did you feel a little rushed?



The full cast of “Richard O’Brien’s The Rocky Horror Show,” directed by James Vásquez, has a ball onstage through Nov. 6. (Photo by Henry DiRocco)

MM: Um, it’s fast (laughs), but the thing is, everyone has been so professional and so helpful that we’ve really been able to focus. There are some things that needed doing and things that weren’t even touched, so I can have my stamp on everything. Everything has just been kind of adapted for

my Frank, which is different than anyone else's would be.

GSD: You're not using his cues or staging? There was still time to get into the character?

MM: No, there was certainly enough time. That's when it really helps that everyone knows how to work really fast.

GSD: How is working with the cast?

MM: They're fun. I mean, gosh, is there a talented cast that I'm stepping into already? I mean, the actress playing Columbia [Nadine Isenegger], I was like, 'God, she looks familiar,' and I realized that when I went to see "A Chorus Line" this last time around in New York, she was standing in for Charlotte d'Amboise. She was the cover...that I saw, which was so cool to see.

GSD: It seems silly to say, but no matter what coast you're on, theater is really a small world

MM: It certainly is, and we all, you know, have mutual friends and different people working on projects at different times, so it's kind of funny to put those pieces together...and I'm shocked that I have not worked with these people [at the Old Globe] because they are really the cream of the crop.

GSD: Is it difficult to stage a play that has such a huge cult following from film? What's going to be different for the audience?

MM: What's going to be different? I think...it's contemporized it a bit. That is like a 40-year-old film, you know. As forward as it was, [this production] is a little bit more of today's type of icon. If you were going to bring it up to date, it would probably be, instead of a Rolling Stones feel, it would be maybe a little more [of a] Lady Gaga, you know.

GSD: At the time, the movie was pretty forward and shocking.

MM: Really shocking. It's shocking because—we were talking about this yesterday—Brad and Janet kind of go from, I mean, the film is doing this too, it's commenting on the '50s movies, taking you out of that world of "Pillow Talk" or Doris Day or "Peyton Place" and putting you into a haunted mansion...that is overrun by aliens. It's like connecting this weird [progression] through the fifties on into the "Star Wars" era, or it would probably be "Star Trek." So that's always going to be driving forward, you know, other life coming here to find out the secret to life and what makes humans tick.

GSD: You've been very busy on the stage, perhaps more so than in film. Do you have a preference?

MM: I love both mediums, I think it's really fun to create a character and bring it to life on film as well

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Participants in 2010's AIDS Walk & Run raised money for local HIV organizations, including San Ysidro Heath Center's CASA program. The LGBT Center hopes this year's event will be the largest to date. (Courtesy AIDS Walk & Run San Diego)



AIDS Walk & Run utilizes creative fundraising

A difficult economic climate has the organization, walkers and recipients aware of this year's event

By Margie M. Palmer | GSD Reporter

It is no secret that governmental funding for HIV/AIDS services has been on the decline. Yet through annual fundraising efforts like San Diego's AIDS Walk & Run, local community service

providers can continue to offer prevention and care to those who need them. The event is the largest one-day HIV/AIDS fundraiser and biggest non-governmental financial provider for HIV related social services in San Diego County. Dr. Delores Jacobs, Chief Executive Officer of

the San Diego LGBT Community Center, said she is hopeful that this year's 22nd annual AIDS Walk & Run will raise "as much money as possible, considering the current economic climate."

see Walk, pg 20



(l to r) Retired Colonial Stewart Bornhoft, Corporal Evelyn Thomas, Naval nurse Christine Ensign, and Staff Sergeant Eric Alva spoke at the LGBT Center's Freedom to Serve rally in celebration of the DADT repeal. Speakers not pictured are Lieutenant Jen Kopfstein and the Center's CEO, Delores Jacobs. (Photo by GSD)

With Liberty and Justice for All

San Diego leaders gather for the nation's DADT repeal

By Anthony King | GSD Editor

Military service members and San Diego elected officials joined the LGBT community on Tuesday, Sept. 20 in several celebrations throughout San Diego to mark the official end of "don't ask, don't tell." The discriminatory policy barring openly gay and lesbian members from serving in any branch of the United States military officially ended the same day.

The largest event, the Freedom to Serve rally, was held at the LGBT Community Center on Centre Street in Hillcrest at 6 p.m. and drew over 200 people. Shortly after, the Military Acceptance Project held a second celebration, the Salute to LGBT Service Members and End

of DADT, from 7 to 10 p.m. at Bourbon Street in University Heights.

San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria spoke at the Bourbon Street event to a crowd of approximately 100 people. Honored at this event were Eric Alva, Sean Sala, Joe Whitaker, Kim Martinez and Jen Kopfstein, among others. Gloria was in attendance at the Center's rally as well.

North of Hillcrest, at the 94th Aero Squadron restaurant on Balboa Ave., the Log Cabin Republicans of San Diego County hosted a celebration featuring Assemblymember and San Diego Mayoral candidate Nathan Fletcher. The Log Cabin Republicans lead the 2004 lawsuit

see DADT, pg 20

Fundraising affects local nonprofit

Stepping Stone recovery home celebrates 35 years of service with annual cruise amid a challenging financial environment

By Lee Schoenbart | GSD Reporter

Fundraisers are a mainstay and necessity for nonprofit organizations, especially when government funding is scrutinized and tight. Stepping Stone, a residential care facility offering treatment programs for alcohol and drug addiction, has been reliant on both government funding and individual donations since its inception in 1976. Throughout the last few years, however, the organization has been feeling the pinch of tighter budgets while their client load remains steady.

"Our challenge right now is the continued decrease of funding for our clients," said Catherine Aquino, Stepping Stone's interim director of residential operations. "The

see Stone, pg 4

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FRANK 'N' FURTER'S TURN AT THE GLOBE

By Antoine Le Roi | GSD Editor

Matt McGrath plays more than just a sweet transvestite

With much anticipation—and a couple of pre-production hiccups—The Old Globe is staging the queer classic “Richard O’Brien’s The Rocky Horror Show” over 35 years after the big-screen adaptation starring Tim Curry and Susan Sarandon shook up Hollywood and launched a cult of time-warping followers. Opening night is set for Friday, Sept. 23.

“The Rocky Horror Show” has as much a place in the LGBT community as short shorts and feather boas, so it was a delightful surprise when The Old Globe theater company announced Matt McGrath as replacement for the iconic role of Frank ‘N’ Furter. While McGrath was originally asked to star in the production, due to scheduling conflicts he had to pass. James Barbour was cast, but left during rehearsals due to a family conflict. In the end, McGrath was able to come to San Diego to take the stage, and perhaps steal the show.

No stranger to playing for the gays, McGrath is probably most recognized for his portrayal of the cute gay-nerd, Howie, in “The Broken Hearts Club:

A Romantic Comedy” back in 2000. But McGrath has been acting gay on and off for many years, including his role as a troubled teen in the play “Amulet Against the Dragon,” Brandon Teena’s cousin in “Boys Don’t Cry,” and the lead in an off-Broadway production of “Hedwig and the Angry Inch.”

In a phone interview during McGrath’s busy rehearsal schedule, he talked candidly about his initial interest in “The Rocky Horror Show” production and his memories of working on the film “Boys Don’t Cry.” The interview was done before The Old Globe announced a change in directors, too, although McGrath hints at the difficult relationship between actor, director, and ensemble. San Diego resident James Vásquez was announced as the production’s new director, replacing Oanh Nguyen earlier this month. Nguyen left because of artistic differences.

Gay San Diego: Can you talk a little bit about when and how you were approached for the show?

see Horror, pg 10

Matt McGrath conjures up the iconic Frank 'N' Furter at the Old Globe.
(Photo by Henry DiRocco)

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FROM PAGE 9
HORROR

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The full cast of "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show," directed by James Vásquez, has a ball onstage through Nov. 6. (Photo by Henry DiRocco)

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9 INTERVIEW



Matt McGrath talks the
"Time Warp"



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By Antoine Le Roi | GSD Editor

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MM: Really shocking. It's shocking because—we were talking about this yesterday—Brad and Janet kind of go from, I mean, the film is doing this too, it's commenting on the '50s movies, taking you out of that world of "Pillow Talk" or Doris Day or "Peyton Place" and putting you into a haunted mansion...that is overrun by aliens. It's like connecting this weird [progression] through the fifties on into the "Star Wars" era, or it would probably be "Star Trek." So that's always going to be driving forward, you know, other life coming here to find out the secret to life and what makes humans tick.

GSD: You've been very busy on the stage, perhaps more so than in film. Do you have a preference?

MM: I love both mediums, I think it's really fun to create a character and bring it to life on film as well as on stage. There's a whole process, you know, a whole other process... Mostly [for film], you do a lot of your work...pretty much on your own. Most rehearsal is done before you shoot, and every scene is rehearsed right before you are going to do it. Here [on stage], you're working with a lot of people, with a musical, I mean, and everybody is there and everybody has to show up on time and everybody's got to be ready to dive right in and work... It's getting up on your feet and doing it for seven hours a day and finding it in a room full of people.

GSD: You've also directed on stage, is it difficult to be acting after coming from the director's role?

MM: Yeah, I've directed a few one person shows recently, over the past few years. That's fascinating because, you know, in a couple of situations I've had to kind of dive into those things. At the end of the day, I think of how I would do it, [or] how I would perform this, so I have that kind of experience behind me.

GSD: So it has been beneficial, in a sense, to be able to draw on both skill sets in your work.

MM: Right, but at the same time you're working with an artist that is very expressive and has to draw from their own strength and you have to kind of really only rely on those things that you might do [so] you can articulate it to the other artists.

GSD: In the reverse, how does having directed help you in your acting?

FROM PAGE 10 HORROR

MM: Well, in terms of time and things, you know, it probably helps a little bit to know where you should stand, in terms of looking at a set and [looking at] what the strong vantage points [are] for different things and when you can kind of turn and give the focus to whoever else is speaking. There are stories being told through the pictures on set, on the stage, I mean, but you probably are better off just trying to be as truthful as possible and let the director do the directing. It doesn't help your fellow actors when you're wearing your director's hat while they're acting. You've got to be in there with them.

GSD: I would imagine it would be a bit difficult to be both director and actor.

MM: Right, exactly, and you know there can only be one head honcho.

GSD: The have quite a history with the LGBT community, in film and on stage. How do you see your role in LGBT culture?

MM: How do I see it? I'm very involved in [it]. I have been to a lot of the fundraisers for, in New York at least, for gay marriage [and] equality. I went to a lovely...lunch that Mayor Bloomberg had just a couple of weeks before we passed it... I'm fortunate in that regard, to a degree. I try to give as much as I can with my time and resources.

GSD: What I mean is, what do you feel about your stamp on gay culture, through your film and stage work?

MM: Of course, my involvement in playing gay characters—not just playing gay characters, but playing people that are, first of all, trying to heal from a society that is not very open to them—was my first foray. Out of school, I did this play called "Amulets Against the Dragon Forces"...that was the first kind of feeling of the power of [the gay community]. People still walk up to me and say, "You know I saw that little play...down in Sheridan Square." It was so heartbreaking to see a 15-year-old boy, [or] what that must have been like for a 15-year-old person that's not out of the closet, how we hide and how they can be in great, great peril...

GSD: The same could be said for your work in film, too. The character in "Boys Don't Cry" was also someone trying to heal from society.

MM: For "Boys Don't Cry,"... I happened to be doing a film lab at Sundance the same season that Kim Peirce was doing her workshop of what was called "Take it Like a Man," at the time, which became "Boys Don't Cry." I picked up the script because you're encouraged to read all of the scripts... I started reading it, I realized it was the Brandon Teena story, and I pretty much accosted [Pierce] (laughs). I pretty much just wrestled her to the ground and said, "What do you want me to do? I'll do anything..." Then, it turned out that her lead, Clea DuVall, who was doing the workshop, was shooting a movie

see Horror, pg 11



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Sydney James Harcourt (center) as the hunky Rocky gets fawned over by the cast. Matt McGrath's Frank 'N' Furter watches on from behind. (Photo by Henry DiRocco)

and she had to be gone for a day, so [Pierce] was going to lose a day with Clea. She asked me actually to play Brandon Teena with the kids, and to stand in the middle of it while they really kind

of tormented Brandon Teena.

GSD: Oh, wow. I didn't know that you were involved that early.

MM: Yeah, so that was really

interesting to get into, to be standing in the middle of that [and] to feel what that must have felt like. Then it was just a joy to be asked to play the cousin, Lonny, who cuts [Brandon's]

hair and turns her into a boy, who tries to help her and ends up kicking her out of the trailer. Working with Hilary [Swank] and watching her create that character for herself was just magic... I think I posted three weeks before we started filming, because we both flew down to west Dallas on the same day. So I spent like a month with [Hilary], just kind of hanging out. I only knew her dressed as a boy and wearing boys' clothes and when she walked out on the stage at the New York Film Festival, I was like, who the f is that? (laughs).

GSD: One of your greatest roles, for the gays, was Howie in the "Broken Hearts Club." I'm excited for those fans here, who haven't gotten the chance to see you on stage in New York, to come and see you at the Globe. I think it will be a good draw.

MM: Oh, that's great. I love me some "Broken Hearts Club" fans (laughs). I think maybe we'll have to encourage Greg [Berlanti] to make a sequel. ▼

Fans of McGrath and the classic "Rocky Horror Show" can get their tickets from **The Old Globe** online at oldglobe.org or by calling (619) 234-5623. The show runs through Nov. 6, with an out at the Old Globe night for LGBT theatergoers scheduled for Oct. 6 and a "Rocky Horror" costume bash scheduled for Oct. 28.

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Props 'til you drop at 'Rocky Horror'

Globe is peddling 'participation bags' for musical; so what's in the kit?

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Janet (Jeanna de Waal) and Brad (Kelsey Kurz) demonstrate the proper use of props in "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show" at the Old Globe. — Henry DiRocco



Written by
**James
Hebert**

Hello and welcome to the feature that addresses that eternal question, "Why are you carrying a rubber glove around in a little bag?"



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Props 'til you drop at 'Rocky Horror'



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Bringing back the 'Time Warp'

'Rocky Horror' actor departs Globe production

"Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show," the raucous, retro musical that just opened at the Old Globe Theatre, is known for its raciness, its sci-fi vibe and its infernally catchy dance number "The Time Warp."

It's also known (as is the 1975 movie adaptation) for its high degree of audience interactivity. Put more simply: The show's fans like to yell and throw stuff.

In movie theaters, that stuff can include rice, toast, even hot dogs, all hurled on cue to certain scenes or lines. In live theater, not so much; it's the rare actor who relishes getting smacked with a frankfurter, even if he (or she!) happens to be playing the show's central character, Frank 'N' Furter.

So to help control the potential chaos, the Globe is selling "participation bags" for \$3 a pop at each "Rocky" performance. What do you get for the money? Let's take a look inside:

- **Latex glove:** This festive accessory (which comes in the customary industrial-yellow) is meant to be slipped on and snapped during a scene at the end of the song "Sweet Transvestite," when Frank does the same. (The Globe kits include a helpful instruction sheet, by the way.)
- **Newspaper:** For holding over your head just as the character Janet does when she and her beau Brad get caught in the rain. (Also helpful for hiding your face when you spot your retired middle-school English teacher shimmying in fishnets three rows away.)
- **LED "lighter":** A mini-flashlight for waving soulfully to and fro during the verse *There's a light ...* in the song "Over at the Frankenstein Place." (On opening night last week, I saw one ultra-prepared playgoer waving an iPhone that displayed an illuminated "candle" app. This might be a good time to note, though, that the Globe is not encouraging patrons to bring their own props.)
- **Spindly red balloon:** This one's a bit of a mystery; the theater says to have it "ready to snap and toss in the air at the top of Act II," adding that the Globe promotes "safety in all its forms." Random noise-making opportunity, or veiled reference to contraception? You decide!
- **Playing cards:** These are to be tossed in the air during the song "I'm Going Home," when Frank sings the lyrics *Cards for sorrow, cards for pain ...*. True story: The cards I received formed a straight flush. (Still wondering what I won.)

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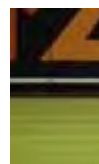
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Doing the Time Warp Again:

The Rocky Horror Show at Old Globe Theatre

You can't keep a good transvestite down: Despite a rocky rehearsal period that saw its director and star swapped out, the revival of *The Rocky Horror Show* this fall at San Diego's Old Globe Theatre brought out the fans in hordes. Richard O'Brien's mashup of science-fiction clichés and inside-Hollywood camp gags may be

close to turning the big Four-O, but its hold on aficionados—who love to participate in the action—hasn't dimmed. According to a review in the *San Diego Reader*, "The audience, dressed as the various characters, carried on a dialogue with the dialogue. Bics flicked, rice flew, and the place went wild. Charger games never had this energy."

The Old Globe production benefited from a cheeky design, starting with Donyale Werle's setting, an abandoned theatre/mad scientist's lab. Seeking inspiration, Werle looked at "Broadway houses, burlesque houses that became movie theatres, porn theatres—all of which have history built into them." She also drew on all sorts

Photo: Donyale Werle

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of pop cultural material—including science-fiction films and the oeuvre of Lady Gaga—to create the right setting for a show that is both a spoof of Hollywood excesses and a self-conscious theatrical presentation.

A dedicated upcycler, Werle managed to stay inside her budget by pulling materials from the theatre's stock. "Alexander Dodge designed an aluminum framework for the musical *Sammy* [which played at the Old Globe earlier in the year]; we needed a proscenium, and I was able to lay mine on top of his structure. We rounded the corners off, broke it in half, and covered it in plywood, foam, and rope. There was also a lot of rope light, which was placed in the truss. And the theatre had a ton of pebbled Plexiglas that we were able to use." Even more cunningly, she created a dimensional wall—seen through four upstage doors—with recycled materials. "It's all plastic bottles," she says. "The company saved them for two months. We cut them into spirals and made a sculpture by interweaving the plastic around a steel structure." She even got a hit Broadway show into the act: "*Wicked* swaps all out its scrolls each year; I used their cast-off blue and green gel, winding it around the bottles to make an underwater-looking sculpture; aliens came through these doors, like creatures emerging from the womb."

The set's "stone" surface was actually a graphic, printed locally on an adhesive material and affixed to the set. And, for the control console in the lab of Frank N. Furter, Werle says, "We used forks, picture hangers, buttons, and washers. We went to a salvage yard and got all kinds of weird-looking tubes. The structure is composed of repurposed Plexiglas." Thanks to the musical's presentational nature—it climaxes in a bizarre "floor show" before blasting off into outer space, Werle drew on the theatre's supply of scrims and cycs; the floor show curtain was *Encore*, supplied by Rose Brand. Also, she says, "The legs and borders came from a high school in Ohio. Ben Thoron [Old Globe's TD] is involved in

a technical director's website; he said he was looking for red drapery, and the school shipped them to him."

"The approach was to make it as visually and aurally stimulating as we could," says Rui Rita, the lighting designer. Best known in New York for lighting straight dramas, especially the plays of Horton Foote, he relished the opportunity to rock out on *Rocky Horror*. "We made a conscious effort to expose all of the lighting instruments," he says. "The castle interiors had lights attached to the walls. We

weren't trying to be clever about hiding anything; we fully acknowledged what we were doing." The gear included a series of vertical striplights (a combination of Altman and L&E models), which constituted a visual element all by themselves, as well as eight Philips Vari*Lite VL3500s and two City Theatrical AutoYokes, which were used as front-of-house specials and to supplement the work of the show's followspots. The automated gear was rented from PRG's Los Angeles office.

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The sheets (right) show which elements of Werle's *Rocky Horror Show* design were made using repurposed or recycled elements in the Old Globe's inventory.

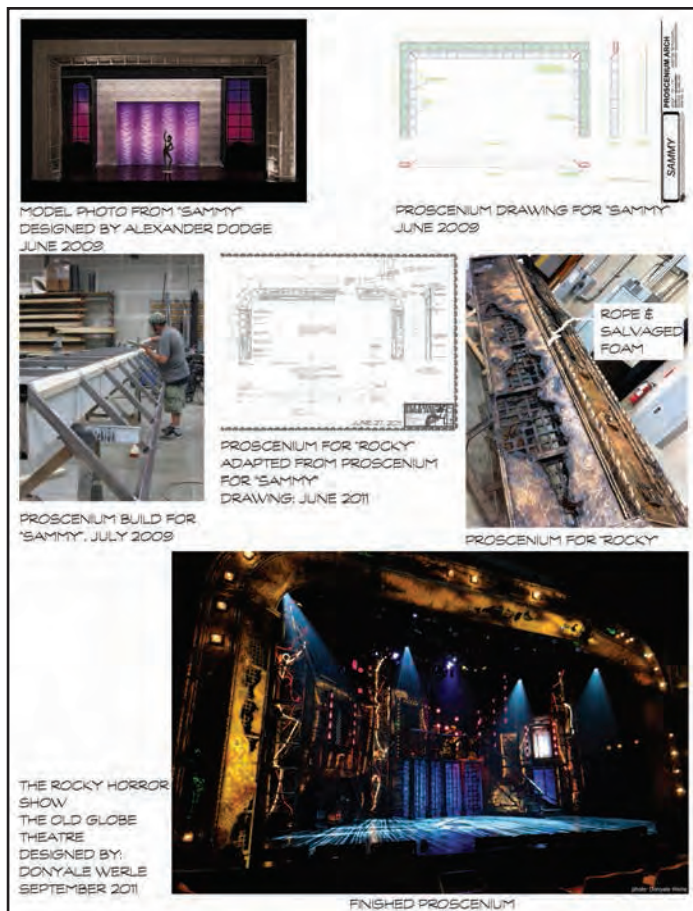
is barely enough, Rita worked his gear to the maximum. "There were upwards of 900 cues," he says. "'The Time Warp' alone has 97. It's tightly cued to the music. I spent a lot of time in rehearsal, so once we got the theatre, I had most of my moving light presets and followspots planned. After that, it was just a matter of execution. I was very lucky to have a great stage manager, Anjee Nero. She's very musical."

Embracing a rock-concert aesthetic, Rita used the vertical striplights as audience blinders, and lent a different color profile to each number. "'Time Warp' is all golds and greens," he says. "'Sweet Transvestite' is in white and teal. 'Hot Patootie' is complete chaos, with plenty of movement and a multicolor approach." The designer mixed in the rope light mentioned above, and also used Philips Color Kinetics ColorBlast LED units to add eerie color touches to the lab. The lighting was controlled by an ETC Eos, which was part of the rental package.

Rita adds that he worked out his cueing in close collaboration with Aaron Rhyne, the projection designer. The opening scenes begin with a screen in place downstage; Rhyne used it to show the musical's iconic logo—a pair of blood-



Photo: Donyale Werle



red lips—and also employed imagery to take the action from the church, where ingénues Brad and Janet have attended a wedding, to the castle where Frank N. Furter is conducting his unspeakable experiments. Columbia and Magenta, the show's sinister usherette figures, sang the opening number, "Science Fiction Double Feature," in front of a collage of front-projected B-movie footage. "I spent three days watching old horror movies," says the designer, who adds that he avoided films referenced in the song's lengthy list of minor Hollywood figures (Fay Wray, Leo G. Carroll, *Forbidden Planet*), for a fresher approach.

Rhyne used a Dataton WATCHOUT media server, five Viewsonic 5K units for rear projection, and two Christie 12K units for front projection. The images were cued through the Eos, an approach that the designer says is "essential on a show like this. It's very cue-heavy, so whenever Rui would change a look, I would change a look. Had we not been linked, it could have been a disaster."

All three designers note the importance of the three-way collaboration: "I feel like we all came together in a very strong way," says Rita. And everyone says that the *Rocky Horror* fans turned out en masse, ready to take part in the action. Apparently, there's no time warp for O'Brien's campy tribute to mid-20th century pop culture. *The Rocky Horror Show* closed in mid-November. 📺

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Whether you're seeking refuge from a rainy afternoon, or searching for unique ways to cool off during the unexpected heat wave, [San Diego theatres](#) always offer the perfect escape. This fall, leading San Diego playhouses are introducing a range of excellent [productions](#), including *The Rocky Horror Show* at The Old Globe Theatre, *HAIR* at Civic Theatre, *Jesus Christ Superstar* at La Jolla Playhouse and more.

Want to win a party-pack of 4 tickets to see *The Rocky Horror Show* at The Old Globe Theatre and dinner for 4 at The Prado Restaurant? Our friends over at [SignonSanDiego.com](#) are running a new interactive

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contest, and you're invited to join the fun. All you need to do is film and upload a video of yourself doing The Time Warp dance. All videos must be uploaded by Sunday, October 2 at 11pm. Get [details](#).

[The Old Globe Theatre](#) is embracing the fall season with a production of Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show*. During this wild, sexy, tongue-in-cheek interactive musical, strange things happen when Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a

flat in the middle of nowhere. Do The Time Warp and get in the mood for Halloween as *The Rocky Horror Show* takes the stage, **September 15 - November 6**.

Do The Time Warp and win big with The Old Globe Theatre and [SignonSanDiego.com](#).

Photo courtesy of The Old Globe Theatre - view more on their [Facebook gallery](#)

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By Peggy Peattie

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Teresa Rocha posed in the cut-out wall promotion for Rocky Horror Picture Show, while Audrey Billups, right, took her picture at Cityfest 2011 Sunday in Hillcrest.

Cityfest 2011 took over the heart of Hillcrest Sunday afternoon and evening, with booths, food, music and a few flash mob performances themed on the Old Globe Theater's production of Rocky Horror Picture Show.

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Justin Bartha

Justin Bartha, Remy Auberjonois and Camille Mana Confirmed for *Asuncion* Off-Broadway

Justin Bartha, who currently stars in the Second Stage Theatre production of *All New People*, has been confirmed to co-star opposite Jesse Eisenberg in the world premiere of *Asuncion* Off-Broadway this fall.

Christopher Sieber Will Join George Hamilton in *La Cage* Tour; Complete Cast and Tour Itinerary Announced



Tony nominee Christopher Sieber will join the previously announced George Hamilton in the national tour of *La Cage aux Folles*. Playbill.com has obtained the touring itinerary and the character breakdown.



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Highlights From Off-Broadway's Reinvented *Rent*



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Tony Award Nominee Diane Paulus Responds to *Porgy and Bess* Criticism



Old Globe's *Rocky Horror* Will Star James Barbour, Andrew Call, Jeanna de Waal and More

Yale Rep Adds World Premiere of Christina Anderson's *Good Goods*; Tina Landau Directs



A New Season of Love: *Rent*, Three Years After Broadway End, Opens Again in NYC



Alex Brightman, Matt Dengler and Jonathan Rayson Will Join Judy McLane in Pioneer's *Next to Normal*

Broadway's *Memphis* Will Welcome Conservative Radio Host Mike Gallagher

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Playbill Video Spends the Afternoon at Broadway in Bryant Park—Week Five (Video)

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Bette Midler Talks Priscilla Queen of the Desert in Musical's New Commercial (Video)

Melissa Errico's Musings About Her Upcoming CD, "Legrand Affair"

Cast and Creative Team Members of Death Takes a Holiday Hit the Red Carpet on Opening Night (Video)

Broadway's Jersey Boys Perform "Walk Like a Man" on "Access Hollywood" (Video)

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The WEEK AHEAD: Aug. 6-12

The dog days of summer offer up some great things to do this WEEK AHEAD. A triumphant return for Follies... Simon Russell Beale brings his genre...

The WEEK AHEAD: July 30-Aug. 5

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Old Globe's Rocky Horror Will Star James Barbour, Andrew Call, Jeanna de Waal and More

By [Kenneth Jones](#)

11 Aug 2011



James Barbour
Photo by Ed Krieger

James Barbour, of Broadway's *Assassins*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Jane Eyre*, will star as the "transvestite from Transylvania," Frank 'N' Furter, in The Old Globe's new production of *The Rocky Horror Show*.

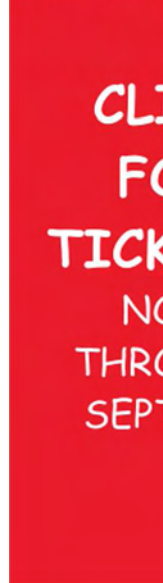
The rock musical by Richard O'Brien will play the San Diego resident theatre Sept. 15-Nov. 6. Opening night is Sept. 23. Oanh Nguyen directs the classic cult musical with book, music and lyrics by O'Brien, choreography by JT Horenstein and music direction by Mike Wilkins.

The cast also features Andrew Call (Eddie, Phantom), Jeanna de Waal (Janet), Sydney James Harcourt (Rocky),

Nadine Isenegger (Columbia), Lauren Lim Jackson (Phantom), Kelsey Kurz (Brad), David Andrew Macdonald (Narrator, Dr. Scott), Anna Schnaitter (Phantom), Laura Shoop (Magenta), Kit Treece (Phantom) and Jason Wooten (Riff Raff).

The 1973 musical that became a cult-hit movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon (with screenings at which audience members act out the picture and dress in costume) concerns Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs who stumble into the world of "the devilishly charming transvestite Dr. Frank 'N' Furter...and his mysterious laboratory," offering a "a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities — and, perhaps, true love."

The creative team also includes Donyale Werle



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(scenic design), Emily Rebholz (costume design), Rui Rita (lighting design), Kevin Kennedy (sound design), Aaron Rhyne (projection design) and Anjee Nero (stage mnager).

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James Barbour to Star in Old Globe's *Rocky Horror Show*

By: **Dan Bacalzo** · Aug 11, 2011 · San Diego

James Barbour will star as Frank 'N' Furter in the Old Globe Theatre's revival of *The Rocky Horror Show*, the classic cult musical with book, music and lyrics by Richard O'Brien. Oanh Nguyen will direct the production, which will run September 15-November 6, with an opening on September 23.

In the show, when a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere, they seek help from the devilishly charming transvestite Dr. Frank 'N' Furter. What they discover in his mysterious laboratory is a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities - and, perhaps, true love.

The cast will also feature Andrew Call (Eddie, Phantom), Jeanna de Waal (Janet), Sydney James Harcourt (Rocky), Nadine Isenegger (Columbia), Lauren Lim Jackson (Phantom), Kelsey Kurz (Brad), David Andrew Macdonald (Narrator, Dr. Scott), Anna Schnaitter (Phantom), Laura Shoop (Magenta), Kit Treece (Phantom), and Jason Wooten (Riff Raff).

The creative team will feature JT Horenstein (choreography), Mike Wilkins (music direction), Donyale Werle (scenic design), Emily Rebholz (costume design), Rui Rita (lighting design), Kevin Kennedy (sound design), and Aaron Rhyne (projection design).

For tickets and more information, [click here](#).



James Barbour in *The Rocky Horror Show*
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Executive Producer [Lou Spisto](#) today announced the complete cast and creative team for [The Old Globe](#)'s revival of [Richard O'Brien](#)'s *The Rocky Horror Show*. [Oanh Nguyen](#) directs the classic cult musical with book, music and lyrics by [Richard O'Brien](#), choreography by [JT Horenstein](#) and music direction by Mike Wilkins. The *Rocky Horror Show* will run in the [Old Globe Theatre](#), part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, Sept. 15 - Nov. 6. Preview performances run Sept. 15 - Sept. 22. Opening night is Friday, Sept. 23 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are currently available by subscription only. Single tickets will go on sale online on Friday, Aug. 19 at midnight. Single tickets will go on sale at the Globe Box Office on Sunday, Aug. 21 at 10:00 a.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

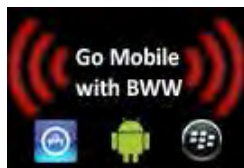
The musical that became a movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon is back where it is meant to be seen - live on stage. When Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere, they seek help from the devilishly charming transvestite Dr. Frank 'N' Furter. What they discover in his mysterious laboratory is a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities - and, perhaps, true love.

Veteran stage actor [James Barbour](#) stars as the famed transvestite from Transylvania, Frank 'N' Furter. Barbour created the role of Sydney Carton in the recent musical adaptation of *A Tale of Two Cities* and starred in it on Broadway. His other Broadway credits include *Carousel*, *Jane Eyre*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Urinetown*, *Assassins* and *Cyrano: The Musical*.

The cast of *The Rocky Horror Show* also includes [Andrew Call](#) (Eddie, Phantom), [Jeanna de Waal](#) (Janet), Sydney [James Harcourt](#) (Rocky), [Nadine Isenegger](#) (Columbia), [Lauren Lim Jackson](#) (Phantom), [Kelsey Kurz](#) (Brad), [David Andrew Macdonald](#) (Narrator, Dr. Scott), [Anna Schnaitter](#) (Phantom), [Laura Shoop](#) (Magenta), Kit Treece (Phantom) and [Jason Wooten](#) (Riff Raff).

The creative team also includes [Donyale Werle](#) (Scenic Design), [Emily Rebholz](#) (Costume Design), [Rui Rita](#) (Lighting Design), [Kevin Kennedy](#) (Sound Design), [Aaron Rhyné](#) (Projection Design) and [Anjee Nero](#) (Stage Manager).

Playwright and composer [Richard O'Brien](#) began his career as an actor, performing in the London productions of *Hair* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* in the 1970s. With the guidance of director [Jim Sharman](#), O'Brien opened his musical *The Rocky Horror Show* at the Theatre Upstairs in 1973. Within weeks it became a cult theater hit and quickly led to an original cast album. Two years later O'Brien and Sharman adapted it into a film, retitled *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, starring [Tim Curry](#), [Susan Sarandon](#) and



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Barry Bostwick. Though the material was highly provocative for its time, including depictions of gay and transgender culture, the movie gained a huge cult following and made stars of its leads. O'Brien himself appeared in the movie as Riff Raff. Still in limited release 35 years after its premiere, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* is the longest-running theatrical release in film history. O'Brien created a follow-up movie, *Shock Treatment*, and several more stage musicals in the '80s, and he continued to act in bit parts in cult films such as *Flash Gordon*, *Dark City*, *Ever After* and *Dungeons & Dragons*. In 1998 he released a CD, entitled *Absolute O'Brien*, of music from his one-man revue, *Disgracefully Yours*. He served as the host of the popular British game show "The Crystal Maze" and appeared on the West End in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. He also occasionally does cabaret-style music and comedy performances on stages around the world, singing songs from *Rocky Horror*, among others.

Director **Oanh Nguyen** recently directed the acclaimed Chance **Theater Productions** of *The Who's Tommy* (recently remounted at Segerstrom Center for the Arts; five Ovation Award nominations, including Best Director and Best Musical, three Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle (LADCC) Award nominations and two Back Stage Garland Awards) and *Hair* (five Ovation Award nominations, including Best Director and Best Musical, and six LADCC Award nominations, including Best Director and Best Revival). He co-founded Chance Theater in 1999, where he is currently Artistic Director. He also serves as the Producing Associate at **South Coast Repertory** as part of Theatre Communications Group's New Generations Program. Nguyen was awarded the Outstanding Artist Award by Arts Orange County and is a recipient of the TCG Nathan Cummings Young Leaders of Color fellowship. Nguyen recently directed the West Coast premiere of *Po Boy Tango* by Kenneth Lin at East West Players. He was also the Associate Director of the world premiere of *The Happy Ones* by **Julie Marie Myatt** at **South Coast Repertory** (nominated for two LADCC Awards, including Best Production). His other directing credits include the world premiere of *The Girl, the Grouch and the Goat* by Tony Award winner **Mark Hollmann**, *Three Days of Rain*, *Bash*, *Lee Miller: The Angel and The Fiend*, *Goodnight Children Everywhere*, *Tape*, *Closer Than Ever*, *Porcelain*, *Cabaret*, *Into the Woods*, *The Laramie Project*, *Jesus Hates Me* (remounted at **South Coast Repertory**), *Inventing Van Gogh*, *Frozen*, *The Last Five Years*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Assassins*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Merrily We Roll Along* and *Welcome Home, Jenny Sutter*.

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TICKETS to [Richard O'Brien](#)'s The Rocky Horror Show can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

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Director [Oanh Nguyen](#) (center) and the cast of [Richard O'Brien's](#) The Rocky Horror Show



Mike Wilkins, director [Oanh Nguyen](#) and choreographer [JT Horenstein](#)



[Oanh Nguyen](#)



[David Andrew Macdonald](#), [Jeanna de Waal](#) and [Kelsey Kurz](#)



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James Barbour Goes Tranny for Old Globe's *Rocky Horror Show*

NEWS By Broadway.com Staff August 11, 2011 - 2:55PM

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James Barbour as Frank 'N' Furter

*He's just a sweet
transvestite...*

James Barbour, the Broadway leading man known for his rich baritone voice and dashing romantic roles, has gone tranny. He headlines the Old Globe Theatre production of *The Rocky Horror Show* as that sweet transvestite from Transylvania, Frank 'N' Furter. The musical plays the San Diego theater from September 15 through November 6.

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Also featured in the show are Andrew Call (as Eddie), Jeanna de Waal (Janet), Sydney James Harcourt (Rocky), Nadine Isenegger (Columbia), Kelsey Kurz (Brad), David Andrew Macdonald (Narrator/Dr. Scott), Laura Shoop (Magenta) and Jason Wooten (Riff Raff). Rounding out the ensemble are Lauren Lim Johnson, Anna Schnaitter and Kit Treece. Oanh Nguyen directs the cult classic, written by Richard O'Brien.



Barbour's Broadway credits include *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Jane Eyre*, *Assassins*, *Urinetown*, *Cyrano: The Musical*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Carousel*.

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PHOTO CALL: Meet the Cast of the Old Globe's Rocky Horror Show, With Matt McGrath and Jason Wooten

By [Matthew Blank](#)
 30 Aug 2011

Matt McGrath will star as the "transvestite from Transylvania," Frank 'N' Furter, in The Old Globe's upcoming production of *The Rocky Horror Show*.

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Oanh Nguyen directs the musical with book, music and lyrics by Richard O'Brien, choreography by JT Horenstein and music direction by Mike Wilkins. *The Rocky Horror Show* will run Sept. 15-Nov. 6 in the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego.

Here's how Old Globe bills the show: "The musical that became a movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon is back where it is meant to be

seen — live on stage. When Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere, they seek help from the devilishly charming transvestite Dr. Frank 'N' Furter. What they discover in his mysterious laboratory is a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities — and, perhaps, true love."

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Here's a look at the cast:

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Matt McGrath and Jason Wooten
Photo by Henry DiRocco

The company of *The Rocky Horror Show* also includes Andrew Call (Eddie, Phantom), Jeanna de Waal (Janet), Sydney James Harcourt (Rocky), Nadine Isenegger (Columbia), Lauren Lim Jackson (Phantom), Kelsey Kurz (Brad), David Andrew Macdonald (Narrator, Dr. Scott), Anna Schnaitter (Phantom), Laura Shoop (Magenta), Kit Treece (Phantom) and Jason Wooten (Riff Raff).

The creative team also includes Donyale Werle (scenic design), Emily Rebholz (costume design), Rui Rita (lighting design), Kevin Kennedy (sound design), Aaron Rhyne (projection design) and Anjee Nero (stage manager).

Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

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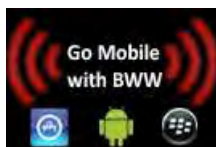


Photo Flash: Matt McGrath & More in The Old Globe's ROCKY HORROR SHOW - First Promo Shots!



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[Matt McGrath](#) (Cabaret, The Black Rider: The Casting of the Magic Bullets) leads [The Old Globe's](#) production of [Richard O'Brien's](#) The Rocky Horror Show as Frank 'N' Furter. [Qanh Nguyen](#) directs the musical with book, music and lyrics by [Richard O'Brien](#), choreography by [JT Horenstein](#) and music direction by [Mike Wilkins](#). The first publicity shots of the company in partial costume have been released and BroadwayWorld brings you a look below!

The musical that became a movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon is back where it is meant to be seen - live on stage. When Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere, they seek help from the devilishly charming transvestite Dr. Frank 'N' Furter. What they discover in his mysterious laboratory is a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities - and, perhaps, true love.

The cast of The Rocky Horror Show also includes [Andrew Call](#) (Eddie, Phantom), [Jeanna de Waal](#) (Janet), Sydney [James Harcourt](#) (Rocky), [Nadine Isenegger](#) (Columbia), [Lauren Lim Jackson](#) (Phantom), [Kelsey Kurz](#) (Brad), [David Andrew Macdonald](#) (Narrator, Dr. Scott), [Anna Schnaitter](#) (Phantom), [Laura Shoop](#) (Magenta), Kit Treece (Phantom) and [Jason Wooten](#) (Riff Raff).

The creative team also includes [Donyale Werle](#) (Scenic Design), [Emily Rebholz](#) (Costume Design), [Rui Rita](#) (Lighting Design), [Kevin Kennedy](#) (Sound Design), [Aaron Rhyne](#) (Projection Design) and [Anjee Nero](#) (Stage Manager).

The Rocky Horror Show will run in the [Old Globe Theatre](#), part of the Globe's [Conrad Prebys](#) Theatre Center, Sept. 15 - Nov. 6. Preview performances run Sept. 15 - Sept. 22. Opening night is Friday, Sept. 23 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

Photo Credit: Henry DiRocco

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Frank Langella and Adam Driver
Credit: Joseph Marzullo/WENN

Frank Langella and Adam Driver Are *Man and Boy* on Broadway; Maria Aitken Directs

Three-time Tony Award winner Frank Langella returns to Broadway Sept. 9 to play a ruthless businessman whose estranged grown son may hold the key to success, in Terence Rattigan's *Man and Boy*, at the American Airlines Theatre.

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25th Anniversary Staging of *Phantom of the Opera* Will Be Filmed; Australian Screening Date Set



The sold-out Royal Albert Hall staging of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*, starring Ramin Karimloo and Sierra Boggess, will be filmed and broadcast in cinemas.

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Watch the Promo for Old Globe's Upcoming Rocky Horror Show (Video)

The Old Globe's new production of *The Rocky Horror Show* is set to begin performances Sept. 15 in San Diego, CA, with an official opening Sept. 23. The production, scheduled to run through Nov. 6, will be directed by James Vasquez, with choreography by JT Horenstein and music direction by Mike Wilkins.

The cast features Matt McGrath (Frank 'N' Furter), Andrew Call (Eddie, Phantom), Jeanna de Waal (Janet), Sydney James Harcourt (Rocky), Nadine Isenegger (Columbia), Lauren Lim Jackson (Phantom), Kelsey Kurz (Brad), David Andrew Macdonald (Narrator, Dr. Scott), Anna Schnaitter (Phantom), Laura Shoop (Magenta), Kit Treece (Phantom) and Jason Wooten (Riff Raff).

Here's how Old Globe bills the show: "The musical that became a movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon is back where it is meant to be seen — live on stage. When Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere, they seek help from the devilishly charming transvestite Dr. Frank 'N' Furter. What they discover in his mysterious laboratory is a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities — and, perhaps, true love."

To check out the *Rocky Horror* promo, look below:

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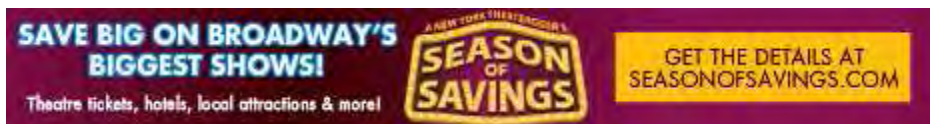
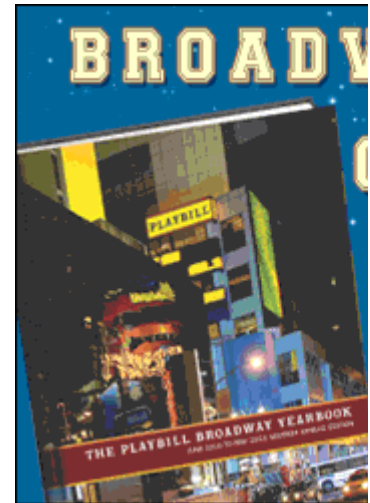
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STAGE TUBE: First Look at Old Globe's ROCKY HORROR SHOW



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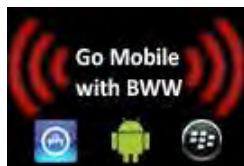
James Vásquez directs THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW at [The Old Globe](#), with book, music and lyrics by [Richard O'Brien](#), choreography by [JT Horenstein](#) and music direction by [Mike Wilkins](#). The Rocky Horror Show will run in the [Old Globe Theatre](#), part of the Globe's [Conrad Prebys](#) Theatre Center, Sept. 15 - Nov. 6. Preview performances run Sept. 15 - Sept. 22. Opening night is Friday, Sept. 23 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.TheOldGlobe.org](#), by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

The musical that became a movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon is back where it is meant to be seen - live on stage. When Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere, they seek help from the devilishly charming transvestite Dr. Frank 'N' Furter. What they discover in his mysterious laboratory is a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities - and, perhaps, true love.

The cast of The Rocky Horror Show also includes [Andrew Call](#) (Eddie, Phantom), [Jeanna de Waal](#) (Janet), Sydney [James Harcourt](#) (Rocky), [Nadine Isenegger](#) (Columbia), [Lauren Lim Jackson](#) (Phantom), [Kelsey Kurz](#) (Brad), [David Andrew Macdonald](#) (Narrator, Dr. Scott), [Anna Schnaitter](#) (Phantom), [Laura Shoop](#) (Magenta), Kit Treece (Phantom) and [Jason Wooten](#) (Riff Raff).

The creative team also includes [Donyale Werle](#) (Scenic Design), [Emily Rebholz](#) (Costume Design), [Rui Rita](#) (Lighting Design), [Kevin Kennedy](#) (Sound Design), [Aaron Rhyne](#) (Projection Design) and [Anjee Nero](#) (Stage Manager).

Playwright and composer [Richard O'Brien](#) began his career as an actor, performing in the London productions of Hair and Jesus Christ Superstar in the 1970s. With the guidance of director [Jim Sharman](#), O'Brien opened his musical The Rocky Horror Show at the Theatre Upstairs in 1973. Within weeks it became a cult theater hit and quickly led to an original cast album. Two years later O'Brien and Sharman adapted it into a film, retitled The Rocky Horror Picture Show, starring [Tim Curry](#), [Susan Sarandon](#) and [Barry Bostwick](#). Though the material was highly provocative for its time, including depictions of gay and transgender culture, the movie gained a huge cult following and made stars of its leads. O'Brien himself appeared in the movie as Riff Raff. Still in limited release 35 years after its premiere, The Rocky Horror Picture Show is the longest-running theatrical release in film history. O'Brien created a follow-up movie, Shock Treatment, and several more stage musicals in the '80s, and he continued to act in bit parts in cult films such as Flash Gordon, Dark City, Ever After and Dungeons & Dragons. In 1998 he released a CD, entitled Absolute O'Brien, of music from his one-man revue, Disgracefully Yours. He served as the host of the popular British game show "The Crystal Maze" and appeared on the West End in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. He also occasionally does cabaret-style music and comedy performances.



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All The Stage Is Our World

Rocky Horror Show, With Matt McGrath, Begins Strutting at The Old Globe

By *Kenneth Jones*
15 Sep 2011



Matt McGrath and Jason Wooten
Photo by Henry DiRocco

The Rocky Horror Show, the rock musical about a vanilla couple that stumbles into an altered science-fiction world where sexuality and gender roles are redefined, begins Sept. 15 in a resident production by The Old Globe in San Diego.

Those old devil "artistic differences" prompted The Old Globe to hire James Vásquez as director of its in-rehearsal production of Richard O'Brien's musical. Vásquez replaced the previously announced Oanh Nguyen. That followed the earlier departure of star James Barbour (who was to play Frank N Furter), who left to address family issues. Matt McGrath took his role.

The Rocky Horror Show, with book, music and lyrics by O'Brien, musical staging and choreography by JT Horenstein and music direction by Mike Wilkins, runs in the Old Globe Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, to Nov. 6 in San Diego, CA. Opening night is Sept. 23.

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Globe's Rocky Horror Show, With Matt McGrath and Jason Wooten



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Vásquez will also direct this season's 14th annual presentation of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, for which he has recreated the original musical staging since 2003. He won the 2010 Craig Noel Award for Outstanding Direction for *Sweeney Todd* (Cygnet Theatre Company). His recent directing credits include the West Coast premieres of *[title of show]*, *Fair Use* and *Twist* (Diversions Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors* (choreographer), *A Little Night Music* (choreographer) and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Cygnet) and *Into the Woods* (New Village Arts).

Here's how Old Globe bills the rock classic: "The musical that became a movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon is back where it is meant to be seen — live on stage. When Brad and

Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere, they seek help from the devilishly charming transvestite Dr. Frank N Furter. What they discover in his mysterious laboratory is a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities — and, perhaps, true love."

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Rocky Horror tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the box office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.



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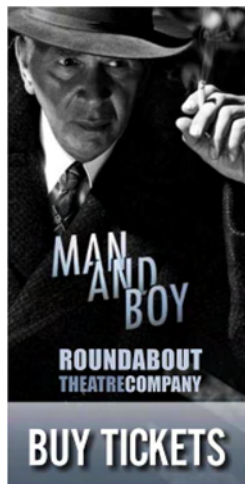


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By Krissie Fullerton
21 Sep 2011

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seek help from the devilishly charming transvestite Dr. Frank N Furter. What they discover in his mysterious laboratory is a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities — and, perhaps, true love."

Here's a look at the production:

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Sydney James Harcourt and the cast of *Rocky Horror*
Photo by Henry DiRocco

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Jason Wooten

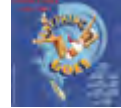


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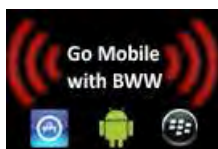


Photo Flash: First Look at Old Globe's ROCKY HORROR SHOW!



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James Vásquez directs THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW at The Old Globe, with book, music and lyrics by [Richard O'Brien](#), choreography by [JT Horenstein](#) and music direction by Mike Wilkins. The Rocky Horror Show will run in the Old Globe Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, Sept. 15 - Nov. 6. Preview performances run Sept. 15 - Sept. 22. Opening night is Friday, Sept. 23 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

Check out photos from the production below!

The musical that became a movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon is back where it is meant to be seen - live on stage. When Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere, they seek help from the devilishly charming transvestite Dr. Frank 'N' Furter. What they discover in his mysterious laboratory is a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities - and, perhaps, true love.

The cast of The Rocky Horror Show also includes [Andrew Call](#) (Eddie, Phantom), Jeanna de Waal (Janet), Sydney [James Harcourt](#) (Rocky), [Nadine Isenegger](#) (Columbia), Lauren Lim Jackson (Phantom), Kelsey Kurz (Brad), [David Andrew Macdonald](#) (Narrator, Dr. Scott), [Anna Schnaitter](#) (Phantom), [Laura Shoop](#) (Magenta), Kit Treece (Phantom) and [Jason Wooten](#) (Riff Raff).

The creative team also includes [Donyale Werle](#) (Scenic Design), [Emily Rebholz](#) (Costume Design), [Rui Rita](#) (Lighting Design), [Kevin Kennedy](#) (Sound Design), Aaron Rhyne (Projection Design) and Anjee Nero (Stage Manager).

Playwright and composer [Richard O'Brien](#) began his career as an actor, performing in the London productions of Hair and Jesus Christ Superstar in the 1970s. With the guidance of director [Jim Sharman](#), O'Brien opened his musical The Rocky Horror Show at the Theatre Upstairs in 1973. Within weeks it became a cult theater hit and quickly led to an original cast album. Two years later O'Brien and Sharman adapted it into a film, retitled The Rocky Horror Picture Show, starring [Tim Curry](#), [Susan Sarandon](#) and [Barry Bostwick](#). Though the material was highly provocative for its time, including depictions of gay and transgender culture, the movie gained a huge cult following and made stars of its leads. O'Brien himself appeared in the movie as Riff Raff. Still in limited release 35 years after its premiere, The Rocky Horror Picture Show is the longest-running theatrical release in film history. O'Brien created a follow-up movie, Shock Treatment, and several more stage musicals in the '80s, and he continued to act in bit parts in cult films such as Flash Gordon, Dark City, Ever After and Dungeons & Dragons. In 1998 he released a CD, entitled Absolute O'Brien, of music from his one-man revue, Disgracefully Yours. He served as the host of the popular British game show "The Crystal Maze" and appeared on the West End in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. He also occasionally does cabaret-style music and comedy performances.

Photo Credit: Henry DiRocco

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Keith Patrick Dunn · Top Commenter · New York, New York

Actually looks like FUN instead of the overwrought typical productions trying to out-cheek the film!

[Reply](#) · [1 Like](#) · September 16 at 10:52am



June Shannon · St Mary's High School

I must see this show, I've been a Rocky Horror fan for longer than I care to remember lol I'm sure the new cast will be fab! Xx

[Reply](#) · [1 Like](#) · September 16 at 10:56am



Joe Ries · Works at Broadway/San Diego

I saw it last night, and it is REALLY good. Enough nods to the movie, but it is its own beast. And this is coming from someone that has been part of a RHPS cast for 11 years.

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Tonya Pinkins in *Milk Like Sugar*
Credit: Craig Schwartz

Tony Winner Tonya Pinkins Replaces Eisa Davis in New York Premiere of *Milk Like Sugar*

Tony winner Tonya Pinkins will replace the previously announced Eisa Davis in the upcoming New York premiere of Kirsten Greenidge's *Milk Like Sugar*, which will begin previews Oct. 13 at Playwrights Horizons' Peter Jay Sharp Theater.

Principal Casting Announced for Royal Albert Hall's 25th Anniversary Performances of *The Phantom of the Opera*

Full principal casting has now been confirmed for the 25th anniversary staging of *The Phantom of the Opera* being staged for three performances only at the Royal Albert Hall Oct. 1-2.

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Rocky Horror Show, With Matt McGrath, Kelsey Kurz and Jeanna de Waal, Opens at Old Globe

By [Kenneth Jones](#)

23 Sep 2011



Matt McGrath and Laura Shoop
Photo by Henry DiRocco

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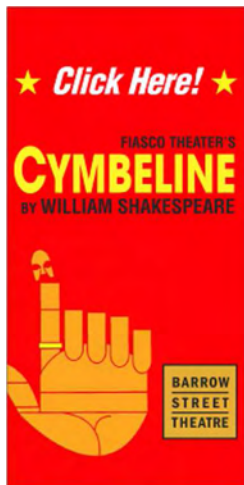
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The cast of *The Rocky Horror Show*
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Old Globe's *Rocky Horror Show*, Featuring Matt McGrath (Video)

The Old Globe's new production of *The Rocky Horror Show* opened Sept. 23 in San Diego, CA, following previews that began Sept. 15. The production, scheduled to run through Nov. 6, is directed by James Vasquez, with choreography by JT Horenstein and music direction by Mike Wilkins.

The cast features Matt McGrath (Frank 'N' Furter), Andrew Call (Eddie, Phantom), Jeanna de Waal (Janet), Sydney James Harcourt (Rocky), Nadine Isenegger (Columbia), Lauren Lim Jackson (Phantom), Kelsey Kurz (Brad), David Andrew Macdonald (Narrator, Dr. Scott), Anna Schnaitter (Phantom), Laura Shoop (Magenta), Kit Treece (Phantom) and Jason Wooten (Riff Raff).

Here's how Old Globe bills the show: "The musical that became a movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon is back where it is meant to be seen — live on stage. When Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere, they seek help from the devilishly charming transvestite Dr. Frank 'N' Furter. What they discover in his mysterious laboratory is a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities — and, perhaps, true love."

To check out highlights from the show, look below:

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- **Michael C. Gioia**

Tags: [The Old Globe](#), [The Rocky Horror Show](#)

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STAGE TUBE: Sneak Peek of Matt McGrath in Old Globe's ROCKY HORROR SHOW

James Vásquez directs THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW at [The Old Globe](#), with book, music and lyrics by [Richard O'Brien](#), choreography by [JT Horenstein](#) and music direction by [Mike Wilkins](#). The Rocky Horror Show will run in the [Old Globe Theatre](#), part of the Globe's [Conrad Prebys](#) Theatre Center through November 6. Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

Check out a sneak peek of the production below!

The musical that became a movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon is back where it is meant to be seen - live on stage. When Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere, they seek help from the devilishly charming transvestite Dr. Frank 'N' Furter. What they discover in his mysterious laboratory is a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities - and, perhaps, true love.

The cast of The Rocky Horror Show also includes [Andrew Call](#) (Eddie, Phantom), [Jeanna de Waal](#) (Janet), Sydney [James Harcourt](#) (Rocky), [Nadine Isenegger](#) (Columbia), [Lauren Lim Jackson](#) (Phantom), [Kelsey Kurz](#) (Brad), [David Andrew Macdonald](#) (Narrator, Dr. Scott), [Anna Schnaitter](#) (Phantom), [Laura Shoop](#) (Magenta), [Kit Treece](#) (Phantom) and [Jason Wooten](#) (Riff Raff).

The creative team also includes [Donyale Werle](#) (Scenic Design), [Emily Rebholz](#) (Costume Design), [Rui Rita](#) (Lighting Design), [Kevin Kennedy](#) (Sound Design), [Aaron Rhyne](#) (Projection Design) and [Anjee Nero](#) (Stage Manager).


Playwright and composer [Richard O'Brien](#) began his career as an actor, performing in the London productions of Hair and Jesus Christ Superstar in the 1970s. With the guidance of director [Jim Sharman](#), O'Brien opened his musical The Rocky Horror Show at the Theatre Upstairs in 1973. Within weeks it became a cult theater hit and quickly led to an original cast album. Two years later O'Brien and Sharman adapted it into a film, retitled The Rocky Horror Picture Show, starring [Tim Curry](#), [Susan Sarandon](#) and [Barry Bostwick](#). Though the material was highly provocative for its time, including depictions of gay and transgender culture, the movie gained a huge cult following and made stars of its leads. O'Brien himself appeared in the movie as Riff Raff. Still in limited release 35 years after its premiere, The Rocky Horror Picture Show is the longest-running theatrical release in film history. O'Brien created a follow-up movie, Shock Treatment, and several more stage musicals in the '80s, and he continued to act in bit parts in cult films such as Flash Gordon, Dark City, Ever After and Dungeons & Dragons. In 1998 he released a CD, entitled Absolute O'Brien, of music from his one-man revue, Disgracefully Yours. He served as the host of the popular British game show "The Crystal Maze" and appeared on the West End in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. He also occasionally does cabaret-style music and comedy performances.



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PHOTO EXCLUSIVE: "Hot Patootie!" Backstage at the Old Globe's Rocky Horror Show With Sydney James Harcourt

By [Matthew Blank](#)

12 Oct 2011

Sydney James Harcourt, who takes on the role of Rocky in *The Rocky Horror Show* at the Old Globe, takes Playbill.com on a backstage tour of the San Diego theatre.

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We meet cast and crew, get a glimpse of the iconic design elements and view the company's backstage antics.

Time warp with Harcourt and friends as we go behind the scenes at *Rocky Horror*:

[View the Entire Photo Gallery](#)



Do these pantyhose make me look fat?
Photo by Sydney James Harcourt

choreography by JT Horenstein and music direction by Mike Wilkins, runs in the Old Globe Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, to Nov. 6 in San Diego, CA.

The cast includes Andrew Call (Eddie, Phantom), Jeanna de Waal (Janet), Sydney James Harcourt (Rocky), Nadine Isenegger (Columbia), Lauren Lim Jackson (Phantom), Kelsey Kurz (Brad), David Andrew Macdonald (Narrator, Dr. Scott), Matt McGrath (Frank N Furter), Anna Schnaitter (Phantom), Laura Shoop (Magenta, Usherette), Kit Treece (Phantom) and Jason Wooten (Riff Raff, Usher).

Here's how Old Globe bills the rock classic: "The musical that became a movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon is back where it is meant to be seen — live on stage. When Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere, they seek help from the devilishly charming transvestite Dr. Frank N Furter. What they discover in his mysterious laboratory is a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities — and, perhaps, true love."

The creative team also includes Donyale Werle (scenic design), Emily Rebholz (costume design), Rui Rita (lighting design), Kevin Kennedy (sound design), Aaron Rhyne (projection design), Carrie Gardner, CSA (casting) and

The Rocky Horror Show, with book, music and lyrics by Richard O'Brien, direction by James Vásquez, musical staging and

Matt McGrath, Jeanna de Waal and More Take on Rocky Horror at The Old Globe

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Anjee Nero (stage manager).

Rocky Horror tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the box office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

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EROTICISM

Watch Matt McGrath Perform "Sweet Transvestite" in Old Globe's Rocky Horror Show (Video)

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The cast features Matt McGrath (Frank 'N' Furter), Andrew Call (Eddie, Phantom), Jeanna de Waal (Janet), Sydney James Harcourt (Rocky), Nadine Isenegger (Columbia), Lauren Lim Jackson (Phantom), Kelsey Kurz (Brad), David Andrew Macdonald (Narrator, Dr. Scott), Anna Schnaitter (Phantom), Laura Shoop (Magenta), Kit Treece (Phantom) and Jason Wooten (Riff Raff).

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Here, McGrath performs his rendition of "Sweet Transvestite," and the Old Globe offers a glimpse into *The Rocky Horror Show*.

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To watch McGrath and the cast of *Rocky*, look below:



- **Michael C. Gioia**

Tags: [The Old Globe](#), [The Rocky Horror Show](#)

This entry was posted on Sunday, October 16th, 2011 at 7:58 am
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STAGE TUBE: Matt McGrath's 'Sweet Transvestite' in Old Globe ROCKY HORROR



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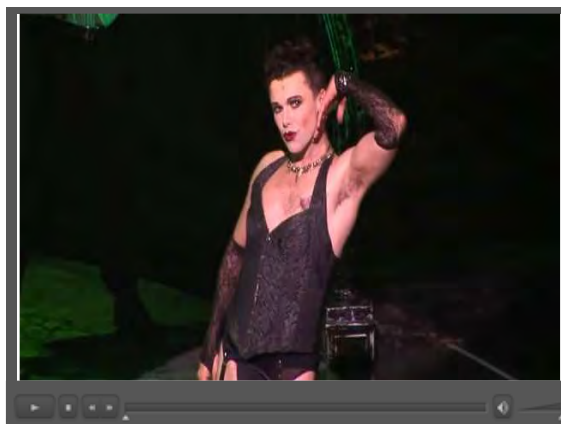
[The Old Globe](#)'s new production of THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW opened Sept. 23 in San Diego, CA. The production, scheduled to run through Nov. 6, is directed by [James Vasquez](#), with choreography by [JT Horenstein](#) and music direction by [Mike Wilkins](#).

The cast features [Matt McGrath](#) (Frank 'N' Furter), [Andrew Call](#) (Eddie, Phantom), [Jeanna de Waal](#) (Janet), Sydney [James Harcourt](#) (Rocky), [Nadine Isenegger](#) (Columbia), [Lauren Lim Jackson](#) (Phantom), [Kelsey Kurz](#) (Brad), [David Andrew Macdonald](#) (Narrator, Dr. Scott), [Anna Schnaitter](#) (Phantom), [Laura Shoop](#) (Magenta), [Kit Treece](#) (Phantom) and [Jason Wooten](#) (Riff Raff).

The musical that became a movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon is back where it is meant to be seen - live on stage. When Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere, they seek help from the devilishly charming transvestite Dr. Frank 'N' Furter. What they discover in his mysterious laboratory is a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities - and, perhaps, true love.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

Click below to see McGrath perform his rendition of "Sweet Transvestite."



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Guess Who is Starring in The Rocky Horror Show?



James Barbour as Frank 'N' Furter.
Photo by Ed Krieger

Broadway veteran **James Barbour** will star as sweet transvestite Frank 'N' Furter in Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show* at The Old Globe, directed by **Oanh Nguyen**. Choreography is by **JT Horenstein** and music direction by **Mike Wilkins**.

Show dates are Sept. 15 – Nov. 6, 2011 for the cult classic musical that finds clean-cut couple Brad and Janet seeking help from the devilishly charming transvestite Dr. Frank N. Furter and discovering a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities.

Joining Barbour onstage are **Andrew Call** (Eddie, Phantom), **Jeanna de Waal** (Janet), **Sydney James Harcourt** (Rocky), **Nadine Isenegger** (Columbia), **Lauren Lim Jackson** (Phantom), **Kelsey Kurz** (Brad), **David Andrew Macdonald** (Narrator, Dr. Scott), **Anna Schnaitter** (Phantom), **Laura Shoop** (Magneta), **Kit Treece** (Phantom) and **Jason Wooten** (Riff Raff).

For ticket information visit <http://www.theoldglobe.org/>.

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The Old Globe Theatre presents Richard O'Brien's "The Rocky Horror Show," opening September 15!



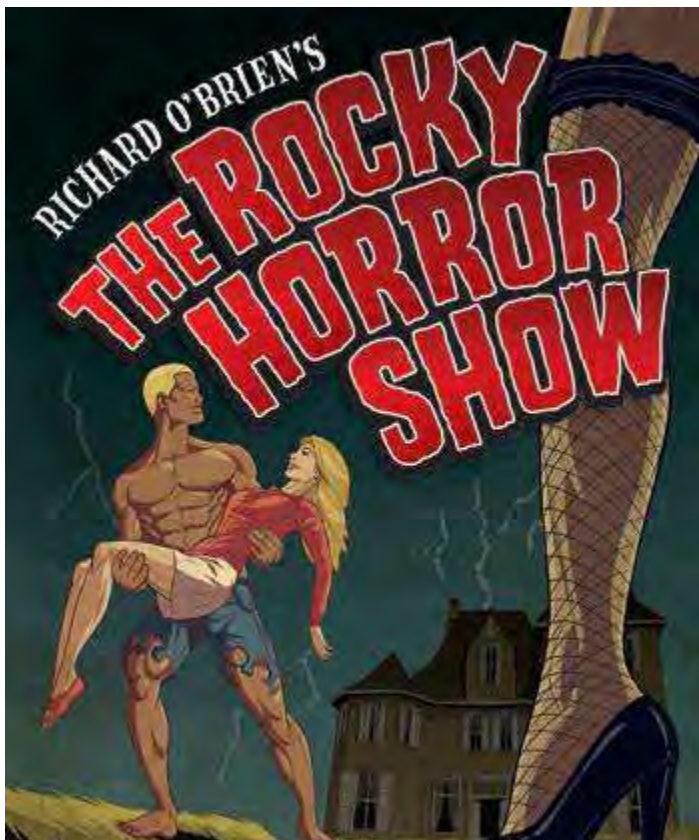
The **Old Globe Theatre** presents Richard O'Brien's "The Rocky Horror Show," opening September 15!

91x is hosting an exclusive ticket pre-sale starting Friday 8/19 at Midnight through Sunday at 9:59AM, before tickets go on sale to the public at 10:00 AM.

The first 91 people to use promo code "91X" can buy tickets for September 15 for just \$29, and that includes passes to a special VIP party at the Old Globe catered by **Los Primos Mexican Food**.

Buy online with this direct link to theoldglobe.org and use promo code "91X" - hurry before they're gone!

"You're lucky, he's lucky, I'm lucky, we're all lucky!"



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The Old Globe's new season includes four world premieres, plus "Rocky Horror"

SDGLN STAFF

September 13th, 2011

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SAN DIEGO — The Old Globe will produce the world premieres of four new plays and musicals in its 2011-2012 winter season.

The season will feature the world premiere musicals "Some Lovers" by music legend Burt Bacharach and Tony Award-winner Steven Sater and "Nobody Loves You" by Gaby Alter and Itamar Moses, as well as the West Coast premiere of John Kander and Fred Ebb's "The Scottsboro Boys," recently nominated for 12 Tony Awards including Best Musical, directed and choreographed by five-time Tony Award winner Susan Stroman.

The two plays receiving world premiere productions are "Somewhere" by Globe Playwright-in-Residence Matthew Lopez and "The Recommendation" by Jonathan Caren.

The new season also includes revivals of Richard O'Brien's "The Rocky Horror Show" and the Eugene O'Neill classic "Anna Christie" directed by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner David Auburn.

Special events include the world premiere of "Odyssey" by Todd Almond, a music theater event conceived and directed by Lear deBessonet celebrating the Globe's 75th Anniversary, The Old Globe/University of San Diego Graduate Theatre Program production of "Twelfth Night" and "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" that returns for its 14th consecutive year.

Subscription prices range from \$99 to \$536. Subscription packages may be purchased online [HERE](#), by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the box office.

"The season is particularly exciting because of all the new work, and I think it is quite varied in terms of style and story," Executive Producer Lou Spisto said.

"We are working with some of today's most interesting and accomplished writers, and they all have something to say that both resonates with us and sparks a reaction. The revivals are also entertaining and a bit daring. It's a big season with 10 productions, and that's only the winter! All in all we are doing 15 productions and one special event celebrating the culmination of our 75th Anniversary – it's pretty amazing."

The complete is as follows:

Richard O'Brien's "The Rocky Horror Show" – Book, Music and Lyrics by Richard O'Brien (Sept. 15 – Nov. 6) Old Globe Theatre, Conrad Prebys Theatre Center.

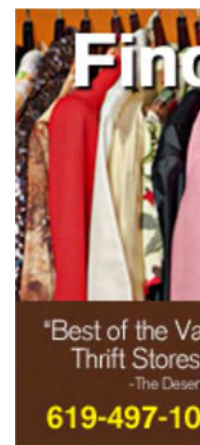
The season opens with a revival of the enduring musical phenomenon "The Rocky Horror Show," featuring the sweet transvestite from Transylvania, Dr. Frank N. Furter, and his time-warped laboratory of sexual and scientific possibilities. Director Oanh Nguyen, Artistic Director of Southern California's award-winning Chance Theater, is renowned for his distinctive interpretations of contemporary musicals.

ENLARGE



Photo credit: Henry DiRocco

Matt McGrath stars as Frank 'N' Furter and Sydney James Harcourt as Rocky in Richard O'Brien's "The Rocky Horror Show."



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 Written by
 Nina Garin

10 a.m., Sept. 15, 2011

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Rocky fever: San Diego's going through a "Rocky" revival this season. Not only is the 1975 cult movie returning to the Ken for a handful of midnight showings, but a production of the original musical is scheduled to open tonight at the [Old Globe Theatre](#).

The cult of Rocky: This newfound love for the gender-bending adventure can be traced to "Glee." The TV show devoted an episode to "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" last Halloween, introducing characters like Frank

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A film festival in your living room



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Art imitates art: "Jack" is at Ion Theatre, and on big screen

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'N' Furter to new generations of musical theater kids.

Viewers beware: Expect zaniness at the [midnight movie](#), thanks to the Crazy Imaginations shadow cast. The [Encinitas](#) group re-enacts the film in front of the screen and encourages costumes, games for newbies and many more kooky antics.

Extra shows: The movie screens the same weekend the "Rocky" play opens at the Globe. It returns to the Ken for midnight screenings on Oct. 15, Oct. 29 and Nov. 19. It also plays every Friday at midnight at the La Paloma Theatre in Encinitas.

Details: "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." midnight Saturday at Landmark's Ken Cinema, 4061 Adams Ave., Kensington. \$8.50. (619) 819-0236 or [LandmarkTheatres.com](#)

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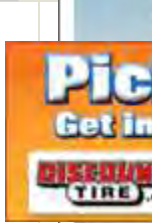
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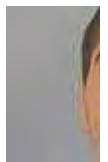
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Fall Theater Season Begins

By [Angela Carone](#), [Maureen Cavanaugh](#)

September 15, 2011

The fall theater season in San Diego has begun. Dramas, musicals, and even a site-specific work are all opening across the county.

Guests

Pam Kragen is the arts and features editor at [North County Times](#).

Jim Hebert is the theater critic at the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#).

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[mmcphie](#) | yesterday at 1:12 p.m. — 23 hours, 8 minutes ago

I love the updates on local theater. Thanks, Pam and Jim. I've recently enjoyed plays at The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse and more. For a theatrical experience as intimate as a conversation with a friend, check out storytelling events in San Diego.

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Halloween Ball at The Prado - Monday, October 31

Now in its 8th year, the Halloween Ball is back and bigger than ever, transforming The Prado at Balboa Park into a wicked wonderland of devilish delights. DJhere Productions, Dtown Productions and TK Productions are teaming up to bring you an unforgettable Halloween party on Monday, October 31. The entertainment lineup features Scooter & Lavelle, a special guest performer, and more to be announced, all set within a historical indoor/outdoor venue boasting over 20 bars and four different areas of music. Get [details here](#).

Fetish Halloween with Too Short at **FLUXX** - Monday, October 31

FLUXX is hosting a whole weekend of big Halloween bashes, but the ultimate party will be Fetish on Monday, October 31 featuring a live performance by rap icon Too Short. Back in San Diego by popular demand, Too Short will perform many of his hit songs live in the club, including "Blow the Whistle" and "Gettin' It" while local favorite DJ Brett Bodley heats up the dance floor all night long. Get [details here](#). (pictured)

The Rocky Horror Show at **The Old Globe Theatre**: September 15 - November 6

Following a summer of Shakespeare, The Old Globe embraces the new fall season with a production of Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show*. During this wild, sexy, tongue-in-cheek interactive musical, strange things happen when Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere. Do the time warp and get in the mood for Halloween as *The Rocky Horror Show* takes the stage at The Old Globe Theatre September 15 - November 6. Costumes recommended! Learn more at theoldglobe.org

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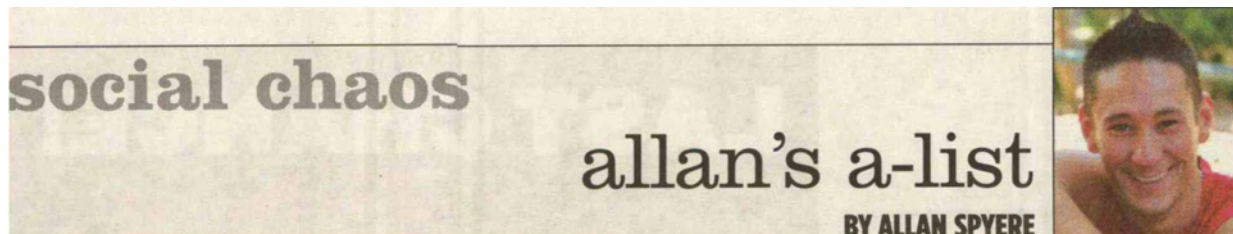


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Halloween scary destinations: Be afraid, be very afraid

Halloween is here, and it's on a Monday this year which means a three to four day celebration and an excuse to dress up. It's time to bust your inner drag out of the closet, and start putting together that fabulous costume. It's also time to get your last workout in so you can show what you've been working for. Last week, I went to the **Old Globe Theatre** to watch the **Rocky Horror Picture Show**. I had a blast and strongly recommend it. There will be a special performance **Monday, Oct. 31 at 7 p.m.** It should be a fun way to spend your Halloween. There are also a lot of costume contests happening, and if you plan your night right, you might have a chance of hitting multiple contests and making some good money to keep you going for the rest of the night.

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"Let's Do the Time Warp Again" - The Old Globe's *Rocky Horror*
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Matt McGrath returns with James Vasquez in Diversionary's "Next Fall"

Posted by [admin](#) on 2/10/12 • Categorized as [Arts & Entertainment](#), [Features](#), [Interviews](#), [News](#)

The pair discuss the new play and last year's "Rocky Horror Show"

By Anthony King | GSD Editor



(l to r) Tony Houck, Jacque Wilke, Matt McGrath, John Whitley, Stewart Calhoun and Shana Wride. (Photo by Ken Jacques)

Actor Matt McGrath and Director James Vasquez have become somewhat of a dynamic duo in the San Diego theater scene. The pair worked together on the Old Globe's successful "The Rocky Horror Show" last fall and are currently in production on Diversionary Theatre's latest. They also hinted at another collaboration, which may see McGrath behind the scenes for Vasquez's next project.

"I think now we're going to have trouble getting rid of him," Vasquez said jokingly.

This month, however, Vasquez directs McGrath in "Next Fall," opening at the Diversionary Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 16. Written by Geoffrey Nauffts and starring McGrath, Stewart Calhoun, Tony Houck, John Whitey, Jacque Wilke and Shana Wride, "Next Fall" received two Tony Award nominations and won the John Gassner Award for Best New American Play in 2010. The show runs through March 25.

"I think one of the great things about 'Next Fall' and one of the great things about the path that Diversionary is headed is [the] intention to honor and always be a voice for the LGBT community," Vasquez said. Vasquez worked previously with Diversionary and said "Next Fall" is a good way to

“present human interest stories that are universal. I think that’s one of the great things about this show.”

“Next Fall” is the story of Luke and Adam, a couple in a five-year relationship that is forced with addressing issues of homophobia, faith and religion, domineering parents and partners’ rights. McGrath plays Adam, an agnostic thrown into close quarters with his boyfriend’s parents after a tragic accident. Luke’s parents, devout Christians, do not know their son is gay.

“I know a lot of gay people that have a very strong faith,” McGrath said. McGrath then told the story of his friends, a heterosexual couple, who showed support for him and his partner by recently changing churches in real life.



Matt McGrath (Courtesy
Diversionary Theatre)

“They sat my partner and I down and they said, ‘We want you to know that we’re changing churches,’” McGrath said. “They cited my relationship with my partner and they said, ‘We couldn’t continue to go to this church any more because you are such a huge part of our lives and we can’t listen to intolerance and then come and have dinner with you and be a part of your life.’ I was, of course, so deeply moved that somebody had made that... shift in their faith. I feel that happening with a lot of people,” he said.

In addition to faith and religion, Vasquez said another theme in “Next Fall” is the complex interaction we have with others. “One of the big themes for me,” Vasquez said, is “...how we connect with people and how desperate we are to have a personal connection with somebody.”

Despite the drama, Vasquez and McGrath were playfully candid about their involvement at the Old Globe and the rocky circumstances that brought them together. "We both had a week to get in and salvage things [with 'Rocky Horror'] that had kind of fallen apart," McGrath said. McGrath replaced James Barbour for the lead when Barbour left the show during production.

Vasquez, who was brought into the production to take over for director Oanh Nguyen when Nguyen left due to artistic differences, said, "I think the show just needed somebody to jump in and steer the ship.... I felt comfortable stepping up and knew that I was going to be supported from everybody at the Globe."

Talking back and forth, McGrath said, "Nobody really panicked. Everybody knew what needed to be done and that's because, all of a sudden, we had James [Vasquez] moving the ball forward, down the field. Which was great."

Laughing, McGrath added, "Did I just make a sports reference? That's awesome."

"Change it to disco ball," Vasquez said.



Director James Vasquez
(Courtesy Diversionary
Theatre)

"So, moving that disco ball down the field, we ended up having a really good time together," McGrath said.

"I think everybody involved came out extremely proud and with their high-heels held high," Vasquez added.

The pair said the hope the same is true for the "Next Fall" production, too. "Some people are going to love it and that's fantastic," Vasquez said. "If they can go away having been moved and question and want to have discussion, fantastic. That's great. Of course we want that. Of course we want to push buttons. Sometimes we just want to laugh and escape, and that's okay too."

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By Peggy Peattie

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Molly O'Meara, 16, wore a pink boa as she and others danced to the tune The Time Warp, the signature piece from the production, Rocky Horror Picture Show, during a flash mob at the intersection of Fifth and Robinson Avenues Sunday.

Cityfest 2011 took over the heart of Hillcrest Sunday afternoon and evening, with booths, food, music and a few flash mob performances themed on the Old Globe Theater's production of Rocky Horror Picture Show.

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Molly O'Meara, 16, with pink boa, and Trevor Lerma, 13, center right, led a group in a flash mob dance to the song The Time Warp.

Cityfest 2011 took over the heart of Hillcrest Sunday afternoon and evening, with booths, food, music and a few flash mob performances themed on the Old Globe Theater's production of Rocky Horror Picture Show.

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LET'S DO 'THE TIME WARP' AGAIN



Molly O'Meara, 16, and others dance to "The Time Warp," the signature piece from the **Old Globe's** production of "The Rocky Horror Show," during a flash mob at the intersection of Fifth and Robinson avenues Sunday at CityFest in Hillcrest. Go to uniontrib.com/cityfest-2011/ for more photos. PEGGY PEATTIE • U-T



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STAGE TUBE: Learn to 'Time Warp' for CityFest's ROCKY HORROR Flash Mob



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As part of the 27th annual [Al Hillcrest CityFest](#), The [Old Globe Theatre](#) will present a flash mob of "The Time Warp."

The flash mob performance will take place at 2:30 pm and again at 3:25 pm Sunday, Aug. 14, in the intersection of Fifth and Robinson avenues during CityFest.

The theater is organizing a group of performers to participate, but CityFest attendees are welcomed to join the dance, whether they are in Rocky Horror costume or regular clothing.

To help those who wish to participate, [The Old Globe](#) created a "How to do the Time Warp" video, which you can watch by clicking below!

The theater will begin its 2011-12 winter season with [Richard O'Brien's](#) THE ROCKY HORROR running Sept. 15 through Nov. 6.

More than 150,000 people are expected to visit CityFest this weekend, which will include arts and crafts vendors, community information booths, food, a spirits garden, entertainment, and the relighting of the Hillcrest sign.

For more information about Hillcrest CityFest, [click here](#).

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Tony Yazbeck
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Tony Yazbeck Will Be Billy Flynn in Broadway's *Chicago*

The Tony-winning revival of John Kander, Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse's *Chicago* will welcome Tony Yazbeck to the cast at Broadway's Ambassador Theatre Aug. 29 for a nine-week engagement.

Related Multimedia

U.K. *Chess*, With a Cast of Actor-Musicians, Will Make a Move to Toronto Sept. 24

A U.K. touring production of the rock musical *Chess* — featuring a company of actor-musicians playing their own accompaniment — will play Toronto's Princess of Wales Theatre Sept. 24-Oct. 30 prior to a run in London's West End.

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CHART TOPPERS: Top-Grossing Broadway Productions, Week of Aug. 8-14



A "Time Warp" Flash Mob Celebrates Old Globe's Upcoming *Rocky Horror* (Video)

The Old Globe's new production of *The Rocky Horror Show* is set to begin performances Sept. 15 in San Diego, CA, with an official opening Sept. 23. In celebration of the upcoming production, a flash mob broke out at San Diego's CityFest street fair, where a crowd danced along to the *Rocky* classic, "Time Warp."

The production, scheduled to run through Nov. 6, will be directed by Oanh Nguyen, with choreography by JT Horenstein and music direction by Mike Wilkins.

The cast features Andrew Call (Eddie, Phantom), Jeanna de Waal (Janet), Sydney James Harcourt (Rocky), Nadine Isenegger (Columbia), Lauren Lim Jackson (Phantom), Kelsey Kurz (Brad), David Andrew Macdonald (Narrator, Dr. Scott), Anna Schnaitter (Phantom), Laura Shoop (Magenta), Kit Treece (Phantom) and Jason Wooten (Riff Raff).

James Barbour (*Assassins*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Jane Eyre*) was set to star in the production as Frank 'N' Furter, but **had to exit** the cult favorite due to family matters. The Old Globe will announce Barbour's replacement shortly.

To check out the "Time Warp" flash mob, look below:

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- **Michael C. Gioia**

Tags: [Rocky Horror Show](#), [The Old Globe](#)

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You, too, can do the Time Warp

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Written by
Megan Dean

4:58 p.m., Aug. 8, 2011
Updated 5:01 p.m.

Let's do the Time-Warp again! The Old Globe will be holding not one but two Time Warp dances on Sunday, Aug. 14. during CityFest.

At 2:30 p.m. and 3:25 p.m., fans are encouraged to meet at the intersection of Fifth and Robinson avenues to dance to the musical's most popular song.

Come as you are or add to the fun by dressing as your favorite "Rocky Horror" character.

If you need a Time-Warp refresher course, the Globe has posted a "How to do the Time-Warp" video on their website, theoldglobe.org, their Facebook page and their YouTube page.

"Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show" runs from Septl 15 to Nov. 6 at The Old Globe.

The Rocky Horror Show Time Warp Flash Mob at CityFest

When: 2:30 p.m. and 3:25 p.m. Aug. 14

Where: Intersection of Fifth Avenue and Robinson Avenue in San Diego's Hillcrest neighborhood

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VIDEO: Rocky Horror "Time Warp" flash mob to perform Sunday at CityFest

SDGLN STAFF
August 9th, 2011

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SAN DIEGO -- To add to the excitement of the 27th annual Hillcrest CityFest, [The Old Globe Theatre](#) will present a flash mob of the popular dance "The Time Warp" from "The Rocky Horror Show."

Flash mobs, which are typically organized via social media, email or text messaging, occur when a group of people assemble in a public place and begin to perform a coordinated activity - be it a dance or other activity - and then stop and return to whatever they were doing.

MORE PHOTOS



The flash mob performance will take place at 2:30 pm and again at 3:25 pm Sunday, Aug. 14, in the intersection of Fifth and Robinson avenues during CityFest.

While the theater will be organizing a group of performers to take part in the event, CityFest attendees are welcomed and encouraged to join in the dance, either wearing their favorite Rocky Horror character costume or in their regular clothing.

To help those who wish to participate refresh their "Time Warp" dance moves, the Old Globe has created a "How to do the Time Warp" video:

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The theater will open its 2011-12 winter season with Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show* playing Sept. 15 through Nov. 6. Tickets for the show will go on sale [online](#) on Friday, Aug. 19, and at the theater box office on Sunday, Aug. 21.

More than 150,000 people are expected to visit CityFest this weekend, which will include arts and crafts vendors, community information booths, food, a spirits garden, entertainment, and the relighting of the iconic Hillcrest sign.

For more information about Hillcrest CityFest, click [HERE](#).

Tags: [Hillcrest CityFest](#) [Richard O'Brien](#) [The Old Globe](#) [The Rocky Horror Show](#) [The Time Warp](#)

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**TOM
BLAIR**

Rock on: The cult musical “Rocky Horror Show” is about to go into rehearsals for a Sept. 23 opening at the Old Globe, but first the theater’s taking it to the streets. With local actors in the lead, the Rocky Horror Time Warp Flash Mob will be at Fifth and Robinson in Hillcrest Sunday, asking CityFest street fair celebrants to join them in song and dance. And they’re urging revelers to dress up as a favorite “Rocky Horror” character, which doesn’t take a whole lot of urging in Hillcrest.

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Written by
Tom Blair

9:53 a.m., Aug. 10, 2011

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More fun than handicapping the mayor's race: District Attorney and would-be Mayor Bonnie Dumanis has scheduled a campaign event for Aug. 28 at the Del Mar Racetrack. No \$2 bets on Bonnie. Tickets are \$75, or campaign donations up to \$500 will be accepted ... With

Republican Rep. Brian Bilbray's voter-registration edge trimmed to just three points by county redistricting, former San Diego councilman Scott Peters, a Democrat, confirms he's mulling a race for the congressional seat. Peters is current chairman of the Port Commission ... Councilwoman Marti Emerald reportedly has decided to run for re-election in San Diego's newly drawn ninth council district instead of her current seventh district. Meanwhile, former Economic Development Corp. VP Andrew Poat had been considering a run in the seventh, but has opted out.

Rock on: The cult musical "Rocky Horror Show" is about to go into

Tom Blair »



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Videos



rehearsals for a Sept. 23 opening at the Old Globe, but first the theater’s taking it to the streets. With local actors in the lead, the Rocky Horror Time Warp Flash Mob will be at Fifth and Robinson in Hillcrest Sunday, asking CityFest street fair celebrants to join them in song and dance. And they’re urging revelers to dress up as a favorite “Rocky Horror” character, which doesn’t take a whole lot of urging in Hillcrest.

City seen: The online banking website Mint.com’s list of America’s 50 biggest gas-guzzlers ranks the Silicon Valley’s San Jose No. 1. But San Diego’s not far behind. We’re No. 7, with drivers spending an average of \$187 a month on fuel. (New Yorkers spend the least) ... La Mesa’s Charcoal House appears to have died of old age. Once one of the region’s most popular steakhouses, the restaurant is closed after some 50 years. A pair of recent online customer reviews say it all: “Popular with the over-50 crowd...” and “My husband and I walked in, took one look and walked out...” ... Former PSA/USAirways captain Joe Graham threw the engagement party last week for his nephew John Cortney. A star kicker at St. Augustine High here and the Air Force Academy, Cortney’s a C-17 pilot at Hawaii’s Hickam AFB. Fiancée Sharon Tweedy is a C-17 pilot at Hickam, too. Friendly skies ... The Carlsbad Aviara’s inclusion among the latest AAA Diamond Award winners marks the 13th year in a row the resort has made the coveted list — the most recent two years as the Park Hyatt Aviara.

Sticker shocker: Deliciously cheap shot on the bumper of a Honda Civic, deadheading to Ocean Beach: PALIN-SHEEN IN 2012.

tom.blair@uniontrib.com (619) 293-1715

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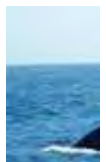
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Rocky Horror Flash Mob!

By Barbarella | Posted August 10, 2011, 10:02 a.m.

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Now's your chance to dress up for the Rocky Horror Show AND take part in a Time Warp Flash Mob, and it's all happening at this weekend's **Cityfest** in Hillcrest.

The Old Globe has been organizing the mob, and you're encouraged to join in the fun! Dress as your favorite character, or just come as you are. First, **brush up on your Time Warp dance steps.**

The Old Globe opens its winter season with Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show, which will play from September 15 to November 6. Check out their **site for more info.** Now, it's just a jump to the left. And then a step to the right!

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ARTS & CULTURE

Get Going with VIDEOS: CityFest, dance, film and a big week for theater

ESTHER RUBIO-SHEFFREY - SDGLN STAFF WRITER
August 10th, 2011

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It's a big week for the theatre community, featuring 2011/2012 season openers, as well as one time performances by teens and stars like Jai Rodriguez, known best for his role in "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."

Additionally, Hillcrest will welcome over 150,000 CityFest attendees, while LGBT comics will tickle your funny bone, giving you plenty of options to get going.

ON STAGE

It's another [Foodie Friday](#) at the **La Jolla Playhouse** on **Aug. 12**. At 6 pm, before the "**Sleeping Beauty Wakes**" performance, enjoy complimentary microbrew tastes from Stone Brewing Company, plus food from food trucks like Devilicious, Chop Sooeey, and Corner Cupcakes. *Cost: \$59 - \$69 – includes beer and show.*

Diversionary Theatre has teamed up with the south of the border hotties from [Chico's Angels](#) and their special guest star [Jai Rodriguez](#) for two weekends of crime-solving, featuring the beautiful Latino drag queens. The hilarious "Charlie's Angels" spin-off will be on stage **Aug. 12 – 14** and **Aug. 19 – 21**. *Cost: \$30.*

The **Community Actors Theatre** will present William Inge's most popular play. [Come Back, Little Sheba](#) is one of the first dramas to skillfully address topics such as alcoholism, failed marriages and broken dreams, and it will take to the stage **Friday, Aug.12** through **Aug.28**. *Cost: \$12 - \$14.*

Based on the true story of Francis Biddle, former U. S. Attorney General and Chief Judge of the Nuremberg Trials, the off-Broadway hit [Trying](#) comes to the **Lamb's Players Theatre** on **Friday, Aug. 12** through **Sept. 25**. *Cost: \$26 - \$60.*

Support aspiring actors from the Summer Shakespeare Intensive program for teens on **Monday, Aug.15** for a one time only performance of [Love's Labour's Lost & The Merry Wives of Windsor](#) at the **Lowell Davies Festival Theatre** in Balboa Park. Actors take the stage at 8 pm. *Cost: \$9 - \$13.*

The Old Globe is looking for **flash mob participants** for their **Rocky Horror Time Warp** dance performance during CityFest on **Sunday, Aug. 14**. Dancing will occur at 2:30 pm and again at 3:25 pm at the intersection of Fifth and Robinson avenues. Rocky Horror themed costumes are highly encouraged! If you wish to participate, here is a refresher on the "Time Warp" dance moves:

[ENLARGE](#)





COMEDY

It's time for another **Laugh Out Proud** comedy show at **Martini's Above Fourth** featuring the self-proclaimed "Toe Hoe" star [Amy Snowden](#). Get your funny bone twisted on **Thursday, Aug. 11** at 8 pm. *Cost: Two-item minimum purchase.*

Producers of [Brew Ha Ha Comedy Entertainment](#) are putting together the rising stars of tomorrow with headliner **Courtney Ca** on **Saturday, Aug. 13**, at 4950 Park Blvd and Madison at 7 pm. *Cost: No cover, no drink minimum.*

On **Tuesday, Aug. 16**, Brew Ha Ha presents another opportunity to [wine, dine, and laugh](#) with funny lady **Lisa Pedace**. Laughter begins at 7 pm, but arrive early for seating. *Cost: Donations accepted.*

MAKE IT A MOVIE NIGHT

FilmOUT San Diego's 13th annual [LGBT Film Festival](#) is rapidly approaching. Scheduled to run over two weekends, **Aug. 19-21** and **Aug 26-28**, at the **Birch North Park Theatre**, the festival features almost 60 films and shorts you don't want to miss. Check out *San Diego Gay & Lesbian News*' previews for ["Going Down In La-La Land"](#) and ["Go-Go Reject"](#) on Aug. 19 as well as the [Aug. 20 line-up](#).

Tonight catch the 80's classic [Revenge of the Nerds](#) poolside at **The Pearl Hotel**. The Dive-In movie experience is a great way to beat the summer heat. *Cost: Free, but bring cash for food and drinks.*

This week Mission Hills' [Cinema Under the Stars](#) combines a modern love story with a classic romantic comedy. On **Thursday, Aug. 11**, and **Friday, Aug. 12**, relive the romantic odyssey of a rough mill worker (Ryan Gosling) and a pampered Southern debutante (Rachel McAdams) in *"The Notebook."* Then on **Saturday, Aug. 13**, and **Sunday, Aug. 14**, Audrey Hepburn portrays a newly widowed woman stalked by the mourners at her husband's funeral, with co-stars Cary Grant, Walter Matthau, and James Coburn in *"Charade."* All shows begin at 8:30 pm. *Cost: \$14 - \$15.*

The "Charade" preview:

It's just a step to the left ...



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The Old Globe presents a *Rocky Horror Time Warp Flash Mob* at CityFest, Aug. 14 at 2:30 p.m. and 3:25 p.m. in the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Robinson Avenue.

Fans of the cult musical, *The Rocky Horror Show*, can join in the fun and dance to the show's signature tune, "*The Time Warp*." Participants are even encouraged to dress as their favorite *Rocky Horror* character.

To refresh their dance steps, the Globe has posted a "How to do The Time Warp" instructional video on its Web site, theoldglobe.org, and YouTube page youtube.com/theoldglobe.

Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show* opens The Old Globe's 2011-12 Winter Season and plays in the Old Globe Theatre from Sept. 15 to Nov. 6. Tickets go on sale online Aug. 19 at midnight at theoldglobe.org.



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Rocky Horror Show Time Warp Flash Mob

Posted On : 8/9/2011 by Kseniya Bublikova

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12

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If you're anything like me, you are incredibly addicted to watching YouTube videos of famous Flash Mob scenes from all across the globe, and have always wanted to see one live in person.

Well friends, this weekend is your chance to be part of the awesome

subculture of Flash Mobbing right here in San Diego. **The Rocky Horror Show Time Warp Flash Mob** will steal the show during [CityFest](#), a street fair happening in Hillcrest on Sunday, August 14.

The fun will take place at 2:30 and 3:25pm in the intersection of 5th and Robinson Ave. as horror fans come together to dance to the tune of cult classic "The Time Warp." Participants are encouraged to dress up as their favorite [Rocky Horror Show](#) character, but can also come just as they are. By now, some of our readers are probably shaking their heads in wonder and thinking "flash what?" For those new to the concept of Flash Mob, let me fill you in on the craze.

By the book, a Flash Mob occurs when a group of people are organized, usually via the internet, to meet up at a specific time and place to perform a pre-defined action, typically a dance, and head their separate ways immediately after. The result is an entertaining surprise for other people in the area, and a unique opportunity for likeminded locals to come together for a few minutes of spontaneous fun.

The Rocky Horror Show Time Warp Flash Mob was thought up by the brilliant people over at [The Old Globe Theatre](#), one of our favorite destinations to view classic and cutting edge [theatre productions](#) throughout the year in San Diego. The Flash Mob comes as a precursor to the opening of Richard O'Briens The Rocky Horror Show at The Old Globe Theatre, playing September 15 to November 6 - perfect timing for your Halloween entertainment.

Want to participate in the fun? Visit theoldglobe.org or youtube.com/theoldglobe to refresh your "Time Warp" dance steps with an instructional video. For the shy among us, feel free to stop by and simply watch.

Discover more [San Diego theatre news](#) and follow our [San Diego lifestyle blog](#).

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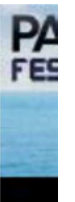
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Top 5 Weekend Events

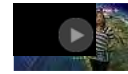


Summary

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(05:03)



Morning Weather With Chrissy
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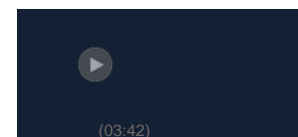
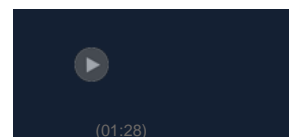
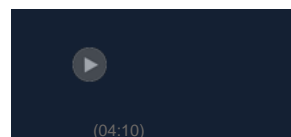
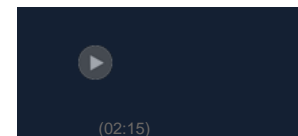
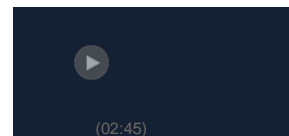
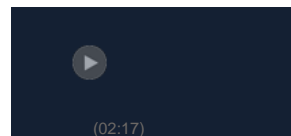
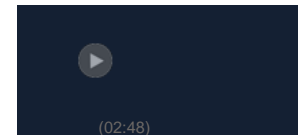
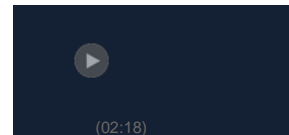
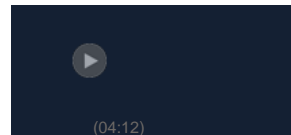
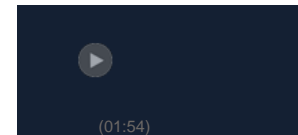
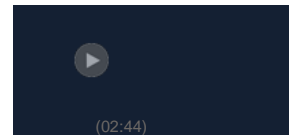
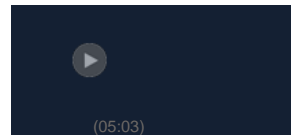
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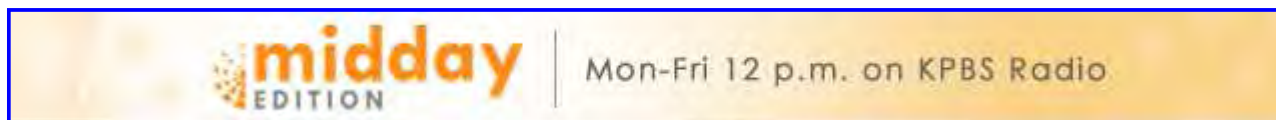
Throttle Thursday

Game On

Health



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Events: Rocky Horror Flash Mob, Grunions And Kissing

By [Angela Carone](#), [Tom Fudge](#)

August 11, 2011

A grunion run, a Rocky Horror flash mob, beer and chocolate. It's another eclectic mix of options for your San Diego weekend.

Guests

Barbarella Fokos is the author of the Diary of a Diva column and Your Week page at the [San Diego Reader](#).

Erin Chambers Smith is the senior editor at [San Diego Magazine](#).

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BACKSTAGE: Lights go out on Starlight Theatre

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BACKSTAGE: Lights go out on Starlight Theatre

By PAM KRAGEN pkragen@nctimes.com North County Times | Posted: Wednesday, August 10, 2011 8:00 am | Loading...

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An archival photo of Starlight Theatre in its opening season in 1946.



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In a move that surprised few in the local theater community, the San Diego Civic Light Opera ---- better known as **Starlight Theatre** ---- filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last week.

The 65-year-old theater company had fallen on hard times in recent years and was in debt to several creditors and former employees. Last year, the company sold off much of its costume and properties collection. And this year, the company repeatedly delayed announcing a summer season.

The Chapter 11 filing will allow the company to stave off creditors while it reorganizes. Founded in 1946, the company had staged musicals in Balboa Park's Starlight Bowl nearly every summer (and in the early 2000s, it even briefly produced an indoor winter season).

Although the company had an award-winning artistic revival in the mid-2000s under former artistic chief **Brian Wells**, the company couldn't overcome several long-term issues.

Increased competition left Starlight's cavernous amphitheatre mostly empty on show nights. And the venue's unfortunate location (under the flight path of jets landing at Lindbergh Field) made it a hard sell with audiences. Twenty-five years ago, the actors' signature "freeze frame" poses (until jets passed overhead and action could resume) might have been charming, but with air traffic growing to 25 to 50 planes a night in recent years, the charm wore thin.

Over the past two seasons, new artistic director **Carlos Mendoza** tried to hold things together by working without a salary, bringing in volunteers to do much-needed renovations at the Bowl and staging smaller cast shows with children and unpaid actors. But the recession dealt a sharp blow to ticket sales and the company's ability to land sponsors and grants. Mendoza resigned from Starlight after the 2010 season and is now working as a cruise director for Holland America Line.

Starlight adviser John Redman, who is president of the Horton Plaza Theatre Foundation, said in a statement that the board's goal is to revive the theater group in the future.

"Although this was an extremely difficult decision for Starlight, filing for legal reorganization is an important first step toward securing a financially sound and sustainable future for a beloved San Diego treasure," Redman said. "It is our expectation to rapidly emerge from reorganization to once more offer the best of American musical theater to family audiences."

Several hundred people lined the three-level center court Saturday at Westfield North County mall in Escondido to witness the flash mob performances by cast members of Moonlight Stage Productions' upcoming **"Hairspray"** production.

Flash mobs (short for "flash mobilizations," arranged via cellphone) are supposed to be secret "happenings," but Moonlight let the secret slip to get a crowd out for their show. Moonlight spokesman Fred Tracey said he was amazed at the turnout, with dozens of spectators watching from the railing of all three floors of the mall. "Hairspray" opens Wednesday in Vista.

Speaking of not-so-secret flash mobs, fans of another upcoming local musical will be performing this weekend at CityFest.

Cast members of the Old Globe's upcoming production of **"Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show"** will do "The Time Warp" at 2:30 and 3:25 p.m. Sunday at Fifth and Robinson avenues in Hillcrest.

This time, the public is invited to join in by dressing as their favorite "Rocky Horror" characters (hey, it's Hillcrest, go wild) and dancing to the song's chorus.

To help those who are a bit rusty on their "Time Warp" steps get back into the swing, the Globe has posted an instructional dance video at theoldglobe.org.

"The Rocky Horror Show" runs Sept. 15-Nov. 6.

Several well-known North County jazz musicians will gather next week to jam for an injured bandmate.



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Page 1 of 1

BACKSTAGE



PAM KRAGEN

The Rocky Horror Show will do “The Time Warp” at 2:30 and 3:25 p.m. Sunday at Fifth and Robinson avenues in Hillcrest.

This time, the public is invited to join in by dressing as their favorite “Rocky Horror” characters (hey, it’s Hillcrest, go wild) and dancing to the song’s chorus.

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“The Rocky Horror Show” runs Sept. 15–Nov. 6.

• • •

Speaking of not-so-secret flash mobs, the cast of another upcoming local musical will be performing this weekend at CityFest.

Cast members of the Old Globe’s upcoming production of “**Richard O’Brien’s**

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Join The Old Globe in the Rocky Horror Time Warp Flash Mob at CityFest: August 14, 2011

August 12, 2011 in [Insider Tips](#), [Upcoming Events](#) by [Sarah Jones](#)

Come and join in the Rocky Horror Time Warp Flash Mob at [CityFest](#), the famed Hillcrest neighborhood street fair now in its 27th year, on Sunday, August 14th, 2011 at 2:30pm and 3:25pm in the intersection of Fifth Ave. and Robinson Ave. Like-minded fans of the cult musical, *The Rocky Horror Show* will perform the famous dance to the show's signature tune, "The Time Warp." Dress as your favorite Rocky Horror character, or just come as you are. Check out the sensational instructional video here: theoldglobe.org



Tags: [CityFest](#), [Flash Mob](#), [Old Globe](#), [Rocky Horror](#)

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Ruth F-W

NEW! Rocky Horror Flash Mob

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Description:

TIME WARP FLASH MOB at CityFest street fair in San Diego, 2:30 Sunday, Aug 14 The Old Globe will present a ROCKY HORROR TIME WARP FLASH MOB at CityFest, the famed Hillcrest neighborhood street fair now in its 27th year, on Sunday, Aug. 14 at 2:30 p.m. and 3:25 p.m. in the intersection of Fifth Ave. and Robinson Ave. Fans of the cult musical, The Rocky Horror Show, are encouraged to join in the fun and dance to the show's signature tune, "The Time Warp." Participants are encouraged to dress as their favorite Rocky Horror character, or just come as they are! To refresh their dance steps, the Globe has posted a "How to do The Time Warp" instructional video on its website (<http://www.theoldglobe.org>), Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/TheOldGlobe#!/video/video.php?v=2046792092256>) and YouTube page (<http://www.youtube.com/theoldglobe>). Of course, if you're reading this at rockyhorror.org you're unlikely to need the help.



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David Thompson · Rocky at TooMuchCoffeeCast

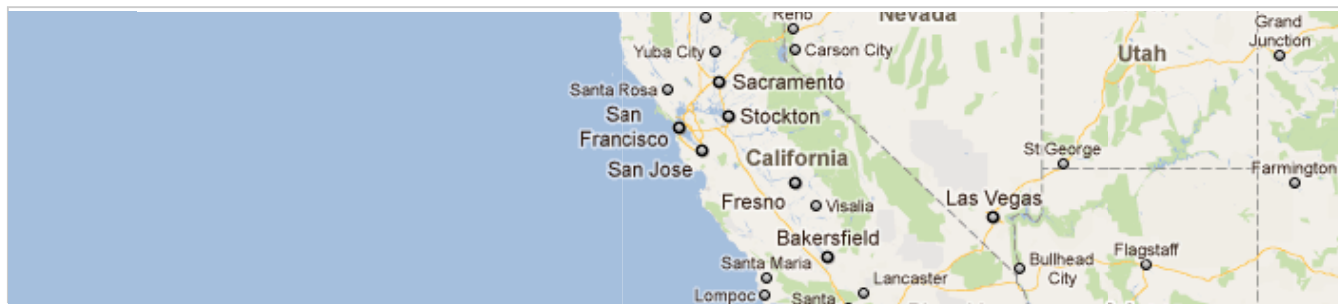
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Lindsey Vela

WTF. That's awesome.



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Weekend Preview: Top five San Diego events v 8

San Diego entertainment expert Michelle Guerin dishes on the top five weekend events, including Kings of Industry, Art of Photography, Rocky Horror Flash Mob & more!

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Michelle Guerin

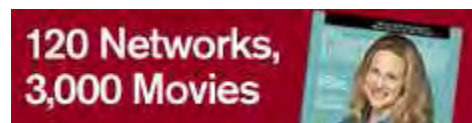
Entertainment Blog

9:41 p.m. PDT, August 9, 2011

I hope you're ready to party, because this weekend starts on Wednesday! My top **San Diego entertainment** picks include the Kings of Industry party at Side Bar and Chocolat & Vino Affair at Stingaree, both on Wednesday; followed by The Art of Photography Show at The Lyceum Theatre Gallery, Summer Fashion Show Pool Party at Ivy Rooftop, and CityFest with a special Rocky Horror Show Flash Mob in Hillcrest.

Here is a sneak preview of my top five **San Diego events** that will be featured on the **FOX 5 San Diego Morning Show** this Wednesday, August 10 at 9:20am. Tune in for more details!

Kings of Industry Party with DiscoverSD Guest Bartenders at Side Bar – Wednesday, 8/10

**Michelle Guerin**[Recent columns](#)

Side Bar hosts the biggest Industry night party in all of San Diego. And by "Industry" I am referring to everyone who contributes to the success of the local nightlife industry, including bartenders, go-go dancers, VIP servers, promoters, and of course the big dog club owners. While we get to party every night of the week, these guys and gals are always working to ensure our party is perfect. Wednesday has been designated as the official night for the Industry to let loose, and Side Bar is the go-to club. This week is unique because it's the Kings of Industry party. The best VIP host from every top nightclub will be partying at Side Bar, including Ivy, Hard Rock, and Fluxx, and during the event, someone will be crowned the King of Industry. And while they're all getting rowdy, someone has to work! Side Bar welcomes guest bartenders from other venues and businesses every Wednesday, and this week the DiscoverSD.com



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crew will 'tend the bar all night, including myself – Michelle Guerin, Nadav Wilf, Marie Elena Scaturro and Nina Brunello. There will be drink specials all night, and best of all, if you RSVP on DiscoverSD.com, you will get free entry into the party before 10:30pm. **RSVP now!**

The Chocolat & Vino Affair at Stingaree – Wednesday, 8/10

This event is a no brainer: unlimited gourmet desserts and flowing wine and spirits in a swanky club setting, all for a great cause. The Young Professionals Committee of San Diego presents the 7th annual Chocolat & Vino Affair this Wednesday at Stingaree, with

proceeds to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County. From 6 to 9pm, guests will enjoy a spread of decadent desserts and rich wines from acclaimed local and national vendors, including Eclipse Chocolat, Dove Chocolate Discoveries, Edible Arrangements, The Melting Pot, Starry Night, One Hope Wine, Falkner Winery, Heck Estates, Monte de Oro, Las Piedras, A+ Wine Designs and more. If you want to keep the party going, all attendees will receive free entry into the Wednesday night bash at Guest House at Stingaree with DJ Fashen. Pre-sale tickets are available for \$45 at ypcsd.com.

The Art of Photography Show at Lyceum Theatre Gallery – Saturday, 8/13

Photography is part of our everyday life, especially during summertime when we are snapping photos of friends, family, and vacation destinations. These photos tell our story, but some photos also communicate a much stronger message that is understood across cultures, all around the world. The Art of Photography Show is a unique international photography competition that awards over \$10,000 in prize money, and is exhibited for viewing and purchasing for three months at the Lyceum Theatre Gallery. This year, over 15,000 entries were submitted by amateur and professional photographers from over 72 different countries, and the judge Anne Lyden (Associate Curator at the J. Paul Getty Museum), selected the best 109 for display. The Art of Photography Show hosts a free Opening Night Gala this Saturday night, with food, wine, spirits, and an exclusive chance to see the photo exhibit first. Opening Night attendees will also receive a complimentary copy of the Show Catalog, which features all exhibited images and artist notes. The event begins at 6pm at the Lyceum Theatre Gallery in Horton Plaza Mall. Learn more at artofphotographyshow.com.

Elevation Pool Party & Summer Fashion Show at Ivy Nightclub – Sunday, 8/14

If you're in the mood for a stylish and sophisticated pool party, head to Ivy Rooftop this Sunday as Fortune 421 presents a special Elevation event featuring a Summer Fashion Show with haute looks by local boutiques. Ivy Rooftop will set the stage for a live runway show with beach-ready looks from Fortune 421 Swimwear, Dolcetti Boutique, Forward Footwear, Goorin Brothers, and Consuul. And of course no party is complete without a bangin' soundtrack. Chill in the pool or get crazy on the dance floor with beats by DJs Charles Feelgood, Scooter and Lavelle, Theron, Sanjay, Shewfly, Ayla Simone and Miss Dust, Chris Liosi, Brett Bodley, Wired, Flesch, Nava and Mic-E. There are \$15 pre-sale tickets available online at fortune421.com.

CityFest + Rocky Horror Show Time Warp Flash Mob in Hillcrest – Sunday, 8/14

CityFest is a historical community event that has grown into a huge street fair, taking place along University Avenue, with the epicenter under the Hillcrest sign. CityFest celebrates the Hillcrest community through music, arts, crafts, food and entertainment. Now in its 27th year, highlights include a large beer garden, over 250 vendors, and my personal favorite, a Rocky Horror Picture Show Time Warp Flash Mob. That's right, at 2:30 and 3:25pm, people from all across the city will perform "The Time Warp" dance while dressed as their favorite Rocky Horror character on the corner of 5th Avenue and Robinson. It's free, open to the public, and put on by The Old Globe Theatre. Learn the moves on youtube.com and learn more at fabulouhillcrest.com.

Watch Live: My top five **San Diego events** will be featured on the **FOX 5 San Diego Morning Show** this Wednesday, August 10 at 9:20am. Tune in live for the full scoop!

Want more **San Diego entertainment** tips? Follow **Michelle Guerin** on Twitter - @MichelleScene!

[365 Things To Do In San Diego](#)

224.11 27th Annual CityFest Street Fair

by Kelsey Uruburu on [August 12, 2011](#)



Hillcrest is the perfect location for the 27th annual CityFest this Sunday, August 14. Located in the heart of San Diego and known for its colorful and urban atmosphere, Hillcrest will host this huge celebration of community spirit with music, arts, crafts, and food. The annual event attracts more than 150,000 attendees each year, and this year marks the 27th year that Hillcrest has hosted this major street fair. The day will include games, activities, 250 vendors, live headliner music, a beer garden and much more.

CityFest 2011 will take place from noon – 9:00 p.m. under the Hillcrest Sign on University Ave. and surrounding streets off of Fifth Avenue. The main stage will be positioned under the sign and will feature 10 hours of local San Diego bands and well known bands from California. The stage will be visible from University Ave., Fifth Ave, and the beer garden! In the evening, the historic Hillcrest sign will be symbolically “relighted” for the 27th time. For more information about CityFest, visit fabuloushillcrest.com.

WAIT...there's more!

Ever seen or been a part of a flash mob? Well now's your chance. Let's do the Time Warp at CityFest! You can join in the Rocky Horror Time Warp Flash Mob or just watch it at 2:30 p.m. and again at 3:25 p.m. at the intersection of Fifth Ave. and Robinson Ave. Fans of the cult musical, The Rocky Horror Show, will perform the famous dance to the show's signature tune, “The Time Warp.” The Old Globe is organizing this event and has asked participants to dress as your favorite Rocky Horror character... or you can just come as you are. They've posted dance moves and instructions on their site. Check out the instructional video and refresh your steps at theoldglobe.org. It's just a jump to the left, and then a step to the right!

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Flashmobs

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How to do The Time Warp!

Posted on [August 6, 2011](#)



Hey Rocky Horror fans! Let's do The Time Warp at CityFest! Join the Time Warp Flash Mob on August 14 at 2:30 pm and 3:25 pm in the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Robinson in Hillcrest. Come as your favorite Rocky Horror character, or just come as you are. And watch the "How to do The Time Warp" video to refresh your steps. Tell your friends! (And don't miss Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show LIVE ON STAGE at The Old Globe, September 15 – November 6, 2011.

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CityFest lights up Hillcrest

BY ABBY WALKER
San Diego LGBT Weekly

The 27th Annual CityFest in Hillcrest isn't just your average street fair. It's an all-day extravaganza, complete with a 29-foot water slide, a flash mob and a beer garden that stretches an entire block.

Perhaps the most notable event of this year's festivities is the nostalgic relighting of the historic Hillcrest sign. The sign lighting broke several months ago and the Hillcrest Business Association has been raising the funds to fix it.

"It'll be the first time it's been lit in months," said Lisa Weir, marketing and communications program manager for the Hillcrest Business Association. "We're using LED technology so that the letters that spell Hillcrest will be extra luminous. It'll be shockingly bright."

This sign unveiling echoes back to the original CityFest in 1984, which began as a celebration for raising \$4,000 for a new functional lit Hillcrest sign to replace the original 1940 sign. Although it began as a small community event, it has grown to an attendance of more than 150,000 guests. CityFest now encompasses three blocks of Fifth Avenue, from University to Brookes.

Adults may enjoy a refreshing beer or cocktail in the beer garden between Fourth and Fifth Avenues. There's no cost to enter the beer garden and drinks vary in price from \$4 to \$8.

"This huge space allows for people to enjoy a cold beverage on a hot day in the summer and stand beneath the Hillcrest sign," said Weir. "It's a unique experience within Hillcrest."

The beer garden is also in view of the main stage, which will have live music from noon to 9:30 p.m.



For the first time ever, CityFest has teamed up with The Old Globe to feature a flash mob to "Time Warp" from the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. You can take part in the surprise performance by doing the iconic dance too. Visit CityFest's Facebook page at facebook.com/cityfest to learn the steps.

Children and families can enjoy the kid's pavilion at the south end of the event, where there will be a magician, face painting and other interactive games. The 29-foot water slide, located at Pennsylvania and Fifth, is a great new addition to the street fair.

With more than 250 vendors, CityFest has a wide assortment of booths to explore. Choose from a variety of food, ranging from standard carnival fare to healthy organic dishes.

"I'd encourage people to come hungry and thirsty," Weir said.

There's also a variety of arts and crafts and local businesses at CityFest and many of them offer raffles and other ways to win great prizes.

Celebrate community pride at CityFest 2011 on Aug. 14 from noon to 9 p.m. Entrance to the street fair is free.

Street parking is limited but there will be a free shuttle. ♦

CityFest lights up Hillcrest

BY ABBY WALKER, *San Diego LGBT Weekly*



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It's just a step to the left ...

The Old Globe presents a *Rocky Horror Time Warp Flash Mob* at CityFest, Aug. 14 at 2:30 p.m. and 3:25 p.m. in the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Robinson Avenue.

Fans of the cult musical, *The Rocky Horror Show*, can join in the fun and dance to the show's signature tune, "The Time Warp." Participants are even encouraged to dress as their favorite *Rocky Horror* character.

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Globe has posted a "How to do The Time Warp" instructional video on its Web site, theoldglobe.org, and YouTube page youtube.com/theoldglobe.

Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show* opens The Old Globe's 2011-12 Winter Season and plays in the Old Globe Theatre from Sept. 15 to Nov. 6. Tickets go on sale online Aug. 19 at midnight at theoldglobe.org. ♦

It's just a step to the left ...



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Rocky Horror Flash Mob Hits San Diego



The Old Globe in San Diego is presenting a special *Rocky Horror Time Warp Flash Mob* at CityFest, the famed Hillcrest neighborhood street fair now in its 27th year, on Sunday, August 14 at 2:30 p.m. and 3:25 p.m. in the intersection of Fifth Ave. and Robinson Ave.

Fans of the cult musical, *The Rocky Horror Show*, are encouraged to join in the fun and dance to the show's signature tune, "The Time Warp." Dress as your favorite Rocky Horror character, or just come as you are! To refresh your dance steps, the Globe has posted a "How to do The Time Warp" instructional video on its website <http://www.theoldglobe.org/> and YouTube page (www.youtube.com/theoldglobe).

Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show* opens The Old Globe's 2011-12 winter season and plays September 15 – November 6. Tickets go on sale online on Friday, August 19 at midnight at <http://www.theoldglobe.org/>. Tickets are on sale at the Globe Box Office on Sunday, August 21 at 10:00 a.m.

CityFest is a huge celebration of community spirit through music, arts, crafts and food in the heart of San Diego's Hillcrest neighborhood and attracts 150,000+ attendees each year. For additional information about CityFest, visit <http://fabulousohillcrest.com/events/hillcrest-cityfest>.

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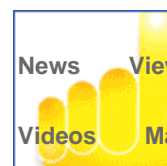
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Posted on 28 Jul 2011 at 5:00pm

Playing a sexy ax-man in 'The Wiz' has been rewarding for Sydney Harcourt



TAKE IT EASY | Sydney James Harcourt, above, deals with the Texas heat by wearing gym clothes everywhere — except, of course, onstage in 'The Wiz,' where he's layered in a heavy costume, opposite, that has sweated off two waist sizes in four weeks. (Photos by Arnold Wayne Jones and David Leggett)

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

When Sydney James Harcourt signed to play the Tin Man in Dallas Theater Center's new production of *The Wiz*, he didn't know he'd have such a tough act to follow... or that that act would be one of his best friends.

Wade McCollum, who played the MC in DTC's *Cabaret*, is one of Harcourt's closest friends. McCollum's legions of gay fans swooned over his ripped, muscular frame — a legacy Harcourt became all-too-aware of very quickly.

"I can't hear enough about Wade's abs," he says with a sigh. "Everyone has a story about how ripped he was — abs, abs, abs. Well, the part I'm doing right after this is Rocky in *The Rocky Horror Show* at the Old Globe in San Diego, where I'm wearing nothing but a gold Speedo." And

the specter of McCollum's physique is enough to give him an inferiority complex.

Not that that's likely to happen. True, he's been in training with a low-fat regimen to get his body in peak shape for Rocky. But just playing the Tin Man eight shows a week at the DTC has worked wonders.

"I've probably dropped two waist sizes since I started," he says. And there are still two more weeks to go.

He's not complaining. Wearing the costume has been spectacular for helping him develop the character. He's so constricted, he knows what it must be like to have rusted in the woods.

This isn't the first time Harcourt has had to contend with a complicated costume — he spent 18 months on Broadway, playing Simba in *The Lion King* eight times a week. The headdress for that costume occasionally made him bleed. But getting decked out as the Tin Man has been a commitment of an entirely different level.

The process begins with Harcourt donning a neck-to-toe Under Armour bodysuit to wick perspiration away from his skin. Then he applies the shiny foil makeup to his face, taught to him by a professional makeup artist. ("It's changed — I've figured out my own way to make it look more reflective," he says.) That can take half an hour. Next comes sliding into the silver Lycra bodysuit, onto which are stitched most of the components of the Tin Man's costumes. They are not detachable. And the sweating begins immediately.



"Originally, they were gonna be separate and we could wash the Lycra suit," he says. "But they are all attached. That suit has not been washed since we started. It started to smell like a pickle. Now they just spray it with Febreze and let it dry in the sun. I used to be self-conscious, but I am no longer the smelliest costume. There are worse." He refuses to name names.

Next, the arm pieces are then strapped down in a ritual Harcourt describes as "like putting on a snow suit: You have suspenders and a hood and the tap shoes and spats. The last thing is the shell, which is like armor. I cannot get into that without help. And I cannot get out of the costume at all without someone's help — trust me, I've tried."

All of which means that once Harcourt is strapped in he cannot — ummm ... relieve himself. At all.

"The bathroom breaks are carefully timed," he says. Once you're in, you're in for the show. It's only 90 minutes, but altogether I'm probably in it three hours." On days when he performs two shows with a three-hour break in between, he gets out of the costume entirely — including the makeup.

"Yeah, it looks weird walking around without the costume," he says. "It kinda looks like blackface."

The first time Harcourt actually performed at rehearsal in the costume nearly killed him. After the R&B jive of "Slide Some Oil to Me," he bent over, panting and exhausted. He then transitioned immediately into the ballad "To Be Able to Feel." That caught him off-guard when he showed up to rehearsal — the song had been moved by director Kevin Moriarty to much earlier in the show than it was originally.

But the one-two punch of Harcourt's solos has made the Tin Man — and arm pieces are then strapped down in a ritual Harcourt — the darling of audiences and critics. And he didn't see it coming.

"I play him as completely sexual, and some of my jokes didn't seem to be working," like when he calls Lion a "pussy... cat." But when he started in front of an audience, the reaction was intense.

"I think people are responding just to how much I love doing it," Harcourt says.

For good reason: In his 13-year professional career, this is the first time Harcourt has created a role, rather than understudying someone else's creation. And he likes it — as well as the reception he's received on his first stint in Texas.

It's enough to warm the heart of this Tin Man.

This article appeared in the Dallas Voice print edition July 29, 2011.

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San Diego is in the midst of a rock-musical festival. *The Who's Tommy's* at the Rep (through this weekend); *Hairspray* opens at Moonlight on the 17th; *Rocky Horror Show's* at the Old Globe in September; and *Jesus Christ Superstar* comes to La Jolla in November.

Cygnnet Theatre's keeping the festivities in high gear with a sprightly staging of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Directed by Sean Murray, the production goes back to the musical's black-and-white, B-movie roots: Roger Corman's 1960 basement-budget, comedy classic — filmed, he claimed, in two days and a night. On Sean Fanning's soot-clogged, Skid Row set, everything's a shade of gray, even the flowers (which look like they just came from their own funeral). In a Kansas-to-Oz flip, the carnivorous plant, Audrey II, is in Technicolor.

Every musical has “get it right or else” songs. Along with the girl-group chorus for *Little Shop*, which must be up-to-the-minute hip and brimming with attitude (and is at Cygnnet), the woman playing

Audrey must steal hearts with “Somewhere That's Green.” Melissa Fernandes does just that, and more. As she sings, it's as if psychologically bedraggled Audrey imagines a caring, adult relationship for the first time.

Brandon Joel Maier and Phil Johnson hit all the right notes as Seymour and Mr. Mushnik, and Geno Carr shows impressive versatility as a passel of bad-dies (including the dentist from hell “paid to be inhumane”). David McBean gives Audrey II the requisite booming voice and a drooling urge to convert all of humanity into “plant food.” ■

BLOGS | OUT & ABOUT

A Gripe from the Doldrums

By Jeff Smith | Posted August 25, 2011, 12:30 p.m.

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Between now and September 10, local theater has few openings. The summer shows are still running, and the restarting of schools keeps this stretch of days quiet.

But come September 10, San Diego theater once again catapults from the doldrums to gridlock.

Four shows open that night: *Edward II* at Diversionary; *Lend Me a Tenor* at North Coast Rep.; *Thom Pain* at New Village Arts; *How the Other Half Loves* at Scripps Ranch.

In the olden days, some newspapers had stringer-reviewers who covered nights with, say, two openings. These days, the number of reviews and reviewers are getting cut back.

And reviewers only have two feet. If theaters want same-day/same-week service, wouldn't it behoove them to stagger first nights?

This is even more important for audiences, many of whom support several of these theaters.

Another kicker comes September 23. The Old Globe opens with *The Rocky Horror Show* and the San Diego Rep. with *Walter Cronkite Is Dead*.

Most likely getting lost in that shuffle is San Diego Musical Theatre's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, which also opens on the 23rd.

The problem goes back at least a decade. What is new: the number of times it now comes up.

Years ago, Actors Alliance had a calendar of openings that theaters could consult well in advance. The smaller theaters scheduled around other openings and benefited a great deal. Nowadays, given the opening night conflicts of the larger theaters, everyone could benefit from such a calendar.

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Theater's fast and furious weekend

A look at the rush of play openings, plus other stage-related news

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Ben Diskant gets to shake his feathers only two more times as Ariel in "The Tempest"; the play closes the Globe's Summer Shakespeare Festival this weekend, although plenty of other shows are opening. — Henry DiRocco



Written by
**James
Hebert**

2:20 p.m., Sept. 23, 2011

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Theater in 2010: The year
in preview

This weekend features scads of local theater openings - and one notable closing.

Tonight (Friday), the Old Globe Theatre officially [opens its production](#) of "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show" on the Balboa Park institution's main stage. (The [world-premiere play "Somewhere"](#) just began previews in the Globe's smaller White Theatre.)

Also tonight, "[Walter Cronkite is Dead.](#)" rolls out at San Diego Repertory Theatre's Lyceum Space downtown, while "Mame" premieres at Lyric Opera San Diego in North Park. And tomorrow, San Diego Musical Theatre [unveils its production](#) of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on the Rep's Lyceum Stage. (First preview is tonight.)

Meantime, the Globe's annual Summer Shakespeare Festival, which has been running since late May, heads into its final performances, with "[The Tempest](#)" tonight and Sunday and "[Much Ado About Nothing](#)" tomorrow night. ("Amadeus" already has had its final performance.)

All in all, it should be enough to keep theatergoers off the streets for the weekend.

Speaking of the Globe: The theater has confirmed the casting for its upcoming workshop of "Yank!," a musical with Broadway potential. (This is the show that started in New York, had a [key developmental production](#) here three years ago at Diversionary Theatre in University Heights, [then went East again](#) for a successful off-Broadway run.)

The Globe's three-week New York workshop, which begins Oct. 24, will feature Bobby Steggert in the lead role of the World War II-era serviceman Stu; Steggert is a returnee from the York Theatre's off-Broadway staging. Santino Fontana takes over the role of Mitch, a fellow serviceman with whom Stu develops a romantic relationship.

David Cromer is directing the workshop of the musical by brothers David and Joseph Zellnik; commercial producers attached to the project are Barry Weissler, Maren Berthelsen, Pam Koslow and Stuart Wilk.

The Globe has announced no production plans for "Yank!" Earlier this year, the theater produced another New York [workshop for "Allegiance,"](#) a musical about World War II Japanese-American internment that seems closer to landing an actual spot in a Globe season.



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The Old Globe Embraces Halloween With 'The Rocky Horror Show'



Henry DiRocco

Campy comedic musical [‘The Rocky Horror Show’](#) comes back to its original stage roots with [The Old Globe Theatre](#)’s fall production. The play that kicked off a 35-year cultural phenomenon follows conservative couple Brad and Janet through a trippy, sexual misadventure as they get lost in a rainstorm and seek shelter in a castle full of transvestites. As one Yelp reviewer [explains](#), "The Rocky Horror was created to be an expression of pure indulgence, absence of virtue and experimenting with what feels good and F everything else." Complete with barely there costumes and a catchy soundtrack, this show will quickly put the

audience in the mood for San Diego's notoriously scintillating Halloween shenanigans. **Now - Sunday, November 6.** [Tickets](#) from \$29.

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Halloween is here, and it's on a Monday this year which means a three to four day celebration and an excuse to dress up. It's time to bust your inner drag out of the closet, and start putting together that fabulous costume. It's also time to get your last workout in so you can show what you've been working for. Last week, I went to the **Old Globe Theatre** to watch the **Rocky Horror Picture Show**. I had a blast and strongly recommend it. There will be a special performance **Monday, Oct. 31 at 7 p.m.** It should be a fun way to spend your Halloween. There are also a lot of costume contests

happening, and if you plan your night right, you might have a chance of hitting multiple contests and making some good money to keep you going for the rest of the night. Here are some options on what to do this weekend:

Thursday, Oct. 27

The Flame: The Thriller @Tagged with DJ Lil Chris. 2 for 1 well drinks and \$3 Miller Lite. \$300 costume contest hosted by Naomi. No cover.

Numbers: Varsity Halloween Kickoff party with DJ Jon Joseph. Costume contest with \$300 in cash and prizes. \$5 Long Islands and \$3 Jager shots.

Friday, Oct. 28

Numbers: Front room is **La Fiesta** with a fantastic live Mexican band and DJ Sebastian. \$3 Dos Equis, \$5 Long Islands, all night. Late happy hour 11:30 p.m. -12:30 a.m. with \$2.50 well drinks and domestic beers. The back room has **Fuel Fridays** with resident Bearnight DJ, Jon Williams. Late happy hour. \$5 cover

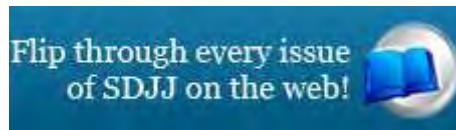
Rich's: 7th Annual **Pimp 'n Ho Ball** is the place to be for pimps, hos, trannies, drag queens, sluts. Contest at midnight, hosted by the Outrageous Bianca. Categories are Best Pimp, Best Ho, Best Group and sluttiest outfit. \$10 cover.

Eden: Resident DJ Drew G from Los Angeles and international choreographer/drag entertainer Flava. \$10 cover.

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What's Goin' On: A Bountiful Offering of Arts & Entertainment

by Eileen Sondak | [November 2011](#), [Popular Stories from SDJJ](#) | [Post your comment »](#)

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By Eileen Sondak

November is the month of Thanksgiving, and arts aficionados can be thankful for a cornucopia of theatrical and musical events taking place throughout the county all month long. Dance lovers can enjoy City Ballet's homage to the Russian masters, and the small-fry set will welcome the return of Dr. Seuss' "Grinch."

The Old Globe's funny and fast-paced production of Richard O'Brien's "Rocky Horror Show" will complete its run on the Main Stage Nov. 6. If you miss the final performances of this musical phenomenon, don't make

the same mistake with the world premiere of the new Burt Bacharach musical, "Some Lovers." The show (with book and lyrics by multi-award winner Steven Sater) is headed for the Globe's White Theatre Nov. 26. Based on the classic O. Henry short story, "The Gift of the Magi," "Some Lovers" will continue to enchant audiences through Dec. 31.

The youngsters can start celebrating the holiday season Nov. 19, when the Globe's Main Stage is transformed into Whoville for the 14th annual staging of Dr. Seuss' beloved tale, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" This delightful musical will light up the stage through New Year's Eve, and the entire Old Globe complex will be decorated in keeping with the show's zany holiday theme. The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will be Nov. 20 on the plaza, and it will feature live entertainment from the "Grinch" gang.

The Old Globe's Graduate Program will strut its stuff at the White Theatre Nov. 6-13, with a production of the Bard's "Twelfth Night."

The La Jolla Playhouse is bringing a very special revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber's masterpiece, "Jesus Christ Superstar," to town Nov. 18. This second coming of "Superstar" was directed by the Playhouse's former superstar, Des McAnuff, who created his vision of the rock musical in Canada. San Diegans will be able to experience this stunning and widely acclaimed production through Dec. 31. It sounds like a must-see.

The San Diego Symphony is in high gear this month, starting with "Liszt's Piano Concertos," coming to Symphony Hall Nov. 4-6. Jahja Ling will conduct the program, with pianist Stephen Hough performing Liszt's Piano Concertos No. 1 and 2. "Mahler's Ninth" is next on the slate, with Maestro Ling conducting the composer's magnificent Ninth Symphony Nov. 11-13.

The Symphony's Chamber Music Series will feature The Perlman/Quint/Bailey Trio Nov. 8. The threesome will perform works by Haydn and Shostakovich, along with members of the orchestra. "Compania Flamenco Jose Porcel" will perform their fiery Flamenco dance, music and vocals Nov. 20.

The San Diego Repertory Theatre will present a rollicking musical set in a Florida trailer park Nov. 5. "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" will keep audiences in stitches, with its campy humor and cockeyed shenanigans, at the Rep's Lyceum Stage in Horton Plaza through Dec. 4.

North Coast Repertory Theatre's production of "Heroes," a show translated by Tom Stoppard, is currently on the boards at NCR's Solana Beach theater. This poignant comedy of camaraderie among three aging veterans, directed by David Ellenstein, plays on through Nov. 13, with Jonathan McMurtry, Ken Ruta and a third powerhouse actor to be announced. Then on Nov. 18, the troupe will present a special 30th anniversary benefit performance of "Love Letters," starring artistic director David Ellenstein and wife Denise Young.

Broadway-San Diego is flying high with a sensuous new Broadway musical that combines Frank Sinatra songs with the striking modern dance designs of Twyla Tharp. "Come Fly Away" will feature a 14-piece band and 15 crackerjack dancers during its brief stay at the Civic Theatre Nov. 8-13.

Cygnet Theatre will continue its production of Tennessee Williams' classic, "The Glass Menagerie" through Nov. 20. Sean Murray will direct a cast headed by Rosina Reynolds and Francis Gercke in the intimate setting of Cygnet's Old Town Theatre.

On Nov. 30, the company will begin previews of "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play." This is the sixth and final year the popular holiday play will be revived.

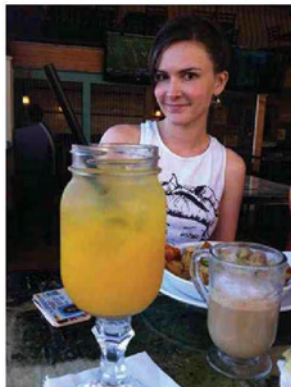
The Lamb's Theatre in the Gaslamp has extended its long-running hit, "MixTape" (the popular 1980s musical) once again. You can enjoy its nostalgic songs through Dec. 18. The Lamb's Coronado home is featuring the world premiere musical comedy "Servant of Two Masters," based on a classic Italian comedy,

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Breakfast at the Range

It's only been open for about six weeks, but already I can tell that the Range Kitchen & Bar in Hillcrest is going to break the curse of that location it's in.

You know, the restaurant with the super-high ceiling right in front of the Ruby Room on University Avenue? I've seen at least five different businesses come and go in that space, and regardless of their signage or fare, they never last long. But the people behind this place figured something out — that ceiling was way too high, and people, like animals, need to feel cozy and protected if they're going to hang out, let their guard down, and eat.



Mimosa in a "redneck wine glass" at the Range in Hillcrest

By stringing chicken wire back and forth across the room at normal-ceiling height, they managed to create the illusion of a smaller room within the larger space. TV screens are all around. At first, this put me off (I'm not a dine and watch sports kind of girl), but when the manager explained the monthly theater night and pointed out the large pull-down movie screen on one side, I was all about it. This month they're screening *Rocky Horror* (and hoping to get the cast from the Old Globe to come by). I hope to make it to a future theater night — watching classic, cultish flicks en masse is always a blast.

Okay, the food. David got the "potato chip chicken benedict," which came on "artisan bread" that was English-muffin-esque. The benedict was great, but though the potatoes looked like they might have been good at one time, they weren't crispy and were somewhat cold.

Our friend Logan got the Hash (corned beef hash and poached eggs), which came with the same sad potatoes and was, in David's words, "kind of dull."

Terri ordered the San Diego omelette, with onions, spinach, tomato, wild mushrooms, avocado, cilantro, and hollandaise — *whew!* Again, same potato issue. I didn't taste this one because it seemed pretty standard, and I was too busy sucking down the

scrumdiddilyumptiousness on my own plate.

The mimosas were served in a jar with a twist — it's actually called the "redneck wine glass," a jar atop a candlestick, and we all admired the concept.

I got the winner on the table and was loathe to share — potato chip chicken and waffle. Just how it sounds, the chicken is coated in crunchy potato chips (that stayed crunchy), served in tenders atop

a flavorful waffle. We all agreed that if we go back for breakfast, that's the dish to get.

Like Hansel in *Zoolander*, the Range's concept is so hot right now (cage free, grass fed, craft beer, local wine). I need to go back and check out the regular, non-breakfast menu. Even though I'll probably just end up ordering the potato chip chicken in a basket.

*Posted Oct. 6, 9:24 a.m.
by Barbarella*

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Wednesday, Dec 28, 2011

Several months' worth of great San Diego stagecraft

The best productions and performances since August

By [David L. Coddon](#)



Jesse MacKinnon as Roy Cohn in *Angels in America* - Photo courtesy of Ion Theatre

Here's one way to avoid the conundrum of trying to assess an entire year in theater in one column: Start with August. That's when I came on board as *CityBeat's* theater critic. So, with all due respect to the stellar 2011 productions that preceded the beginning of my tenure, here's a look back at some of the memorable offerings on stage from August on:

Standing ovations: Ion Theatre's revival of the Tony Kushner masterpiece *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*—a powerful yet restrained and dignified production, in which the

emotional resonance rendered the length (six hours, in two parts) irrelevant; Moxie Theatre's *Dead Man's Cell Phone*— edgy and bitterly funny, the comedy by Sarah Ruhl soared under the direction of Delicia Turner Sonneberg, with a winning performance by Jo Anne Glover.

A's in chemistry: Doug Waldo and Kelsey Venter as grumpy boss and spunky secretary in Lamb's Players Theatre's production of Joanna McClelland Glass' *Trying*; Rod Brogan as George Bernard Shaw and Angela Pierce as heiress Charlotte Payne-Townshend traded barbs and flirty quips in the Old Globe's *Engaging Shaw*.

Towering infernos: Rosina Reynolds, as Amanda Wingfield, reigned over the tension and entanglements of Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* on Cygnet Theatre's Old Town stage; Matt McGrath's Frank 'N' Furter sizzled in an uneven but rousing *Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show* at the Old Globe Theatre.

Unexpected surprises: Who knew the much-produced *Lend Me a Tenor* could still be so much fun? It was, at North Coast Repertory Theatre. Seeing *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* for the umpteenth time shouldn't have been such a hoot, but Grinch Steve Blanchard makes it so.

Noteworthy: Diversionary Theatre's *Edward II*, with a cast of 15, was the company's largeststaged production to date—and, for the most part, it worked; a hosanna for La Jolla Playhouse's re-imagination of *Jesus Christ Superstar*— not immaculate, but inventive, and you can't beat the music.

If I had one wish for 2012, it would be that more San Diegans would take advantage of the richness and diversity of their theater scene. If the theater companies themselves, in a trying economy, can keep ticket prices accessible and still do justice to their aspirations, all the better for everybody.

Write to davidc@sdcitybeat.com and editor@sdcitybeat.com.

Opening

The Lion in Winter: James Goldman's story of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine, set at Christmas time in 12th-century England. Previews begin Jan. 4.

Opens Jan. 7 at North Coast Repertory Theatre, Solana Beach. \$32-\$49. northcoastrep.org

Now Playing

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!: An Old Globe Theatre holiday tradition returns, with Steve Blanchard (in his debut in the role) as the green meanie. The Seussian sets and Blanchard's comic sensibilities in particular make the show fun for all ages. Through Dec. 31 at the Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park. \$24-\$57. oldglobe.org

Festival of Christmas: Lamb's Players Theatre renews an annual family-friendly holiday tradition, with music. Through Dec. 31 at Lamb's Players Theatre, Coronado. \$28-\$60. lambplayers.org



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Looking back on (part of) 2011

COURTESY: ION THEATRE

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JESSE MACKINNON AS ROY COHN IN ANGELS IN AMERICA

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—David L. Coddon

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YEAR IN REVIEW: Local theaters struggled, but produced good work in 2011

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YEAR IN REVIEW: Local theaters struggled, but produced good work in 2011

By PAM KRAGEN pkragen@nctimes.com North County Times | Posted: Wednesday, December 28, 2011 1:07 pm | No Comments Posted

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Lois Markle as Violet Weston, center, with the cast of Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play "August: Osage County" at the Old Globe Theatre. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

-



San Diego County theaters hit a low financially this year as the recession dragged into its third year, ticket sales stagnated and donor pools dried up. Several arts groups went belly up ---- most notably the 65-year-old Starlight Theatre in Balboa Park ---- while just about every other organization was forced to trim staff, budget or productions.

And yet, great theater abounded on local stages, with plucky young theater groups pushing the boundaries with thought-provoking work and creative ideas, and the city's bigger theaters continuing to stage edgy plays and world premiere musicals. Here are my picks for the top 10 shows of 2011, with a look back at the year's theatrical highs and lows.

The Top 10:

1. **"August: Osage County," The Old Globe.** Director Sam Gold's stunning, searing production of Tracy Letts' epic Oklahoma family drama, enacted on a mammoth three-story set, was the year's artistic highlight. Letts described Gold's production in San Diego as one of the best staging so far of his Pulitzer Prize-winning play.
2. **"The Tempest," The Old Globe.** Shakespeare Festival director Adrian Noble amazed with his imaginative, highly musical staging of Shakespeare's late romance set on an enchanted desert isle. Filled with what Noble called "rough magic," the staging was chock-a-block with dazzling imagery created with the simplest of storytelling tools ---- parachute cloth, drums and stilts.
3. **"Cabaret," Cygnet Theatre.** Artistic director Sean Murray's reimagined staging had a female Emcee, cross-dressing dancers, rethought musical numbers and a simplified color palette, but what really stood out was the impeccable detail of his artistic choices. Not a stone was left unturned in his thoroughly realized revival of this classic work about the rising Nazi threat in 1930s Germany.
4. **"Susurrus," La Jolla Playhouse.** The inaugural production of the Playhouse's Without Walls series (which produces plays outside the boundaries of traditional theater spaces) was an immersive, haunting audio-visual experience at the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas. Wearing iPods, audience members listened to the tragic, opera-filled audio play as they walked a preselected route. The play's theme of finding refuge from life's ugliness in nature beautifully paralleled the scenic wonder of the garden.
5. **"Angels in America," Ion Theatre.** Small but ambitious Ion Theatre performed the hat trick in 2011 with the world premiere of its first commissioned play, its first musical and its largest production

to date, Tony Kushner's sprawling two-play epic "Angels in America." With a first-rate cast and thoughtful, focused direction by Ion co-founders Claudio Raygoza and Glenn Paris, it was one of the year's most impressive feats.

6. "Superior Donuts," San Diego Repertory Theatre. North County's own Robert Foxworth electrified this sweet, funny comedy by Tracy Letts about a burned-out hippie doughnut shopkeeper who rediscovers the joy in life with the help of a bright young new employee.

7. "Jesus Christ Superstar," La Jolla Playhouse. Former Playhouse artistic director Des McAnuff returned this fall with his Broadway-bound Stratford Shakespeare Festival staging of the Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice rock opera. McAnuff's highly detailed direction brought new relevance to the story, along with a knock-your-socks-off finale and the best Judas I've ever seen in Josh Young.

8. "Dead Man's Cell Phone," Moxie Theatre. Director Delicia Turner Sonnenberg explored every quirky nook and cranny in Sarah Ruhl's oddball, time-traveling comedy, featuring a terrific performance by Jo Anne Glover and the best I've seen yet from Matt Thompson.

9. "Of Mice and Men," New Village Arts Theatre. New Village's Ensemble Project ---- a one-year program featuring the same troupe of actors and designers in all the productions ---- was showcased in director Daren Scott's fine, unsentimental staging of John Steinbeck's bleak, Depression-era drama.

10. "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," MiraCosta College Theatre. The Old Globe-born musical returned in a surprisingly well-produced and very-well-cast staging by director Eric Bishop, featuring great chemistry between co-stars Patrick McBride and Tom Andrew.

Honorable mentions: The effervescent "Jane Austen's Emma" at the Old Globe; San Diego Rep's "In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)"; North Coast Repertory Theatre's well-synched (if over the top) "Lend Me a Tenor"; Lamb's Players Theatre's "Trying"; Cygnet Theatre's mostly perfect "The Glass Menagerie"; Moonlight Stage Productions' fun, lively "Hairspray"; The Old Globe's beautifully acted "Death of a Salesman" and "Amadeus"; Ion Theatre's "Bash," "The Woolgatherer" and "Gypsy"; and Anna Deavere Smith's solo play "Let Me Down Easy" (co-produced by San Diego Rep, La Jolla Playhouse and Vantage Theatre).

And the not-so-great: The Old Globe produced some of 2011's best shows, but it also turned out the biggest share of duds. Without an experienced artistic director at its helm, the Globe's spotty year included several tired retreads, a badly written new play and a host of productions marred by the last-minute firing of several actors and a director, including "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show," "Rafta, Rafta ...," "Somewhere," "Life of Riley" and "Groundswell."

Other disappointments were La Jolla Playhouse's "A Dram of Drummhicit" and "Little Miss Sunshine"; Cygnet Theatre's offputting "Our Town"; and New Village Arts' head-scratching "Thom Pain (based on nothing)."

A look back at other theater news in 2011:

JANUARY

- Long-homeless Mo'olelo Performing Arts settled into a long-term residency at San Diego's 10th Avenue Theatre. Artistic director Seema Sueko is a wizard at community outreach, and her efforts brought the company another year of mostly sold-out houses and several major grants, including being named as one of just 10 U.S. theaters to receive the American Theatre Wing's 2011 National Theatre Company grant.

FEBRUARY

- To restore its financial well-being, Coronado-based Lamb's Players Theatre announced it would sell the historical Victorian home that served as its corporate office for the past 12 years.

MARCH

- Two North County teens had their scripts chosen for production at the San Diego Playwrights Project's Plays by Young Writers Festival: Ben Kelly, 18, of Carlsbad, and Kira Nolan, 11, of Encinitas.

APRIL

- In an unprecedented collaboration, three San Diego theaters (San Diego Rep, La Jolla Playhouse and Vantage Theatre) teamed up to bring actor/playwright Anna Deavere Smith to town with her health care-themed solo play "Let Me Down Easy."
- John E. Alexander was hired as executive director of San Diego's Diversionary Theatre, replacing outgoing chief Dan Kirsch. Alexander got his theatrical start at the Old Globe and San Diego Performing Arts League many years ago before heading East to work at theaters in Boston and New York.

MAY

- Darko Tresnjak, the founding and former artistic director of the Old Globe's Summer Shakespeare Festival, was appointed artistic director of the prestigious Hartford Stage in Hartford, Conn. Tresnjak left the Old Globe in 2009 after winning a number of directing awards from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle.

JUNE

- The long-running Celebrate Dance Festival ---- which offered a weekend of free dance performances in Balboa Park each summer ---- was canceled after a 14-year run. Founding organizer Eveoke Dance Theatre decided to "pass the torch" to another dance troupe so it could focus on other projects. San Diego choreographer Peter G. Kalivas of the PGK Project tried valiantly to rescue the festival, but he, too, pulled out, citing the high costs and time associated with producing the event.

JULY

- Just eight months after co-starring with his longtime companion Marion Ross in the Old Globe's "The Last Romance," 84-year-old actor Paul Michael died July 8. Playwright Joe DiPietro wrote the bittersweet romance for the couple as Michael's 80th birthday gift. Together 22 years, Ross and Michael split their time between homes in Cardiff and Woodland Hills.
- When the cancellation of the planned musical "Finding Neverland," La Jolla Playhouse artistic director Christopher Ashley announced he'd fill the fall season slot with the U.S. premiere of Des McAnuff's Stratford Shakespeare Festival production of "Jesus Christ Superstar." The acclaimed production (which plays through Saturday) broke Playhouse box-office records and will move to Broadway next March.

AUGUST

- After canceling its 2011 summer season, 65-year-old Starlight Theatre filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in August. Plagued by a bad location (a too-big amphitheater under the Lindbergh Field flight path) and in debt to multiple creditors, the company let go its staff, sold off its costume and properties collections and filed for reorganization. A spokesman for the theater's board said the group hopes to revive Starlight in the future.
- Carlsbad's New Village Arts Theatre launched The Ensemble Project, a yearlong experiment where all of the company's productions from Aug. 3, 2011, to June 24, 2012, will be performed, designed and directed by the same salaried group of 14 people (plus a few guest artists and a youth apprentice). The project will conclude next summer with an original play featuring characters inspired by the real-life members of the ensemble.

SEPTEMBER

- The Old Globe earned the ultimate public relations black eye with a badly mismanaged staging of "The Rocky Horror Show." Old Globe CEO/Executive Producer Lou Spisto hired edgy Orange County director Oahn Nguyen to stage the musical, then fired him a few weeks before the show opened. He also approved the hiring of Broadway veteran James Barbour to play the musical's lead role of Dr. Frank 'N' Furter. When a local conservative radio host latched on to some well-publicized details about Barbour's past and began repeatedly telephoning the Globe offices on the air to challenge Spisto, all calls for nearly a week were dodged, causing public embarrassment for the theater and its board of directors. Barbour quit the show and a new leading man was brought in, but "Rocky Horror" opened in late September to mixed reviews.

OCTOBER

- On Oct. 17, Spisto announced he will resign from the Old Globe at the year's end to become an independent theater producer. Spisto and board chairman Harold W. Fuson deny the resignation is related to the "Rocky Horror" debacle. During his nine years at the Globe, Spisto revived the company's Shakespeare festival, grew the budget from \$12 million to \$20 million and shepherded a capital campaign that raised \$75 million (a third spent on the new Conrad Prebys theater complex). But

his tenure (in which he ultimately assumed the position of artistic director) was also marked by internal strife and sometimes questionable artistic choices. When the Globe's board embarks on a national search for new leadership next year, it's expected the company will bring back the artistic director/managing director model that served the Globe for most of its 75 years.

- After a critically lauded but poorly attended production of "Mame," Lyric Opera San Diego filed for bankruptcy protection. Initially, the company's board hoped to salvage the company's 2011-2012 season with a few fundraisers, but quickly determined there was no way it could raise enough money in donations and ticket sales to pay the \$11,500-a-month mortgage on the company's home, the Birch North Park Theater. A new management team has taken over the Birch, and San Diego Musical Theatre announced it will become the theater's anchor client in 2012.

NOVEMBER

- On Nov. 1, Oceanside Theatre Company --- led by artistic director Christopher Williams ---- took over the lease for the city-owned Sunshine Brooks Theater in Oceanside. OTC replaces New Vision Theatre, which produced theater in the downtown theater for six years. After a massive cleanup, OTC presented a critically acclaimed debut production in December, "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol."
- After 31 years as founding artistic director of Vista's Moonlight Stage Productions, Kathy Brombacher announced she will retire at the end of the 2012 summer season. Brombacher's final season at the Moonlight Amphitheatre will include "Anything Goes," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Legally Blonde, the Musical" and "Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street."
- The operators of the Arts Tix half-price ticket booth in the Gaslamp Quarter's Horton Plaza shopping center launched a petition drive to save the building from extinction. The city-owned shopping center at Broadway and Third Avenue in San Diego is set for renovation, and there are plans to raze the building to expand the front courtyard and build an open plaza with an amphitheater and fountains. San Diego Performing Arts League (which opened the booth in 1986) said it provides a valuable link between tourists and local arts groups, but much of the service's ticket sales have moved online in recent years. Since the online petition was launched, nearly 1,000 people have signed it.

DECEMBER

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YEAR IN REVIEW | LOCAL THEATER

Local theaters struggled, but produced good work

By PAM KRAGEN

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San Diego County theaters hit a low financially this year as the recession dragged into its third year, ticket sales stagnated and donor pools dried up. Several arts groups went belly up — most notably the 65-year-old Starlight Theatre in Balboa Park — while just about every other organization was forced to trim staff, budget or productions.

And yet, great theater abounded on local stages, with plucky young theater groups pushing the boundaries with thought-provoking work and creative ideas, and the city's bigger theaters continuing to stage edgy plays and world premiere musicals. Here are my picks for the top 10 shows of 2011, with a look back at the year's theatrical highs and lows.

The Top 10:

1. "August: Osage County," The Old Globe. Director Sam Gold's stunning, searing production of Tracy Letts' epic Oklahoma family drama, enacted on a mammoth three-story set, was the year's artistic highlight. Letts described Gold's production in San Diego as the best staging so far of his Pulitzer Prize- and Tony-winning play.

2. "The Tempest," The Old Globe. Shakespeare Festival director Adrian Noble amazed with his imaginative, highly musical staging of Shakespeare's late romance set on an enchanted desert isle. Filled with what Noble called "rough magic," the staging was chock-a-block with dazzling imagery created with the simplest of storytelling tools — parachute cloth, drums and stilts.

3. "Cabaret," Cygnet Theatre. Artistic director Sean Murray's reimagined staging had a female Emcee, cross-dressing dancers, rethought musical numbers and a simplified color palette, but what

really stood out was the impeccable detail of his artistic choices. Not a stone was left unturned in his thoroughly realized revival of this classic work about the rising Nazi threat in 1930s Germany.

4. "Susurrus," La Jolla Playhouse. The inaugural production of the Playhouse's Without Walls series (which produces plays outside the boundaries of traditional theater spaces) was an immersive, haunting audio-visual experience at the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas. Wearing iPods, audience members listened to the tragic, opera-filled audioplay as they walked a preselected route. The play's theme of finding refuge from life's ugliness in nature beautifully paralleled the scenic wonder of the garden.

5. "Angels in America," Ion Theatre. Small but ambitious Ion Theatre performed the hat trick in 2011 with the world premiere of its first commissioned play, its first musical and its largest production to date, Tony Kushner's sprawling two-play epic "Angels in America." With a first-rate cast and thoughtful, focused direction by Ion co-founders Claudio Raygoza and Glenn Paris, it was one of the year's most impressive feats.

6. "Superior Donuts," San Diego Repertory Theatre. North County's own Robert Foxworth electrified this sweet, funny comedy by

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Theater

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Tracy Letts about a burned-out hippie doughnut shop-keeper who rediscovers the joy in life with the help of a bright young black employee.

7. "Jesus Christ Superstar," La Jolla Playhouse. Longtime Playhouse artistic director Des McAnuff returned this fall with his Broadway-bound Stratford Shakespeare Festival staging of the Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice rock opera. McAnuff's highly detailed direction brought new relevance to the story, along with a knock-your-socks-off finale and the best Judas I've ever seen in Josh Young.

8. "Dead Man's Cell Phone," Moxie Theatre. Director Delicia Turner Sonnenberg explored every quirky nook and cranny in Sarah Ruhl's oddball, time-traveling comedy, featuring a terrific performance by Jo Anne Glover and the best I've seen yet from Matt Thompson.

9. "Of Mice and Men," New Village Arts Theatre. New Village's Ensemble Project — a one-year program featuring the same troupe of actors and designers — was showcased in director Daren Scott's fine, unsentimental staging of John Steinbeck's bleak, Depression-era drama.

10. "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," MiraCosta College Theatre. The Old Globe-born musical returned in a surprisingly well-produced and very-well-cast staging by director Eric Bishop, featuring great chemistry between co-stars Patrick McBride and Tom Andrew.

Honorable mentions: The effervescent "Jane Austen's Emma" at the Old Globe; North Coast Repertory Theatre's well-synched (if over the top) "Lend Me a Tenor"; Lamb's Players Theatre's "Trying"; Cygnet Theatre's mostly perfect "The Glass Menagerie"; Moonlight Stage

Productions' fun, lively "Hairspray"; The Old Globe's beautifully acted "Death of a Salesman" and "Amadeus"; Ion Theatre's "Bash" and "Gypsy"; San Diego Rep's "In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)"; Anna Deavere Smith's solo play "Let Me Down Easy" (co-produced by San Diego Rep, La Jolla Playhouse and Vantage Theatre).

And the not-so-great: The Old Globe produced some of 2011's best shows, but it also turned out the biggest share of duds. Without an experienced artistic director at its helm, the Globe's spotty year included several tired retreads, a badly written new play and a host of productions marred by the last-minute firing of several actors and a director, including "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show," "Rafta, Rafta ...," "Somewhere," "Life of Riley" and "Groundswell."

Other disappointments were La Jolla Playhouse's misfires "A Dram of Drummhicit" and "Little Miss Sunshine"; Cygnet Theatre's offputting "Our Town"; and New Village Arts' head-scratching "Thom Pain (based on nothing)."

A look back at other theater news in 2011:

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Joy Yandell, center, plays Sally Bowles in Cygnet Theatre's "Cabaret." Photo courtesy of Daren Scott

JANUARY

■ Long-homeless Mo'olelo Performing Arts settled into a long-term residency at San Diego's 10th Avenue Theatre. Artistic director Seema Sueko is a wizard at community outreach, and her efforts brought the company another year of mostly sold-out houses and several major grants, including being named as one of just 10 U.S. theaters to receive the American Theatre Wing's 2011 National Theatre Company grant.

FEBRUARY

■ To restore its financial well-being, Coronado-based Lamb's Players Theatre announced it would sell the historical Victorian home that served as its corporate office for the past 12 years.

MARCH

■ Two North County teens had their scripts chosen for production at the San Diego Playwrights Project's Plays by Young Writers Festival: Ben Kelly, 18, of Carlsbad, and Kira Nolan, 11, of Encinitas.

APRIL

■ In an unprecedented collaboration, three San Diego theaters (San Diego Rep, La Jolla Playhouse and Vantage Theatre) teamed up to bring actor/playwright Anna Deavere Smith to town with her health care-themed solo play "Let Me Down Easy."

See **Theater, 13**



Lois Markle as Violet Weston, center, with the cast of Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play "August: Osage County" at the Old Globe Theatre.

Photo by Henry DiRocco

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Continued from Page 12

■ John E. Alexander was hired as executive director of San Diego's Diversionary Theatre, replacing outgoing chief Dan Kirsch. Alexander got his theatrical start at the Old Globe and San Diego Performing Arts League many years ago before heading East to work at theaters in Boston and New York.

MAY

■ Darko Tresnjak, the founding and former artistic director of the Old Globe's Summer Shakespeare Festival, was appointed artistic director of the prestigious Hartford Stage in Hartford, Conn. Tresnjak left the Old Globe in 2009 after winning a number of directing awards from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle.

JUNE

■ The long-running Celebrate Dance Festival — which offered a weekend of free dance performances in Balboa Park each summer — was canceled after a 14-year run. Founding organizer Eveoke Dance Theatre decided to "pass the torch" to another dance troupe so it could focus on other projects. San Diego choreographer Peter G. Kalivas of the PGK Project tried valiantly to rescue the festival, but he, too, pulled out, citing the high costs and time associated with producing the event.

JULY

■ Just eight months after co-starring with his long-time companion Marion Ross in the Old Globe's "The Last Romance," 84-year-old actor Paul Michael died July 8. Playwright Joe DiPietro wrote the bittersweet romance for the couple as Michael's 80th birthday gift. Together 22 years, Ross and Michael split their time between homes in Cardiff and Woodland Hills.

■ When the cancellation of the planned musical "Finding Neverland,"

La Jolla Playhouse artistic director Christopher Ashley announced he'd fill the fall season slot with the U.S. premiere of Des McAnuff's Stratford Shakespeare Festival production of "Jesus Christ Superstar." The acclaimed production (which plays through Saturday) broke Playhouse box-office records and will move to Broadway next March.

AUGUST

■ After canceling its 2011 summer season, 65-year-old Starlight Theatre filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in August. Plagued by a bad location (a too-big amphitheater under the Lindbergh Field flight path) and in debt to multiple creditors, the company let go its staff, sold off its costume and properties collections and filed for reorganization. A spokesman for the theater's board said the group hopes to revive Starlight in the future.

■ Carlsbad's New Village Arts Theatre launched The Ensemble Project, a year-long experiment where all of the company's productions from Aug. 3, 2011, to June 24, 2012, will be performed, designed and directed by the same salaried group of 14 people (plus a few guest artists and a youth apprentice). The project will conclude next summer with an original play featuring characters inspired by the real-life members of the ensemble.

SEPTEMBER

■ The Old Globe earned the ultimate public relations black eye with a badly mismanaged staging of "The Rocky Horror Show." Old Globe CEO/Executive Producer Lou Spisto hired edgy Orange County director Oahn Nguyen to stage the musical, then fired him a few weeks before the show opened. He also approved the hiring of Broadway veteran James Barbour to play the musical's lead role of Dr. Frank 'N' Furter. When a local conservative radio host latched on to some well-publicized details about

Barbour's past and began repeatedly telephoning the Globe offices on the air to challenge Spisto, all calls for nearly a week were dodged, causing public embarrassment for the theater and its board of directors. Barbour quit the show and a new leading man was brought in, but "Rocky Horror" opened in late September to mixed reviews.

OCTOBER

■ On Oct. 17, Spisto announced he will resign from the Old Globe at the year's end to become an independent theater producer. Spisto and board chairman Harold W. Fuson deny the resignation is related to the "Rocky Horror" debacle. During his nine years at the Globe, Spisto revived the company's Shakespeare festival, grew the budget from \$12 million to \$20 million and shepherded a capital campaign that raised \$75 million (a third spent on the new Conrad Prebys theater complex). But his tenure (in which he ultimately assumed the position of artistic director) was also marked by internal strife and sometimes questionable artistic choices. When the Globe's board embarks on a national search for new leadership next year, it's expected the company will bring back the artistic director/managing director model that served the Globe for most of its 75 years.

■ After a critically lauded but poorly attended production of "Mame," Lyric Opera San Diego filed for bankruptcy protection. Initially, the company's board hoped to salvage the company's 2011-2012 season with a few fundraisers, but quickly determined there was no way it could raise enough money in donations and ticket sales to pay the \$11,500-a-month mortgage on the company's home, the Birch North Park Theater. A new management team has taken over the Birch, and San Diego Musical Theatre announced it will become the theater's anchor client in 2012.

NOVEMBER

■ On Nov. 1, Ocean-side Theatre Company — led by artistic director Christopher Williams — took over the lease for the city-owned Sunshine Brooks Theater in Oceanside. OTC replaces New Vision Theatre, which produced the theater in the downtown theater for six years. After a massive cleanup, OTC presented a critically acclaimed debut production in December, "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol."

■ After 31 years as founding artistic director of Vista's Moonlight Stage Productions, Kathy Brombacher announced she will retire at the end of the 2012 season. Brombacher's final season at the Moonlight Amphitheatre will include "Anything Goes," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Legally Blonde, the Musical" and "Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street."

■ The operators of the Arts Tix half-price ticket booth in the Gaslamp Quarter's Horton Plaza shopping center launched a petition drive to save the building from extinction. The city-owned shopping center at Broadway and Third Avenue in San Diego is set for renovation, and there are plans to raze the building to expand the front courtyard and build an open plaza with an amphitheater and fountains. San Diego Performing Arts League (which opened the booth in 1986) said it provides a valuable link between tourists and local arts groups, but much of the service's ticket sales have moved online in recent years. Since the online petition was launched, nearly 1,000 people have signed it.

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Top Theatre of 2011



[Erin Reiter](#), San Diego Theater Examiner

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2011 is now over (this article barely making it under the wire) and I look back at the wonderful theatre that I was able to see over the past year. So in the spirit of reflection, here are some of the best shows that I saw in the year of 2011 (in no particular order).

Coronado School of the Arts- *The Laramie Project*

This encore performance staged reading featuring students from the Coronado School of the Arts was a stirring reminder of a story of a town touched by hate and showcased some amazingly talented kids.

www.cosafoundation.org

Cygnnet Theatre – *Cabaret*

Karson St. John's Emcee goes from comic and friendly to terrifying and sinister and was the anchor to the wonderful cast in this gritty and entertaining production.

www.cygnnettheatre.com

The Old Globe – *Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show*

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This rollicking musical was a fun revival of a cult classic. The cast, the fabulous Dr. Frank 'N' Furter and the audience interaction all added up to one fun time at the theatre.

www.theoldglobe.org

La Jolla Playhouse – *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Sing hosanna, this revival, fresh from the Stratford Shakespeare Festival before going to Broadway, was a much more contemporary retelling of the last week of Jesus' life. The three lead performers made their acting match the soaring music and brought the show to a sharp and poignant focus.

www.lajollaplayhouse.com

Chinese Pirate Productions – *Dr. Horrible' Sing Along Blog*

This shows fun and inventive staging and strong performances from the cast made this show a blast to watch. Who doesn't like to root for the villain, jeer the hero and support a local theatre in the process?

www.chinesepirateproductions.com

Cygnets Theatre- *Little Shop of Horrors*

This fun musical referenced every production of this show, from its B-movie origins to the 80's musical movie with 50's camp in between. The monochrome staging made this all about the only thing in color, the plant from outer space and what its plans are for Earth.

STORIES THEATER REVIEWS

Over, Under, Through

In about ten seconds, often less, she became the person she portrayed.

By Jeff Smith | Published Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012

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Lois Markle as Violet Weston (center) with the cast of Tracy Letts's Pulitzer Prize-winning play August: Osage County

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As was Arthur Przybyszewski at the San Diego Rep. Our first look at Robert Foxworth, in Tracy Letts's *Superior Donuts*, wasn't promising: just a dull brown splotch — a long gray ponytail and a dooper's nod — propping up chairs in a donut shop. Turns out he ran the place. It also turned out he had quite a story. As Foxworth told it in amazing detail, Arthur evolved with the telling, and a glimmer inside him grew brighter and brighter.

I've seen wonderful theater in a social hall at the Del Mar racetrack and in the library of a middle school in Santee. I've come to anticipate capable results at Chula Vista's OnStage Playhouse. Their *Diary of Anne Frank*, however, went way beyond expectations.

A wall on the lobby had handwriting in different colored ink. Seen up close, each was a letter to Anne Frank. People wrote them after seeing the show. If you read

a few going in, the bursts of praise and compassion prepared you in a unique way for what was to come.

The stage was the cramped upper floor — the “Secret Annex” — at 263 Prinsengracht in Amsterdam, where eight people hid out from the Nazis for almost two years. Director Kym Pappas treated it throughout as real, and the audience as floating passers-by. Until the actors exited, in a medieval Dance of Death, they never left the stage. Once they did, there was no curtain call. They were gone. And when audiences exited, many grabbed a pen and added to the multicolored outpourings on the wall.

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Actors are taught to stay in the present — with the text and onstage. If you anticipate (to set up a joke or a dramatic “actor’s moment”), you are no longer now; look back on what you’ve done, same deal.

Playwrights must write the same way: move truthfully from moment to moment, speech to speech. Few playwrights do this as well as Tennessee Williams. And scene seven in *The Glass Menagerie* is as good as he gets. Finally alone, the Gentleman Caller talks with, tries to prop up, and seems to court shy Laura Wingfield. Their conversation deftly runs from unthinkable possibilities to a final, emotional last straw.

In Cygnet Theatre’s *Menagerie*, Brian Mackey and Amanda Sitton breathed such life into the scene, were so fully in the present, they made the famous outcome seem in doubt. I can think of no higher praise.

Most memorable musicals: along with *Jesus Christ Superstar*, at La Jolla Playhouse, two others remain in the mind for their daring. Cygnet Theatre staged *Cabaret* with a female Emcee. People expecting an imitation of the iconic Joel Gray performance must have been let down, for a while. But Craig Noel Award winner Karson St. John, with insomniac’s eyes and murder in her heart, stalked the stage and slowly claimed the role as her own.

It took Linda Libby about five seconds to become Mama Rose in Ion Theatre’s *Gypsy*. One reason: Ion staged the musical in its intimate space, a daring choice that brought out the backstage nature of the piece and the songs. Libby made her first entrance from behind the audience with a voice like a squawky foghorn. She took charge and held it all evening long.

San Diego had quite a year for musicals, among them: the Rep’s *Tommy*, Cygnet’s *Cabaret* and *Little Shop of Horrors* (highlighted by Melissa Fernandes’s wonderful Audrey), Jane Austen’s *Emma* at the Old Globe, *A Chorus Line* at San Diego Musical Theatre, *Man of La Mancha* at the Welk (stellar performance by John Lalond as the errant Don Quixote), *Hairspray* at Moonlight. And two *Spring Awakenings*: at San Diego Actors Conservatory Theatre and the American Rose Theatre. Having to single out one is near impossible.

My favorite design work for 2011? An unfair call: the San Diego Botanic Garden is one of the Seven Wonders of San Diego County. The La Jolla Playhouse “staged” David Leddy’s *Susurrus* as a walking tour of the garden: vegetation from all over the world, waterfalls, soft ocean breezes (a “susurrus” is wind whistling through trees), and a story that unfolded like different versions of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in this pastoral setting.

The behind-the-scenes news of 2011: Louis Spisto stepped down as CEO of the Old Globe Theatre. As a fundraiser, Spisto had few peers. The Globe's physical plant was much improved during his tenure.

As a selector of plays, Spisto favored safe, pretested, almost wholly commercial fare (*August: Osage County* being a huge exception). And world-premiere musicals were another matter. They arrived here hype-first: just one small step from Broadway. But most were, at best, about half-thought-out — *Whisper House*, *First Wives' Club*, the recent *Some Lovers* (with a Burt Bacharach score but no book) — and left in no better shape. Some suffered drastic changes during rehearsals: *Rocky Horror* and *Whisper House* lost key personnel, including the original directors.

The Old Globe Theatre needs an artistic director, not a CEO, making artistic decisions. And it needs to be purged of the Broadway-bound fever that has infected it for years and brought in so many half-baked projects. *We are here. We are not a stepping stone. Speak to us.*

Years ago, when the fever first appeared, Craig Noel, the father of San Diego theater, was puzzled by all the talk of this or that show headed for Broadway and names in lights. Forget all that, I heard him say. "Just do good work." ■

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COMMENTS

And why did Mr. Smith never have the courage to speak his piece about the Globe's leadership before so much damage was done? Mr. Spisto's lack of qualifications for making artistic decisions (both short term, and - more disastrously - long term) was certainly no secret in the SD theatre community; it was openly discussed on many occasions. Nor was Mr. Noel's dismay at the theatre's artistic aimlessness unknown to a wide circle that included not only close friends but many professional colleagues who did not know him personally as well. Mr. Smith, you might have done your community an important service by raising these topics for serious discussion in your pages. Why did you fail to do so? What, or whom, were you scared of?



By **Joseph Vann** 2:12 p.m., Jan 7, 2012 > Report it

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man Caller talks with, tries to prop up, and seems to court shy Laura Wingfield. Their conversation deftly runs from unthinkable possibilities to a final, emotional last straw.

In Cygnet Theatre’s *Menagerie*, Brian Mackey and Amanda Sitton breathed such life into the scene, were so fully in the present, they made the famous outcome seem in doubt. I can think of no higher praise.

Most memorable musicals: along with *Jesus Christ Superstar*, at La Jolla Playhouse, two others remain in the mind for their daring. Cygnet Theatre staged *Cabaret* with a female Emcee. People expecting an imitation of the iconic Joel Gray performance must have been let down, for a while. But Craig Noel Award winner Karson St. John, with insomniac’s eyes and murder in her heart, stalked the stage and slowly claimed the role as her own.

It took Linda Libby about five seconds to become Mama Rose in Ion Theatre’s *Gypsy*. One reason: Ion staged the musical in its intimate space, a daring choice that brought out the backstage nature of the piece and the songs. Libby made her first entrance from behind the audience with a voice like a squawky foghorn. She took charge and held it all evening long.

San Diego had quite a year for musicals, among them: the Rep’s *Tommy*, Cygnet’s *Cabaret* and *Little Shop of Horrors* (highlighted by Melissa Fernandes’s wonderful Audrey), Jane Austen’s *Emma* at the Old Globe, *A Chorus Line* at San Diego Musical Theatre, *Man of La Mancha* at the Welk (stellar performance by John Lalond as the errant Don Quixote), *Hairspray* at Moonlight. And two *Spring Awakenings*: at San Diego Actors Conservatory Theatre and the American Rose Theatre. Having to single out one is near impossible.

My favorite design work for 2011? An unfair call: the San Diego Botanic Garden is one of the Seven Wonders of San Diego County. The La Jolla Playhouse “staged” David Leddy’s *Susurrus* as a walking tour of the garden: vegetation from all over the world, waterfalls, soft ocean breezes

(a “susurrus” is wind whistling through trees), and a story that unfolded like different versions of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in this pastoral setting.

The behind-the-scenes news of 2011: Louis Spisto stepped down as CEO of the Old Globe Theatre. As a fundraiser, Spisto had few peers. The Globe’s physical plant was much improved during his tenure.

As a selector of plays, Spisto favored safe, pretested, almost wholly commercial fare (*August: Osage County* being a huge exception). And world-premiere musicals were another matter. They arrived here hype-first: just one small step from Broadway. But most were, at best, about half-thought-out — *Whisper House*, *First Wives’ Club*, the recent *Some Lovers* (with a Burt Bacharach score but no book) — and left in no better shape. Some suffered drastic changes during rehearsals: *Rocky Horror* and *Whisper House* lost key personnel, including the original directors.

The Old Globe Theatre needs an artistic director, not a CEO, making artistic decisions. And it needs to be purged of the Broadway-bound fever that has infected it for years and brought in so many half-baked projects. *We are here. We are not a stepping stone. Speak to us.*

Years ago, when the fever first appeared, Craig Noel, the father of San Diego theater, was puzzled by all the talk of this or that show headed for Broadway and names in lights. Forget all that, I heard him say. “Just do good work.” ■

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Margo Martindale's Playing Frank-N-Furter At the Old Globe?!

11 Aug



via [broadwayworld.com](#)

They SAY it's James Barbour, but from the looks of this picture...

Also, lipstick really does finish out a look, I'm just sayin'.

P.S. If it really were Margo Martindale, that would be pretty excellent.

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Page 1 of 1



The Old Globe

Remember Dr. Frank-N-Furter? He's the cross-dressing mad scientist in Richard O'Brien's ***The Rocky Horror Show***, the campy musical classic that launches the Globe's 2011-2012 season from Sept. 15 to Nov. 6. Expect outrageous humor, gleeful audience participation, and imaginative tweaks by the show's director, Oanh Nguyen.

The lineup also includes the world premieres of two very different musicals. ***Some Lovers*** (Nov. 26-Dec. 31) taps the talent of Grammy-winning Burt Bacharach and Tony-winning Steven Sater (*Spring Awakening*) for the show based on *The Gift of the Magi*, O. Henry's heart-tugging Christmas story.

By contrast, ***A Room with a View*** (March 2-April 8, 2012) was inspired by E.M. Forster's romantic novel, which tells of love and longing in sun-drenched Tuscany.

"The story feels so right as a stage musical," says Lou Spisto, the Globe's executive producer. "These characters really do need to sing."

And sing they will in the musical by Jeffrey Stock and Marc Acito.

619-23-GLOBE, theoldglobe.org

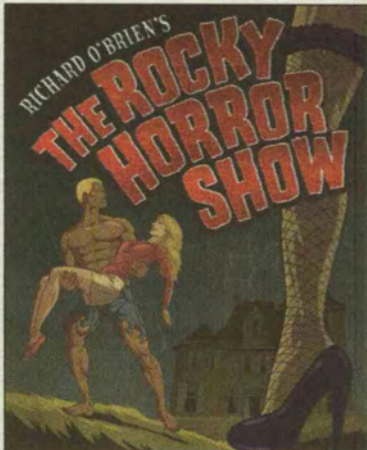


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Page 1 of 1



THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: The musical that became a movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon is back where it is meant to be seen – live on stage. Anyone for the time warp? *Opens Sept. 15 at the Old Globe Theatre Conrad Prebys Theatre Center in Balboa Park; theoldglobe.org.*



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Page 1 of 3

EXPLORING Balboa Park



Left to right: the graceful architecture of the House of Hospitality; a bonobo at play at the San Diego Zoo (located inside the park); the Old Globe Theatre.

Art, music and
performance
bloom year-round.

Spanning 1,200 acres of lush, beautifully landscaped terrain, Balboa Park is known as San Diego's "crown jewel," offering a variety of outdoor recreation options for kids and adults alike, not to mention a verdant respite from the bustle of the city's increasingly metropolitan pace. The park is also the seat of San Diego's thriving cultural scene.

Nestled between palm trees and botanical gardens, ornate Spanish Colonial buildings house many of the park's museums and art exhibits. Several of the buildings were constructed as part of two world fairs: the Panama-California Exposition in 1915-16, and the California-Pacific International Exposition in 1935-36.

It can take more than one day to see and enjoy each museum, garden and attraction. The **Visitors Center** (619.239.0512) in the House of Hospitality offers a Passport to Balboa Park, allowing admission to any of the park's museums for one week. (Keep in mind some museums are closed on Mondays.) Deluxe packages include passes to the neighboring **San Diego Zoo**. Or go high-tech and let the park's new iPhone app be your guide.

ARTS & CULTURE

Performing arts abound in the park. The **Old Globe Theatre** routinely presents top talent in world-renowned productions; fall features include *Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show* (Sept. 15-Nov. 6), a revival of the musical that inspired the cult-classic film, and *Somewhere* (Sept. 24-Oct. 30), a world premiere play from playwright-in-residence Matthew Lopez. See p. 64 for more theater listings.

Elsewhere in the park, the **Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre** presents whimsical puppet shows, while **Spreckels Organ Pavilion** houses the world's largest outdoor pipe organ, with some 4,500 pipes. Free concerts are offered Sundays at 2 pm.

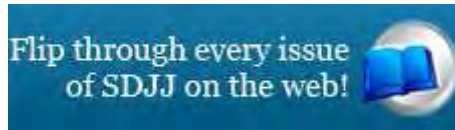
The park is also home to groups celebrating culture. The **House of Pacific Relations International Cottages** promotes the heritage of countries around the world by hosting open houses and weekend festivals. Neighboring **WorldBeat Center** uses art, music, dance and education to celebrate African and indigenous cultures, while **Centro Cultural de la Raza** is a multidisciplinary center dedicated to the preservation of Chicano/Latino culture.

The park has a vast array of institutions celebrating the visual arts, past and present. Known for its presentation of eclectic traveling exhibitions, the **San Diego Museum of Art** also has a trove of Renaissance and Baroque works, plus a vast Asian collection; a survey of Mexican Modernist painting arrives this fall. The world-class **Museum of Photographic**

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What's Goin' On – Switching Gears for a Fall Lineup

by Eileen Sondak | [September 2011](#) | [Post your comment »](#)

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By Eileen Sondak

As summer vacations fade into memory, summer-only entertainment winds down, too. Summer Pops plays its final notes Labor Day weekend, and the Old Globe's Shakespeare Festival runs its course Sept. 25. Happily, fall offerings start showing up on local stages this month, including the San Diego Symphony, which bows in with its winter season Sept. 30.

The Old Globe's annual Shakespeare Festival continues to welcome audiences of the alfresco theater scene

most of this month, with a three-show repertory that includes two Shakespeare classics and Peter Shaffer's "Amadeus." "Much Ado About Nothing," a comedy of mismatched lovers, and "The Tempest," the Bard's masterpiece of redemption and forgiveness will rotate with "Amadeus," a powerful drama about Mozart, to round out the Globe's spectacular summer smorgasbord. All three productions are outstanding and not to be missed.

Although sparks are still flying between George Bernard Shaw and socialite Charlotte Payne-Townshend in the bristling new comedy, "Engaging Shaw" (at the Globe's White Theatre through Sept. 4), the Globe is getting ready to unveil two more shows this month. Richard O'Brien's "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" launches the Globe's new season on the Main Stage Sept. 15. This enduring musical phenomenon will continue through Nov. 6.

"Somewhere," a dance-infused world premiere, tells the story of a family of dreamers whose home is headed for demolition. That piece is coming to the Globe's White Theatre Sept. 24-Oct. 30. The outdoor Festival Stage will feature "Odyssey," a new work to celebrate the Globe's 75th anniversary. This large-scale show will be performed Sept. 30-Oct. 2.

San Diego Pops concludes its summer season on a high note Sept. 2-4 with its popular 1812 Tchaikovsky Spectacular. The San Diego Symphony swings into action Sept. 30, with a program titled "Thibaudet Plays Ravel Concertos." The concert, conducted by Jahja Ling, will be repeated Oct. 2. The most exciting event that weekend will take place Oct. 1, when Maestro Ling conducts the Symphony's annual gala, starring Kathleen Battle and Jean-Yves Thibaudet. This stellar evening will include pre- and post-concert activities, as well as the performance.

North Coast Repertory Theatre will open its 30th season with "Lend Me a Tenor," directed by Matthew Wiener, Sept. 7. The multi-award-winning show, a farce with plot twists and double entendres galore, will continue through Oct. 2 at NCR's Solana Beach home, to start things off with hilarity.

Broadway-San Diego will unleash "Blue Man Group" Sept. 20-25. These wildly outrageous entertainers are best known for highly theatrical shows that combine comedy, music and technology to produce totally unique entertainment.

Cygnets Theatre is offering a reimagined version of "Little Shop of Horrors," directed by Sean Murray. The show is like the old black-and-white horror flick on which it's based, and it should develop a strong following before it closes shop Sept. 11.

The La Jolla Playhouse's Potiker Theatre features a production of "Milk Like Sugar" through Sept. 25. The play is about a 16-year-old girl in a pregnancy pact with two high school friends. Savage humor and gritty poetry are hallmarks of this provocative new piece.

The Lamb's Horton Grand Theatre is still jumping with "MixTape," the 1980s musical. That long-running show was extended again through Sept. 4. Then on Sept. 9, "Til We Have Faces" moves in until Sept. 18. The Lamb's Coronado home is showcasing "Trying," a true story about the former head of the Nuremberg Trials and his feisty young assistant. The engrossing show will stay put through Sept. 25, and it sounds like a must-see.

Moonlight's summer season closes after "The Marvelous Wonderettes" completes its run at the Vista-based Amphitheatre. The show is slated to run Sept. 14-Oct. 3.

J*Company will present "Disney's Milan" Sept. 16. The fairytale will entertain audiences of all ages at the JCC in La Jolla through Oct. 2.

— ON STAGE —

Spotlight on community theatre

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Previews by Diana Saenger

Playgoers have lots of tough choices as new and exciting productions ease their way onto San Diego theatrical stages. Here are some of the choices to see, so hurry and make those reservations soon.

Broadway San Diego

Best known for their wildly popular theatrical shows and concerts which combine comedy, music, and technology to produce a totally unique form of entertainment, **BLUE MAN GROUP** is an intensely exciting and wildly outrageous show that leaves the entire audience in a blissful, euphoric state! This unique experience is a form of entertainment like nothing else; guaranteed to be an outing you will never forget. **BLUE MAN GROUP** runs Sept. 20 -25 at the Civic Theatre. For more information call (619) 570-1100. <http://www.broadwaysd.com>

Cygnnet Theater Company

Film Director Roger Corman probably never imagined *Little Shop Of Horrors*, his goofy 1960 B-movie about a man-eating plant being fed blood by a hopeless romantic and shot in two days and one night, would make it more than one week in the theater. After more than fifty years the film, as well as the theatrical play, continues to amuse and beguile its audience. *The Little Shop Of Horrors* rock musical, by composer Alan Menken and writer Howard Ashman, runs through September 11 at Cygnnet Theatre in Old Town. For more information call (619) 337-1525, www.cygnnettheatre.com

La Jolla Playhouse

MILK LIKE SUGAR - Like all teenagers, 16-year-old Annie and her friends crave the hottest designer phones, handbags and fashion. But their prospects for the good life seem limited in the dead-end town they call home. When the girls decide to create their own future by entering into a pregnancy pact, Annie is confronted with the challenge of choosing between the safety of the life she knows and the danger of the life she desires. Winner of the prestigious Edgerton Foundation's New American Plays Award, *Milk Like Sugar* is a coming-of-age story for our times. Kirsten Greenidge's new play is written with warmth, humor and a beautiful, raw honesty about being a teenager today. *Milk Like Sugar* runs August 30 - Sept. 25. **JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR** - This ground-breaking rock opera, which reinvented musical theatre for the modern age, tells the story of the last week of Christ's life. The zeal with which Christ's followers are hailing him as the Son of God becomes a source of dismay to his disciple Judas Iscariot. Fearing that this tide of religious fervor will provoke brutal repression by the occupying Romans, Judas must make his fateful choice between faith and betrayal. *Jesus Christ Superstar* runs Nov. 18 - Dec. 31. For more information call (858) 550-1010, www.lajolaplayhouse.org

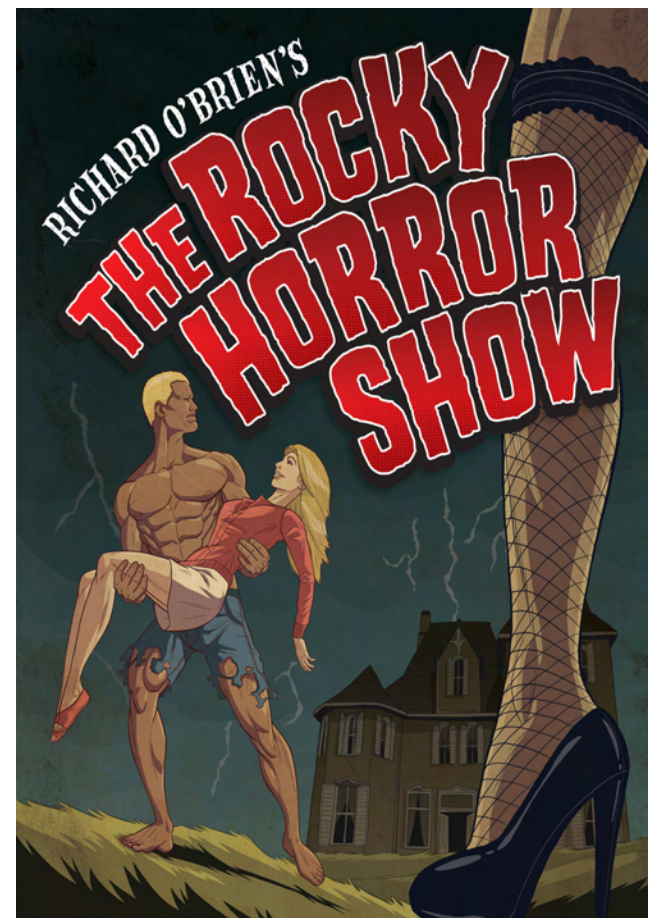
North Coast Repertory

LEND ME A TENOR - Winner of 3 Tony Awards and 4 Drama Desk Awards *Lend Me A Tenor* combines a chain-reaction of mistaken identity, plot twists, double entendres and

the constant slamming of many doors to create one of the funniest farces to grace the American stage in the last 30 years. A sensation on Broadway and in London's West End, *Lend Me A Tenor* pays homage to the madcap screwball comedies of the 1930's, guaranteed to leave audiences howling hysterically with laughter and walking out the door with a warm smile. *Lend Me A Tenor* runs Sept. 2 - Oct. 7. For more information call (858) 481-1055, <http://www.northcoastrep.org>

Old Globe Theatre

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW - The musical that became a movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon is back where it is meant to be seen—live on stage! A sexy, wild, funny, tongue-in-cheek interactive time warp through a kaleidoscope of camp with a musical score that has become iconic—one showstopper after another! Strange things happen when Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere. After an incredible night at the Frankenstein place they learn a little bit about themselves and the world. *For Mature Audiences. The Rocky Horror Show* runs Sept. 15 - Nov. 6 in The Old Globe Theatre. **SOMEWHERE** - A World Premiere play from Old Globe Playwright-in-Residence Matthew Lopez, whose *The Whipping Man* was a smash hit at the Globe and then New York. Lopez's poignant new play is about one family's attempt to make its fantasy a reality. Gorgeous dance sequences are woven throughout the play



The Rocky Horror Show. Credit: courtesy

and help to tell the story of Inez Candelaria and her three children's dream of a life in show business. With their building scheduled for demolition and their life together beginning to crumble, the filming of the movie of *West Side Story* on the streets of their soon to be abandoned neighborhood finally brings reality into focus. *Some-where* runs Sept. 24 - Oct 30 in the Shirley and Harvey White Theater. **ODYSSEY** -

Director Lear deBessonet and writer/composer Todd Almond have developed an epic music theatre event, *Odyssey*, in celebration of The Old Globe's 75th anniversary. DeBessonet and Almond update the classic story of Odysseus, the Greek hero who faced giants, monsters and seductive sirens in his journey home from the Trojan War. Here, Odysseus' adventures are translated into a voyage through the people and places of modern-day San Diego. *Odyssey* will feature a cast of 200 performers coming together in a unique collaboration between professional artists and community partners. *Odyssey* runs Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 in the Lowell Davis Theatre. For more information: (619) 23-GLOBE, www.TheOldGlobe.org

San Diego Repertory Theatre

WALTER CRONKITE IS DEAD - This West Coast premiere of an intimate comedy takes the vitriolic rhetoric of red state vs. blue state and asks us to view "the other" with our eyes wide open. A fierce thunderstorm shut down airports, two women get stuck in a waiting area at Reagan National Airport...and the drama goes on and on. Walter Cronkite is Dead runs Sep. 17 - Oct. 16 in the Lyceum Space. For more information call (619) 544-1000 or visit www.screp.org

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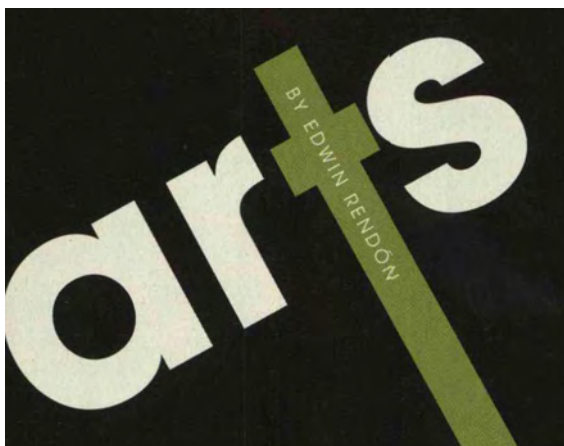
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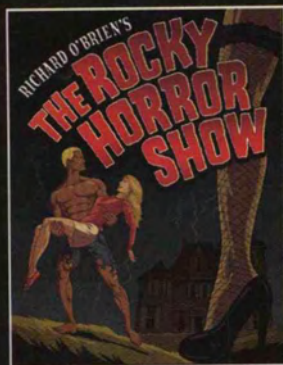
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Page 1 of 1



RICHARD O'BRIEN'S THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: THE OLD GLOBE THEATRE

The Old Globe's new season opens up with a world of possibilities in Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show. The 1973 London cult theatre hit, and later turned cultural



movie phenomenon, has been resurrected on the stage for a time warp- again! Don't get strung out by the devilish charm of Dr. Frank 'N' Furter's "efforts" to help the stranded straight-laced couple Brad and Janet as he takes them on a strange journey.

The doctor's laboratory holds a myriad of possibilities and maybe even true love; no sedatives required on this trip!

www.theoldglobe.org | Sept. 15th – Nov. 6th

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Fall Theatre: Rocky Horror, Hair & more

Posted On : 9/9/2011 by [Michelle Guerin](#)[Write a Comment](#)[Bookmark](#)[Print](#)

While summer is designed for endless outdoor entertainment, as we fall into autumn we head indoors to enjoy a new season of excitement. Whether you're seeking refuge from a rainy afternoon, or searching for unique ways to cool off during the unexpected heat wave, [San Diego theatres](#) always offer the perfect escape.

This fall, leading San Diego playhouses are introducing a range of excellent productions. From international premieres of new, edgy dramas, to contemporary takes on cult musical classics, this season features [theatrical entertainment](#) for audiences of all ages and interests. A few of my must-see fall plays include The Rocky Horror Show at The Old Globe, HAIR at Civic Theatre, and Jesus Chris Superstar at La Jolla Playhouse. These performances will have you on the edge of your seat while easing you into the spirit of the holidays which, if you can believe it, are already fast approaching.

Discover five must-see theatre performances for fall in San Diego.

[Milk Like Sugar](#) at La Jolla Playhouse: August 30 - September 25

A *San Diego premiere*, *Milk Like Sugar* takes place in an inner city neighborhood and tells the story of a 16-year-old girl named Annie who feels that she is stuck in a dead end town and decides that she is going to invent her own future by entering into a life changing pact with friends. The La Jolla Playhouse presents the premiere of *Milk Like Sugar* at the Potiker Theatre, showing through September 25. Learn more at lajollaplayhouse.com

The Rocky Horror Show at [The Old Globe Theatre](#): September 15 - November 6

Following a summer of Shakespeare, The Old Globe embraces the new fall season with a production of Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show*. During this wild, sexy, tongue-in-cheek interactive musical, strange things happen when Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere. Do the time warp and get in the mood for Halloween as *The Rocky Horror Show* takes the stage at The Old Globe Theatre September 15 - November 6. Costumes recommended! Learn more at theoldglobe.org

[The Blue Man Group](#) at [Civic Theatre](#): September 20 - 25

The Blue Man Group has become a cultural phenomenon for our generation. The multi-faceted show introduces three enigmatic and literally blue-painted men, combining theater, percussive music, art, science and vaudeville into a new genre of theater production unlike anything else. A wild evening of entertainment that is perfect for the whole family, The Blue Man Group takes the stage at the Civic September 20 - 25. Learn more at broadwaysd.com

HAIR at [Civic Theatre](#): October 18 - 23

An iconic theatrical production, *HAIR* is a rock musical about a group of young Americans searching for peace and love in a turbulent time. Soulful songs that evoke struggle and freedom include "Aquarius," "Let the Sun Shine In," "Good Morning, Starshine" and "Easy To Be Hard." *HAIR* is a Tony Award-winning play for Best Musical Revival. Let the sun shine this fall as *HAIR* takes the stage at the Civic October 18 - 23. Learn more at broadwaysd.com (pictured)

Jesus Christ Superstar at [La Jolla Playhouse](#): November 18 - December 31

This rock opera tells the story of the last week of Christ's life, and is said to have reinvented modern musical theatre. The musical comes to life as the audience discovers the power struggle between Christ and his disciple Judas Iscariot. Unforgettable songs include "Heaven On Their Minds," "I Don't Know How To Love Him" and "Superstar." Gearing up for the holidays, the La Jolla Playhouse presents the Stratford Shakespeare Festival's production of *Jesus Chris Superstar* at the Weiss Theatre November 18 - December 31. Learn more at lajollaplayhouse.com

Want more? Get prepped for a big season on the small screen in our [2011 Fall TV Guide](#).

Discover more [San Diego theater news](#) and follow our [San Diego entertainment blog](#).

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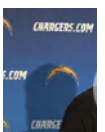
This weekend gives you a variety of ways to continue the rowdy summer fun, or clean up and embrace the classier side of [San Diego](#).

If you want to keep the endless summer party going, don't miss EDM this

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Fourth of July Party Guide

Michelle Scene: Personal
Party Concierge

Thursday at FLUXX, featuring a wild set by popular electro DJ duo [Manufactured Superstars](#). This is the first in a series of super-hot EDM events you don't want to miss. Then head over to the Hard Rock Hotel on Sunday for one of the last Intervention pool parties of the season, featuring icon DJ [Steve Aoki](#). If you need a break from the club scene, embrace the local arts and head to [The Old Globe Theatre](#) for the opening weekend of [The Rocky Horror Show](#). This tongue-in-cheek interactive musical is sure to get you in the mood for Halloween. On Saturday, change into your sleek Hollywood glam attire for the Classy Awards at the Civic Theatre, an event recognizing philanthropic achievements in our community. For the best of both worlds, enjoy a free live concert by Switchfoot or [MercyMe](#) after the Padres games on Saturday and Sunday. No matter what you choose, make sure to save room for San Diego Restaurant Week, which takes over our town starting Sunday.

EDM with Manufactured Superstars at FLUXX: 9/15

This fall, FLUXX presents an illustrious [Electronic Dance Music](#) event line-up. On Thursday, September 15, EDM has announced headliners Manufactured Superstars, a duo with one distinctive way of expressing their energy through popular electro, progressive, house, and pop music. Warning: spacesuits will be involved. There may even be a 6-foot tall teddy bear on stage. Things will get weird. Get [details here](#).

Project Ethos at [House of Blues](#): 9/15

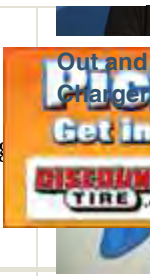
Project Ethos returns to San Diego to present an action-packed evening of fashion, music, and art this Thursday at the House of Blues. Guests can intake runway fashion and local music sensations, all with the surrounding environment filled with art, art, and more art. It's a creative haven that dismisses the daily drill that runs us dry of imagination; instead Project Ethos aims to reinvigorate the senses. Get [details here](#).

The Rocky Horror Show at The Old Globe Theatre: 9/15

Following a summer of Shakespeare, The Old Globe welcomes fall with Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show*. During this tongue-in-cheek interactive musical, strange things happen when Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere. *The Rocky Horror Show* opens this Thursday, September 15, and will run through November 6. Get [details here](#).

3rd Annual Stay Classy Awards at Civic Theatre: 9/17

StayClassy.org presents the 3rd Annual Stay Classy Awards, an event recognizing philanthropic achievements in San Diego. Taking place at the Civic Theatre, this elegant ceremony will recognize charities, individuals, and businesses that go the extra mile to make a difference. This year, the Classy Awards will be hosted by actress [Jamie-Lynn Sigler](#), also featuring speakers Adam Garone, CEO of Movember, Yael Cohen, Founder of F Cancer, and more. Get [details here](#).



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CALENDAR

Orange County/San Diego/Inland Empire
September 2011



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 GRANDPARENTS DAY

Celebrate Grandparents Day at the Fleet Science Center with free gallery admission for grandparents and their grandchildren. There are lots of activities for all ages to enjoy together, including more than 100 hands-on science exhibits and the new "Geometry Playground" and "Identity" exhibitions. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, Balboa Park, 1875 El Prado, San Diego. (\$12-\$15) Free for grandparents and grandkids. (619) 238-1233. rhfleet.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

2011 SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

The Old Globe's annual Shakespeare Festival Globe features "Amadeus" (through Sept. 22). Other performances during the festival include "Much Ado About Nothing" (through Sept. 24) and "The Tempest" (through Sept. 25). The three productions are performed in nightly rotation. The Old Globe, Lowell Davies Festival Theatre (outdoors), 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, San Diego. \$29-\$85. (619) 234-5623. theoldglobe.org.

WEST SIDE STORY

More than 50 years ago, one musical changed theater forever. Now "West Side Story" is back mesmerizing audiences once again with its powerful, poignant and timely themes. From the first note to the final breath, it soars as one of the world's the great love stories. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Segerstrom Hall, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. Through Sept. 18. \$20-\$85. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

MILK LIKE SUGAR

Being stuck in a dead-end town hasn't

diminished the dreams of 16-year old Annie and her friends. But when they decide to create their own future by entering into a life-changing pact together, Annie begins to question what she really wants. La Jolla Playhouse, UCSD Campus, Potiker Theatre, 2910 La Jolla Village Dr., La Jolla. Tues.-Sun. through Sept. 25. \$35. (858) 550-1010. lajollaplayhouse.org.

DIANA ROSS

Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, 2241 Shelter Island Dr., San Diego. Also Oct. 8. \$175. (619) 220-8497. humphreysconcerts.com.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

PRIDE & PREJUDICE

In 1813 England, Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy match wits in this sparkling Jane Austen classic. OnStage Playhouse, 291 Third Ave., Chula Vista. Through Oct. 8. \$14-\$16. (619) 422-7787. onstageplayhouse.org.

RICHARD O'BRIEN'S THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

When Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere, they seek help from the devilishly charming transvestite Dr. Frank N. Furter. What they discover in his mysterious laboratory is a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities — and, perhaps, true

love. The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through Nov. 6. \$29-\$85. (619) 234-5623. theoldglobe.org.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

JIMMY STEWART, A HUMOROUS LOOK AT HIS LIFE

Famous voice impersonator Rich Little pays tribute to the legendary Jimmy Stewart, in a unique and funny one-man production. The show features hilarious impressions of other characters whose lives intertwined with Stewart's. Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 12700 Center Court Drive, Cerritos. \$39-\$59. (562) 467-8818. cerritoscenter.com.

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

Learn a variety of composting and other sustainable resource practices. Chula Vista Nature Center, E. St. and Bay Blvd., Chula Vista. \$8-\$11. Also Sept. 25. (619) 409-5900. chulavistaca.gov/clean

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

DINNER-DANCE

The Widow or Widowers Club (WOW) of San Diego hosts a dinner/dance at the El Cajon Elks Lodge on Washington Ave., El Cajon. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. \$13. 619-461-7652 wowsd.org.

EMERSON STRING QUARTET

Program includes Mozart, Jalbert and Beethoven. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Samueli Theater, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. \$60. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

JAZZ AT THE MERC

Pianist Eric Reed. The Mercantile, 42051 Main St., Temecula. \$15. (866) 653-8696. temeculatheater.org.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

SOMEWHERE

With their building scheduled for demolition and their life together beginning to crumble, the filming of "West Side Story" on the streets of their soon-to-be abandoned New York City neighborhood brings reality into focus. Gorgeous dance sequences are woven throughout the play and help tell the story of Inez Candelaria and her three children's dream of a life in show business. The Old Globe, Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through Oct. 30. \$29-\$85. (619) 234-5623. theoldglobe.org.

HARBOR DAYS EXTRAVAGANZA 2011

Celebrate Chula Vista's Centennial with a two-day extravaganza of history, art, culture and nature on the beautiful Chula Vista Bayfront.



The history of transportation can be explored by touring tall ship Californian and historic Medea, visiting a classic car show, riding the trolley and other displays. Chula Vista Harbor, 640 Marina Parkway, Chula Vista. Also Sept. 25. (619) 333-0825. cvhARBORDAYS.com. chulavista100.com.

MAN OF LA MANCHA

A poignant story of a dying old man whose impossible dream takes over his mind. Songs like "It's All the Same," "Dulcinea," "The Impossible Dream," "I Really Like Him" and "Little Bird" linger long after the show ends. Welk Resorts Theatre, 8860 Lawrence Welk Dr., Escondido. Wed.-Thurs. through Oct. 30. \$44-\$58. (888) 802-7469. welktheatre.com.

BIRDS OF THE SALTON SEA

Lecture by Museum Director Robert McKernan. San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. \$6-\$8. (909) 307-2669. sbcountymuseum.org.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

MICHAEL McDONALD & BOZ SCAGGS

Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, 2241 Shelter Island Dr., San Diego. \$98. (619) 220-8497. humphreysconcerts.com.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27



SAN FRANCISCO BALLET

America's oldest professional ballet company performs Artistic Director Helgi Tomasson's elegant full length "Romeo & Juliet," following a program of spectacular repertory works. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Segerstrom Hall, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. Through Oct. 2. \$17-\$120. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

JAZZ AT THE MERC

Sherry Williams with Kamau Kenyatta and friends. The Mercantile, 42051 Main



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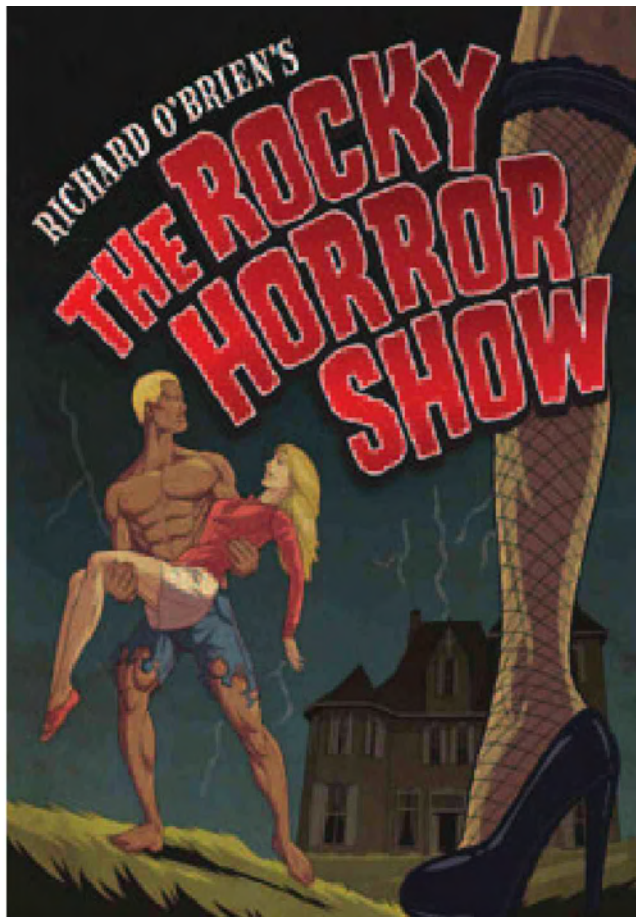
Page 1 of 1

Old Globe Theatre

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

The musical that became a movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon is back where it is meant to be seen—live on stage! A sexy, wild, funny, tongue-in-cheek interactive time warp through a kaleidoscope of camp with a musical score that has become iconic—one showstopper after another! Strange things happen when Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere. After an incredible night at the Frankenstein place they learn a little bit about themselves and the world.

For Mature Audiences. *The Rocky Horror Show* runs Sept. 15 – Nov. 6 in The Old Globe Theatre. **SOMEWHERE** - A World Premiere play from Old Globe Playwright-in-Residence Matthew Lopez, whose *The Whipping Man* was a smash hit at the Globe and then New York. Lopez's poignant new play is about one family's attempt to make its fantasy a reality. Gorgeous dance sequences are woven throughout the play



The Rocky Horror Show. Credit: courtesy

and help to tell the story of Inez Candelaria and her three children's dream of a life in show business. With their building scheduled for demolition and their life together beginning to crumble, the filming of the movie of *West Side Story* on the streets of their soon to be abandoned neighborhood finally brings reality into focus. *Some-where* runs Sept. 24 – Oct 30 in the Shirley and Harvey White Theater. **ODYSSEY** -

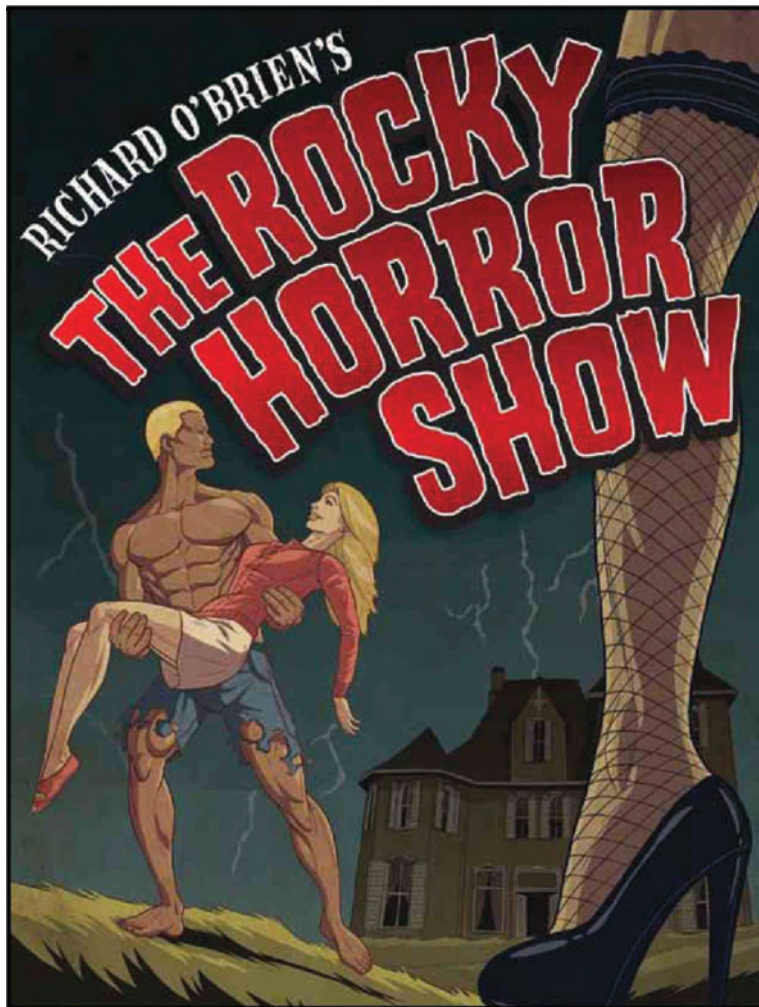
Director Lear deBessonet and writer/composer Todd Almond have developed an epic music theatre event, *Odyssey*, in celebration of The Old Globe's 75th anniversary. DeBessonet and Almond update the classic story of Odysseus, the Greek hero who faced giants, monsters and seductive sirens in his journey home from the Trojan War. Here, Odysseus' adventures are translated into a voyage through the people and places of modern-day San Diego. *Odyssey* will feature a cast of 200 performers coming together in a unique collaboration between professional artists and community partners. *Odyssey* runs Sept.30 – Oct. 2 in the Lowell Davis Theatre. For more information; (619) 23-GLOBE, www.TheOldGlobe.org



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..... > OLD GLOBE



"Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show" opens Sept. 23 at the Old Globe Theatre.

Matt McGrath will appear in the role of Frank 'N' Furter in The Old Globe's upcoming production of "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show." McGrath appeared on Broadway as the Emcee in Sam Mendes' hit revival "Cabaret" and in the international tour of Tom Waits and William S. Burroughs' "The Black Rider: The Casting of the Magic Bullets" directed by Robert Wilson.

The musical that became a movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon is back where it is meant to be seen – live on stage. When Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere, they seek help from the devilishly charming transvestite Dr.

Frank 'N' Furter. What they discover in his mysterious laboratory is a time warp of sexual and scientific possibilities – and, perhaps, true love.

Oanh Nguyen will direct the musical with book, music and lyrics by Richard O'Brien, choreography by JT Horenstein and music direction by Mike Wilkins. "The Rocky Horror Show" will run in the Old Globe Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, Sept. 15 – Nov. 6. Preview performances run Sept. 15 – Sept. 22. Opening night is Friday, Sept. 23 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

p.m. Saturday and 1 and 6 p.m. Sept. 25); San Diego Civic Theatre, Third Avenue at B Street, San Diego; 619-570-1100 or broadwaysd.com.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 21

Valley Winds invites musicians ---- The Valley Winds Community Concert Band will begin its 22nd season with a rehearsal. The group welcomes anyone able to play a concert band instrument at the high school level. No audition is required and participation is free. Members range from teenagers to senior citizens from all walks of life.

Upcoming plans for the season include a formal concert at the Old Town Temecula Community Theater, patriotic programs for Veterans Day and Memorial Day, several holiday music concerts, and performances at Disneyland and at community band festivals in Poway and Temecula; 6:30 to 9 p.m. every Wednesday; Temecula Valley High School, 31555 Rancho Vista Road, Temecula; 951-587-9000, Ext. 202.

Santana ---- Michael Franti & Spearhead open for the guitar-playing shaman; 7:30 p.m.; Cricket Wireless Amphitheatre, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista; \$20-\$226; livenation.com or 800-745-3000.

THURSDAY, Sept. 22

Jazz at the Merc ----- Sherry Williams hosts this jazz series event featuring pianist Eric Reed; 7:30 p.m.; The Merc, Old Town Temecula Community Theatre, 42051 Main St., Temecula; \$15; 866-653-8696, temeculatheater.com.

"Anasazi: The Ancient Ones" ---- A unique outdoor musical drama based on the true story of Sarah Mara Boots, written by her great-granddaughter Sharon French. It is full of the music and colorful pageantry of the Navajo legends and ceremonies of the Anasazi Indians who populated the Southwest centuries ago; also Saturday, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1; Ramona Bowl Amphitheatre, 27400 Ramona Bowl Road, Hemet; 800-645-4465, ramonabowl.com.

Sarah Chang Plays Mendelssohn ---- Solo program includes Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, a Berlioz overture and works by Respighi; 8 p.m. (also Friday and Saturday); she will also perform the violin concerto with the Pacific Symphony at 3 p.m. Sept. 25; Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 615 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa; \$25 and up; scfta.org or 714-556-2787.

FRIDAY, Sept. 23

Sam Fedele ---- Whether it's Ford Motor Company, Union Bank of California or Fire Base Afghanistan, Fedele promises laughs no matter the topic. He developed his high-energy style of comedy growing up on the mean streets of New Jersey. Fedele is a comedy club and college favorite nationwide, and has been seen on NBC, Comedy Central, the PAX Network and CBC Television in Canada; 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. (also Saturday); Comedy Club at Pechanga, Pechanga Resort & Casino, 45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula; \$22; 877-711-2046, pechanga.com.

'80s Flashback Festival ---- With The Motels, Naked Eyes and Gene Loves Jezebel; 8 p.m.; Wiens Family Cellars, 35055 Via Del Ponte, Temecula; 951-658-2411, goldencrownproductions.com.

"The Rocky Horror Show" ---- The Old Globe presents a revival version of Richard O'Brien's camp, sexy sci-fi musical about a pair of sheltered young newlyweds who stumble one dark and stormy night upon a castle with a cross-dressing transvestite who creates a Frankenstein-style monster; 8 p.m. (also 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 and 7 p.m. Sept. 25); runs through Nov. 6; The Old Globe, Balboa Park, San Diego; \$39-\$90; for mature audiences; theoldglobe.org or 619-234-5623.



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FRIDAY, SEPT. 23

City Ave., San Diego, 921-432, 013-233-0000.

"THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW" —

The Old Globe presents a revival version of Richard O'Brien's camp, sexy sci-fi musical about a pair of sheltered young newlyweds who stumble one dark and stormy night upon a castle with a cross-dressing transvestite who creates a Frankenstein-style monster; 8 p.m. (also 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 and 7 p.m. Sept. 25); runs through Nov. 6; The Old Globe, Balboa Park, San Diego; \$39-\$90; for mature audiences; theoldglobe.org or 619-234-5623.

HERBIE HANCOCK — Grammy-winning jazz pianist; 8 p.m.; Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Ave., San Diego; \$61.50-\$92.50; sandiegotheatres.org or 619-570-1100.

LADYBON — Senior opens for



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Little Shop of Horrors: Seymour makes a Faustian bargain with a mean, green, man-eating plant to provide fresh meat in exchange for money, fame and the love of his life. Produced by Cygnet Theatre Company, it runs through Oct. 2 at The Old Town Theatre. \$34-\$59. cygnettheatre.org

Thom Pain: Will Eno's one-man show, an off-Broadway hit, makes its San Diego premiere. Through Oct. 2 at New Village Arts Theatre in Carlsbad. \$24-\$36. newvillagearts.org

How the Other Half Loves: Jim Caputo directs Alan Ayckbourn's drawing-room comedy. Through Oct. 8 at Scripps Ranch Theatre. \$22-\$25. scrippsranchtheatre.org

Pride and Prejudice: Jane Austen's Elizabeth Bennett and Mr. Darcy come to life in Jon Jory's stage adaptation of the 1813 novel. Through Oct. 8 at OnStage Playhouse in Chula Vista. \$14-\$16. onstageplayhouse.org

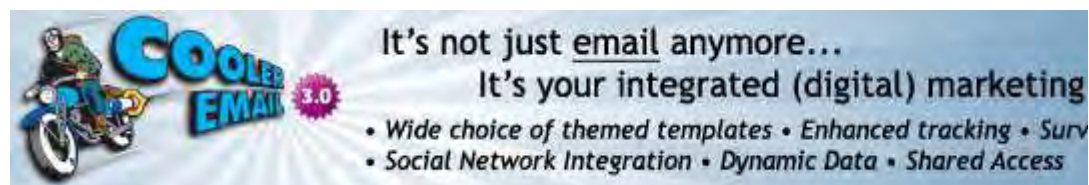
Walter Cronkite is Dead: Two women of opposing political dispositions find themselves stranded together at Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., in this comedy by Joe Calarco. Through Oct. 16 at San Diego Repertory Theatre, downtown. \$37 and up. sdrep.org

Man of La Mancha: In this staging of the Broadway musical that gave the world "The Impossible Dream," the actors are also the musicians. Through Oct. 30 at Welk Resort Theatre in Escondido. \$44-\$47. welktheatersandiego.com

miXtape: Generation X was torn between disillusionment and hope in this cavalcade of music from the 1980s. Produced by Lamb's Players Theatre, it runs through Nov. 6 at the Horton Grand Theatre, Downtown. \$28-\$58. lambplayers.org

Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show: Brad, Janet and, most importantly, Dr. Frank N. Furter return to the stage 38 years after a memorable debut in London and a film adaptation. Through Nov. 6 at the Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park. \$29 and up. oldglobe.org

Shotgun Wedding Anniversary: How else can a miserable 25-year marriage end but in murder? Presented by Mystery Cafe, it's ongoing at Imperial House restaurant in Bankers Hill. \$59.50, including dinner. mysterycafe.net



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Fall Theatre: Rocky Horror, Hair & more

Posted On : 9/9/2011 by [Michelle Guerin](#)[Write a Comment](#)[Bookmark](#)[Print](#)

1

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While summer is designed for endless outdoor entertainment, as we fall into autumn we head indoors to enjoy a new season of excitement. Whether you're seeking refuge from a rainy afternoon, or searching for unique ways to cool off during the unexpected heat wave, [San Diego theatres](#) always offer the perfect escape.

This fall, leading San Diego playhouses are introducing a range of excellent productions. From international premieres of new, edgy dramas, to contemporary takes on cult musical classics, this season features [theatrical entertainment](#) for audiences of all ages and interests.

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A few of my must-see fall plays include The Rocky Horror Show at The Old Globe, HAIR at Civic Theatre, and Jesus Chris Superstar at La Jolla Playhouse. These performances will have you on the edge of your seat while easing you into the spirit of the holidays which, if you can believe it, are already fast approaching.

Discover five must-see theatre performances for fall in San Diego.

Milk Like Sugar at La Jolla Playhouse: August 30 - September 25

A *San Diego premiere*, *Milk Like Sugar* takes place in an inner city neighborhood and tells the story of a 16-year-old girl named Annie who feels that she is stuck in a dead end town and decides that she is going to invent her own future by entering into a life changing pact with friends. The La Jolla Playhouse presents the premiere of *Milk Like Sugar* at the Potiker Theatre, showing through September 25. Learn more at lajollaplayhouse.com

The Rocky Horror Show at **The Old Globe Theatre**: September 15 - November 6

Following a summer of Shakespeare, The Old Globe embraces the new fall season with a production of Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show*. During this wild, sexy, tongue-in-cheek interactive musical, strange things happen when Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere. Do the time warp and get in the mood for Halloween as *The Rocky Horror Show* takes the stage at The Old Globe Theatre September 15 - November 6. Costumes recommended! Learn more at theoldglobe.org

The Blue Man Group at **Civic Theatre**: September 20 - 25

The Blue Man Group has become a cultural phenomenon for our generation. The multi-faceted show introduces three enigmatic and literally blue-painted men, combining theater, percussive music, art, science and vaudeville into a new genre of theater production unlike anything else. A wild evening of entertainment that is perfect for the whole family, The Blue Man Group takes the stage at the Civic September 20 - 25. Learn more at broadwaysd.com

HAIR at **Civic Theatre**: October 18 - 23

An iconic theatrical production, *HAIR* is a rock musical about a group of young Americans searching for peace and love in a turbulent time. Soulful songs that evoke struggle and freedom include "Aquarius," "Let the Sun Shine In," "Good Morning, Starshine" and "Easy To Be Hard." *HAIR* is a Tony Award-winning play for Best Musical Revival. Let the sun shine this fall as *HAIR* takes the stage at the Civic October 18 - 23. Learn more at broadwaysd.com (pictured)

Jesus Christ Superstar at **La Jolla Playhouse**: November 18 - December 31

This rock opera tells the story of the last week of Christ's life, and is said to have reinvented modern musical theatre. The musical comes to life as the audience discovers the power struggle between Christ and his disciple Judas Iscariot. Unforgettable songs include "Heaven On Their Minds," "I Don't Know How To Love Him" and "Superstar." Gearing up for the holidays, the La Jolla Playhouse presents the Stratford Shakespeare Festival's production of *Jesus Chris Superstar* at the Weiss Theatre November 18 - December 31. Learn more at lajollaplayhouse.com

Want more? Get prepped for a big season on the small screen in our [2011 Fall TV Guide](#).

Discover more [San Diego theater news](#) and follow our [San Diego entertainment blog](#).



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comedy about a spinster whose dream of finding love in her rain-parched Western town is revived when a charismatic rainmaker arrives with promises of a deluge; opens Oct. 21 and runs through Nov. 20; showtimes, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays; PowPAC, 13250 Poway Road, Poway; \$18, general; \$15, students; powpac.org or 858-679-8085.

"The Rocky Horror Show" ---- The Old Globe presents a revival version of Richard O'Brien's camp, sexy sci-fi musical about a pair of sheltered young newlyweds who stumble one dark and stormy night upon a castle with a cross-dressing transvestite who creates a Frankenstein-style monster; 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; 7 p.m. Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays; through Nov. 6; The Old Globe, Balboa Park, San Diego; \$39-\$90; for mature audiences; theoldglobe.org or 619-234-5623.

"The Servant of Two Masters" ---- Lamb's Players Theatre presents the world premiere of David McFadzean's musical comedy based on Carlo Goldoni's Italian commedia delle'arte mistaken identity classic; opens Oct. 7 and runs through Nov. 20; showtimes, 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 4 p.m. Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays; through Sept. 25; Lamb's Players Theatre, 1142 Orange Ave., Coronado; \$30-\$60; lambsplayers.org or 619-437-6000.

"Shadow of the Raven" ---- Actor/director Duffy Hudson presents his one-man show on the life and works of Edgar Allen Poe, the 19th-century American author, editor, poet and literary critic; 2 p.m. Oct. 15; Turrentine Room, Escondido Public Library, 239 S. Kalmia St., Escondido; free; library.escondido.org or 760-839-4601.

"Shotgun Wedding Anniversary" ---- Mystery Cafe Dinner Theatre presents a fast-paced mystery-comedy about a series of murders that take place during an couple's anniversary party; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; runs indefinitely; Imperial House Restaurant, 505 Kalmia St., San Diego; \$59.50, price includes four-course dinner; 619-460-2200 or mysterycafe.net.

"Shrek the Musical" ---- Segerstrom Center for the Arts hosts the national touring production of this stage musical based on the Dreamworks film about an ogre who falls for a princess with a big secret; opens Oct. 4 and runs through Oct. 16; showtimes, 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays; 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays; 1 and 6:30 p.m. Sundays; 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa; tickets start at \$20; scfta.org or 714-556-2787.

"The Smell of the Kill" ---- The Broadway Theatre presents Michelle Lowe's comedy about three wives who hatch a plan to do in their no-good husbands at a neighborhood dinner party; opens Oct. 14 and runs through Nov. 6; showtimes, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; Broadway Theatre, 340B E. Broadway, Vista; \$17.50; 760-806-7905.

"Somewhere" ---- The Old Globe presents the West Coast premiere of Matthew Lopez's play with dance about an artistic Puerto Rican family in 1959 New York whose life is uprooted when their neighborhood is bulldozed to make way for Lincoln Center; 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; 7 p.m. Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays; through Oct. 30; Sheryl and

Somewhere: A family's dream of being in show business collides with the filming of "West Side Story" in their downtrodden neighborhood. Through Oct. 20 at the Old Globe's Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre in Balboa Park. \$29-\$75. oldglobe.org

miXtape: Generation X was torn between disillusionment and hope in this cavalcade of music from the 1980s. Produced by Lamb's Players Theatre, it runs through Nov. 6 at the Horton Grand Theatre, Downtown. \$28-\$58. lampsplayers.org

Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show: Brad, Janet and, most importantly, Dr. Frank N. Furter return to the stage 38 years after a memorable debut in London and a film adaptation. Through Nov. 6 at the Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park. \$29 and up. oldglobe.org

Shotgun Wedding Anniversary: How else can a miserable 25-year marriage end but in murder? Presented by Mystery Cafe, it's ongoing at Imperial House restaurant in Bankers Hill. \$59.50, including dinner. mysterycafe.net



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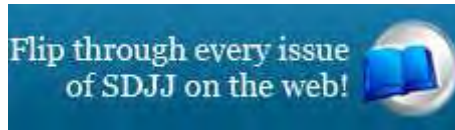
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A New Season in Full Swing

by Eileen Sondak | [October 2011](#) | [Post your comment »](#)



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By Eileen Sondak

The sound of music will ring out in Symphony Hall this month, joining a full slate of theatrical offerings coming our way in October.

The Old Globe's production of Richard O'Brien's "Rocky Horror Show" launched the season on the Main Stage recently. This enduring musical phenomenon will continue to add to its cult following through Nov. 6.

"Somewhere," a world premiere, infused with dance, tells the story of a family of dreamers whose home is

Now Playing

How the Other Half Loves: Jim Caputo directs Alan Ayckbourn's drawing-room comedy. Through Oct. 8 at Scripps Ranch Theatre. \$22-\$25. scrippsranchtheatre.org

Pride and Prejudice: Jane Austen's Elizabeth Bennett and Mr. Darcy come to life in Jon Jory's stage adaptation of the 1813 novel. Through Oct. 8 at OnStage Playhouse in Chula Vista. \$14-\$16. onstageplayhouse.org

Fat Pig: Neil Labute's dark comedy about the American obsession with body image and weight. Through Oct. 9 at Patio Playhouse in Escondido. \$13-\$15. patioplayhouse.com

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat: San Diego Musical Theatre presents the MegaMix version of the popular musical. Through Oct. 9 at Lyceum Theatre in Horton Plaza, Downtown. \$30-\$60. sdmt.org

Lend Me A Tenor: Ken Ludwig's Tony-winning comedy of mistaken identity is set in the world of opera in the 1930s. Through Oct. 9 at North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach. \$32-\$49. northcoastrep.org

Walter Cronkite is Dead: Two women of opposing political dispositions find themselves stranded together at Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., in this comedy by Joe Calarco. Through Oct. 16 at San Diego Repertory Theatre, Downtown. \$37 and up. sdrep.org

Man of La Mancha: In this staging of the Broadway musical that gave the world "The Impossible Dream," the actors are also the musicians. Through Oct. 30 at Welk Resort Theatre in Escondido. \$44-\$47. welktheatersandiego.com

Somewhere: A family's dream of being in show business collides with the filming of West Side Story in their downtrodden neighborhood. Through Oct. 20 at the Old Globe's Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre in Balboa Park. \$29-\$75. oldglobe.org

26 Miles: A 15-year-old is kidnapped by her estranged mother in this revelatory play by Quiara Alegria Hudes presented by Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company. Through Oct. 23 at the 10th Avenue Theatre, Downtown. \$22-\$30. moolelo.net

Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show: Brad, Janet and, most importantly, Dr. Frank N. Furter return to the stage 38 years after a memorable debut in London and a film adaptation. Through Nov. 6 at the Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park. \$29 and up. oldglobe.org

miXtape: Generation X was torn between disillusionment and hope in this cavalcade of music from the 1980s. Produced by Lamb's Players Theatre, it runs through Dec. 18 at the Horton Grand Theatre, Downtown. \$28-\$58. lambplayers.org

Shotgun Wedding Anniversary: How else can a miserable 25-year marriage end but in murder? Presented by Mystery Cafe, it's ongoing at Imperial House restaurant in Bankers Hill. \$59.50, including dinner. mysterycafe.net



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Page 1 of 1

COOLTURE



'BLOODY MARY' FURTHER DISTRESSES LOCAL REAL ESTATE WITH ONGOING PARANORMAL ACTIVITY

The recent power outage had many of us fumbling in the dark. But things have been going bump in the night around San Diego in a big way since 2009, when the locally produced, no-budget, shot-on-video horror feature *Paranormal Activity* scared up tens of millions in ticket sales following two years on the film festival circuit.

After conjuring a similar box-office *boo!*-nanza a year ago with the pricier, Carlsbad-set prequel *Paranormal Activity 2*, Paramount Pictures—the major Hollywood studio that has built a franchise on this pissed-off-poltergeist saga—is set to unleash the third film in the series October 21.

So what's new this ghost-round? Good luck squeezing more than a hint from anyone associated with the secretive project. Based on the trailer that debuted here at Comic-Con in July, it appears that *Paranormal Activity 3* will serve up more back-story on its possessed female lead, Katie. Meanwhile, the childhood legend of Bloody Mary—a gory female apparition said to be summoned by repeating her name in front of a mirror—crashes the suburban spook party and presumably will help explain the tale's evil origins.

With Paramount's creep-out cash cow entrusted to directors Henry Joost and Ariel Schulman (the duo behind last year's controversial "reality thriller" *Catfish*), the filmmakers have worked like demons to ensure that *Paranormal Activity 3* won't be a yawn of the dead.

"The challenge we are dealing with is to create the same kind of dreaded feeling of terror and horror, while at the same time also (delivering) something fresh, different and unique," said the first movie's director and series producer, Oren Peli, to Bloody-Disgusting.com. "(I am) hoping fans will be pleasantly pleased."

If *Paranormal* falls short, movie-goers may have to channel Bloody Mary in a bar glass.

—Henry Chang

PRIVATE SCREAMINGS CHECK OUT THESE SPOOKY STAGE AND SCREEN OFFERINGS

BY AMANDA DANIELS

Thrill-O-Rama: Birch North Park Theatre will screen a marathon of ghastly retro horror flicks—*The Fog*, *Burnt Offerings*, *Eyes of Laura Mars*, *Dressed to Kill*, *Black Christmas* and the Italian masterpiece, *Suspiria*—from noon to midnight, Saturday, October 8. Admission is \$5 per film or \$20 for all six.

2891 University Ave., North Park
birchnorthparktheatre.net,
filmoutsandiego.com

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde: Before Drew Barrymore made her blood-curdling comeback in *Scream*, granddad John Barrymore made the ladies scream as the lascivious monster, Mr. Hyde. His 1920 silent classic, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, will be brought back to life with spooky sound effects by the Teeny-Tiny Pit Orchestra during a free screening/performance at 7 p.m. October 31 at UCSD's Theodore Geisel (aka Dr. Seuss) Library.

9500 Gilman Dr., La Jolla
calendar.ucsd.edu (search: Jekyll)

Rocky Horror Show: Experience the "Time Warp," live at the Old Globe Theatre, in Balboa Park. Strange things happen when clean-cut suburbanites Brad and Janet get caught with a flat tire in the middle of nowhere and are forced to seek help from a devilishly charming, sexually adventurous transvestite, Dr. Frank 'N' Furter. Tickets: \$29-\$70; show runs through November 6.
theoldglobe.org

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Page 1 of 1

PLAYBILL

Critic's Choice

"Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show": It's not a show for stuffed shirts (although it does involve a lot of stuffed shorts). But the Globe's revival of the spoofy, saucy, '70s-vintage show succeeds with a mix of wicked humor, irresistible musical numbers and a whole lot of startlingly old-fashioned fun. Credit director James Vásquez, choreographer JT Horenstein and a game cast for the production's retro savvy (and audience-participation readiness). (James Hebert): Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. Through Nov. 6. (619) 234-5623, theoldglobe.org.



Matt McGrath and Laura Shoop in "Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show." HENRY DIROCCO

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CURTAIN CALL

OCTOBER THEATRE OPENINGS

The audience lights are flickering... it's time to find your seats as we welcome these latest theatre and classical performances to San Diego's stages.

Now through October 2

What: **Edward II**
Where: **Diversions Theatre**
4545 Park Blvd., San Diego
How: 619-220-0097
diversionary.org
♿

Now through October 16

What: **Walter Cronkite Is Dead**
Where: **San Diego Repertory Theatre Lyceum Theatre**
79 Horton Plaza, San Diego
How: 619-544-1000
sdrep.org
♿

Now through November 6

What: **Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show**
Where: **The Old Globe Theatre Conrad Prebys Theatre Center Balboa Park**
1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego
How: 619-23-GLOBE
theoldglobe.org
♿

October 14 – 16

What: **Mixed Repertoire/ Alice: Wonderland**
Where: **San Diego Ballet Lyceum Theatre**
79 Horton Plaza, San Diego
How: 619-544-1000
sandiegoballet.org
♿

October 26 – November 20

What: **Of Mice and Men**
Where: **New Village Arts Theatre**
2787 State St., Carlsbad
How: 760-433-3245
newvillagearts.org
♿

October 28 – November 13

What: **Annie**
Where: **San Diego Junior Theatre Casa Del Prado Theatre Balboa Park**
1800 El Prado, San Diego
How: 619-239-8355
800-982-2787
juniortheatre.com
♿

October 28 – December 4

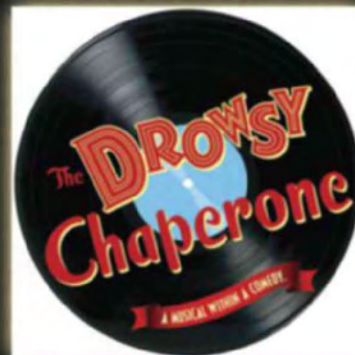
What: **The Drowsy Chaperone**
Where: **The Coronado Playhouse**
1835 Strand Way, Coronado
How: 619-435-4856
coronadoplayhouse.com
♿

October 30

What: **Symphony Spooktacular**
Where: **San Diego Symphony Copley Symphony Hall**
750 B St., San Diego
How: 619-235-0804
sandiegosymphony.org
♿



Alice: Wonderland



The Drowsy Chaperone



La Jolla Playhouse



Old Globe Theatre

♿ Wheelchair Accessible
👨‍👩‍👧 Family Fun
🎵 Symphony
💃 Ballet



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Page 1 of 1

Thrills

“The Rocky Horror Show” — The Old Globe presents a revival version of Richard O’Brien’s camp, sexy sci-fi musical about a pair of sheltered young newlyweds who stumble one dark and stormy night upon a castle with a cross-dressing transvestite who creates a Frankenstein-style monster; 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; 7 p.m. Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays; through Nov. 6; The Old Globe, Balboa Park, San Diego; \$39-\$90; for mature audiences; theoldglobe.org or 619-234-5623.



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Page 1 of 1

19 **The Rocky Horror Show**, 8 p.m., The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, opening night, runs through Nov. 6, (619) 23-GLOBE, www.theoldglobe.org, \$35-\$84



ACTIVITY #41: ENJOYING THE FALL COLORS

Summer's over but the beach lifestyle never is. Enjoy endless family fun with the surf just steps from your door, s'mores around a bonfire, tennis, heated pool and complimentary WiFi. Plus, you're just a short drive to all of San Diego's famous attractions.

Rates start at just \$199 per night, plus Kids Eat Free at the friendly Shores Restaurant.*
Your next activity: Book your beach vacation now.



Best rates available at LJShoresHotel.com | 877.346.8229 | La Jolla, California 92037

*Rate based on availability and does not include tax and assessments. Kids Eat Free valid for registered hotel guests 8 years and younger during breakfast through 12/18/11.

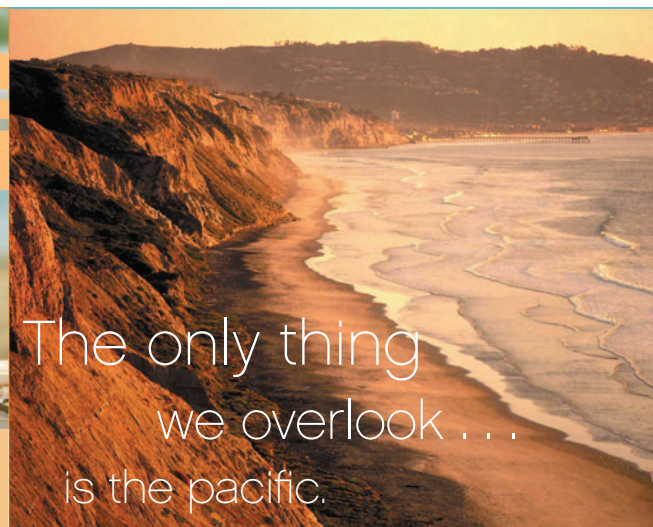


La Jolla is a postcard-perfect resort getaway with cliff-top vistas and a diverse coastline of beaches, coves and sea caves for endless water recreation. You'll also enjoy the acclaimed Birch Aquarium at Scripps, Torrey Pines State Reserve, and Torrey Pines Golf Course, set against the picturesque Pacific and backed by the steep slopes of Mt. Soledad, the bustling business district offers one-of-a-kind boutiques, art galleries and fine dining with stellar views.

With epic vistas, al fresco dining and world-class cuisine, La Jolla venues topped the 2011 Open Table reader survey of the top 50 restaurants for scenic views.

- The Marine Room has captivated guests for 70 years with its spectacular seaside panorama and global fare.*
- The Sky Room at the La Valencia Hotel boasts 180-degrees of stunning ocean views, with 10 intimate tables and award winning California-fresh cuisine for an elegant dining experience.*

MORE TIDBITS AT SANDIEGO.ORG/NORTHCOUNTY



La Jolla Torrey Pines

10950 North Torrey Pines Rd.
La Jolla, CA 92037
858-558-1500

Valid for travel between 9/25 - 12/30/2011.
Must book 7 days in advance. No pre-pay.

FALL into SAN DIEGO

Kick off this Fall season with a trip to San Diego at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines. Breathtaking views, miles of beaches and the natural trails at Torrey Pines Reserve are waiting. Package includes Advanced Purchase rates and Breakfast for two.

RATES FROM \$139 per night.

Go To: www.lajollatorreypines.hilton.com click on:

Hotels Specials - Fall into San Diego and enter group code: FALL11

roommates in 1960s New York; opens Oct. 22 and runs through Nov. 7; showtimes, 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; 2 p.m. Nov. 6; Swedenborg Hall, 1531 Tyler Ave., San Diego; \$15; [facebook.com/sullivan.players](https://www.facebook.com/sullivan.players) or 858-274-1731.

"Of Mice and Men" ---- New Village Arts Theatre presents John Steinbeck's drama about two migrant workers in 1930s California scratching out a living and dreaming of a better life; previews, Oct. 26 through Oct. 28; opens Oct. 29 and runs through Nov. 20; showtimes, 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 3 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays; New Village Arts, 2787 State St., Carlsbad; \$26-\$36; newvillagearts.org or 760-433-3245.

"Nevermore: An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe" ---- North Coast Repertory Theatre presents actor Jeffrey Combs in his one-man show where he portrays the 19th-century author of the macabre taking to the stage at a public meeting to read some of his works, offer his observations on love and loss and hurl insults at his critics; 7:30 p.m. Oct. 25; North Coast Repertory Theatre, 987D Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach; \$25-\$30; northcoastrep.org or 858-481-1055.

"Old Times" ---- San Diego Art Department and Groovy Amalgamation present a staged reading of Harold Pinter's chilling 1971 play; 6 p.m. Oct. 31; 3830 Ray St., San Diego; \$5 donation; 619-299-4278.

"Passage to Proxima" ---- Radio sound-effects expert Scott Paulson and writer Gary Robbins present the premiere of their live sci-fi radio drama, set in 1930 San Diego and featuring live actors, live music and lively sound effects; 7 p.m. Oct. 30; Seuss Room, Geisel Library, UC San Diego, La Jolla; free; scottsounds.com or 858-822-5758.

"Prairie Lights" ---- Patio Playhouse presents Susan Lieberman's holiday musical about a Jewish brother and sister heading west to a new life on an orphan train during the 1905 holiday season; opens Nov. 4 and runs through Nov. 20; showtimes, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays; Patio Playhouse, 201 E. Grand Ave., Suite 1D, Escondido; call for ticket prices; patioplayhouse.org or 760-746-6669.

"The Rainmaker" ---- PowPAC, Poway's Community Theatre presents N. Richard Nash's romantic comedy about a spinster whose dream of finding love in her rain-parched Western town is revived when a charismatic rainmaker arrives with promises of a deluge; opens Oct. 21 and runs through Nov. 20; showtimes, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays; PowPAC, 13250 Poway Road, Poway; \$18, general; \$15, students; powpac.org or 858-679-8085.

"The Rocky Horror Show" ---- The Old Globe presents a revival version of Richard O'Brien's camp, sexy sci-fi musical about a pair of sheltered young newlyweds who stumble one dark and stormy night upon a castle with a cross-dressing transvestite who creates a Frankenstein-style monster; 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; 7 p.m. Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays; through Nov. 6; The Old Globe, Balboa Park, San Diego; \$39-\$90; for mature audiences; theoldglobe.org or 619-234-5623.

"Romeo and Juliet" ---- El Camino High School presents William Shakespeare's tragedy through a partnership with New Village Arts Theatre; 7 p.m. Oct. 28, 29 and Nov. 5; 3:30 p.m. Nov. 3; 2 p.m. Nov. 6; El Camino High School, 400 Rancho Del Oro Drive, Oceanside; \$6-\$8; echsdrama.com or 760-580-0375.

"The Servant of Two Masters" ---- Lamb's Players Theatre presents the world premiere of David McFadzean's musical comedy based on Carlo Goldoni's Italian commedia dell'arte mistaken-identity classic; 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 4 p.m. Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays; through Nov. 25; Lamb's Players Theatre, 1142 Orange Ave., Coronado; \$30-\$60; lambplayers.org or 619-437-6000.

"Shotgun Wedding Anniversary" ---- Mystery Cafe Dinner Theatre presents a fast-paced mystery-comedy



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Page 1 of 1

LET'S DO THE TIMEWARP

For a deliciously naughty Halloween treat see Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show* Through Nov. 6 as part of the 2011 Shakespeare festival at the Old Globe Theatre in Conrad Prebys Theatre Center. It's just a jump to the left...



shocking exercises; 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday; R.H. Fleet Science Center, Balboa Park, San Diego; \$2 plus admission(\$9.75-\$12); rhfleet.org or 619-238-1233.

Balboa Park Halloween Family Day ---- Balboa Park hosts its third annual Halloween celebration from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Children (12 and under) with paid adult will receive free admission to most of its museums and attractions for hands-on activities, special tours, storytelling and free goodies. Highlights include a doggie costume contest in Spanish Village, a nocturnal critter cavern at the Natural History Museum, a "Great Pumpkin" parachute drop at the San Diego Air & Space Museum, a dance performance at the Mingei Museum and a virtual tour of local cemeteries and gravestones at the San Diego History Center. Adults can buy a one-day excursion pass to five park museums for \$35. Visit balboapark.org for schedule.

San Elijo Spooktacular ---- Friends of Cardiff & Carlsbad State Beaches host a free family event from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday at the San Elijo State Beach campground, 2050 N. Highway 101, Encinitas. Events include games, face painting, balloon sculptures, food and a campfire entertainment program with prize drawings; 858-603-2705.

"The Rocky Horror Show" ---- The Old Globe presents a revival version of Richard O'Brien's camp, sexy sci-fi musical about a pair of sheltered young newlyweds who stumble one dark and stormy night upon a castle with a cross-dressing transvestite who creates a Frankenstein-style monster; 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; 7 p.m. Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays; through Nov. 6; The Old Globe, Balboa Park, San Diego; \$39-\$90; for mature audiences; theoldglobe.org or 619-234-5623.

"Howl O' Ween Pet Parade" ---- Leucadia 101 MainStreet Association hosts a pet parade and pet costume contest from 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday in the downtown business district. Contest entry is \$5 per category, with proceeds benefiting the Rancho Coastal Humane Society; leucadia101.com or 760-436-2320.

"Spooky Sleepover" at the Zoo ---- The San Diego Zoo hosts a spooky overnight slumber party for families at 4 p.m. Saturday. Program includes a hands-on Halloween craft, private bus tour, animal encounters, trick-or-treating in the Reptile House, a costume parade and prizes. Ideal for ages 4 and up. Tickets are \$139 for adults and \$119 per child. Visit sandiegozoo.org or reserve to 619-718-3000.

Halloween Bash at Seaport Village ---- The shopping center on San Diego Bay hosts its first Halloween family event from 3:30 to 9 p.m. Saturday, with a pet costume contest, live music (3:30-9 p.m.), photos with a living scarecrow and Halloween trick-or-treating (7-9 p.m.). This follows a week of Halloween-inspired shopping events for local residents at West Harbor Drive and Pacific Highway in downtown San Diego. Visit seaportvillage.com or call 619-235-4014.

Once Upon a Hallowe'en Festival in Poway ---- The Old Poway Park Action Committee hosts this free, old-fashioned Halloween celebration from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 30. Events include a costume parade, carved pumpkin contest, children's games, Edgar Allan Poe readings and (for a nominal fee) train rides



Richard O'Brien's

The Rocky Horror Show

Thursday, September 15 - Sunday, November 6

Old Globe Theatre

Conrad Prebys Theatre Center

Book, Music and Lyrics

by Richard O'Brien

Directed by James Vásquez



The musical that became a movie and started a 35-year nonstop cultural phenomenon is back where it is meant to be seen—live on stage! A sexy, wild, funny, tongue-in-cheek interactive time warp through a kaleidoscope of camp with a musical score that has become iconic—one show-stopper after another! Strange things happen when Brad and Janet, a clean-cut young couple from the suburbs, get caught with a flat in the middle of nowhere. After an incredible night at the Frankenstein place they learn a little bit about themselves and the world. For Mature Audiences.

SOMEWHERE

Thru - Sunday, October 30

Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre

Conrad Prebys Theatre Center

Directed by Giovanna Sardelli

BOX OFFICE WINDOW HOURS: Noon to final curtain Tuesday through Sunday. American Express, Discover, MasterCard and VISA accepted. (619) 23-GLOBE [234-5623]

www.theoldglobe.org

DIVERSIONARY
THEATRE

Learn to be Latina

November 11 - December 18, 2011

By Enrique Urueta

Directed By Isis Saratial Misdary

*An entertainingly offensive
romantic comedy
(with dance breaks)*



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Publication Name: San Diego Reader
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THEATER LISTINGS



Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show drips with decadence at the Old Globe.

**Richard O'Brien's Rocky
Horror Show**

erful voices, but too often the performance comes first, not the character. That said, I've never seen the Old Globe more energized, with decadence, but the evening The opening night audience, many evolves, unlike the cult movie, into members dressed as one of the slick, un-edgy production numbers. characters and shouting dialogue In the movie, Tim Curry cavorts back at the stage, made the show. like an androgynous demigod. Worth a try.

While Matt McGrath's Frank N. OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE FURTER lacks Curry's bravado and WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. vulnerability. The cast has pow- 8PM THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS, 4PM

AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND
7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS AND
WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH NOVEMBER 6.

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» AGENDA | Events

November

// CHRISTINA ORLOVSKY PAGE



01

Foodie fun with an international flair at the **Community Cuban Dinner and Creole Choir of Cuba** performance at UCSD's International Center.

02

Do the *Time Warp* down to the **Old Globe** for a live performance of the cult hit that is **The Rocky Horror Show**.

03

The Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego promises a **Phenomenal TNT** (Thursday Night Thing), with music, drinks, and hands-on art.

04

At The Butcher Shop Steakhouse, sip and sup at **Clairemont Uncorked**, a community tasting event. Spend the rest of the week at **San Diego Beer Week**, through November 11.

05

It's the most fun you can have on two wheels: **Bike the Coast - Taste the Coast** takes cyclists to Oceanside Pier, where food, beer, and music await.

06

Sample goods from 30 Temecula wineries at the **Harvest Celebration Barrel Tasting Weekend**. Or, hit up free street fairs: **Fall Back Festival** (Gaslamp) and **Carlsbad Village Faire**.

07

08

We salute Sinatra at Broadway San Diego's **Come Fly Away** (through Nov. 13), Lyric Opera's **Sinatra Forever** (Nov. 11-13), and Anthology's **Tribute to Sinatra** (Nov. 23).

09

La Jolla Strip Club gets you over the hump with indulgent happy-hour **Manicures and Martinis** in its private Champagne Room.

10

Who says beer is for boys? Certainly not Stone Brewing Co., which schools beer-loving ladies at **Beer U: Introducing Barley's Angels**.

11

San Diego salutes its servicemen and women at the **Veterans Day Parade** and patriotic celebrations at the Midway Museum.

12



13



Feel the rush as you cross the finish line at the **Silver Strand Half Marathon**.

14

Gorge your way through Little Italy as you sample budget-friendly bites on this month's **Grub Sprawl**.

15



16

The **San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival** is an oenophile's fantasy: five days filled with wine dinners, tastings, celebrity chefs, and cooking classes.

17



18

Enjoy a culinary spin on a literary classic at the **Taste of Opera** Great News! Cooking Class, celebrating sea- food and San Diego Opera's *Moby-Dick*.

19

'Tis the season for Dr. Seuss, as **How the Grinch Stole Christmas** returns to the Old Globe.



20

The 65th annual **Mother Goose Parade** hits the streets of El Cajon. For North County residents, there's the **Encinitas Fall Festival** shopping bazaar and street fair.

21



22

Kevin Smith and Jason Mewes treat their cult classic film fans to the live comedy of **Jay & Silent Bob Get Old** at the Belly Up.

23

San Diego jazzes itself up every Thanksgiving as the **Dixieland Jazz Festival** rolls into town with five days of foot-tapping tunes.

24



25

26

Christmas comes early for fans of sultry songsters as the **Chris Isaak Christmas Show** seduces audiences at the Belly Up.



27

Are you ready for some football? Root for the **San Diego Chargers** when they play the Denver Broncos.

28

Start your week right with San Diego's own **Jason Mraz** at Spreckles Theatre.



30

Santa Claus makes an early appearance in Coronado at the **Holiday Festival... A Family Celebration**.



November

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18

Enjoy a culinary spin on a literary classic at the **Taste of Opera** Great News! Cooking Class, celebrating seafood and San Diego Opera's *Moby-Dick*.

19

'Tis the season for Dr. Seuss, as **How the Grinch Stole Christmas** returns to the Old Globe.



20

The 65th annual **Mother Goose Parade** hits the streets of El Cajon. For North County residents, there's the **Encinitas Fall Festival** shopping bazaar and street fair.

21



22

Kevin Smith and Jason Mewes treat their cult classic film fans to the live comedy of **Jay & Silent Bob Get Old** at the Belly Up.

23

San Diego jazzes itself up every Thanksgiving as the **Dixieland Jazz Festival** rolls into town with five days of foot-tapping tunes.

24



25

26

Christmas comes early for fans of sultry songsters as the **Chris Isaak Christmas Show** seduces audiences at the Belly Up.



27

Are you ready for some football? Root for the **San Diego Chargers** when they play the Denver Broncos.

28

Start your week right with San Diego's own **Jason Mraz** at Spreckles Theatre.



30

Santa Claus makes an early appearance in Coronado at the **Holiday Festival... A Family Celebration**.



THE OLD GLOBE/HENRY DIROCCO, THE OLD GLOBE/MICHAEL LAMONT, BREVING BLACH

Go to sandiegomagazine.com for more info on these events.

The Great American Trailer Park Musical: What do spray cheese, road kill, strippers and disco have in common? They're all part of this story of mobile-home denizens Norbert and Jeannie. Previews begin Nov. 5 (opens Nov. 11) at San Diego Repertory Theatre, Downtown. \$33-\$57. sdrep.org

Jane Austen Unscripted: Impro Theatre, an L.A.-based improvisational group, performs stories by the immortal literary figure. Nov. 7 at North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach. \$15-\$20. northcoastrep.org

Prairie Lights: A Jewish brother and sister journey west on an orphan train in 1905 in this holiday musical. Opens Nov. 4 at Patio Playhouse in Escondido. \$7-\$10. patioplayhouse.com

Twelfth Night: Shakespeare's comedy of mischief and mistaken identity is presented in a joint production by the Old Globe Theatre and the USD Graduate Theater Program. Opens Nov. 6 at Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre in Balboa Park. \$8-\$19. oldglobe.org

Now Playing

Man of La Mancha: The actors are also the musicians in this staging of the Broadway musical that gave the world "The Impossible Dream." Through Nov. 4 at Welk Resort Theatre in Escondido. \$44-\$47. welktheatersandiego.com

miXtape: Generation X was torn between disillusionment and hope in this cavalcade of music from the 1980s. Produced by Lamb's Players Theatre, it runs through Nov. 4 at the Horton Grand Theatre, Downtown. \$28-\$58. lambplayers.org

Dead Man's Cell Phone: Technology and mortality intersect in this new comedy by MacArthur "Genius" Grant recipient Sarah Ruhl. Delicia Turner Sonnenberg directs for Moxie Theatre. Through Nov. 6. \$20-\$40. moxietheatre.com

Fear Beautiful Fear: DangerHouse Productions presents works by Edgar Allan Poe in the Grand Guignol tradition. Through Nov. 6 at Victory Theater in Sherman Heights. \$10-\$15. dangerhouse13.com

Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show: Brad, Janet and, most importantly, Dr. Frank N. Furter return to the stage 38 years after a memorable debut in London and a film adaptation. Through Nov. 6 at the Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park. \$29 and up. oldglobe.org

Spring Awakening: This multiple-Tony winner (with music by Duncan Sheik) is presented by American Rose Theatre. Through Nov. 6 at Lyceum Theatre, Downtown. \$20-\$30. americanrosetheatre.com

The Glass Menagerie: Cygnet Theatre presents Tennessee Williams' dark and multilayered play about Amanda Wingfield, her son, her daughter and a gentleman caller. Through Nov. 13 at Old Town Theatre. \$24-\$49. cygnettheatre.com

Heroes: Tom Stoppard's adaptation of French playwright Gerald Sibleyras' comedy about three World War I veterans reminiscing and reflecting on their lives. Through Nov. 13 at North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach. \$32-\$49. northcoastrep.org

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CURTAIN CALL NOVEMBER THEATRE OPENINGS

The audience lights are flickering... it's time to find your seats as we welcome these latest theatre and classical performances to San Diego's stages.



Through November 6

What: **Richard O'Brien's
The Rocky Horror Show**

Where: **The Old Globe Theatre
Conrad Prebys Theatre Center
Balboa Park**

1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego

How: 619-23-GLOBE
theoldglobe.org



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PERFORMING ARTS



📖 STORY 🎭 FEATURES 📍 POINT/ PROGRAM ⓘ INFORMATION

"Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show" 『ザ ロッキー ホラー ショー』

若いカップルの奇怪な体験を描くホラー・コメディ／カルト的人気を誇る異色ミュージカル

Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show /
Photo by Henry DiRocco



📖 ある教会での結婚式。友人の挙式に出席したブラッドは恋人のジャネットにプロポーズし、2人はめでたく婚約する。幸せに胸がはちきれそうなカップルは、出会いの機縁を作ってくれた恩師スコット博士に報告しようと車で出かける。

2人は彷徨^{さまよ}っている間に道に迷ってしまい、不気味な古城にたどり着く。電話を借りようと城の中に入ると、気味の悪い執事が出迎える。城内では目を疑うような奇怪なパーティーが開かれていた。2人は一刻も早く退散しようとするが、

そこに城主フランケン・フルター博士が現れる。バイセクシュアルのフランケンとは若々しく美しいカップルが気に入ってしまい、彼が作った秘蔵の人造人間「ロッキー」を披露する。博士の好みどおりに製造されたロッキーはブロンドで筋肉質の美男子だった。パーティーの中でフランケンがロッキーと挙式をあげる。そして、性体験がないというブラッドとジャネットを別々に誘惑し、関係を持ってしまう。フランケンの誘惑で性目覚めたジャッキーは完璧な肉体をしたロッキーに惚れ込んでしまい…。

🎭 ジリチャード・オブライエンの原作・作詞・作曲によるホラー・ミュージカル。グラムロックのホモセクシュアルを含めたエロス、SFや怪奇映画へのオマージュなど、カルト的な要素がふんだんに盛り込まれた異色作。1973年にロンドンの小劇場で初演され、次第に大規模な劇場へ移り5年間のロングランを記録。1975年のブロードウェイ上演は短期間で打ち切られたが、2000年に再演された際にロングランを達成し、トニー賞では4部門にノミネート。1975年にはジム・シャーマン監督、ティム・カリー、スーザン・サランドン共演で映画化された。興行的には成功しなかったものの、不思議な映像世界に魅せられた熱狂的なファンを生み出し、今で言うコスプレに興じる観客が、劇場でスクリーン中のキャラクターと同じアクションを行うようなパーティー形式の鑑賞方法が定着した。

📍 THE GLOBE THEATRES (Old Globe Theatre), 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park / ☎ 619-239-2255 (T)。期間—11/6(日)迄。上演—火・水曜:7pm、木・金曜:8pm、土曜:4pm & 8pm、日曜:2pm & 7pm。チケット—\$29 ~ \$86。http://www.oldglobe.org



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**"Richard O' Brien' s The Rocky Horror Show"
『ロッキー ホラー ショー』**

若いカップルの奇怪な体験を描くホラー・コメディ／カルト的人気を誇る異色ミュージカル

⑤&⑦ グラムロックのホモセクシュアルを含めたエロス、SF や怪奇映画へのオマージュなど、カルト的な要素が盛り込まれたホラー・ミュージカル。1973 年にロンドンで初演を飾り、5 年間のロングランを記録。1975 年のブロードウェイ上演は短期間で打ち切られたが、2000 年に再演された際にロングランを達成し、トニー賞では 4 部門にノミネート。1975 年にはジム・シャーマン監督、ティム・カリー、スーザン・サランドン共演で映画化された。

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