



MOUNTAIN
THEATRE COMPANY

EST. 1938 | HIGHLANDS, NC



A VIRGIN'S GUIDE TO
ROCKY HORROR

IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME?

Attending your first performance of The Rocky Horror Show? Not sure what to expect or how to get the most out of this unique experience? Relax and read on.

It's Rocky Horror's 50th anniversary, and it has the accolade of being the longest continuously running contemporary musical anywhere in the world with many fans seeing it dozens or even hundreds of times. Anybody who hasn't seen Rocky before is commonly known as a "virgin." But don't worry, help is at hand. In order to guide you through the experience of Rocky Horror, we give you this indispensable guide to Rocky etiquette, audience participation, and dress codes.

The main thing to remember is to have fun and let loose. Rocky Horror is all about embracing the unconventional and having a great time. Immerse yourself in the experience, sing along, and even dance...just make sure you follow Mountain Theatre Company's guidelines and treat the performers and other audience members with respect.

Here's everything else you need to know...

DRESS

Optional. Whilst some of us look good in a dress, some of us don't. You may find that after a show or two you may like to wear something a little more outrageous: stockings, corsets, high heels (ladies may also wear these items). You may even become a diehard fan and start to make perfect copies of the costumes made famous in the show.

There is a huge myth, circulated by goodness knows who, that the only way you can enjoy The Rocky Horror Show is to get dressed up in costume. While we certainly welcome costumes, it absolutely isn't essential! For now just wear something casual but remember the one item that should never be worn to Rocky: a striped top. There are lots of urban legends surrounding this one. Just consider it a Rocky Horror no go.

No matter what you decide, just remember the main reason you are going is to enjoy yourself and have a great time. There will always be someone at the theatre who looks more out of place than you do so, throw off any cares and doubts, let your hair down, and enjoy! Also, never make fun of anyone else's costume. Remember they have spent ages getting it the way they want it, and this is not a fancy dress competition. You and they are there to enjoy the evening, pure and simple!

DANCING

Although not compulsory, you may find that during the Time Warp you are the only person in the audience not on your feet.

Join in the Time Warp by simply following the rule: "Do what it says in the song." For example, the phrase "it's just a jump to the left" should be accompanied with a jump to the left. If you want to get up and boogie to other songs feel free to do so, but remember that the Time Warp is the only dance that has set moves.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Please note that it is considered very bad etiquette to throw something onto the stage; it could mean that the show is canceled and hundreds of fans turn on you in an instant!

Audience Participation at Rocky Horror started back in the 1970s. Originally only for the movie, the Audience Participation has become a part of the stage show as well. Fans have been dressing up, shouting back lines, and singing along to the show for decades now.

Audience Participation should always be complementary to the show, never just shouting out lines for the heck of it.

There are hundreds of talk-back lines that have been used over the years, and more are created by the audience at every show. There is no such thing as a definitive Audience Participation script as often call back lines are topical – Rocky being called a Pokemon worked in May 2000, but isn't so funny now. To paraphrase the great philosopher Roger Rabbit, "it only works if it's funny." Brad is an a**hole and Janet is a slu*, but it gets old. Use sparingly!

It should be noted that many lines that are used at the film screenings don't translate to the stage productions. For instance, shouting "where's your neck?" to the Narrator just doesn't work as, unlike Charles Gray in the film, most actors portraying the Narrator on stage do seem to have one. No outside props (flames, rice, water guns, hotdogs, toast, etc.) will be allowed in the theater. Only use the props provided in the official Survival Kits for sale in the lobby. You will find an instruction sheet inside each Survival Kit telling you how to use these props.

ROCKY HORROR ETIQUETTE

"Etiquette?" I hear you cry. At a show with the principle of "Don't dream it, be it?" Yep, there still are a few things to bear in mind when you are partaking in the Rocky stage show experience.

The idea of Rocky Horror participation is to have fun, not disrupt the show. The following guidelines will help you and the other members of the audience to enjoy the show to the maximum pleasure level.

1. If you are dressing up for the show, don't criticize other people's costumes. Everyone has the right to wear whatever they wish. Some people make carbon-copies of the original costumes, and others take a more abstract approach. Some don't dress up at all. All are welcome!
2. Talk-back lines should be used to add to the Rocky experience, don't try to shout down other people, they might know some better lines, the best lines are the unexpected, especially if the cast starts to giggle!
3. Don't throw anything at the stage. It may be dangerous and may result in the show being halted.
4. Have fun!

ROCKY HORROR SURVIVAL KITS

Official Rocky Horror Survival Kits will be available for purchase in the lobby. Only props provided in these kits will be permitted inside the theater. You'll find an instruction sheet included to guide you through when and how to use each prop.