

A stylized, hand-drawn illustration of a stone archway. The arch is composed of rectangular blocks with a stippled texture. Several black bats with orange eyes are flying around the arch. The background is black.

THE
ROCKY HORROR
PICTURE SHOW



DRAMATURGY

by Simon Quintero-Sallee



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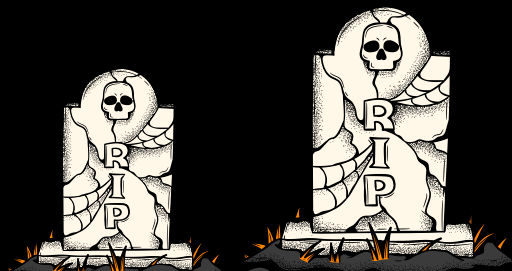


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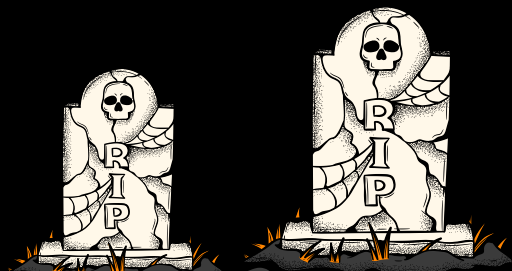
DRAMATURGY MISSION STATEMENT

The Rocky Horror Picture Show is a cult-classic film produced in 1975, during the heat of the beginnings of the LGB movement. Having been originally written as a staged musical, the film didn't take to the screen well, and was poorly received by critics across America. However, as the years progressed and the LGBT+ movement began to evolve, queer, trans, and sci-fi-loving fans alike began to reintroduce themselves to this film. Decades pass, and the Picture Show becomes what we know it as today: An anthem for the Queer. An anthem for the abstract, for the different, for those feeling free enough to live without restraint. Through lenses of feminism, Queer theory, and cultural relativism, I plan to deeply question and analyze this film for the purpose of production in Fall 2024.



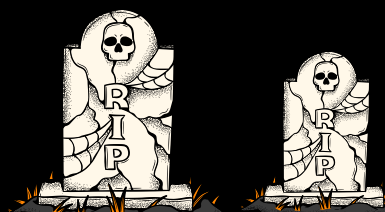
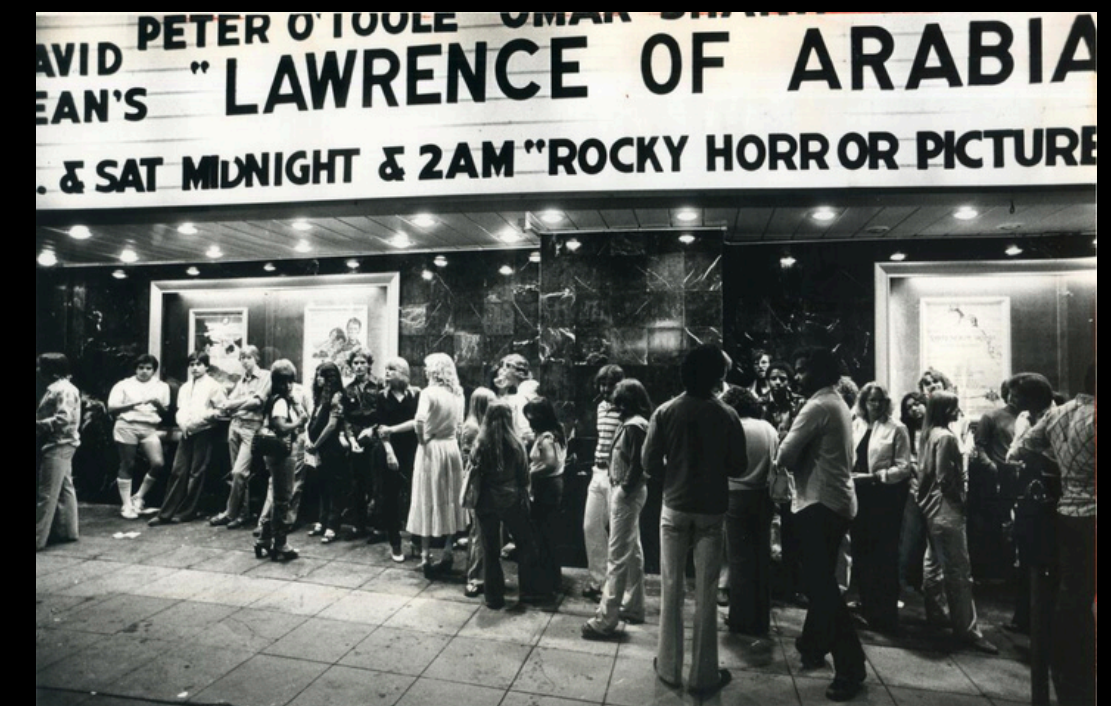
GENERAL INFO

- West End production opened in London in 1973
- American music producer Lou Adler saw RHPS at a fringe event and went heyyy
- Movie aired in LA in 1975
 - Most actors from the London production were carried over
- Shot in six weeks, didn't go over budget



HISTORY OF SHADOW CASTING

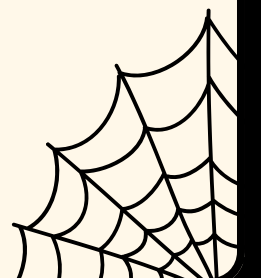
- 1976: RHPS becomes a midnight showing movie
- + 1976: Sal Piro created first RHPS fan club, hosted showings as MC every week
- 1977: First shadow cast!
 - Beginning of shadow casting as a concept
 - Callouts and shadowing began as a way to interact as an audience
 - Queer audiences could insert themselves into the movie and express themselves via these characters instead of themselves



IMPACT OF MOVIE



- Movie released six years after Stonewall Uprising
- + six years before 'beginning' of AIDs epidemic
- Staged musical loved by London audiences, but movie received VERY poorly by American theatres
- Queer audiences did love the movie!
- Most queer audience members identified with Brad and Janet, primarily

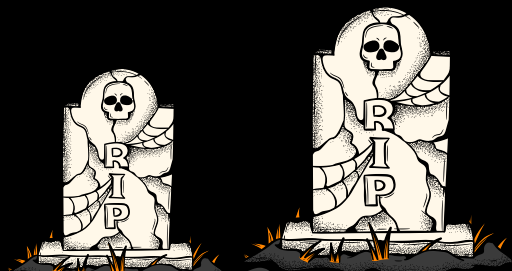


IMPACT OF MOVIE CONT.

“The two spend the night in the castle coming to terms with their own sexual desires and learning to brazenly celebrate their sensuality. This is incredibly similar to the coming-out journeys that queer individuals face, and many people could relate to that.”

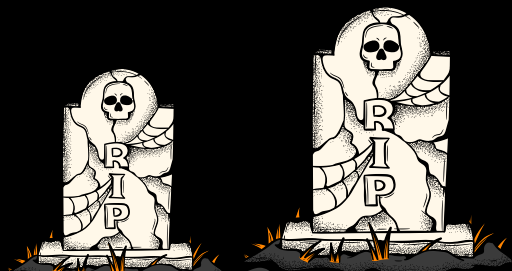
Brad and Janet come to accept the identities of the castle's residents and reject the Nixon-age conservatism they started the film with. However, the film ends with Brad and Janet in the ashes of where the castle once was, a parallel to the uprooting of many queer communities by police raids (Stonewall Riots). They crawl around the rubble aimlessly as the screen spins, dizzyingly signifying the way LGBTQ+ people were forced to face the world after homophobia continued to destroy their communities.”

[“Don't Dream It, Be It”: The Rocky Horror Picture Show's Impact on Queer Communities in the 1970s](#)



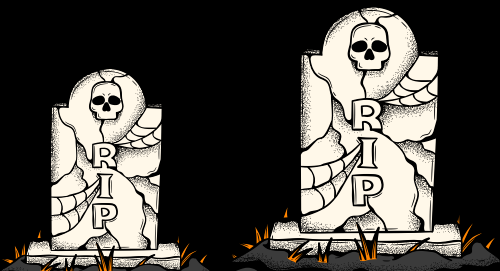
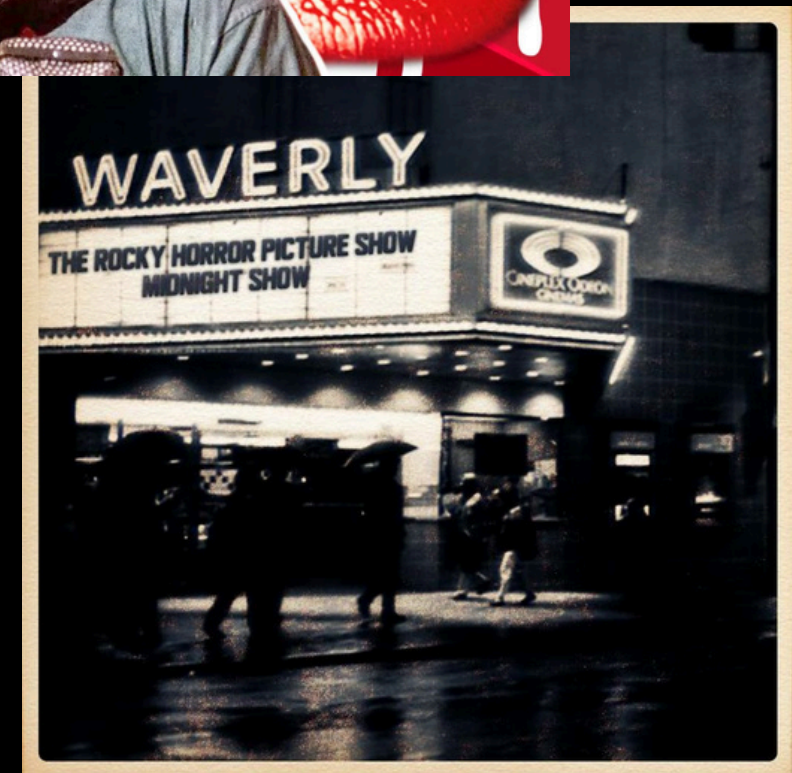
IMPACT OF MOVIE CONT.

- Trans audiences connected to Frank
 - Character identifies as ‘transsexual’, a messy term
 - Magenta and Riff Raff corner Frank after taking over house, claiming his ‘lifestyle is too extreme’
 - LGB movement



IMPACT OF MOVIE CONT.

- Rainbow Pride Flag
- Gender fuck of RHPS shadow casts!
 - Most gender was out the window in regards to shadow casting historically
- Gave trans people a space to express their identities on a stage in front of nonaccepting queer communities



IMPACT OF MOVIE CONT.

“Don’t Dream It, Be It”: The Rocky Horror Picture Show’s Impact on Queer Communities in the 1970s
by Jackie Roach



THANK YOU

The purpose of producing and participating in a production like this is a way to celebrate LGBTQ culture. It is representational of LGBTQ culture, ritual, struggles, and liberation and the ways in which the community persisted in a world where their existence was widely considered 'dangerous'. It is truly a method of activism and resistance through liberation to participate, or even simply audition, for The Rocky Horror Picture Show.



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