Chateau does ‘The Time Warp’ again

By Rhonda Van Pelt

Want to help keep Manitou weird? Grab your red lipstick and fishnet stockings and head to the Iron Springs Chateau’s production of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show.”

The 1975 film, which starred Susan Sarandon and Barry Bostwick as a hapless couple who stumble into the lair of Dr. Frank-N-Furter (Tim Curry), has inspired unknown numbers of grown people to dress up as their favorite character and fling various objects at the screen.

This will be the fourth time the ISC has produced “Rocky,” and ticket sales have grown each year, with the 2014 and 2015 productions selling out.

“We anticipate five nights of sold-out shows this year. We had people standing and waiting for ‘no shows’ last year to see if they could squeeze in the theater. We felt so bad when we had to turn them away,” co-owner Rebekah Ratterree said.

The production, with multiple sets and props and eight actors playing nine characters, can be a tight squeeze for the theater’s small stage.

“Our directors have to find exciting ways to stage and block just to make sure everyone fits on the stage properly. Plus, finding reasonably priced women’s shoes size 12-14 to fit a man is a feat in and of itself,” Ratterree said.

“Luckily, Noah Hensley, who directed our last two productions of ‘Rocky’ said, ‘The audience's costumes will be judged by the applause of their peers, and the first through third prizes include free dinner and show passes, bar and concessions tabs and magnetic lip.’

The first 25 people through the door receive free goodie bags, after that, they’re $2 each.

Because Ratterree and the other owners don’t allow water guns or throwing rice or toast in the theater, they collect fake toast, light sticks, newspaper, toilet paper, playing cards and noisemakers for the bags.

“It can get kind of wild in our theater on ‘Rocky’ nights. Our audiences, so far, have joined in the ‘Time Warp’ each time it comes on and they always hold up their light sticks during ’There’s a Light.’ It looks so cool from the back of the theater,” she said.

Why do all these people work so hard to share this bizarre experience with the audience?

“Live theater is a way to bring stories/messages/ideology/entertainment to the masses, and there is a magical edge to watching a live performance that will never be created exactly the same again,” Ratterree said.

You have to wonder what messages ‘Rocky’ sends audiences, but that’s OK. It’s all about keeping Manitou weird.

October is Arts Month, a Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region initiative to celebrate the performing and visual arts. Each week, the Bulletin will publish a story that focuses on a particular art form appearing on the Arts Month schedule.

The second week highlights live theater.


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