1970s magic comes to Manitou Springs

By Wendy Wilkinson

Who can forget the following classic movie magic?

“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 ...

Let’s do the Time Warp again ...

Yes, it’s time for all you closet Brad, Janets and Frank N. Furters to relive some classic 1970s entertainment.

Just in time for Halloween, “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” will be staged at Iron Springs Chateau, where it’s always a sold-out event and audience participation grows each year.

Lori and Delores Adams-Miller and Rebekah and Brian Ratterree purchased the venue in early 2013 and have embraced the “Rocky” tradition. “The audiences are awesome,” Rebekah Ratterree said. “Many dress up in costumes, including Frank N. Furter, Brad, Janet or any of the other characters in the show. We do a costume competition on the last night and the winner is determined by the loudest applause.

“We give out a wide range of prizes, including a free dinner and show, hats, T-shirts, and even souvenir bottles of wine.”

“The Rocky Horror Picture Show” is a 1975 British-American musical-comedy-horror film directed by Jim Sharman. He wrote the screenplay with Richard O’Brien based on the 1973 musical stage production “The Rocky Horror Show,” which featured O’Brien’s music, book and lyrics. The production is a parody/homage to the science fiction and horror B-movies of the 1930s through the early 1970s.

Along with O’Brien, the film stars Tim Curry (“The Hunt for Red October”), Susan Sarandon (“Thelma and Louise”) and Barry Bostwick (“Weekend at Bernie’s II”), along with cast members from the original Royal Court Theatre, Roxy Theatre and Belasco Theatre productions.

The story centers on a young engaged couple whose car breaks down in the rain near a castle, where they go looking for a phone to call for help. The castle is occupied by strangers in elaborate costumes celebrating an annual convention. The visitors discover that the head of the house is Frank N. Furter, an apparent mad scientist who actually is an alien transvestite creating a living museum man in his laboratory.

Our emcee will host the Virgin Games, while we have the staff stamping the audience with lipstick and anything else we come up with. Our audiences have joined in with the “Time Warp” number each time it’s on the screen and the actors are performing it on the stage,” Lori Adams-Miller said.

The staff also hands out pre-packaged goody-bags containing fake toast for the dinner scene, toilet paper for Rocky’s unrolling, bubbles for the wedding scene and a noisemaker for various scenes and songs.

“Our goody bags are free for the first 25 arrivals and then $2 per bag for additional attendees, as we don’t allow personal water guns, fire, rice or toast to be brought into the theater,” Adams-Miller said.

As “Rocky” enters its sixth year in Manitou, the production has become a little larger and more diverse. With the nine characters in the show, and the four or five wait staff who will play Transylvanians, the cast and crew add up to 20 people bringing “Rocky” to life.

“Rocky” is a soft ‘R’ and we don’t encourage children and young teens to attend, even if they are accompanied by their parents,” Ratterree cautions.

“Although this October we suggest adults only, live theater is a way to bring stories, ideology and entertainment to the masses, while experiencing the magic of a live performance.”

IF YOU GO


Omelettes: Suggest omelettes with your choice of any four: bacon, sausage, ham, bell peppers, cheddar cheese, mushrooms, onions. Avoacado $1. Extra Our eggs are from Little Roman Farm, where happy chickens make happy eggs. Served with home fries and toast.

Biscuits & Gravy: Onramp, open-faced, fluffy, buttermilk biscuit with traditional Southern sausage gravy.

Eggs Goldenrod & Biscuits: One open-faced, fluffy, buttermilk biscuit with traditional homemade gravy and eggs. Served with 2 eggs. $8


Breakfast Quinoas & Fruit: Ancient grain cooked with coconut and almond milk, with cinnamon and honey, topped with seasonal fruits and chilled pecans (GF, vegetarian)

Vegan Scrambled Eggs: Tofu scrambled w/marinated, spinach & red peppers. Served w/home fries and toast.

Shrimp & Grits: Classic New Orleans recipe, with & Gulf Shrimp, Smoky White Cheddar Grits and Andouille Sausage in our homemade sauce.

Sunday Brunch: 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Live music!

Camille Henry as Janet and Jared Harp as Brad enter the scene in a previous Iron Springs Chateau production of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show.”