

It's Astounding, Time Is Fleeting: 'Rocky Horror' Turns 50

Cult classic 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show' celebrates 50 years this fall with multiple celebrations. And toast.

By [Amy McVay Abbott](#) | September 26, 2025 | [Arts and Entertainment](#)

In movie theaters around the world, at midnight every Saturday night, a movie screen flashes a pair of giant red lips and the cult film "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" begins. Thousands of fans, if not more, spend the midnight hours laughing, dancing, yelling, throwing toast and having a great time.



The soundtrack album for "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" | Credit: Amy McVay Abbott

Playing over the flashing lips is the easy sing-along "[Science Fiction/Double Feature](#)" that highlights the horror pictures of the past including "The Day the Earth Stood Still" and "It Came from Outer Space."

"Rocky Horror" will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its 1975 premiere on Sept. 26 at the UA Westwood Theater in Los Angeles, in addition to many other celebrations. [Parade](#) noted that the movie's continued weekly

screenings around the world make it the longest-running theatrical release in film history.

A Light Still Burns at Frankenstein Castle

Next Avenue caught up with Larry Viesel, president of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" Fan Club and learned of the group's history and upcoming celebrations.

"I went to the film club at college and started a Rocky Horror community."

Viesel clearly remembers his first viewing of the iconic cult classic on July 4, 1992, at the Paramus Cinema 35 in New Jersey. He went with a friend, knowing the experience would be better than seeing it alone.

"I had fun, and I didn't think I would go again," remembered Viesel. "I

started going to see the show again when I got on the internet and participated in Rocky Horror news groups." He learned about a small convention in Washington, D.C. in 1993 and attended. "I wasn't impressed, but I met people from all over the country and from my news groups. I was 18 years old."

Viesel said he thought to himself, "I can do better than these people, and nobody stopped me. I went to the film club at college and started a Rocky Horror community."

Recommended

A Rock Documentary That Won't Die

'Heavy Metal Parking Lot,' a cult classic documentary, offers a glimpse of youth culture lived by millions of people now in their 50s

From running his first small convention in Albany, New York, Viesel soon found himself immersed in Rocky Horror life, eventually running the New York City 40th anniversary convention and interacting with the film's stars.

Don't Dream It, Be It

According to the [fan site](#), film stars Barry Bostwick (Brad), Nell Campbell (Columbia) and Patricia Quinn (Magenta) will visit more than 40 cities in the U.S. and Canada. Audiences in each city will have the opportunity to meet a star, participate in a costume contest and interact with a live local shadow cast that will be performing scenes from the movie "live" on stage.

At the same time, a full, unedited version of the film will be shown behind them. In select cities, a traveling [museum](#), including artifacts from the film, will also be on display.

Venues include small cities like Rockford, Illinois, where Bostwick and Quinn will be at the [Club Coronado](#) with a shadow cast on Oct. 16. Tim Curry, despite his ongoing health limitations, will appear at the [Anaheim, California, screening](#) on Nov. 2. The Anaheim screening advertises that it's the only anniversary performance to feature four original stars, including Curry, Quinn, Campbell and Bostwick.

Other [notable activities](#) include:

Sept. 26: Screening of newly-restored 4K film at the [Academy of Motion Pictures David Geffen Theater, Los Angeles](#).

Sept. 27: Official [Rocky Horror fan convention](#), Roxy Theater, West Hollywood, California.

Throughout October: [Screenings are hosted throughout the country](#) with at least one original film cast member.

Oct. 4: Special film screening at the [Hollywood Forever Cemetery](#) with additional cast events, giveaways and a photo booth.

Oct. 15: The Grammy Museum in Los Angeles will host a screening followed by a panel discussion.

Most Popular

1. Documentary Faces the Reality of Lewy Body Dementia | **Health**
 2. 6 Must-Have Nutrients For Brain Health | **Food and Nutrition**
 3. 3 Foods That Help Regulate Blood Sugar | **Health**
 4. How To Support Your Prostate Health | **Health**
-

Let's Do the Time Warp Again?

Viezel believes the popularity of the film has to do with its great sense of community: "People who would go see the movie were the weirdos of society before the internet. And it was also appealing to people who liked the movies. A movie about movies with old science fiction tropes. And it was a midnight screening, so it attracted offbeat people willing to go out at midnight."

"People who would go see the movie were the weirdos of society before the internet."

As time passed, the community became the focus of Rocky Horror. Other movies have communities like "The Wizard of Oz," which rarely has screenings. "Rocky Horror" still has screenings frequently across the world. "Because of the participation and ability to see your friends in person, people go. It was something

we had before the internet, our own little fan clubs," he said.

Viezel continued, "What also attracted people was the great music, the coming-of-age story. Brad and Janet have their eyes opened. It's a whole different world of sex, drugs and rock and roll." He said that the audience participation gave people an opportunity to be in the spotlight because anyone can get up and perform.

"You can't do that with [Jaws](#)," he quipped. "I've done it all after 33 years. I love yelling stuff at the screen. The timing of yelling something and the character responding is hilarious to me."

Viezel has developed a friendship with Barry Bostwick, whom he met when Bostwick was in "Spin City." Bostwick's career took off after his role as Brad in the film; he and Viezel chat often, and Bostwick is making multiple appearances for the anniversary.

Damnit, Janet

For those who missed the film, here's a brief summary: Brad (Bostwick) and Janet (Susan Sarandon) an all-American young couple, are lost in the rain and see a light coming from a castle ahead. Seeking shelter from the storm, the couple heads to the castle and meets Frank-N-Furter (Tim Curry), who plays a "sweet transvestite" from Transexual, Pennsylvania. Frank-N-Furter introduces the innocents to his latest creation, muscle-bound Rocky (Peter Hinwood).

"I love yelling stuff at the screen. The timing of yelling something and the

As the film progresses, Brad and Janet are pulled into the sexual chaos and meet other castle residents, including Riff Raff (X), Columbia, Magenta and Eddie (Meat Loaf), who roars onto screen on a motorcycle and, well, becomes dinner, leading to the callback "Meatloaf, again?"

character responding is hilarious to me."

Although he is not appearing at venues, Richard O'Brien, who played Riff Raff in the original cast, was key to the production, having written the words and music for "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

I never dressed in costume for "Rocky Horror," but I joined in during many forays to the classic as a college student in the late 1970s. I gladly yelled "Weisssssss" when Janet Weiss (Sarandon) comes on screen with her boyfriend Brad Majors (Bostwick), whose appearance prompted the audience to shout "A**hole." Many brought in props including glow sticks, newspapers, squirt guns and rice for the appropriate film moments.

A few years later, at age 30, my husband (who was with me for those college screenings) and I decided to attend the midnight classic in a different city. We looked completely out of place, me in Mom jeans and my husband's hair cut neatly. It just wasn't the same.



Amy McVay Abbott is a retired healthcare executive whose work has appeared in USA Today, Business Insider, AARP publications, and Huff Post Arts and Culture. She is currently developing a memoir-in-essay about the intersection between history and Baby Boomer culture. Visit her free site "Late Boomer: Born After 1956" on [Substack](#). [Read More](#)

Editors Recommendations

Sixty Years On, We Still Can't Quit 'The Twilight Zone'



A Conversation with John Waters



Take a Deep Dive Into 50 Years of Films



Help keep our trustworthy journalism free for everyone!

For more than a decade Next Avenue has been providing readers access to trustworthy, quality journalism that matters most as we age. While our journalism has always been free to consume, it is not free to produce. Make a gift today to help us get even better, and keep our nonprofit service free and accessible to everyone.

DONATE TODAY

[Learn About Next Avenue](#)

STORIES FROM AROUND THE WEB



Meeting the needs and unleashing the
potential of older Americans through media

[About Us](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Sponsorship](#)

[Submissions](#)

[Advocates for Aging](#)

[Contact Us](#)

A nonprofit journalism website produced by:



©2025 Next Avenue