

# Pre-viewing Guide for Sensory and Content Sensitive Patrons

Richard O'brien's The Rocky Horror Show  
January 20 - 22 and January 27 - 29, 2023

The mission of The Sherwood Foundation for the Arts is to create a unique and exceptional musical theater experience. One that captures our audience, and is inclusive of our communities. We want to cultivate an environment that is accepting of our neighbors, while providing as safe and comfortable conditions as possible. For this reason, we are including advisories for sensory and content-sensitive patrons that may contain spoilers for the show.

## **Music and sound effects:**

The characters use songs that discuss cross dressing, and alludes to sexuality in nature. There will be loud motorcycles, lasers and screaming by characters in response to sudden noises.

## **Audience Interaction:**

This show has an abundance of audience interaction, and audience participation is included. There are many times the 4th wall is being broken by multiple characters, specifically the Narrator who directs the audience frequently, and by Dr. Frank N. Furter, who intermittently includes the audience.

## **Language:**

While we are limiting the adult language to PG13, there are multiple instances of explicit language throughout the show.

## **Adult Themes:**

*References to Drug/Alcohol Use:* There are references to drugs and alcohol, as some characters appear to be high after being sprayed with a toxin. The main female character describes coming down from a goofy high, and that it makes you want it again and again.

*Sexual content/Clothing:* This show is all about sexual themes, losing ones virginity, orgies, bisexuality, incest, sexual desires and voyerism. There are multiple references to sex, and sexual encounters in the show. There are scenes where the entire cast, both male and female, are scantily clad with fishnets and high heels.

*Songs:* Dammit Janet: Includes the word ‘damn’ repeatedly. The Time Warp: Alludes to allowing the accompanying dance to lower your inhibitions, become inebriated, and engage in immoral behavior. Sweet Transvestite: Includes lyrics that mention being “one hell of a lover”, and obsession for a same sex character who is good for relieving tension. Sword of Damocles: refers to depression, and the possible existence of imminent sexual danger. Touch-A-Touch-A-Touch Me: Includes lyrics that indicate a female wants to be touched in a manner that makes her feel “dirty”. Rose Tint My World: Describes an acid trip from beginning to end. Super Heroes: Expresses the melancholy effects of living for momentary pleasure.

The main arch of the show follows a couple who start out as innocent individuals seeking protection from the rain. They stumble upon a castle that fills them with hope. Their innocence is torn away by the inhabitants, leaving them vulnerable, and questioning their purpose in life. Confused, they succumb to their carnal instincts. They soon realize the pain caused by living without a purpose. The main protagonists teach others to indulge in sex and drugs on a quest to “rose tint their world” and mask their own sorrow and pain. It soon becomes clear that it does not work. In the end, they discover that this path leads to hopelessness. The true horror of The Rocky Horror Show is not a slasher, but a psychological horror. It is all done in a silly, comedic, campy manner, leading us to believe we are much like the protagonists ourselves. This show truly is a bit of a mind flip.