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# 'Rocky' battles real-life horror

## Show to fight breast cancer

By Christopher Hall  
Special to The Courier-Journal

Let's do the Time Warp agaaaaaaiiiiiinnn... "The Rocky Horror Show" — and in particular, the movie version, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" — has a long history in Louisville.

Whether it's from past theatrical performances, or from the midnight movie showings at the old Vogue Theatre on Lexington Road, "Rocky Horror" continues to resonate with Louisvillians.

Acting for a Cure, a group formed by a teenage actress, is banking on that as it puts on a stage production of "The Rocky Horror Show" at the Kentucky Center's Bomhard Theater for a second year to raise money for the fight against breast cancer.

Rachel Helson, a 16-year-old senior at Louisville Collegiate School, returned from a summer studying acting in New York last year to find that a fourth aunt had been diagnosed with breast cancer. She decided to find a way to help.

She formed Acting for a Cure, and with the help of director Gil Reyes put on two performances of "The Rocky Horror Show," which raised \$12,000 for the Louisville affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. There will be four performances this year and the group hopes to raise \$50,000, Rachel said.

From its first meeting to curtain last year, the group had only six weeks, Rachel said. This year, members had a little more time to prepare.

"It was a very short time frame, but it came together beautifully last year, and it's going to be bigger and better this year," Rachel said.

"Rocky Horror" follows the ad-

ventures of a naïve and innocent couple, Brad and Janet, as they fall into the not-so-diabolical, but definitely not innocent, clutches of Dr. Frankfurter. Telling any more would ruin the fun for any Rocky Horror "virgins" out there.

Helson plays Janet, while WAVE-TV newsman Chris Parente portrays the equally dopey Brad. Parente said he's had a blast getting ready for the show.

"It seems like everybody in this town has a Rocky Horror story; a lot of people saw it at the Vogue growing up," he said. "The minute you say 'Rocky Horror,' they light up: 'Oh, 'Rocky Horror,' I love that show!' And it's so great to be able to bring it to life on stage."

The crowds at the Vogue loved to participate in the show, yelling out lines and waving lighters at key moments, and this version is no different.

One of the show's sponsors, Joseph's salon, has even put together "participation packs" for the audience, including flashlights (no lighters in the Bomhard) for people to wave.

Reyes is filling in as the show's narrator after the original narrator, Mel Fisher of WHAS Radio's Ron and Mel show, was diagnosed with breast cancer. Fisher had a lumpectomy earlier this week and the results look positive, Reyes said, with no evidence that the cancer had spread.

The show is being dedicated to Fisher, Reyes said, and the coincidence of someone working on a fund-raiser to fight breast cancer being diagnosed with the disease is not lost on the cast and crew.

"We're taking it as an example of how important it is to have regular checkups and be aware of breast cancer — how it affects everyone and can hit close to home," he said.



Robert McFarland plays Dr. Frankfurter in Acting for a Cure's "Rocky Horror Show" at the Kentucky Center's Bomhard Theater.

By Pat McDonough,  
The Courier-Journal

### IF YOU GO

#### "The Rocky Horror Show"

**When:** 8 p.m. today, tomorrow and next Friday and Saturday

**Where:** Bomhard Theater, Kentucky Center, Sixth and Main streets

**Tickets:** \$25.

**"Rocky Extravaganza":** Meet and mingle with the cast next Friday. For \$75 (includes admission), you can attend a cocktail party before the show and have champagne with the cast afterward.

**Reservations:** Call (502) 584-7777 or (800) 775-7777 or visit [www.kentucky-center.org](http://www.kentucky-center.org).