

# Theatre puts on Halloween classic

BY ERIN MCKEE  
Staff Reporter

The "Rocky Horror Show" is coming to the Kirksville Community Theatre. It's not the "picture" show that includes Tim Curry dressed as a transvestite. Rather, it is the original stage version, put on by many of Kirksville's own.

Director Wayne Yanda said the community has been buzzing about the show — a result he did not expect.

"With a lot of people, it's like, 'Oh my God, I can't believe you're doing this, it's going to be so much fun!'" Yanda said. "And I'm like, 'Okay, you're the last person I thought would say that.'"

"Rocky Horror Show" is based around the strange happenings in a desolate castle with characters including transvestites, those who have been cryogenically preserved and the undead.

Yanda said he took a "just do it" approach when deciding to put on "Rocky Horror."

"With this kind of show, you really can't think about it too much, you just have to jump in and do it," he said.

Although the movie was based off the stage version, they are not the same show, and Yanda said he intends to keep it that way.

"I don't want to do a carbon copy of the movie," Yanda said. "We need to put our own spin on it."

Senior Chelsey Cole said she prefers the stage version now that she has been introduced to it.

"I am playing Columbia, one of the servants," Cole said. "My particular character seems like she has more to do in the stage version than in the movie."

Cole said that acting in a play as funny as "Rocky Horror" can make it difficult to hold a straight face and keep in character.

"I find the hardest thing about a comedy is if one actor breaks, the rest will break character, and that's the worst part," Cole said. "I think that even if we do break in this show, it'll be OK because it's just so off-the-wall."

Sophomore Payton Gillam said she is not terribly worried about breaking into a fit of giggling.

"I'm Magenta, one of the Transylvanians, so if I get the giggles, I can just laugh evilly, and I can totally get away with it," Gillam said.

With the exception of the two actors who

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**Wayne Yanda**  
Director



Amy Gleaves/Index  
Members of the Kirksville Community Theatre practice for their performance of the "Rocky Horror Show," which will open Oct. 23.

play Brad and Janet, the normal married couple who simply happen upon this land of insanity, the rest of the cast can get away with breaking character too, Gillam said.

"We crack up a little, but we can at least play it off like, 'Oh, we're so amused by our oddities!'" Gillam said.

She said the craziness of the show lends itself to taboos and that many communities are not willing to put on the show because of the controversy that could ensue.

"[Magenta] is a maid, but I wear hooker boots and fishnets," Gillam said. "I jumped at the chance to do something so left-field."

Opening night will be Oct. 23, and there will be a midnight show the night of Halloween.

A vital aspect of the show, be it the movie or the stage version, is audience participation. Gillam said Kirksville's production of the show will not shy away from jumping into the audience.

"Leave your personal bubble at the door," she said. "It's going to get popped."

# Campus wins concert via Facebook group

BY PAUL BISCHOFF  
Staff Reporter

In addition to performances by Ben Folds and Stephen Lynch, another concert might be added to the fall lineup this semester.

Thanks to the efforts of students across campus, Truman won the "Be the Campus Rockstar" contest, hosted on Facebook and sponsored by Dell and Microsoft. Truman took home the grand prize: a free exclusive concert by OneRepublic, composers of hit songs "Apologize" and "Stop and Stare." No details of the concert have been finalized.

"I had no idea that Truman would win," said sophomore Kayla Burch, a member of the Facebook group. "[The] second-place competitor was actually University of Central Florida, which I think has 40-some thousand people, so it's pretty amazing."

Sophomore Gregory Steimel founded the group Aug. 5, almost an entire month after the contest officially started.

"I was like the third person who added the application," he said. "I knew it was possible. I knew Truman has 6,000 students. I did a little bit of math, and I put that on the group to motivate people."

He said that if 500 people added the application and earned 250 points, Truman would

have enough points to overcome the group that was already in the lead. Steimel said he thought many of the leading groups had earned most of their points early in the summer, giving Truman an opportunity for a comeback.

"They probably didn't have a whole lot of people joining, so they probably already maxed out the total number of points they could earn," he said. "We could get numbers — just a mass number of people to add it, then we could win."

"Be the Campus Rockstar" uses a point system based on participation, according to the Facebook application. Every school that participates has its own Facebook network. Each person who adds the application to their profile earns points for their school. Once added, participants can earn more points by inviting more friends, watching Dell advertisements, answering trivia questions about Dell products and going to links on the contest application.

Truman overtook all of its competitors, including the University of Central Florida, Colorado University, Harvard and thousands

more, earning a total of 141,684 points by the time the contest ended Aug. 31.

Not everyone who contributed to Truman's victory was a student at Truman.

"They were from all over the country," Burch said. "Some of them weren't even students — I know my mom added the application. You just had to invite your friends. They didn't have to be in the Truman network."

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**Kayla Burch**  
Sophomore

Burch said she sent the application to everyone she knew within the Truman Facebook network, as well as contacting other groups to message their members about joining.

The official rules state that the show must take place before Nov. 20. But senior Haley Ray, Student Activities Board concert chair, said nothing is

set in stone. She said planning for concerts typically begins much further in advance, and several conditions have to be met before the concert gets the go-ahead. Normally, arranging a concert for Truman includes contacting an agency that distributes a "Morning

Report" of artists within the SAB's budget (as many as 500 artists), and analyzing those artists according to recognition, price, availability, diversity, agency suggestions and more, Ray said. The bands chosen are put on a student survey which is released at the end of spring or the start of fall. The SAB then passes a slate, which is a list of artists in order of preference according to the survey, agency suggestions, forecasting and other factors. Then the University places a bid for the desired artist. If declined, Truman can either move on to the next band or raise its bid, Ray said.

"We have been contacted by the promoters, who said that they will handle everything, which leaves little to the school as far as programming," Ray said. "The people who sponsor the concert will be doing most of the work for us. It's feasible as long as the correct steps are taken. ... The biggest obstacle that we're facing right now is that we don't know how to go about making sure this concert happens and making sure the students who win this are rewarded."

Steimel said he takes little credit for Truman winning the contest.

"I didn't really do that much," Steimel said. "I just kind of threw the snowball down the hill and let it roll. I made the group, sent some invites out to friends and just let it go from there."



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# Back pain makes simplest tasks the most difficult

Anyone who has ever suffered from back pain knows it can be debilitating, making even simple tasks like carrying groceries or climbing stairs seem nearly impossible. With four out of five adults experiencing back pain during their lives, it is one of the leading causes of missed work and lost productivity.

Because the back is affected by nearly every move the body makes, it is especially susceptible to injury and pain. Although back pain often is caused by muscles and ligaments that have been strained by heavy or improper lifting, other common causes include:

- Disc problems: — As many people age, the intervertebral discs in the spinal column begin to break

down and lose their cushioning ability, resulting in severe pain. Ruptured or herniated discs can have the same effect when disc matter pinches the surrounding nerves.

- Injuries: — Injuries sustained in car accidents or falls can result in fractured vertebrae. Osteoporosis, a condition which weakens the bones, also can result in painful fractures.

- Conditions and diseases: — Scoliosis, which causes curvature of the spine, and various forms of arthritis, including osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, also are common causes of back pain.

Most back pain diminishes with time. However, many sufferers find relief through over-the-counter pain relievers such as aspirin, ibuprofen or acetaminophen.

Applying sources of heat and cold such as an ice bag followed by a heating pad may also help.

Although physical activity was once thought to worsen back pain, many doctors now recommend skipping prolonged bed rest in favor of light activity, which might speed healing. Patients should avoid activities that aggravate back pain such as heavy lifting or twisting.

For those with intense or chronic back pain, it might become necessary to investigate other

treatment options such as prescription pain medication or physical therapy. Injections of cortisone, an

anti-inflammatory medication, also might be helpful for those suffering from back and leg pain due to disc problems.

Back pain can be debilitating, but most aches and pains improve within a few weeks. Patients should seek immediate medical attention if back pain:

- Becomes constant or severe, especially when lying down,
- Spreads down one or both legs

or causes weakness or tingling.

- Results in new bladder or bowel problems,

- Is associated with abdominal pain, fever or unexpected weight loss.

Patients often find they can avoid or lessen back pain by taking a few simple steps to improve their overall health. Regular, low-impact activities such as swimming or walking combined with core strengthening exercises can increase strength, endurance and flexibility. Maintaining a healthy weight also can prevent back pain because extra pounds can add strain to back muscles.

For more information on the prevention and treatment of back pain, contact Dr. Browning at 627-1229.



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