PRESS BUZZ

Patricia Quinn

Patricia Quinn is coming to Patchogue on Oct. 29.

# 'Horror' Takes The Stage

## MAGENTA AND ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW CONJURE UP A SPOOKTACULAR TREAT AT PATCHOGUE THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

BY BARBARA ANNE KIRSHNER

Get ready for a spookalicious trick or treat at Patchogue Theatre with the original Magenta, Patricia Quinn, hosting *Rocky Horror Picture Show: The Original Cast Spooktacular Tour.*

*Rocky Horror* is a celluloid cultural phenomenon that crashed into our consciousness in 1975 with the distinction of being the only film to gain popularity through midnight screenings and audience participation. On Oct. 29, Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts invites audiences to the *Rocky Horror Spooktacular Tour,* featuring the film now in a new 4k restoration accompanied by a live shadow cast of actors mimicking the action in the movie. Attendees are encouraged to dress in costumes and this spooktacular experience will culminate with a

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# Magenta and Rocky Horror Picture Show Conjure Up a Spooktacular Treat at Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts

costume contest. Audiences will be treated to a Q and A with Magenta herself, Patricia Quinn, who owns arguably the most famous disembodied red lips in film.

The original concept for *Rocky Horror* came from the creative mind of Richard O'Brien who conceived and wrote the play set against the backdrop of the glam era of early 1970s British pop culture. The catchy score is a blend of glam rock, 1950s rock and roll, and theatrical camp, with such fun songs as "Time Warp," "Sweet Transvestite," and "Science Fiction/Double Vision." The musical play premiered on Aug. 14, 1973, at the tiny Royal Court Theatre in London.

"The theatre had 60 wooden chairs, with no stage and no curtain, nothing," Patricia Quinn, who originated the dual roles of Usherette in addition to Magenta, said of the humble beginnings. "And within the first week Mick Jagger and Bianca were queuing and Bowie was there. The word of mouth about the show was unbelievable!"

It quickly moved to larger venues in London before opening at the 500-seat King's Road Theatre on November 3, 1973, where it ran for six years. The musical made its U.S. debut in Los Angeles at the Roxy Theatre in 1974 before premiering on Broadway at the Belasco Theatre in 1975. It enjoyed two Broadway revivals in 2000 and is currently at Studio 54 in New York City.

The film adaptation directed by Jim Sharman, with screenplay by Sharman and O'Brien and distributed by 20th Century Fox, was released in 1975. Several members of the original stage production reprised their roles in the film adaptation, including Tim Curry, Patricia Quinn, Richard O'Brien, Meat Loaf and Nell Campbell. Susan Sarandon and Barry Bostwick were cast as the innocent couple in the film.

The story centers on a young, newly engaged couple whose car breaks down in the rain near a castle, where they search for help. The castle is occupied by strangers in elaborate costumes holding a party. They meet the head of the house, Dr. Frank-N-Furter, an apparently mad scientist and alien transvestite from the planet Transsexual in the galaxy of Transylvania who creates a living muscle man named Rocky.

When the movie was released, it was largely a flop, but that turned around with the ingenious idea to run screenings at midnight. The first New York City midnight screening took place at the Waverly Theater on April Fool's Day, April 1, 1976. This midnight show launched the interactive cult phenomenon and audience participation tradition. Quinn explained how the midnight show idea came about.

"There was a young boy at 20th Century Fox and he suggested that they show it at midnight at all the campuses in America," she recalled. "But for him we wouldn't exist."

Tim Deegan was that young 20th Century Fox advertising executive who came up with the strategy to market the film as a midnight-only feature which eventually caught on in college towns and theaters nationwide.

Quinn described her first encounter with what would become a phenomenon.

"We heard about people dressing up as us and talking back at the screen. Richard O'Brien and I were invited for a screening," she said. "We went to see it and we went up on stage and did a performance of 'Time Warp.' And that's when we were introduced to what was going on."

Quinn was genuinely surprised at the attention she received during those early tours in America with *Rocky Horror*.

"I thought I would be doing little *Rocky Horror* cinemas with my show named *Q&A with Patricia Quinn*, then I arrived and they showed me enormous theatres and I thought, good God, who will come to this?" she said. "They were sold out every time! I could never in my wildest dreams believe the following of the film. It was extraordinary!"

20th Century Fox

**Patricia Quinn as Magenta**

*Rocky Horror* went on to become a voice for the LGBT+ community, who embraced it and became a strong presence at screenings. Quinn shared a personal experience of a friend who was deeply affected by the film.

"Peaches Christ, the drag queen in San Francisco, is a great friend of mine," she said. "Peaches invited me to San Francisco to do a *Rocky Horror* show for him singing all the songs with the drag queens of San Francisco. It was brilliant. Peaches Christ went to see *Rocky Horror* when he was 15 years old and *Rocky* released him completely, so he's one of those people who discovered his sexuality through the film. It has done that for so many people. Extraordinary!"

Today, the film has a large international cult following with annual *Rocky Horror* conventions held in various locations. Quinn toured some towns where she wasn't sure how the film would be received.

"With some stops on the tour, we were in such rural places, but it had a theater," she said. "And then I went to a religious state with churches on every corner and I thought, God, we're going to be run out of town here. And all these places were sold out!"

In 2005, the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* film was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

*Rocky Horror* celebrated its 50th anniversary last year bringing members of the cast together for tours and panel discussions, which extended from 2024 to 2025 and again this year. Quinn remains very enthusiastic about touring with the film.

"I love all of it from the shadow cast to the costume competition for the audience," she said. "I come onstage and do a Q and A and they don't just clap, they stand and cheer. I'm shocked! I thought maybe the tour would be difficult because it's constantly moving from theater to theater, but the adrenaline from the audience is sheer joy and keeps me going. It's nice to be appreciated."

This exclusive interview with Patricia Quinn took place a few days after the death of her co-star Tim Curry, on Aug. 25, 2026.

"It was heartbreaking news that shook me up," she said. "But wonderfully I was with him in October of last year. I got to see him in LA and he came on a few of the tour dates with us. He was in such great form, but sadly this has happened. It will be wonderful to be with all the fans to mourn and to celebrate Tim Curry."

When asked if she had a final thought she would like to leave with fans who plan to join her at Patchogue Theatre and other stops on her upcoming tour, she bubbled, "Let's do the time warp again and again and again!"

Join Patricia Quinn for a memorable and joyous *Rocky Horror* very appropriately planned just before Halloween on Oct. 29, 2026, at Patchogue Theatre.

*Patchogue Theatre, 71 E. Main St., Patchogue, info@patchoguetheatre.org, Box Office 631-207-1313, Hours: Weds-Sun 12-6 p.m. Extended hours on show nights.*