

The More You NOLA: Tulane does the 'Time Warp' again

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Leslie Castay directs students during a rehearsal of the Newcomb Department of Music's production of *The Rocky Horror Show*. Castay, who has appeared on Broadway, is an alumna now pursuing a master of fine arts degree in musical theater at Tulane. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

Audiences will be shivering with anticipation, as the Newcomb Department of Music presents the colossal cult phenomenon [*The Rocky Horror Show*](#) just in time for Halloween. The production will take a jump to the left and a step to the right in Dixon Hall on the uptown campus on Thursday, Oct. 29, and Friday, Oct. 30, at 8 p.m.

"Not many people know it started on the stage," says director Leslie Castay.

Castay, a Tulane alumna who is in her first year of the MFA program, is directing Richard O'Brien's play as part of B. Michael Howard's Musical Theatre Workshop.

The cast of 27 is led by seniors Brian Silver and Meghan Lydon playing newly

engaged couple Brad and Janet, who seek refuge at a mysterious castle during a rainstorm. Joshua Brewer, a second-year graduate student, will slip into the high heels of the castle's owner, magnetic mad scientist Dr. Frank-N-Furter.

"It's a pleasure to expose these kids to such an iconic piece of pop culture," says Castay.

Though the production plans to stick to the play's glam rock roots, Castay is aiming for a contemporary edge. "You may see iPhones and selfie sticks making appearances. We're going to keep it fresh," she says.

The show's classic traditions also will be honored. Costumes are encouraged, and callouts are welcome during the show.

As generations of raucous audiences have sustained *Rocky Horror*'s 40-year stage and celluloid legacy, the cast has vigorously prepared for the playgoers' role in bringing the show to life. During rehearsals, cast members take turns staging classic and spontaneous callouts.

"We have to be ready for it. We'll also be selling participation kits," says Castay.

Filled with essentials needed for the immersive experience (including bubbles, newspapers and flashlights), the kits will have *Rocky Horror* veterans and newcomers alike covered.

[Tickets](#) are available online.