

True-Life **Horror** Stories

O'BRIEN PREDICTS "DISASTER"



On a tropical isle somewhere in the Bermuda Triangle, a group of marooned individuals soon discover that they are on a collision course with two slow-moving icebergs. And to top that off, a few tons of nuclear waste are lying in storage containers in close proximity.

No, this is not a modern day episode of "Gilligan's Island," but it is the setting for Richard O'Brien's newest comedy, "DISASTER."

The action begins when Martha Fortune, (an ambitious TV personality), receives a letter from her daughter, Stella Hippie, whom years earlier had moved to a deserted island in the Bermuda Triangle with her oceanographer husband, Craig.

In the letter, Stella tells Martha about a concert pianist that has come to the island and with whom she has also fallen in love. Much to Martha's horror, she realizes that the pianist is Nicholas Cortzi — Martha's ex-lover and Stella's long, lost father. And so,

Martha arranges a trip to the island and is accompanied by a right-wing Senator and a sharp-tongued gay photographer. Within minutes of their arrival, their yacht sinks; leaving them stranded. It's then that they discover that the island is directly in the path of two giant icebergs that are scheduled to meet right at their doorstep.

Sound like the makings of a brand new soap opera? It's that and much, much more.

"DISASTER" made its debut in London last year. It brought together many of the original "ROCKY HORROR SHOW" cast: Patricia Quinn, Christopher Malcolm; (the original Brad Majors), Jonathan Adams, and Richard O'Brien.

In addition, Richard Hartley composed some of the music and Sue Blane and Brian Thomson designed the costumes and the set. As a matter of fact, "DISASTER" was spawned from a thought of Brian Thomson's who once said, "we've had all those disaster

TIM CURRY HITS THE BOTTOM LINE

"Who do you want?" shouts the excited young man who's preparing to make the grand introduction. "Tim Curry," is the deafening reply of nearly 2500 ecstatic fans.

"Who?" The emcee is in a very playful mood. "TIM CURRY!" And the wall of sound is so powerful that the carefully assembled amplification system begins to rumble.

"Then here he is, ladies and gentlemen . . . Mr. Tim Curry!!!" The stage begins to shake and the thunderous applause nearly takes your breath away. Suddenly, a curtain parts and the suave Mr. C flashes a smile that melts away the first five rows. And so, the second "ROCKY HORROR SHOW" Convention is forever pressed in the memories of the fans who cherish that moment when Tim Curry appeared.

But this appearance was only one of many that Tim was to make while in New York. When Tim went on tour with his rock-'n' roll band, he did six sold-out concerts at Manhattan's Bottom Line.

(MORE ON TIM CURRY ON PAGE TEN)

films, what's needed now is a disaster musical."

Rumor has it that "DISASTER" will be making an appearance on this side of the Atlantic sometime this year.

(RELATED PHOTOS ON PAGE FIVE)



Patricia Quinn's "Bedroom" Tales

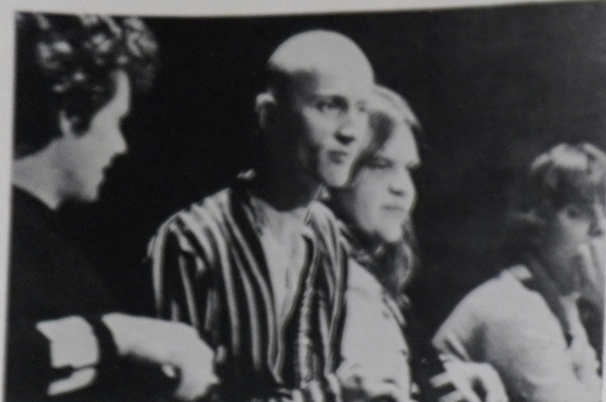
It's quite a hectic Saturday night and a very angry Patricia Quinn grabs the closest available lamp and hurls it toward the tall, lanky man in the bedroom.

Suddenly, a great burst of laughter erupts and Patricia's accurate right hook is rewarded with a tremendous round of applause. For this bedroom is located on the stage of London's Prince of Wales Theatre and Patricia is so angry because the script of her current show, "BEDROOM FARCE" calls for it.

(MORE ON PATRICIA QUINN ON PAGE NINE)

Meeting The Stars

by John Mandracchia



"CONVENTION NO. 1: from left; Richard Hartley, O'Brien, Meatloaf and John Mandracchia."



"CONVENTION NO. 2: Patricia Quinn, Jonathan Adams (background), John Mandracchia and Kimi Wong."

February 20, 1978 was the date of the first ROCKY HORROR SHOW Convention that was held at the Calderone Concert Hall, (Hempstead, Long Island).

It took a lot of hard work and research to get the English cast of stars to appear, but my partner Paul Spiegel and I were able to pull it off.

I still remember trying to find Richard O'Brien. It wasn't easy considering that I didn't know where in the world to begin to look. Several phone calls later, I finally had Mr. O'Brien on the other end of the telephone line.

John: "Is this Richard O'Brien?"

Richard: "Yes."

John: "My name is John Mandracchia and I would like you to come to New York for a convention."

Richard: "What kind of convention would that be?"

John: "A 'Rocky Horror' convention, of course."

He was amazed, to say the least. He thought that "THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW" died a quick death here in the States as it did in London. But he did agree to come, as did Patricia Quinn and Little Nell. I immediately sent them all round-trip airline tickets and arranged for a date at the Calderone.

Now things really started popping. I was determined to make this convention a success and when I was notified a few days before that Meatloaf would also appear, I was convinced that it would be.

But, now, I was nervous. Today was the day that I had to pick up the "Rocky" entourage at the airport. I was wondering what



they would think of me, since I was only 16 years old at the time. I finally made it to the British Airways terminal and eagerly awaited their arrival.

Suddenly, a beautiful red-headed woman with flowers in her hair strolled out of Customs. It was Patricia Quinn. I ran up to her and said "hello" but before I could finish, she asked where she could find a man named John Mandracchia. I took a deep breath and told her that it was me. Her mouth dropped, and all she could manage to utter was, "Oh dear!"

Evidently she thought that the promoter of this "grand" convention was a much older man.

I asked where Richard was and she told me that he was still being checked by Customs. It was then that a thin bald-headed man came walking toward us. He carried a cumbersome trunk that had "Richard O'Brien" written all over it. He said "hello" and then proceeded to drop the trunk on my foot, (accidentally, I hope). As I limped with them to the car, the long process of getting to know each other, soon began.

"SOME MEMORIES OF CONVENTION NO. 1..."

Richard O'Brien, Patricia Quinn, Meatloaf and Little Nell were all busy rehearsing their songs. Everything was going along right on schedule, but I was still nervous.

Richard opened the show with a most memorable rendition of "Science Fiction, Double Feature." I could see from the sidelines just how pleased the audience was, but what really made them roar was the moment Patricia and Nell joined Richard for the "Time Warp."

Little Nell had a slight case of laryngitis but she forced herself to sing, (God Bless her!). In the meanwhile, I was backstage pleading with Meatloaf to sing "Hot Patootie," but he refused. He also had laryngitis. But then, Richard O'Brien came to the rescue. "I'll do it." He ran back on stage and did one hell of a job.

"... AND CONVENTION NO. 2"

It was back to the Calderone on October 8th for Convention No. 2. Tonight our illustrious cast included Tim Curry, Patricia Quinn, Jonathan Adams and Susan Sarandon.

The show was instantly sold-out and an additional two hundred people were lined up outside waiting to buy standing room tickets. And, as showtime again approached, I realized that it wasn't any easier the second time around. Pat Quinn made her way on stage in an usherette's outfit and sang "Science Fiction..." just like she did six years ago when "THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW" first opened in London. Jonathan's arrival in a wheelchair for his version of "Eddie's Teddy" was indeed one of the evening's highlights.

MEAT E-LOAFS



"Meatloaf Marries"

EDDIE FINDS HIS COLUMBIA

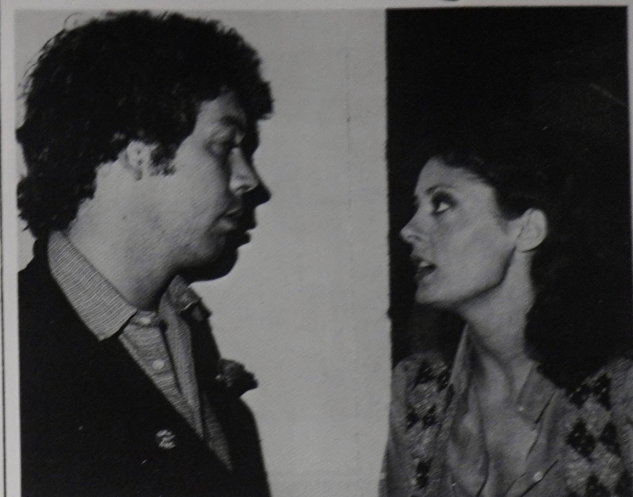
Mr. Marvin Lee Aday, a.k.a. Meatloaf, took the "big" step on February 23rd and got himself a bride.

The Texas-born "Meat" and his lady Leslie, (a former secretary at Bearsville Records), tied the knot in a private ceremony.

Both the bride and groom wore brown.



Tim and Susan Discuss Their Future Together



"Tim Curry and Susan Sarandon hadn't seen each other for three years when they met at the second "Rocky Horror" Convention, so they had a lot to catch up on. Susan told Tim about her new movie with David Steinberg called "Something Short of Paradise" and Tim talked about his first solo rock album, "Read My Lips" and upcoming concert tour."

Columbia Stricken With "Fever"

Yeah, Columbia's got the "Fever" but it's not the contagious kind. "Fever" is Little Nell's newest single on A&M Records. But, do you remember her debut single, "Do the Swim"? One British reporter once called it "an attempt to shatter all the stereo tweeters in the kingdom on first playing!"

And Nell is the first one to agree that her voice is one of the most "unique" in the business. "My frequency is all my own," she admits. "Dogs pick me up; you know, it's like the sound of breaking glass."

Little Nell was born Laura Campbell in Sydney, Australia. It was her father, a columnist for the Sydney Telegraph, who first gave her the nickname of "Little Nell" after the Charles Dickens character.

At age 17, she left Sydney and ended up busking along the streets of London's West End theatre district. One day, while tap-dancing down Shaftsbury Avenue, (outside the theatre where "Jesus



"Little Nell"

Christ Superstar" was playing), Jim Sharman, (Superstar's director), saw her and immediately cast her in his newest production, "THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW."

As the years passed, Nell, (everyone's favorite "Rocky Horror" groupie), played a very interesting assortment of theatrical roles. In "Jubilee," she was a nymphomaniac; in "Mickey Mouse Now," she was Minnie Mouse, and in the British TV series "Rock Follies," (which also featured Tim Curry), she played a daffy, blonde secretary.

Last year, Nell was able to revive that "kooky" secretary character for a truly smashing performance in a one-woman show called, "The Stoop." "The Stoop" was a tale about a New York secretary who has a crush on a male workmate and hangs around his apartment block, (battling rainstorms and even neighborhood perverts), just to get even the slightest glimpse of him.

But then, acting isn't Little Nell's only forte. It is evident that she's following in the footsteps of her "Rocky Horror" colleagues; Meatloaf and Tim Curry in the pursuit of a rock career. If all goes according to

plan, Nell should soon be starting work on her first solo rock album under the direction of Richard Hartley.

But, I for one, always wondered why "The Swim" was such an important song to Nell, (she released three different versions of it). Do you think it has anything to do with the fact that Nell once represented her country Australia in swimming at the 1972 Olympic Games in Zurich? It's possible.

DID YOU KNOW... that Julie Covington (of "Rock Follies" fame) was the very first Janet Weiss!

... that Richard O'Brien played the part of Frank N. Furter for two performances in London when Tim Curry was sick and had to miss the shows?

... that Barry Bostwick and Susan Sarandon were really going together during the filming of "the Rocky Horror Picture Show?"



Patricia Quinn

Photograph by Marie Scuderi

RARE PHOTOS OF "DISASTER" VICTIMS

by Marie Scuderi



"All dressed up and no place to go"



"A toast . . . to absent friends"



"We have got to get out of this trap"



"But it's the pelvic thrust . . ."

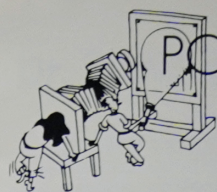


"How Sentimental!"



Tim Curry in Concert

Photograph by Marie Scuderi



PORTRAIT OF A MOVIE STAR



"If there was anyone ever meant to be a movie star; it's Patricia Quinn," Tim Curry once told me. No one could have summed it up better.

One has only to see one of her performances to be wholeheartedly convinced that Patricia Quinn is an actress destined for greatness. I was sold the first time I saw "THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW" and then again in 1976 when the television series "I, Claudius" first aired in Britain. It was then that I realized that the lovely siren Livilla, (Claudius' sister), and the incestuous Magenta, were both expertly played by the same person. Here was proof positive that Patricia was not only quite talented but also tremendously versatile.

Patricia Quinn was born on May 28th in Belfast, Northern Ireland. At the age of 16, she moved to London and studied at one of its leading drama schools; the Drama Centre.

From there, it was on to the Glasgow Citizens Theatre for a great deal of repertory. In Lon-

don, Patricia appeared in "AC/DC," "Stripwell," and of course "THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW" at the Royal Court Theatre; "Murderer" at the Garrick Theatre; "Cool Million" at the Half Moon Theatre; and "The Threepenny Opera" and "Bedroom Farce" at the Prince of Wales. Patricia was also cast as Sarah Bernhardt in the play "Sarah B. Divine," and last year was totally unforgettable as the ambitious Martha Fortune in Richard O'Brien's "Disaster."

Among Patricia's numerous TV appearances was the very popular Hallmark Special that American audiences were treated to earlier this year; namely "Beauty and the Beast," (it also starred George C. Scott). Patricia's most recent movie, "Misfit" was filmed in Ireland. It had been earlier titled "Michael."

Patricia's future plans call for a part in the new production of "The Fifth of July," which is scheduled to open soon in London.

— Marie Scuderi

FACTS ABOUT THE RICARDOS

Richard O'Brien was born on March 25th, in Cheltenham, England, (37 years ago), and brought up in New Zealand. After a three-year dairy farm training course, a very dissatisfied O'Brien, (now 22), decided to try his luck back in England. But it still didn't come easy.

Richard had to take jobs as a barber and garbage man until he landed a job as a stunt man in the movie, "Carry On Cowboy." While taking evening classes in acting, he got parts in "The Fighting Prince of Donegal" and "Casino Royale."

But it wasn't until Richard got an acting role with the touring company of "Hair" that things started to look up. Next came a part in Sean Kenny's "Gulliver's Travels" and a short stint as Herod in "Jesus Christ Superstar," which was directed by Jim Sharman. But because producer Robert Stigwood didn't think that Richard was right for the part, he soon found himself out of work and with lots of free time on his hands. It was then, in 1973, that Richard O'Brien created "THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW."

Richard's incredibly busy career has also included appearances in two Sam Sheppard plays, ("The



Unseen Hand" and "A Tooth of Crime"), and "Mickey Mouse Now" in which he portrayed the famous rodent as a 50 year-old alcoholic. Little Nell played the part of Minnie Mouse. Nell rejoined Richard in 1977 for an appearance in the very popular British punk movie, "Jubilee." In "Jubilee," Richard played the part of a quite mysterious magician named "Dee" and in Graeme Chapman's film feature, "The Contraption," Richard was cast as a leather queen.

During that period, a great deal of creative work came from O'Brien's pen and this included the television play, "A Hymn

From Jim," a children's short story entitled "Uggle and Mee," and another rock musical that debuted at London's Royal Court Theatre; "T. Zee."

RICHARD HARTLEY

Richard Hartley, Rocky Horror's brilliant musical arranger, was said to have instantly loved Richard O'Brien's songs for the science-fiction spoof when he first heard them. A liason that has lasted more than six years is proof that Hartley and O'Brien make a fine musical team.

Besides Rocky Horror, Richard Hartley has had a hand in two other O'Brien musicals; "T. Zee" and "Disaster."

On his own, Hartley was the musical arranger for the movie, "The Romantic Englishwoman," (starring Michael Caine), and also the musical director of an album by singer/actor Peter Straker.

Perhaps more well known to Rocky Horror fans is Hartley's work with Brian Thomson in the production, (and in some cases, the creation) of Little Nell's singles. However, some of Hartley's most profitable work has come from the production of the music of the very popular British rock'n'roll group, "The Darts."

Fearless Tim Curry

by Marie Scuderi



"Question: 'Do ya think I'm Sexy?'"

While walking down the street one spring day in London, Tim Curry "bumped" into an old friend. He was a man that Tim first met when they were struggling young actors who both got their first "real" break with the rock musical, "Hair."

The friend was Richard O'Brien. Tim asked him what he had been doing lately, and Richard told him that he was just at the gym down the block, looking for a muscleman who could sing. It seemed that one was needed for Richard's new musical which was scheduled to open at the Royal Court Theatre, (Upstairs).

Tim became quite interested and when Richard asked him to come down and audition, he said that he would, since he was currently in a play at the Royal Court's main theatre, (downstairs).

However, Richard didn't have the muscleman part in mind for Tim. "Rocky Horror" fans are quite happy that Tim Curry took that stroll that day. For it eventually led him to becoming the wonderfully weird transvestite of "THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW."

Tim Curry was born on April 19, 1946, in a small village in the north of England. His father, a Methodist Navy chaplain was stationed there at the time. Four months later, his father was transferred to Hong Kong and by the time Tim was 3 years old, the family was on the move again.

"The world was my home," Tim said. "My mother met my father in Malta and they were married in Egypt. My sister was born in Egypt and has dual citizenship."

zanship. I was conceived in South Africa and born in England."

Tim claims that constantly moving around when he was young was excellent training for an actor, "because never staying anywhere long enough to make good friends, you soon learn how to please children very quickly."

When Tim was 12, his father died and so he and his mother moved to a suburb of London. In the years to come, Tim went from boarding schools to Cambridge and Birmingham Universities where he graduated with combined honors in drama and English. And it was only a few months after he left school that he landed his first acting job with the London Company of "Hair."

The first time I "met" Tim Curry, it was via a transatlantic phone call to Los Angeles where he was doing the final mixes on his album, "Read My Lips." I was free-lancing for a British Rock Magazine called "Trousers Press" at the time, and as usual the phone connection was so bad that I'm sure Tim at first thought he was getting a crank call from someone who wanted to "iron his pants."

"No, Trousers Press Magazine," I said, "it's a British Rock Monthly that comes out of New York City. Do you think we can talk a bit when you get back to London?" The reply was affirmative.

When we finally met face-to-face, a very peculiar thought came to mind. Up until then, all I had ever seen of Tim were his dazzling portrayals of: the "kinky" Dr. Frank N. Furter in "THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW" and then more recently England's greatest poet, William Shakespeare.

So, the one thing that continued to pop into my head as the introductions were completed, was that this was the first time that I had ever seen Tim Curry wearing a pair of pants!

A strange and eccentric cult hero—he wasn't; but a charming and amusing talent—he truly was. With just a tinge of excitement, (and a great deal of modesty), Tim told me about his return to LA's Roxy Theater, where he, (as I later discovered), did a three-

day stint of six sold-out rock concerts. "It was the most difficult role that I ever had to play on stage," he said, "because this time, I had to be myself."

The last time Tim was on stage at the Roxy, he was sporting a corset and suspender belt. This time, all the make-up and trappings were left far behind. But, nonetheless, audience response to Curry was just as fanatical as that of the midnight "Rocky Horror" crowds that sell-out theaters throughout the country. It was evident that Tim's versatility had shown through again.

The vicar's son turned Cambridge scholar turned classical actor turned movie star and cult hero, now also had the title of rock star under his belt.



Answer: 'And how!'"

TIM CURRY: FEARLESS

Tim Curry's newest album on A&M Records is titled "Fearless." It has been said that "there are no compromises in lyric or music on 'Fearless'; both come with a cutting edge sharper than a shrink-wrapped Gillette."

"Fearless" is the product of Tim's and producers Michael Kamen and Dick Wagner's close collaboration. Unlike his first album, Tim wrote most of the lyrics, (and some of the music), this time. And those songs are aggressive, exhilarating and typically Tim Curry.

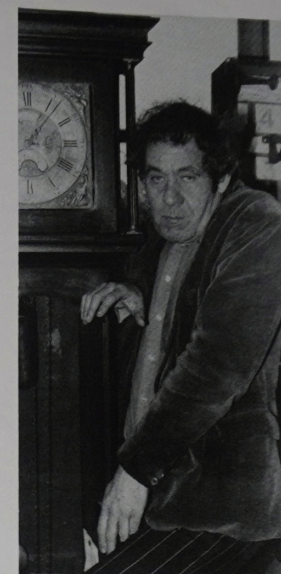
"Fearless" is rock'n'roll for grown-ups and that's the kind of music Tim Curry likes.

Dr. Scott Will "ACK" Again

If you are to believe all the rumors that are circulating around, the character of Dr. Scott will be one of the very important returnees to "THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW" sequel. And, so too will Jonathan Adams.

Jonathan Adams—actor extraordinaire, is also a very talented artist, dancer, singer and composer.

He originally trained as a painter at the Chelsea Art School and London University, and later taught art in his hometown of Northampton. As an actor, Jonathan appeared in a number of London West End plays before he came to "THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW" where he won the role as the original Narrator. But when it was time to film "THE PICTURE SHOW", Jonathan was cast as Frank N. Furter's paraplegic nemesis; Dr. Scott.



"It's Astounding Jonathan Adams"



"QUEEN OF THE GYPSIES"

"Susan Sarandon's film career has continued to soar since she made "THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW." She also starred in "Pretty Baby," "The Other Side of Midnight," "King of the Gypsies" and the soon-to-be released "Something Short of Paradise."

London News



PETER BLAKE
"The new Frank"

LONDON—March 31st marked the closing of "THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW" at Chelsea's King's Road Theatre. The theatre had been Rocky Horror's home for the past six years; ever since it left the Chelsea Classic Cinema. Rocky was "born" a little further up the King's Road at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs on June 19, 1973.

I attended the final performance which was surely the "wildest" presentation of the show, ever staged. Richard O'Brien, Richard Hartley and Brian Thomson were also on hand to bid farewell to the King's Road. The final night shows had been sold out three months in advance but I was able to get in, (it helps to have friends in the cast). It was a no-holds-barred performance containing a great deal of improvising and general "messing about" and a whole lot of fun.

Some members of the cast were also saying good-bye to Rocky since there were to be a

few personnel changes when the show moved to its new home—the Comedy Theatre.

The Comedy's first performance of "THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW" on April 6th, saw the return of Peter Blake to the role of Frank N. Furter.

Peter first donned a corset and suspender belt back in 1975 when he took over the role after Ziggy Byfield, (Tim Curry's replacement), went on a tour of Japan. Peter remained with Rocky Horror for 15 months.

Before that time, Peter Blake had been up and down the British theatre circuit trying to establish himself as an "acting" rock performer. But neither his appearances in the original London productions of "Hair," (with Tim Curry and Richard O'Brien), and "Jesus Christ Superstar" nor his time with Rocky Horror, really made many realize that he was a very special talent to be reckoned with.

What it finally took was a

Pepsi-Cola commercial for British TV where he portrayed a slick, leather-jacketed 50's character who sang about the soft drink.

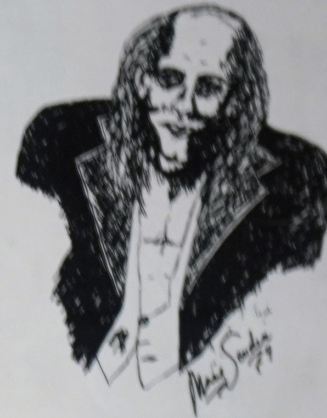
Instantly, Peter Blake became a "pop idol" in Britain. Scores of new offers for TV shows, films and more commercials poured in as many of the London daily papers ran his photos over and over again. One month after the commercial first aired, it became necessary for Peter to record an elongated version of his Pepsi jingle and in a few short weeks, the single "Lip Smackin' Rock-'N-Rollin'" went up to number 28 in the British Charts. Much of the clamor then reached an even higher peak with Peter's appearance on the popular British rock show, "Top of the Pops."

Since then, Peter has done a number of British TV shows and films and currently has another rock single, "Boogie Breakout," out in the shops.

—Marie Scuderi



**WILL
ROCKY
LIVE
AGAIN?**



A sequel to "THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW" is on its way! Richard O'Brien tells us that filming will begin sometime around January 1980. Rumor has it that the sequel will take up where the first "Rocky" left off, and that most of the "original" cast will be in it!!

**PHOTOS
BY
MARIE
SCUDERI**

RARE Photos of your favorite "ROCKY HORROR" Stars: TIM CURRY, RICHARD O'BRIEN, PATRICIA QUINN, JONATHAN ADAMS, SUSAN SARANDON, and much MORE!!!

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