Situation paranormal: 'Hauntings at Sunrise' should be frightfully fun

Members of the Sunrise Theatre Foundation's board pose in costume at last year's Halloween fundraising event. This year's event will be presented Oct. 28 at the theater.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUNRISE THEATRE

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There's a haunting night afoot at the Sunrise Theatre Oct. 28, when the Sunrise Theatre Foundation presents "Hauntings at the Sunrise," a spooky night of fun and fright, all in aid of raising money for the theater's educational outreach and infrastructure projects.

The night includes a screening of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," complete with a shadow cast, a paranormal demonstration by Indian River Hauntings, live music by Sea Wind, food, dancing, a live auction, psychic readings and a costume contest. You don't have to be psychic to know that it all works out to fun.

For those who want the full spooky experience, the VIP admission includes all of the events and the screening of the film that event starts at 6 p.m. Those wishing to see Dr. Frank-N-Furter, the hapless Brad and Janet, Riff Raff and Magenta can come for the movie alone at 9 p.m. VIP tickets are limited, and guests are encouraged to purchase them in advance.

Christopher Cichorek is chair of the board of directors of the Sunrise Theatre Foundation, host for the evening. He detailed some of the evening's special events.

"The paranormal demonstration by Indian River Hauntings will show the tools that they use to measure paranormal events," he said. "That includes everything from thermal cameras to dowsing sticks. Professional psychic readers will provide the readings, there will be dancing on the second floor Friends' Lounge and bar, spooky food like Monster Mashed Potatoes, Zombie drinks, a live auction and costume contest. Auction items include a lottery tree, diamond ring, and tickets to future Black Box comedy events. Costume wearers are encouraged to be as creative as they can be and there will be prizes."

While fun is on the agenda for the evening, there is a serious purpose as well. The event is a fundraiser for the Foundation, in support of its mission to bring live theater to the children of the Treasure Coast and to support the infrastructure of the theater itself. It's not polite to mention a lady's age, but she did just turn 100 and always needs a little work done.

Cichorek noted that the Sunrise Theatre is an important part of the downtown Fort Pierce area. "We're doing this, not only to promote the Foundation, but the theater as an economic driver for downtown Fort Pierce," he said. "The restaurants and bars benefit as

traffic is generated. It's a collateral benefit."

If you have not been to the Sunrise recently, you should consider a visit, starting with lunch or dinner at one of the great restau-rants downtown, perhaps a walk along the marina, and then a show. The 1,200-seat the-ater brings in names like Jay Leno, Chris Botti, Dave Koz and more, and the Comedy Shows at the Black Box are Treasure Coast favorites. Having live theater is important to an area and the Sunrise, through its outreach and summer programs with Missoula Children's Theatre, brings live theater to many young-sters who would not otherwise experience it.

Come to the Sunrise for this special event, or browse the website for the upcoming sea-son. I predict a good time, and I'm no psychic.

The Sunrise Theatre, 117 S. Second St., Fort Pierce, presents "Hauntings at the Sunrise" Oct. 28. VIP tickets are $100, and the event runs from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m and in-cludes a screening of "The Rocky Horror Pic-ture Show." Just the screening costs $25 and begins at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the Sunrise Theatre Foundation website at sunrisetheatrefoundation.com or call the box office at 772-461-4775. ■