Warehouse aims for bigger, better

Blockbuster 'Rocky Horror' opens in September

By Paul Hyde
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As its 39th season approaches, the Warehouse Theatre finds itself in an enviable position: needing to expand supply to meet demand.

With so many shows selling out last year, the Warehouse has added performances and extended the runs of each production in the 2012-13 season.

"We sold out 46 of 63 performances last year," says Paul Savas, executive and artistic director of the Warehouse.

Next season, most of the seven featured shows will be performed 14 times, instead of the typical 10.

Productions will run four weeks rather than the usual three.

The season opens Sept. 7 with the return of one of the Warehouse's biggest blockbusters: Brian Haimbach's production of "The Rocky Horror Show."

The flamboyant rock musical follows two innocent young lovers, Brad and Janet, who stumble upon the homes of the strange Dr.

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Will Ragland returns as Dr. Frank N. Furter in an expanded version of "The Rocky Horror Show," which opens Warehouse Theatre's 2012-2013 season.
STEPHEN BOATRIGHT/WAREHOUSE THEATRE

WAREHOUSE

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Frank N. Furter and his campy, ghoulish entourage.

A night of music and madness ensues.

"It's going to be bigger, better and maybe even bawdier," Savas says. "It's an exuberant bacchanal."

When the Warehouse's production opened in 2010, it broke attendance records and had to be extended two weeks.

"Rocky Horror" will again feature veteran actor Will Ragland as Dr. Frank N. Furter. Others returning from the 2010 production include Matthew Merritt as Riff-Raff, Angie Price as Magenta and April Schaeffer as Columbia.

This production will include several newcomers such as Brady Smith as Brad. Joe Wehunt will again lead the hard-charging rock band that accompanies the show.

"Rocky Horror" will be the last production in the Upstate by director Brian Haimbach, who led the Greenville Tech theater program but is moving to accept a new position in Oregon.

YOU CAN GO

What: The Warehouse Theatre's 2012-13 season
Tickets and Information: 864-235-6948 or www.WarehouseTheatre.com

Following is the Warehouse Theatre's complete 2012-2013 season:

» **Sept. 7-29: "The Rocky Horror Show."** The stage show was inspired by the 1973 classic cult film "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." For adults only.

» **Oct. 26-Nov. 10: "November."** David Mamet's play takes aim at self-serving politicians. Savas stars as the President of the United States. "It's a politically incorrect satire and fiery criticism of people who should be in positions of community service but are there for self-serving reasons," Savas says. "People who are fed up with this year's election will like this play." It features strong language. "November" will be directed by Jayce T. Tromsness.

» **Dec. 7-29: "The Christmas That Almost Wasn't."** The family Christmas musical is adapted from Ogden Nash's poem of the same name. "It's the same story of 'The Grinch Who Stole Christmas' before Dr. Seuss wrote it," Savas says. "It's got some great music."

» **Dec. 7-29: "The Santaland Diaries"/"Seasons Greetings."** These plays by humorist David Sedaris run at the same time as "The Christmas That Almost Wasn't." The latter is for children. The Sedaris plays are for adults. Local veteran actor Ryan Bradburn, who moved months ago to Atlanta, returns for the one-man "Santaland Diaries." Warehouse regular Kerrie Seymour stars

"We're going to miss Brian a lot," Savas says. "He brought a lot to this theater and the community."

Among the other shows in the upcoming year, Savas is particularly excited about the season-closer, Stephen Sondheim's "A Little Night Music."

"I've been waiting to do 'A Little Night Music' for a long time," Savas says. "It's a terrific story of late romance. It's bittersweet, funny, farcical and it has got some heft to it. It's very accessible as well. Everybody knows the song 'Send in the Clowns.' "

Mimi Wyche will star as Desiree, the glamorous actress now reduced to touring in small towns.

Veteran actor/director Chip Egan will handle directing responsibilities for "A Little Night Music."

"Chip and Mimi have great chemistry, a terrific relationship," Savas says. "All the stars are aligning for a home run at the end of the season."

» **Jan. 25-Feb. 16: "Eurydice."** Sarah Ruhl's play is a retelling of the Orpheus and Eurydice story, told from the perspective of Eurydice. The play will be directed by Anne Kelly Tromsness.

» **March 22-April 13: "Romeo and Juliet."** Savas will direct Shakespeare's timeless story of young love.

» **May 17-June 8: "A Little Night Music."** Sondheim's waltz-filled musical is a bittersweet tale of lovers lost, found and forgiven.

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