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Russell,

I was glad to see that you liked the review and even happier to see that you took the time out to leave a response. Writing a blog can be challenging, even under the best of circumstances, doing so from in prison only increases these difficulties exponentially, particularly because you have absolutely no clue how often your posts are being read, let alone enjoyed, so when someone takes the time out to leave a response, well, it's greatly appreciated.

As far as musicals are concerned, I've never had the privilege of seeing a live performance, whether on New York's famous Broadway or any local version, but I've seen plenty of musicals on TV. I think my first experience was with the West Side Story, which was great, the first time you seen it as a child, but as I grew older, it kind of lost its thrill. The Rocky Horror Picture Show, on the other hand, has never lost its thrill. I think that a large reason for this is because it's turned into an audience participation event. Watching the remake, I was transported to a better time of my life, even if only for a couple of hours, interrupted with frequent commercial breaks. I could just imagine people in the free world sitting down to watch with their family and friends and all the antics they were participating in. If you've ever been to a showing in an actual theater, then no doubt you know exactly what I'm talking about. The burnt toast flying through the air, the squirt guns coming out and showering everyone with water while everyone behind them holds newspapers above their heads. My favorite part, however, was definitely the Time Warp. The people in the audience were always so friendly, so willing to show newbies like myself the proper moves, laughing with me, and not at me, when I inevitably got them wrong. It was definitely an enjoyable experience, one shared with someone I cared deeply for. Sadly, we're no longer together and I'm now bound by the limitations of a prison environment, but seeing this on TV, even if only a (splendid) remake, provided me with a brief sensation of happiness, a violation of prison regulations, no doubt, but worth it nevertheless.

Out of curiosity, which version do you prefer? The original? Or the remake? I didn't think I'd like the remake, seeing that most remakes usually involve a complete rewrite of the script and some serious deviations from the original concept, but I've got to admit, this one stayed true to the original, and the changes that were made somehow seemed to make it more relevant with modern times. Having a transgender (I'm assuming that was a transgender, if not, then I think I owe someone a serious apology), play the part of the main character was a stroke of genius, and not something they could have done the first time around. If anything, they were really pushing the envelope as it was by openly portraying homosexual acts, and what was essentially a number of rape scenes, the way they did.

The old version was good, great even, but somehow, the new version was every bit as good. I'd love to get a chance to see the new version in an actual theater, complete with the traditional antics thrown out by the audience and fellow actors. In the meantime, I'll be satisfied with either version. Now, if only I could convince them to show it on TV again...

As always, questions and comments can be left here or sent to me in person, via snail mail, at the address listed below. All will be responded to.

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