

Midnight Asterisk
Midnight Madness
P.O. Box 914
Itasca, IL 60143



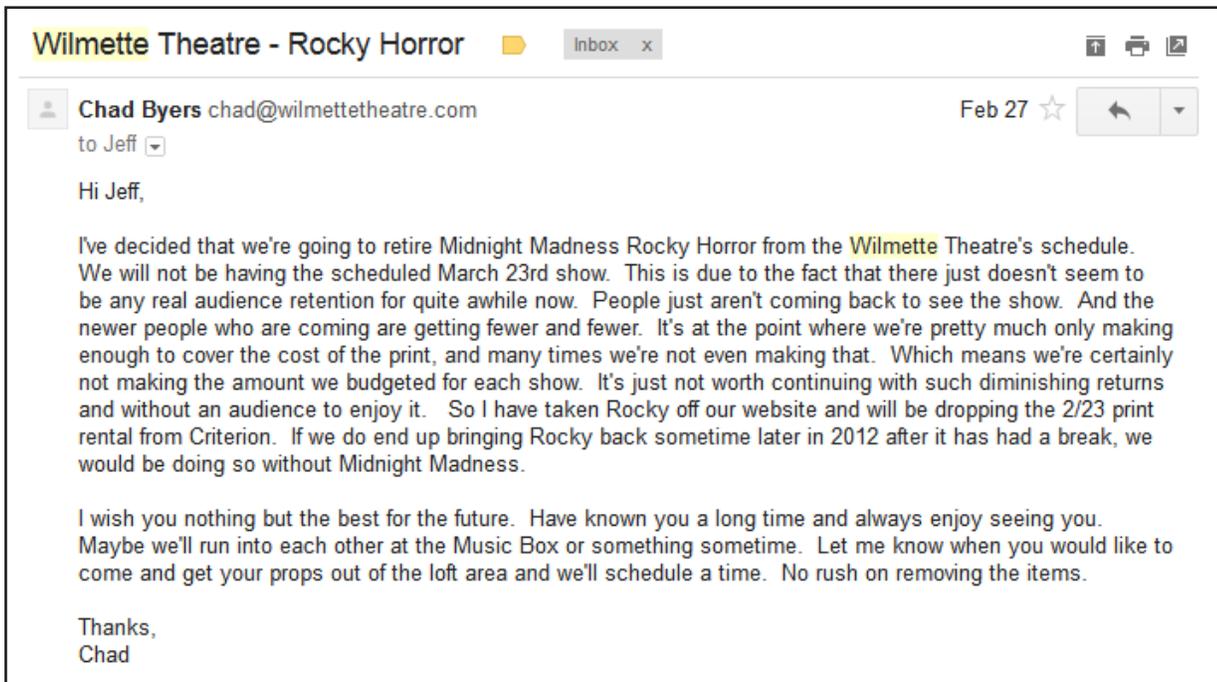
June 25th, 2012

To; Any concerned or interested parties

Re; Departure of Midnight Madness from the Wilmette Theatre in February 2012 (p. 1 of 3)

In recent weeks, we have been subject to and heard several rumors regarding the departure of Midnight Madness from the Wilmette Theatre at the end of February 2012. While we understand that the nature of “rumors” and hearsay among the Rocky Horror community is par for the course and nothing new, considering the purported sources of this talk, both originators and those repeating them to us a/o asking us about their validity, we believe that we need to make an official statement, as many things being said could legitimately be damaging, if not outright slanderous or defamatory, towards Midnight Madness and our not for profit parent corporation Midnight Asterisk NFP.

On February 27th, 2012, Midnight Madness was informed by the General Manager of the Wilmette theater, Chad Byers, that “we’re going to retire Midnight Madness Rocky Horror from the Wilmette Theatre’s schedule”. In addition to this, we were also informed that, “If we do end up bringing Rocky back sometime later in 2012 after it has had a break, we would be doing so without Midnight Madness.”



A copy of the actual email is presented here - this was our first and only official notification of the cancellation of our show.

Though we were disappointed in the cancellation, we understood the position of the management of the Wilmette and parted amicably and on reasonably good terms, considering the circumstances. Though we admittedly would have preferred that it had been done differently, we do wish the best to the Wilmette and the show running there presently, without Midnight Madness. Our official position is that even without us, it's still better than no Rocky Horror at all.

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However, we do feel we need to clarify and address any rumors or talk about the circumstances behind our cancellation that portray us in a negative light. The following has been told to us or asked of us since the time of our cancellation;

~ Midnight Madness terminated the relationship a/o forced the cancellation of Rocky Horror at the Wilmette.

We should note, for the record, that Midnight Madness, nor any representative of our organization had any part in the decision to end our run of Rocky Horror at the Wilmette Theatre. Midnight Madness was never informed at any time before the cancellation notice, either verbally or in writing, that the show was in jeopardy or at any risk of being canceled for any reason. There was no negotiation or option to continue the show, then or in the future, under any circumstances. In fact, we were instead informed in the very same cancellation notification that if Rocky Horror resumed at the Wilmette that “we would be doing so without Midnight Madness.” Midnight Madness was willing to continue the show indefinitely, including under limitations or additional rules or restrictions to our show or its content if requested of us, and had planned on doing so as long as the Wilmette continued the show, even to take a break and return as we had done on a few occasions in the past during winter / holiday seasons (i.e. slow periods for Rocky Horror), but the decision had already been made even before we were sent the official cancellation notice that, for whatever reason, Midnight Madness would not be part of any future Rocky Horror showings at the Wilmette.

~Midnight Madness “trashed” the theater. Midnight Madness damaged the theater (including theater equipment and seats). Et cetera.

We treat our theaters with the utmost of care and respect. Other than miscellaneous accidental damage that has occurred throughout the years, all of which we took full responsibility for including repair or payment reparations if needed, we have never been party to or even accused of any damage or theft of ANY theater property in our 25 year history. We should note that, to the best of our knowledge, nothing had ever been damaged or “trashed” during any Midnight Madness / Midnight Asterisk event at the Wilmette Theatre. The most damage/mess that ever occurred was through the normal use of Rocky Horror theater kit props, all pre approved and designated by theater management. We pride ourselves on the care we take with our theaters to not damage them, and have 10 years of history at the Music Box, one of the oldest and most delicate theaters in the Chicago area, as proof of that fact. We treated the Wilmette with the same degree of care and respect that we do the Music Box, and any other theater we have ever performed at.

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~Midnight Madness started a fire in the theater / on stage, during its final performance at the Wilmette Theatre

This is so patently absurd, we didn't even want to address it, but as Midnight Madness is being accused of a literal crime here (in this case, arson), and it would significantly damage our reputation a cast, we feel we must address this specifically.

Midnight Madness has not EVER started a fire in any theater, neither accidentally nor on purpose. Since the fire code revisions in the city of Chicago in the 1990's the use of flames and even smoking in any theatrical venue has been prohibited and banned from use during our show for over 15 years now. We take fire safety VERY seriously, and we even have a fire extinguisher in cast possession at all times during all of our theatrical performances.

One final thing that we also wish to note; Even though the show was officially cancelled for "financial" reasons, outside of privately contracted shows not open to the public, Midnight Madness was never once paid for or compensated for our performance / services in any way, shape, or form, monetarily or otherwise, at the Wilmette Theatre. We have never required, requested, or asked for payment from any theatrical venue or public show. While donations to our cast from theaters have been made and accepted by us in the past, we have never asked for or required it for our services beyond the request that we are able to sell merchandise (i.e. "Prop" bags / Virgin kits, etc.), as well as collecting voluntary cash donations from the audience, to support the basic running and maintenance of our show. Just pointing out that any financial hardship the Wilmette Theatre may declare in showing Rocky Horror during the run of Midnight Madness, none of it was due to any money or payment to Midnight Madness / Midnight Asterisk.

thank you for your concern and time,
jeff Nurkiewicz
Cast Director
Midnight Madness / Midnight Asterisk

this letter/file is available on the Midnight Madness web site, to verify its authenticity;
<http://www.midnightmadness.org/wilmettetheatre/wilmette-dismissal.pdf>