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Tampa Pitcher Show Offers More Than Just Entertainment

Venue provides space for private parties and a varied menu

By Deb Kelley 5:00am

The Tampa Pitcher Show (<http://www.tampapitchershow.net>) is going *Rocky Horror*.

But that's not all.

For nearly 30 years, the Carrollwood landmark at 14416 N. Dale Mabry Highway has offered its patrons more than new releases on the big screen, a 60-item menu and full liquor bar and lounge.

Tampa Pitcher Show, just south of Bearss Avenue in a non-descript shopping plaza, has become a signature venue for professional interactive live stage productions.

Owner Wayne Valenti and wife Cindy opened the Tampa Pitcher Show because they were in the restaurant business and looking for something to do other than run a standard eatery.

"I wound up running across the concept in Orlando, used it as a base model and just went a few steps further," Wayne Valenti said. "We have a menu with everything from popcorn to steaks, salad, pasta, pizza and seafood. Two and a half years ago, we got a full liquor license and opened The Take 2 Lounge."

The space can be rented for private parties, private screenings, corporate and other special events, he said.

The theater is open seven days a week, and Tampa Pitcher Show is home of weekend shadow cast performers Cheap Little Punks (*Rocky Horror Picture Show*) and Unforeseen Happenstance (*Dr. Horrible*).

On alternating Friday and Saturdays, beginning at 11:30 p.m. and running until 2:30 a.m., Tampa Pitcher Show provides an inexpensive night of audience participation for the 16 and older crowd for the price of a \$7 admission ticket, one beverage and food item.

Patrons are treated to a shadow cast of young and older professionally trained actors who eat, sleep, and breathe theater. The actors enjoy dressing up in outrageous costumes and makeup, and being part of the offbeat classics movies that have earned a cult following.

Prior to any stage production, the theater group provides a half hour digital pre-show presentation. This is completely created by the cast, and constantly changes. Though the themes of the shows are, arguably, not for everyone, Wayne Valenti said he believes those who attend leave having gotten their money's worth.

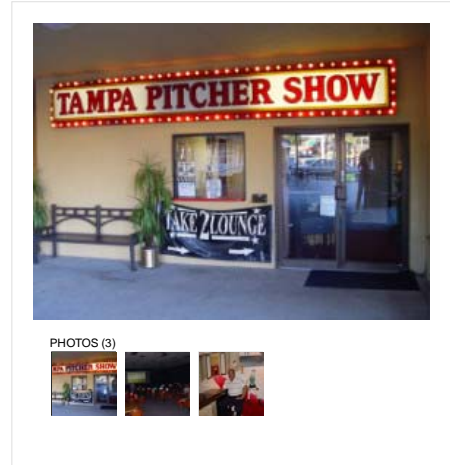
"The fan base is huge. Many times, the shows are sold out and people are turned away at the door," he said.

He recommends checking the www.tampapitchershow.net (<http://www.tampapitchershow.net/>) for more information on shows.

Wayne explains that the Tampa Pitcher Show has been through it all, from videos to DVDs to movies on-demand. He said the venue hasn't been terribly impacted by down-turned economy.

Because the business is small, he said, they can adjust their business easily.

"No matter what the technology," he said, "we are small enough that we are lucky that we can change gears quickly to adapt."



PHOTOS (3)

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