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Subject: Re: Should MST3K Have Continued Forever?

Posted by [Ken McElhaney](#) on Mon, 11 Mar 2013 18:41:28 GMT

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On Mar 9, 6:23 am, Professor Bubba <bu...@nowhere.edu.invalid> wrote:

> In article

> <dcbe948f-3c33-4b0b-881b-332bbf1ac...@i5g2000pbj.googlegroups.com>, TMC

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> <tmc1...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>> <http://officialfan.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=offtopic&am p;action=disp...>

>> d=467415

>

>> I'm of the opinion that MST3K should have been liked Doctor Who and

>> just had a revolving cast. The concept just seems too good to not keep

>> going and the types of characters (a host, an evil scientist, her

>> goons, the bots) seem flexible enough to cast a different actors into.

>

>> There would of course be downsides. For instance there are only so

>> many and movies out there and even fewer that MST3K could show and

>> would suit the format. However, taking into account they have the

>> entire history of cinema to work with it would be quite a while before

>> they ran out. Plus, time wouldn't just stand still and new bad movies

>> would continue being made. Also, as a last resort they could always

>> use the same movie twice. I'm sure a Manos riffing from 2013 with an

>> all new cast would be quite different from the original.

>

>> Another downside could be that some replacements could be weak and

>> thus entire years of the show could be lame. However, that's something

>> every continuous series has to face.

>

> MST3K was tapped out long before it went away. I loved it long time,

> but Joel left and, all of a sudden, everybody seemed to be trying too

> hard to be funny. The shark jumped for me when they did the 1952 flick

> Invasion U.S.A., and they missed all sorts of beats. The film

> "starred" Edward G. Robinson Jr., but there wasn't even a line about

> that. They did make a point of riffing on the two Lois Lanes (Phyllis

> Coates and Noel Neill both appear briefly, and separately, in the

> film), but they somehow misidentified another actress as Phyllis. How

> do you do something like MST3K and not know who Phyllis Coates is?

- >
- > Joel and others later did a thing called Cinematic Titanic, which had
- > the same flavor as MST3K with silhouettes and all, while Mike and crew
- > did audio-only commentary tracks that you're supposed to sync with your
- > copy of the movie. This neatly saved Mike all that licensing money and
- > permission-seeking. Neither effort seemed to gain any traction,
- > though.

I guess it depends on what you mean by "traction". While the demise of Cinematic Titanic is one thing, Rifftrax has done quite well for itself. In fact, a Kickstarter campaign to raise money to live riff "Twilight" is now four times past its goal. No traction? Well, it was never the intention of Rifftrax to go on cable TV, but they regularly produce new riffs on full length movies, have VOD that can be downloaded and shorts as well.

I think "successful" would more accurately describe Rifftrax whether you care for the humor or not anymore, they have succeeded in creating a profitable business venture for several years now and show little sign of letting up.

Ken

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