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Interpretation of Literature

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Victor Frankenstein and Dr. Frank's Furter

Homosexuality – which is present in both Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Jim Sharman's *Rocky Horror Picture Show* – is the topic that I would like to explore in my final paper. My current working thesis is: Whereas Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* portrays homosexuality as something to be concealed or something to be afraid of, Jim Sharman's film *Rocky Horror Picture Show* suggests that homosexuality is something to be flaunted. Given the punk and queer movement and America's changing attitudes toward homosexuality in the 1970s, it makes sense that Sharman might have represented homosexuality as something that should be expressed. I intend to support my argument by illuminating the fact that Victor Frankenstein was overly obsessed with his creature's appearance, he didn't want his creature to have a female creature, and he may have been avoiding marrying Elizabeth in the novel. In the film, Dr. Frank N. Furter is clearly attracted to Rocky (his second creature), he exiled his first creature (Eddie) and then killed him after he started liking a woman, and is visibly worried – after finding out that Rocky had sexual relations with Janet – that Rocky is turning out just like Eddie. I believe all of these major points will aid in supporting my thesis.

Nyong'o, Tavia. "Do You Want Queer Theory (or Do You Want the Truth)? Intersections of

Punk and Queer in the 1970s." *Radical History Review* 100 (2008): 103-119. *MLA*

*International Bibliography*. Web. 4 April 2014.

Nyong'o's argument is basically to make connections between the punk and queer movements beginning in the 1970s. Tavia details both movements in the article and then brings them together to emphasize the connections, while mainly focusing on the political viewpoint of each of them. The relevance of this article to my paper would not only be to help support historical context of homosexuality being more accepted in the 1970s, but also to possibly explain why Sharman used the punk style costuming he did in the film.

Loftus, Jeni. "America's Liberalization in Attitudes toward Homosexuality, 1973 to 1998."

*American Sociological Review* 66.5 (2001): 762-782. *JSTOR*. Web. 9 April 2014.

This article takes a more scientific approach at analyzing whether cultural ideological shifts and demographic changes in the American public could account for the attitudes toward the morality of homosexuality and the civil liberties of homosexuals. She concluded that homosexuality is more accepted but it seems to be happening independently of cultural ideological shifts and demographic changes and that is could be due to the gay and lesbian liberation movements instead. This article will provide more historical context to the fact that homosexuality was starting to become more embraced and projected right around the time the film was produced and can possibly help me push further with my argument in starting to think of why *Rocky Horror Picture Show* has been such a lasting film, considering Loftus studied the effects though 1998.