

It has come to our attention that there are thoughts and concerns on casting at the upcoming YinzCon N'At Convention. We would like to openly say that in no way did anyone's ethnicity, religion, accessibility, or relationships decide anything at all about casting.

For clarity, we had one director who has been to multiple conventions and one who had not had that experience so that we could have a broader view on casting. Also, we have different directors for each of the shadowcasted shows specifically so that thoughts can be separated and no one has too much influence on the shows. That equals six different directors (two per show) for Con shows of the JCCP. We casted as many people as possible, and especially would like to note the participation of the many new people for whom this will be their first Rocky Con. This Convention is to extend the Rocky Community, embracing newcomers, bringing attention to new ways of doing this silly show, allowing other casts to have ownership of new shows to share, and simply trusting the Community to help us as we help it. The show is about fun, entertainment, and joy. We are shaking things up and hoping others in the community will praise those stepping out of their comfort zones.

We would like to reassure that the Jewish members of the community that the JCCP is an organization that does not harbor antisemitism. We have a strong Security Policy coming out soon detailing that there will always be security folx to help everyone to stay safe in body and mind. Leave politics aside when at Con. If people cannot abide by that, we will ask those instigating to leave. We will not allow anyone to threaten others in any way at our Convention. The Rocky Leadership is assisting us in every way possible to bring the Community together, share worries, and find solutions.

Though I am not a director, I am the Con Lead and welcome open communication. I'm happy to listen and clarify. This Community means so much to me and I know that my fellow Rocky folx will help me and the cast. In no way do I believe I know all or know best, but as we all do, I make the best decisions I can with the information I have. If I'm missing something, I trust my friends to make me aware. We can only do this together. Life is scary enough. Rocky shouldn't be scary. Please message me, email me, send me a carrier pigeon.

We've inherited this island of misfit toys and continue to keep it a place for us weirdos. Whether you're a longtime devotee and a Con staple or a curious newcomer who's just discovered the joy of doing the Time Warp with people from around the world, your presence and participation make this community truly special.

Sam Bassett