

Film Title and Release Date: *Rock 'n' Roll High School* (1979)

Film Length in Minutes: 93 minutes

Film Genre: Musical/Comedy

Reviewer Name and Grade: Rachel R., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: January 1, 2021

Rock 'n' Roll High School is set in 1980 at Vince Lombardi High School. The film follows Riff Randell, a high school student who is a passionate fan of the rock 'n' roll group, the Ramones. Throughout the film, the students are deemed rebellious by their principal, Principal Togar. Riff Randell and her classmates dance throughout the halls and play loud music when they should be in class. Principal Togar believes that rock 'n' roll music is to blame for the students' behavior, and she makes it her mission to prevent the enjoyment of rock 'n' roll music by any means necessary.

Riff Randell camps out in the ticket line and purchases the student body Ramones concert tickets. At the concert, Riff Randell searches for the opportunity to show the Ramones her original song titled, Rock 'n' Roll High School! As the film progresses, the parents, local police, and news station become involved in this musical battle against the rigid mentality the students are faced with. Who will ultimately win the battle over rock 'n' roll music, the students, or the infamous Principal Togar?

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by a title search, subject search, casual browsing)?

The film, Rock 'n' Roll High School, was located under the movie tab on Kanopy, and I found it under the tab "Newly Added Movies".

Did the plot (for a fictional movie) keep you interested?

No, the plot did not keep me interested. The film consisted of far too many side plots. From high school crushes to a random fan that was preventing Riff Randell from showing the band her songs, the film was overwhelming.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?

The film is paced well until the final thirty minutes, which are too slow. This section consisted of a concert scene, given by the Ramones, that seemed to continue indefinitely.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

The film is rated PG. However, I believe the film should be rated PG-13. Mature jokes about high school romances are made throughout the film that appropriately reflect the high school setting, but the content would not be suitable for younger audiences.

3 stars: It was okay; I had hoped for better.

The plot of the movie had the potential to be very engaging, although it overall seemed all over the place and unrealistic. For instance, the students take over the school in the name of rock 'n' roll and wreak havoc and ultimate destruction. They destroy records, throw food at the lunch ladies, and light fire! These actions were hard to find comedic and were instead simply confusing and continuous. The music throughout the movie was great, but overall, the film was poorly executed.