

The Room is a film that has to be experienced to truly appreciate. Recently, I got to experience it in a new way, a way that I highly recommend. After you've watched *The Room* in the safety of your home, or friends, you must see in an audience participation screening. It's like going to see the Rocky Horror Picture Show sans the music (and transvestites).

There are two distinct parts to participating with a screening of *The Room*. First, cues from the film and jeers you should respond. Second, throwing stuff. Yeah, that's right, you're gonna be throwing stuff.

Note: Be sure to check with the theatre to make sure you are allowed to throw things. Not all theaters are ok with the extra mess they'll have to clean.

Also, a note on etiquette. This should be common sense, but there's always one to spoil the fun, please don't be a jerk and peg people when you're throwing stuff. Everyone is there to have a good time, don't ruin it.

Now to the good stuff.

Part 1: What to Bring

1. A Football

When the movie shows the guys "playing football" you should either a.) toss the football with someone in your group, people within two or three feet of you, or b.) toss the football to someone in the audience (again, make sure they're close by, as that's the "proper" way to play football). When the movie cuts to another scene, stop.

Note: If you're going to toss the football with other people in the audience, make it a nerf, so that if it accidentally hits someone it won't hurt them. Plus, they're less expensive, meaning you'll be out less should you not get your ball back.

2. Plasticware

On one of the tables in the background of the living room there are three pictures. One of the three pictures is of a spoon. When you see the picture with the spoon yell, "Spoon" and toss plasticware toward the screen. There are probably 15 or 16 times the spoon is visible, so you'll likely run out of plasticware. If you do, you can always pick up some that's been thrown to reload. Alternatively, people down front might toss some back.

Again, remember that what you are throwing will be hitting people, so don't throw it hard, using a soft arcing throw. Also, don't use this as an excuse to throw directly at the people in front of you.

Part 2: Cues & Jeers

Multiple Events to Watch For

Cue: When the camera's out of focus, which is quite a lot...

Jeer: "Focus!"

Cue: When Denny comes in (Johnny creepy young ward)...

Jeer: "Hi, Denny!"

Cue: When Denny leaves...

Jeer: "Bye, Denny!"

Jeer: (if he's only been there a short time) "But you just got here! Bye, Denny!"

Cue: When there's a wide angle shot of San Francisco...

Jeer: "Meanwhile, back in San Francisco!"

Cue: When there's a wide angle shot of the Golden Gate Bridge, panning left or right...

Jeer: While it's tracking, chant, "Go! Go! Go! Go!" When it reaches the other side, cheer! If it cuts off early, before making it to the other side, boo!

Cue: When Claudette (Lisa's mom) kisses her finger and puts it on Lisa's nose...

Jeer: "Now my evil is inside you!"

Cue: When anyone mentions Mark is Johnny's best friend...

Jeer: "Was!"

Cue: When Johnny says, "Cheep, cheep, cheep" imitating a chicken...

Jeer: "Cheep! Cheep! Cheep!"

Cue: When anyone is kissing or eating something off one another...

Jeer: "Nompht!" (For each kiss, chew)

Cue: During sex scenes...

Jeer: Clap to the music.

Cue: When Lisa is confessing to her girlfriend (watch for Lisa's neck to flair out)...

Jeer: "Agggggghhh!" or "It's horrible!" or "Kill it!" (each time it flairs)

Cue: When anyone mentions Lisa's dress (when she's not wearing one)...

Jeer: "She's not wearing a dress!"

Single Events to Watch For

Cue: When Lisa is first seducing Mark, Mark says, "I mean, the candles, the music..." (no music is playing)...

Jeer: "What music?!?"

Cue: When Johnny bellows, "You're tearing me apart, Lisa!"...

Jeer: "You're tearing him apart, Lisa!"

Cue: Claudette says, "It matters a great deal!"...

Jeer: "It matters a great deal!"

Cue: When Johnny and Mark go into the coffee shop watch as Johnny leaves, there's a guy in the background who looks back towards the camera...

Jeer: "I'm in the movie! I'm in the movie! I'm in the movie!"

Cue: At Johnny's birthday party, anytime the heretofore not introduced character Steven comes up to admonish Lisa and/or Mark...

Jeer: "Who the hell are you!"

Cue: As Johnny is setting up the tape recorder, after overhearing Lisa and Claudette talking about him...

Jeer: Sing/Hum the Mission Impossible theme song.

Cue: When the secret tape recorder is set up...

Jeer: "It only records when someone talks about sex!"

Cue: After Johnny tells Peter and Mark about how he met Lisa, Lisa and Denny enter. When Mark leaves there's a two-shot of Lisa and Denny. ..

Jeer: Chant "Sit on the floor! Sit on the floor!" until Denny sits on the floor.

Cue: When Peter ask Mark, "Why are you smoking that crap, man?" ...

Jeer: "'Cos it makes him cool!"

Cue: When Mark comes in wearing a tux, clean shaven...

Jeer: "Sextosterone!"

Cue: When the party sings "Happy Birthday" to Johnny...

Jeer: Sing "Happy Birthday" to Johnny.

Cue: During his final rampage, as Johnny grabs the red dress...

Jeer: Chant, "Hump the dress!" until he does.

Cue: When Johnny is about to end it all...

Jeer: "Don't do it! Who'll pay for Denny's tuition/apartment."

The above list is far from exhaustive. There are plenty of other times where one can call out flubs, continuity errors, etc., and by all means do so. It is audience participation after all. The more participation the better. Participation has ego-boosting benefits, too. It's awesome to get an round of laughter from your comment(s). You might even point out something someone else has yet to notice.

Finally, and most importantly, just have fun. Remember the immortal truth Johnny shared, “don’t plan too much. It might not come out right.”