

A Monster Movie Masterpiece

**Dan Curtis' 1970 film
contained moments of
horror perfection!**

The Complete story-in-stills of
**“HOUSE OF
DARK SHADOWS”**



Willie (John Karlen) opens the chained coffin he has found in the secret room of the Collins mansion and unwittingly frees centuries-old vampire Barnabas Collins.



Dan Curtis' TV horror-soap opera, "Dark Shadows," was severely hampered by the nagging restrictions of daytime television. Nevertheless, Curtis' peculiar style of anti-suggestive, violently explicit fantasy soon won him kudos among horror-film fans, and his "Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" featuring Jack Palance in the dual role received unanimous raves. "The Night Stalker" and "The Night Strangler" reaffirmed his status as a master fantasist, establishing his filmmaking style and technique as a noteworthy (if minor) development in horror film history.

In "House of Dark Shadows," 1970, Dan Curtis addressed himself to the big screen for a change and produced a high-budgeted adaptation of his daytime thriller. The film suffers from the bland characterizations and plot contrivances of the television show, but it nevertheless

emerges as the producer-director's finest creation, the summation of his personal vision and approach to horror cinema.

Realizing the genre's dependence on stylish visuals and flamboyant cinematography, Curtis fashioned a strikingly inventive "look" for his film, which occasionally reached perfection during scenes of graphic horror. Most memorable is the exciting climax, a veritable tour de force for the cinematographer, editor and set designer.

And if Jonathan Frid's vampire is somewhat bloodless in comparison to Lugosi or Lee in their prime, *Barnabas Collins* is merely the film's resident monster, an ultimately minor component when measured against the striking technical expertise and flawless visual approach that makes "House of Dark Shadows" one of the most rewarding horror-genre entries in recent years.

Tormented ancestor of the *Collins* family, *Barnabas* (Jonathan Frid) is in reality a vampire, a living corpse who must prey on the living for his unearthly survival.



After having introduced himself as a distant cousin, *Barnabas* kisses *Maggie's* (Kathryn Leigh Scott) hand as *Dr. Julia Hoffman* (Grayson Hall), *Jeff* (Roger Davis), and *Roger* (Louis Edmonds) watch disapprovingly.



In order to quench his bizarre thirst for human blood, *Barnabas* attacks *Carolyn* (Nancy Barrett) and then drains her of her life fluid.



Carolyn, now a blood-lusting un-dead herself, emerges from her coffin in the hidden crypt of the Collins mansion.



Carolyn returned as a vampire, emerges from the cool night mist to attack her young cousin, David (David Henesy).



In life, *Carolyn* was engaged to *Todd* (Don Briscoe). In death, the woman-turned-vampiress intends to continue her romance by luring her former fiancée into the stables.

Her unholy existence having been discovered, *Carolyn* flees from attackers who have trapped her in the old stables.



Armed with crucifixes and silver bullets, the police and local authorities hold *Carolyn*, the vampire, at bay before *Prof. Stokes* (Thayer David) can administer the one permanent cure — staking.



Carolyn meets a grisly fate in the old *Collins* stables. As the police hold the vampiress down, *Prof. Stokes* ends her wretched existence by pounding a stake through her heart.



Barnabas Collins and Maggie, the governess, walk on the grounds of Collinwood. In the young woman Collins see the image of Josette, a former love, and the vampire secretly intends to make the lovely girl his bride.



Barnabas mercilessly beats his servant Willie for almost revealing the vampire's dire secret to Maggie.



Dr. Julia Hoffman has developed a temporary cure for vampirism which enables Barnabas to walk about in the daylight. Prof. Stokes warns Julia — who is in love with the vampire — to beware his evil nature.

The aged Barnabas attacks Julia Hoffman after discovering that the scorned scientist deliberately brought this new horror upon him.



Dr. Hoffman, having learned that Maggie is to become Barnabas' bride, seeks revenge by aging the vampire to his true 175-year-old appearance.

In order to regain his youthful appearance, the aged Barnabas must drink the blood of his beloved Maggie.



After *Maggie* is kidnapped, *Jeff* (Roger Davis) travels to a secluded isle to rescue her. There he is attacked by *Prof. Stokes* (Thayer David), the latest victim of vampire *Barnabas Collins*.



Guilt-ridden *Willie*, *Barnabas'* servant, prepares *Maggie* for her un-holy wedding to the vampire.

The moment *Barnabas Collins* has waited centuries for has arrived: the unholy union of the vampire and *Maggie* (*Josette* in *Barnabas'* eyes) is about to begin.





As part of *Maggie's* blasphemous union with *Barnabas*, the lovely young girl must become a vampire herself!



Armed with a medieval crossbow, *Jeff* prepares to shoot an arrow through the evil form of *Barnabas Collins*.

Jeff misses and shoots *Willie* instead! As *Barnabas* hypnotises *Maggie's* would-be rescuer and prepares to initiate the lovely young girl into vampirism, *Willie* regains his strength and plunges a stake into the monster. The spell broken, *Jeff* completes the task and then rescues *Maggie*. The End.

