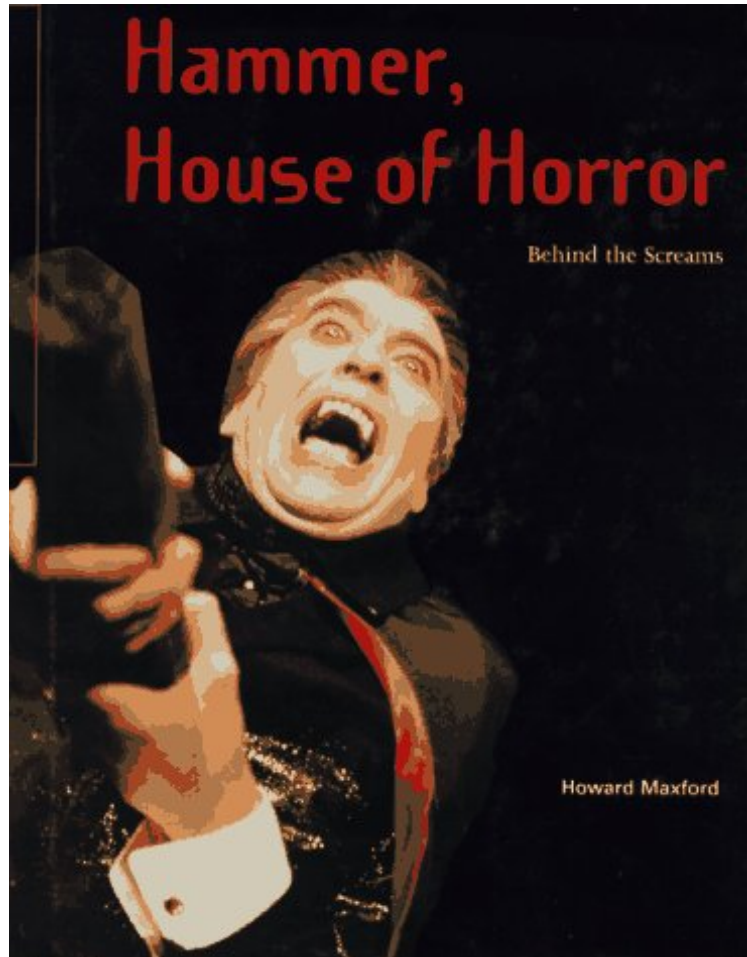


(Download pdf) Hammer, House of Horror: Behind the Screams

## Hammer, House of Horror: Behind the Screams

*Howard Maxford*

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**Howard Maxford : Hammer, House of Horror: Behind the Screams** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hammer, House of Horror: Behind the Screams:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great ReadBy Alan SmitheeNot quite finished with it yet but so far this is a great book.Excellent look into the famous film studio.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Book...but Stop HAMMERING the Films!By Ben GrimmHammer, House of Horror is a superb resource for information on casts, crews, brief synopses, etc. The author provides numerous well organized sections to suit the readers' needs. These alternative options are very useful. There is a chronological filmography; an alphabetical filmography with synopses, dates, casts, crews, etc; and an alphabetical section of biographical text about those involved in the making of the films (with full Hammer credits listed at the end of each entry).The book would easily have received 5 stars if it weren't for Mr. Maxford's severe and occasionally inconsistent criticism (ex. one of the few movies he really seems to like, The Devil Rides Out, is referred to as "one of Hammer's true classics" in a photo

caption, yet the author only rates the movie as "good" using his his own system -- a system that includes a "classic" rating); and his bothersome tendency to point out production errors. The latter would be more entertaining than annoying were it not for the aforementioned excessive criticism and the fact that the book itself contains errors (2 examples of which involve Jacqueline Pearce). For example, in the description of Plague of the Zombies, Mr. Maxford at first states incorrectly that Pearce's character, Alice, is the daughter of Dr. Thompson. Later, he correctly states that Alice is the doctor's wife. Shortly thereafter -- regarding the movie, The Reptile -- the author erroneously states that Pearce was the only one of the cast of Plague of the Zombies to star in The Reptile (the 2 films were shot back-to-back in 1966); but Michael Ripper was also in both movies (and the author himself lists Ripper as a cast member in this book's entry about The Reptile). Doubtless, the worst error in the book is a statement by the author that Susan Denberg died of an overdose (a mistake that has been made by many, but one that should not be repeated by a Hammer expert)! Denberg went through some very difficult times, but is very much alive. A minor improvement would be the addition of a cast/character cross-reference in the alphabetical filmography. As it is, the book only lists the casts. I personally prefer books about movies to have each chapter assigned to an individual film, but -- given the fact that the films here are discussed within their historical contexts and/or with regard to their subject matters -- the approach works reasonably well; and there is an index for quick reference to the movies/shows and production topics. Despite its shortcomings, Hammer, House of Horror is generally well written, comprehensive and essential. I even referred to it briefly when writing this review. The binding is sturdy and there are many interesting photos -- some of them in color. I absolutely recommend the book. I'm happy that it was published and I'm glad that I own it! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good pics and reference but this guy HATES the movies! By Wayne M. Malin A chronological listing of Hammer films--from the 1950s to the 1980s. He tells you who starred in what, the plot, why the film was made and how with a few interesting stories here and there. Also the selection of pics, some in color, are excellent. However author Howard Maxford comes down VERY hard on the Hammer films. He only picks out maybe two or three films that he considers classics and the rest are (in his estimation) junk. He's WAY too hard and judgmental on the films. That aside, this is well-written, quick and easy to read. But his trashing of most of the Hammer output gets annoying real quick. I ended up wondering why he wrote a book on films he clearly seems to hate.

In its heyday during the Fifties, Sixties and early Seventies, Hammer Films produced a legacy of horror films such as "Dracula", "The Curse of Frankenstein" and "The Quatermass Experiment", featuring stars who included Christopher Lee, Peter Cushing, Bette Davis, Ursula Andress, Raquel Welch, Stephanie Beacham and Julie Ege. This book provides a chronological, film-by-film history of the studio, from its obscure beginnings in the 1930s to its decline and virtual disappearance five decades later. It includes coverage of the pre-horror, science-fiction films of the 1950s, and post-horror comedy of the 1980s, with complete credits for all Hammer films.

.com With its startling camera work and a company of actors that included Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee, Hammer Films produced some of the most frightening and influential horror movies of all time. This book tells the story of Hammer, focusing particularly on the series of horror movies it made between 1955 and 1972. It includes summaries and reviews of each Hammer film, a chronology of the studio and biographies of the principal actors and filmmakers who worked for Hammer. Best of all, the book is lavishly, sometimes terrifyingly, illustrated with stills from the films themselves, many of them in full bloody color. Hammer, House Of Horror is a chronological, film-by-film history of Hammer Films from its beginnings in the 30s to the science fiction films of the 50s and the renowned horror cycle of the 50s, 60s and 70s. The Hammer stars include Peter Cushing, Christopher Lee, Oliver Reed, Bette Davis, Ingrid Pitt, Ursula Andress, Raquel Welch, and Julie Ege. Directors and writers such as Terence Fisher and Jimmy Sangster crafted the special Hammer atmosphere. A complete filmography and credits for all Hammer Films, a Hammer chronology, and biographical sketches of leading Hammer stars and other key personnel are provided. Hammer, House Of Horror is a splendid addition to any film studies collection. -- Midwest Book