



about it, the more I can actually picture it. Of course, some of it would have to be re-written. consider this conversation with Edward G. Robinson:

"All right, Moses, we followed you across the Red Sea. Now, where are we going? You promised us some information when we got out of Egypt. Now which way?"

THE MT VOID

Page 2

"Northeast."

"Northeast!?! Why, there's nothing...nothing for thousands of miles!"

"Keep your robe on, Dathan. We're not going thousands of miles; we're going to Mt. Sinai."

"I don't see it on the map."

You won't find that mountain on any map. The Arabs hide it, keep it secret. There's something on that mountain--something they fear."

"A hostile tribe, perhaps."

"Dathan, have you ever heard of 'I AM'?"

"'I AM'? Yes, an Arab god, isn't it?"

"Well, neither man nor beast. Something BIG...all-powerful...holding the Arabs in deadly fear! I tell you, there's something on that mountain...something no Hebrew has ever seen...but me. I saw it when I was out in the wilderness. I tell you, this I AM is the biggest thing. people would pay money to worship a thing like that...."

Well, you get the idea.

2. Thanks to the generosity of Pat Palmer, the Holmdel library now has copies of the following books:

Anthony, Piers           MACROSCOPE

Bear, Greg	BLOOD MUSIC
Bova, Ben	FORWARD IN TIME
Cherryh, C. J.	CUCKOO'S EGG
Donaldson, Stephen R.	THE MIRROR OF HER DREAMS (Mordant's Need)
Donaldson, Stephen R.	A MAN RIDES THROUGH (Mordant's Need, vol. II)
Donaldson, Stephen R.	THE WOUNDED LAND (Thomas Covenant, vol IIa)
Harrison, Harry	THE STAINLESS STEEL RAT FOR PRESIDENT
Heath, Peter	THE MIND BROTHERS
Norton, Andre	DREAD COMPANION
Norton, Andre	FORERUNNER

Mark Leeper  
MT 3E-433 957-5619  
...mtgzz!leeper

## DOLLS

A film review by Mark R. Leeper  
Copyright 1988 Mark R. Leeper

Capsule review: Often charming little horror piece done to near-perfection further establishes Empire Pictures' reputation for being   t  h  e creative horror film maker of today--perhaps a latter-day Hammer Films.  
Rating: high +1.

Back in the mid-1950s while the science fiction film was first blossoming, the horror film was foundering. The Universal cycle that started in 1930 had gone into unconscious, then self-conscious self-parody and died a decade before. Horror films meant shoddy productions in which neurotic teenagers turned into vampires or werewolves or Frankenstein monsters. Then in 1957 budget studio Hammer Films tried some radically new approaches to horror films and turned out well-made products and the horror film was reborn.

Today the horror film is foundering in self-parody, in teen-age films, and in innumerable repeats of being chased by a bogeyman whom you cannot kill. Knock him down and he just gets up ( \_ H\_ a\_ l\_ l\_ o\_ w\_ e\_ e\_ n\_ 1 and 2, \_ F\_ r\_ i\_ d\_ a\_ y\_ t\_ h\_ e\_ l\_ 3\_ t\_ h\_ P\_ a\_ r\_ t\_ n, \_ T\_ h\_ e \_ T\_ e\_ r\_ m\_ i\_ n\_ a\_ t\_ o\_ r, \_ T\_ h\_ e\_ H\_ i\_ t\_ c\_ h\_ e\_ r, etc., etc.--even the final sequence of \_ F\_ a\_ t\_ a\_ l\_ A\_ t\_ t\_ r\_ a\_ c\_ t\_ i\_ o\_ n).

The one-time rip-off producer who \_ i\_ s exercising different nightmares and making some of the most creative horror films today is Charles Band's Empire Pictures. That is the company who made the \_ H\_ o\_ u\_ s\_ e \_ T\_ h\_ e\_ R\_ e\_ a\_ n\_ i\_ m\_ a\_ t\_ o\_ r, and \_ F\_ r\_ o\_ m \_ B\_ e\_ y\_ o\_ n\_ d. Among their most creative is \_ T\_ r\_ o\_ l\_ l\_ which started as a film about a troll running around murdering people. When the decision was made that the film had to be rated PG, the gore was eliminated, the horror toned down, and both were replaced by a heavy dose of high fantasy. \_ T\_ r\_ o\_ l\_ l is uneven but often charming and surprisingly entertaining. More recently they have released \_ D\_ o\_ l\_ l\_ s. a sort of horror fairy tale in the tradition of A. E. Merritt that is also creative, charming, and entertaining, but with a much better sense of mood and atmosphere than \_ T\_ r\_ o\_ l\_ l had.

During a storm six people are stranded in an old house with a mysterious old toymaker (one-time British swashbuckling star Guy Rolfe) and his wife. The house is full of toys and especially dolls. The two visitors who are young in heart enough find all the dolls enchanting. The other four find being surrounded by toys \_ d\_ e\_ a\_ d\_ l\_ y\_ d\_ u\_ l\_ l. Of course, as the evening wears on they find it less and less dull and more and more deadly. Like an episode of the old \_ T\_ w\_ i\_ l\_ i\_ g\_ h\_ t \_ Z\_ o\_ n\_ e episode it is not very surprising where the story is going, but the telling of the story is nicely and originally done with enough special effects to capture the imagination but not so much as to distract from the people.

Dolls

April 3, 1988

Page 2

\_ D\_ o\_ l\_ l\_ s is a gentle film with a gentle message and just a tad too much gore--as if it is walking a line between EC Comics and \_ T\_ w\_ i\_ l\_ i\_ g\_ h\_ t \_ Z\_ o\_ n\_ e, but in a market where filmmakers are retreading each other's ideas, \_ D\_ o\_ l\_ l\_ s recently released to cassette, is something different. The story is fairly (not entirely) new and done with high production values. The same could have been said of Hammer Films' first big success, \_ C\_ u\_ r\_ s\_ e

\_ o \_ f \_ F \_ r \_ a \_ n \_ k \_ e \_ n \_ s \_ t \_ e \_ i \_ n . Rate it a high +1 on the -4 to +4 scale.