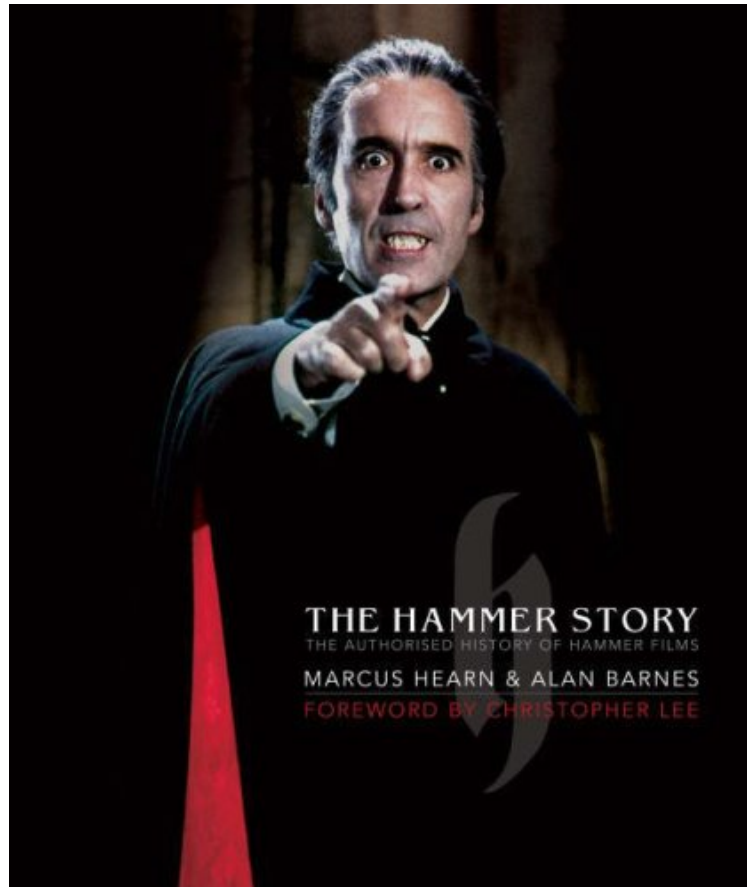


The Hammer Story: The Authorised History of Hammer Films

Marcus Hearn, Alan Barnes

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Marcus Hearn, Alan Barnes : The Hammer Story: The Authorised History of Hammer Films before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hammer Story: The Authorised History of Hammer Films:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing Quality of Manufacture By Tome Raider This book does have great shots of your favorite Hammer characters within the context of the films which you love. The shots are typically small, but there are enough of them that your eye will certainly be kept busy and pleased. I also like the images of some of the vintage Hammer posters and lobby cards. Overall, the amazing Hammer legacy is really brought to life here. I was, however, extremely disappointed by the cheap cover they used on this. It is hardback, but not cloth-covered. The cardboard is covered with thin, shiny paper, like a Dr. Seuss book. The distinction may not strike you at first, but it is significant. Having spent a couple of decades haunting used book stores, I can tell you that this type of cover does not hold up well over time. It get dinged up, and scuffed, and the spine can break out. This type of cover actually seems less durable, and less appealing, than a nice paperback version. And, I can tell you that there is virtually no collectibility factor when they build the book this way. Bibliophiles want well-made books for their collections. This item won't even be on a book collector's radar 20 years from now, when it would have been highly

valuable (due to the somewhat esoteric Hammer Studios subject matter and visually appealing content) if they had not cut corners in the production. It is disappointing, but sad as well. I think the Hammer legacy mandated a high quality production. This is more of a "utilitarian" object than an aesthetic piece of art. It could have been both, but some exec at Titan decided to shave a few bucks off the production costs. 17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. The Haunted House That Hammer Built By Michael R Gates Alan Barnes and Marcus Hearn's THE HAMMER STORY is an exhaustive historical study of the horror films produced by Britain's Hammer Studios from the 1950s to the 1970s. For each film, the book offers a story synopsis, production history, and a discussion of critical and popular reaction. Also, the book includes a short history of the studio itself and information on those who helmed and shaped it over the years, and short biographies of some of the stars, screenwriters, and directors of various films are scattered throughout. All in all, THE HAMMER STORY is an outstanding scholarly look at the studio and its most well-known output, yet the writing style avoids the common stuffiness of scholarship and is accessible to both casual horror fans and serious students of horror cinema alike. The only real weakness of the book is that it focuses primarily on the gothic horror films produced by Hammer but skims over some of studio's other notable output. Indeed, even the studio's horror-themed TV shows, HAMMER HOUSE OF HORROR and HAMMER HOUSE OF MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE, receive only cursory attention. Yet in spite of its minor shortcomings, THE HAMMER STORY is, to date, the best published study of the studio that was almost single-handedly responsible for reviving the horror genre in the latter half of the 20th century, and anyone interested in horror cinema will find it both informative and enjoyable reading. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If like me you were slapped awake by the vibrancy of ...By ddomer If like me you were slapped awake by the vibrancy of Horror of Dracula, in contrast to what went before, and became a fan of Hammer Studios and its monster product, then you will love this homage to the studio. The authors put in enough about the other types of products Hammer made to fill out its biography, but rest assured, the centerpiece, and star of this are the horror pictures. Well worth the money.

Fifty years ago, Hammer Films released The Curse of Frankenstein. The now-legendary British company went on to make such classics as Dracula (and its many sequels), making international stars out of Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee, changing the face of horror cinema, and inspiring a generation of Hollywood filmmakers, including George Lucas, Martin Scorsese and Tim Burton. Now, for the first time, Hammer have given their active backing to an authorised history of the company, and have provided unlimited access to their archives. The Hammer Story provides a film-by-film dissection, dripping with rare promotional material and previously unpublished photographs.

About the Author Alan Barnes has written features for Hammer Horror, as well as scripts for 2000AD. Marcus Hearn was the editor of Hammer Horror magazine, and with co-author Alan Barnes, he has written Tarantino A-Zed, The Cinema of George Lucas and Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang.