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A 3-D DREAM

by David Starkman

Yes, to any 3-D fan this really sounds like a dream, but, believe it or not, the Dream Theater in Monterey, California is currently screening a newly made twin strip 35mm print of the 1953 3-D classic *House of Wax* every weekend!

It all started with the 1987 Monterey Film Festival. Perhaps with the recent interest created by *Captain Eo*, somebody thought that 3-D would be a timely subject to discuss at the festival. Certainly 3-D film

buff John Harris, one of the owners of the Dream Theater, was interested in showcasing 3-D at his venue, because he had made especially sure they were set up for optimum single and twin strip 3-D projection.

John had been after Warner Brothers for years to strike new twin strip release prints of *House of Wax*. None were available because a single strip conversion had been made for a re-release in the early 1970's. But Warners just didn't seem interested. It apparently took the insistence of the film's director, Andre de Toth, who would only discuss and introduce the film if a twin strip version was shown, combined with the expressed interest by famous actor and Monterey Mayor Clint Eastwood, to finally motivate Warner Brothers to strike a brand new print from the original right and left negatives.

The showing was quite a hit at the Festival, and the Dream Theater has made arrangements to keep the print for an indefinite extended run. Currently the film is being shown every Saturday and Sunday for a 2 p.m. matinee, once each day only. Call the theater to confirm showtimes.

The Dream Theater itself sounds like the ideal place to see a 3-D film. Unlike so many theaters today, it is independently owned, and the owners take pride in making it feel like an old fashioned "picture palace." Especially of note is that the owners are 3-D fans themselves, and really know the difference between good and bad 3-D projection. They have gone out of their way to make sure the theater is set up for the best possible 3-D projection. First, they have kept two projectors in the booth (most theaters today only have one) to allow the possibility of twin strip 3-D projection. Second, they have chosen to use one of the best available 3-D screen materials for their screen—the British Harkness "Spectral 2000," as was used for the 3-D *Imax* at Expo '86. Finally, to make the 3-D experience as enjoyable as possible for all of their patrons, they insist on using lightweight black plastic framed 3-D glasses instead of the usual cardboard.

This is a 3-D event that every NSA member who is going anywhere near the San Francisco bay area should make a point of attending. The Dream Theater is located at 301 Prescott Avenue (at Light-house), Monterey, CA 93940. Phone (408) 372-6993 for more details. And tell them you heard about it in *Stereo World*. ■



Vincent Price desperately throws water on a burning wax figure of Marie Antoinette in a scene from "House of Wax." With three Natural Vision cameras rolling, the fire in this dramatic scene was allowed to build to the point where a hole was burned in the roof of the soundstage. Stereo courtesy of Reel 3-D Enterprises.

