



THE PURITAN POST

| by Hank W. Mardukas |

This Week on Home Video

Child's Play (2019)

When I heard they were remaking the classic slasher film *Child's Play*, I was admittedly quite skeptical. However, I was pleasantly surprised by the new *Child's Play* movie, as it is not so much a remake as it is a reimagining. Sure, some things are the same. A young boy named Andy given a doll by his mother Karen realizes it is killing people and does what he can to stop it despite no one believing him. However, in this movie, the doll is called a Buddi but goes by Chucky. And as opposed to being a psychotic killer trapped in the doll, this Chucky is the result of A.I. gone wrong thanks to a rogue, suicidal toy developer. I went in with low expectations but came out very satisfied. I was also impressed by the heavy reliance on practical effects, Mark Hamill's voice acting, and the haunting score.

This Week on TV

Into the Dark: Uncanny Annie (Hulu)

The newest installment from Hulu and Blumhouse's *Into the Dark* is essentially a Horror version of *Jumanji*, and it is also one of the better movies in the anthology series. What starts out like a typical college-set Horror flick with shallow characters takes some nice character-driven dark turns which I found quite captivating. The titular "Annie" character is one of the creepiest highlights of any *Into the Dark* thus far. It also definitely has one of the bleakest endings in the series and that isn't necessarily a bad thing as it is a fitting end for its mostly unredeemable cast of characters.

Director Spotlight: Karyn Kusama



Birth: 3/21/1968 St. Louis, MO
Notable Works: *Girlfight*,
Aeon Flux, *Jennifer's Body*,
The Invitation, *Destroyer*
Fun Fact: Married to screenwriter Phil Hay whom she met at the Sundance premiere of her film *Girlfight*, and he has since co-written three of her movies.

THE PURITAN POST'S IV WEEKS of HALLOWEEN WEEK I: The MORE CURSED MOVIE? **ROSEMARY'S BABY or POLTERGEIST**

It is my favorite time of the year, both here at THE PURITAN POST and in general, Halloween season. To kickoff our second annual IV Weeks of Halloween issues, I will be discussing a pair of Horror flicks, both been said to be notoriously cursed, *Rosemary's Baby* and *Poltergeist*. And in investigating the facts surrounding both alleged curses, we'll uncover which of these two iconic motion pictures is the more accursed.

Examining the movies in chronological order we will first take a look at *Rosemary's Baby*, released in 1968 and directed by Roman Polanski. The first victim of this curse was composer Krzysztof Komeda, who, in December of 1968, soon after the film's release, was roughhousing at a party and fell off a rocky ledge, and after a four month coma, passed away at age 37. The tragic, eerie coincidence of his death is how closely it resembles that of Rosemary's neighbor in the early stages of the movie. Soon after Komeda's passing, the film's producer William Castle was stricken with severe kidney stones, and allegedly whilst delirious in the hospital started hallucinating scenes from the movie and screamed out, "Rosemary, for God's sake, drop the knife!". While he barely recovered, he never made another hit movie again. And of course, there is the well-known fate of Roman Polanski, whose wife Sharon Tate, one of the contenders for the role of Rosemary, was brutally murdered along with their unborn son on August 8th, 1969 by the infamous Manson family. Polanski last saw Tate in July of '69, and in his autobiography noted a "grotesque thought" he had that he would never see her again.

And then there is the *Poltergeist*, Tobe Hooper's iconic supernatural Horror flick from 1982. This notorious curse primarily stems from two deaths of its cast members. Heather O'Rourke who played Carol Anne in all three *Poltergeist* films, died tragically at age 12 from complications due to an acute bowel obstruction. Dominique Dunne, who played her on-screen sister Dana in the first film, also died tragically young, having been murdered by her boyfriend John Thomas Sweeney who strangled her to death. There were additional deaths associated with one of the sequels. Julian Beck, who played Kane in *Poltergeist II* died at age 60 of stomach cancer in 1985 prior to the film's release. His co-star, Will Sampson, who played Taylor in the film, died at age 53 about a year after the movie's release, due to pre-operative malnutrition and post-operative kidney failure after receiving a heart-lung transplant.

It's nearly impossible to say whether either of these films are actually cursed, or if each is simply the victim of horrible coincidences. If I had to choose which one is more cursed, it is equally hard to decipher. On one hand, *Rosemary's Baby* has some shocking and infamous deaths associated with it, but the tragically young ages at which the two actresses from *Poltergeist* died make that curse all the more horrifying. All I can say for certain, is that considering the supernatural nature of the stories, it sure seems like dark forces may be at play with both.