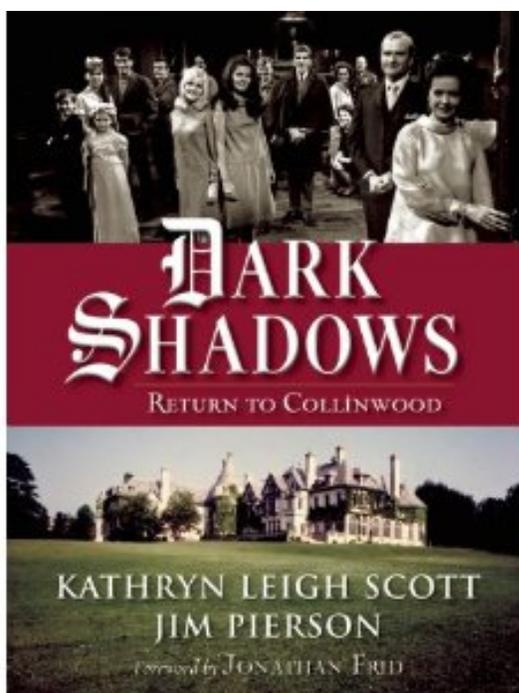


Book Review: Kathryn Leigh Scott's 'Dark Shadows: Return to Collinwood'



Courtesy Pomegranate Press



Jim Dixon
Fanboys Examiner
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Dark Shadows: Return to Collinwood

Rating:

March 27, 2012

Actress and author **Kathryn Leigh Scott**, with collaborator Jim Pierson, has written a new book, "Dark Shadows: Return to Collinwood." The book chronicles five decades of the "Dark Shadows," the classic Gothic horror soap opera that made sympathetic vampire Barnabas Collins a pop culture phenomenon and prompted the **big-screen revival** by longtime fans star Johnny Depp and director Tim Burton.

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With a foreword by Jonathan Frid, who created the role of Barnabas Collins, "Dark



Courtesy Kathryn Leigh Scott

Shadows: Return to Collinwood” includes hundreds of photographs and behind-the-scenes anecdotes from Kathryn Leigh Scott (Josette DuPrés), Frid, Lara Parker (Angelique Bouchard) and David Selby (Quentin Collins).

Scott is perhaps the ultimate “Dark Shadows” insider. She was there for the first day of production on the original series, and stayed for most of the show’s run. The insider’s view is what’s going to make this book such a must for fans. “Dark Shadows: Return to Collinwood” is a lot like having coffee with Kathryn Leigh Scott and hearing all the inside stuff you always wanted to know from someone who was

there on day one.

The book also covers the making of the feature films “House of Dark Shadows” and its lesser-seen sequel, “Night of Dark Shadows,” as well as the 1991 primetime revival on NBC which starred Ben Cross, Jean Simmons, Joanna Going, Roy Thinnes and Ely Pouget, and the virtually unseen 2004 “Dark Shadows” which was produced by the CW network, but never aired.

The writing is literate and pleasantly conversational. Scott peppers the book with amusing anecdotes, and is an entertaining *raconteuse*. Fans of the original series will be delighted with inside tidbits, such as the fact that when her character finally got to appear with vampire fangs, it was on too short notice to have nice, custom-made fangs done at the dentist. Hers were press-on nails. She also mentions that the molds for the gory neck wounds created for the movie “House of Dark Shadows” by makeup legend Dick Smith were actually hijacked veal cutlets Smith’s wife had pierced with a meat fork.

Scott, Frid and co-stars Lara Parker and David Selby all make cameo appearances in the upcoming Tim Burton/Johnny Depp movie, and Scott provides detailed observations of the

shooting, some of which was gathered during a completely unauthorized tour of the Pinewood Studios sets and back lots when she and Lara Parker got tired of waiting to be called to the set.

You simply have to love this lady.

"Dark Shadows" opens on May 11th. In addition to Depp, the cast includes **Eva Green**, **Michelle Pfeiffer**, **Bella Heathcote**, **Jackie Earl Haley**, **Helena Bonham Carter**, Chloe Moretz, Gulliver McGrath and Jonny Lee Miller. The screenplay is by Seth Grahame-Smith ("Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter").

"Dark Shadows: Return to Collinwood" will be in bookstores April 1st. Kathryn Leigh Scott will be making a number of personal appearances to sign copies, starting with a book signing and talk at Barnes & Noble at 86th and Lexington Avenue, New York, New York, on April 3rd at 7:00 PM, EST.