







## daily nebraskan entertainment

Sheldon shows horror classics The Sheldon Horror/Fantasy film showings for the next two weekends are four movies from the great 1940s horror producer, Val Lewton.

The featured director this weekend is Jacques Tourneur and the films are The Cat People (1942) and I Walked With a Zombie (1943).

Don't let the titues fool you. These are the first of the eleven Lewton films that put new blood into the American horror film scene that had been sucked dry by the Wolfman, Frankenstein and Dracula parodies of earlier 30s Universal classics.

Lewton produced his films on shoestring budgets (usually less than \$200,000 per movie). Despite their bonafide B-standing, they were huge commercial successes.

The films followed formulas and looked cheap—the acting is what you see and expect in most B-films, and the sets and locales were the backyard, studio type—but for Lewton, style made up for it in these two Tourneur movies.

Lewton and Tourneur were the first movie makers who successfully demonstrated that audiences could be frightened by what they didn't see as opposed to what they did see. Thus the term 'psychological horror', appeared as this breed of film subsequently has been dubbed.

The Cat People, the first and the greatest of the Lewton films, stars Simone Simon as a weman who, because of an inherited malady, habitually turns into a black panther.

Production on I Walked With a Zombie started before The Cat People was released. It uses the same ominous technique to convey a story of native voodoo and the living dead. In both films, if you look hard enough, as some critics have, you may even find underlying statements on sexual frustration and female frigidity.

Showing of these two horror classics are at 3, 7 and 9 p.m. this Friday and Saturday at the Sheldon

Gallery.



