YOU CAN'T KEEP a good cat down. Or a bad one, for that matter! THE CAT & THE CANARY has been scaring audiences ever since it took the Broadway stage by storm in 1922 as a stageplay.

I remember how scared I was when, at the age of 10, I saw the first film version in 1927. All of the players in it were well-known at the time but the only name any of you FM readers might recognize today might be Arthur Edmund Carew, who played the Mysterious Persian in Lon Chaney's PHANTOM OF THE OPERA and also was one of the suspicious scientists in DR. X. The famous Paul Leni directed C&C.

In 1930 it was remade as THE CAT CREEPS, with Jean Hersholt, who 5 years later would turn out to be the villain in the Lugosi-Borland MARK OF THE VAMPIRE. As was done with the 1931 DRACULA, at the same time as THE CAT CREEPS was being filmed a Spanish language version was made. It was called simply EL GATO—THE CAT.

In 1938 it was re-remade as a Bob Hope vehicle, including 2 FM favorites, Gale Sondergaard & George Zucco.

**re-re-remake**

No, we're not stuttering. THE CAT & THE CANARY has now been filmed for the 4th time, this time by Richard Gordon, who in the past has brought us FIEND

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Manual Granado as the Cat in the CAT CREEPS Spanish version. We just learned as we went to press that the title of the Spanish version may not have been EL GATO (THE CAT) after all as reported in the body of this article (information from Walter Lee's Reference Guide to Fantastic Films). Richard Gordon, producer of the new CAT & THE CANARY, claims it was LA VOLUNTAD DEL MUERTO (THE DEATH WILL). Quien sabe? Who knows?
The creepy Cat man of 1939--40 fearful years ago!
The 1927 Cat, portrayed by William Abby.

WITHOUT A FACE & DEVIL DOLL (the latter not the film of the same name with Lionel Barrymore based on A. Merritt's horror classic "Burn Witch Burn!")

Producer Gordon has prepared himself well for this, his 21st production, by previously scaring us with CORRIDORS OF BLOOD, THE ELECTRONIC MONSTER, FIRST MAN INTO SPACE, CURSE OF THE VOODOO, THE PROJECTED MAN, ISLAND OF TERROR, TOWER OF EVIL & HORROR HOSPITAL.

the ghast cast

We start with—
DANIEL MASSEY . . . whose illustrious dad was given a bad time in THE OLD DARK HOUSE and was the noble scientist leader of Wings Over the World in THINGS TO COME, while Daniel himself was seen in the vampire sequence of TALES FROM THE CRYPT.
CAROL LYNLEY . . . who was terrified in HPLovecraft's THE SHUTTERED ROOM.
HONOR BLACKMAN . . . who was horrified in TO THE DEVIL, A DAUGHTER; and made a hit in GOLDFINGER and the TV series The Avengers.

the spooky happenings

A man with sharp teeth.
Correction: a maniac.
His nails resemble long claws.

A Shrieking Moment in the 1979 CAT.
Laura LaPlante cringes in horror from the unseen menace in the 1927 version.

The Solicitor is smothered to death.

The Cat Strikes in the silent film version.
The re-remake, with Paulette Goddard about to be scared out of her wits.

He imagines himself to be a cat and, like a frenzied feline, tears his victims apart.

This is "the Cat", the dangerous insane criminal who has escaped from the psychiatric ward of a mental hospital near Glencliff Manor, in 1934.

On the 20th anniversary of the death of an eccentric millionaire, Cyrus West (Wilfred Hyde-White), his family is summoned to the Manor for a reading of his will.

The night is stormy & inhospitable, the surroundings gloomy.

First to arrive is Allison Crosby (Wendy Hiller), the family solicitor. She is greeted by the manor's sole occupant for 2 decades, the somewhat decayed housekeeper Mrs. Pleasant, who would have been more aptly named Mrs. Unpleasant.

The remaining individuals assembled for the reading of the will consist of:

Harry Blythe (Daniel Massey), surgeon turned pharmacist...

Susan Sillsby (Honor Blackman), noted
sportswoman & big game hunter . . .

Cicily Young (Olivia Hussey), Susan's cousin & roommate . . .

Charlie Wilder (Peter McEnery), an ex-flying ace with a somewhat tarnished reputation . . .

Paul Jones (Michael Callan), an American cousin who is a songwriter . . .

And Annabelle West (Carol Lynley), beautiful young fashion designer.

stranger in the night

An unexpected visitor arrives at the manor.

"My name is Hendricks," he says. "I am the chief psychologist at the local mental hospital and I regret to inform you a dangerous lunatic has escaped and I have reason to believe he may be hiding here."

The occupants of the house gasp as they learn how dangerous "the Cat" is.

Hendricks warns: "Lock all the doors & windows and do not leave the house during the night!"

sinister happenings

Mrs. Crosby mysteriously disappears.

Annabelle, aided by Paul, finds the West necklace—but a hooded creature attempts to steal it from her.

Mrs. Crosby is found—her dead body hideously mutilated.

Paul is mysteriously attacked when he searches the basement of the murderous manse.

Susan becomes the second victim of the unknown killer.

And Annabelle is driven nearly insane by fear!

As the night creeps by on cat's padded feet, Annabelle is kidnapped by the terrifying creature and dragged, struggling & screaming, to a secret chamber where she is threatened with a slow & painful death!

Two more deaths ensue! WHO is the maniacal killer? Only the Cat knows . . . but YOU can find out by seeing the picture!