

# Double Dose of 'Horror' Proffered

BY JOHN L. SCOTT

Devotees of cinema horror packed their favorite thrill-dispensing theater, the Hawaii, last night to indulge in the macabre. "I Walked With a Zombie" and "The Leopard Man" were the juicy morsels offered as bait.

Both chillers stem from the R.K.O. studio and have the same director, Jacques Tourneur. Each boasts moments of suspense and spine-tickling sequences, with the "Zombie" affair coming off better in the "home-and-home" competition.

Tourneur apparently has that art of generating the "mystic atmosphere," which is so important in these eerie film plays. However, in neither of his current pictures is the horror motif overstressed. In fact, the endings of both cinemas seem too conventional, although in each case it's murder.

### Not a Drink

Frances Dee has the unusual experience of "walking with the Zombie." She portrays a nurse who is engaged to care for a West Indies planter's wife. The lady is a mental case but the natives believe she is a Zombie, a walking dead person. When the insulin shock treatment fails to aid, Nurse Dee takes her patient to a native voodoo rite. A witch doctor stabs the sick woman's arm with a sword but she does not bleed. This leaves the natives sure and the audience almost "sold" that she must be a Zombie.

However, we're never certain because the half-brother of her husband murders her and carries her into the ocean. Fie—Mr. Tourneur!

James Ellison, Frances Dee, Tom Conway, Edith Barrett (very good as the mother.) James Bell, Christine Gordon, Teresa Harris and others fill their roles acceptably.

### Many Suspects

"The Leopard Man" suffers by comparison with "Zombie" as a thrill-getter, mainly because so many characters clutter up the mystery proceedings. When too many suspects are presented, audiences get restless. The close of this production, like the other, leaves the reason for the killings untold.

Dennis O'Keefe, Margo, Jean Brooks, Isabel Jewell, James Bell, Margaret Landry, Abner Biberman and others take part.