

House of Thaddeus



Directed by
MICHAEL BOEDICKER

Starring
JOI HOFFSOMMER
WILLIAM L. KEPHART

HouseOfThaddeus.com



Title: House of Thaddeus

Genre: Drama

Locale: Small town, U.S.

Period: Present

Taglines:

“A house whose past threatens the present.”

“Every house has a history.”



SHORT SYNOPSIS

A couple gets more than they bargained for after moving into a beautiful old house with a troubled past, a place “haunted” not by ghosts but by its notorious reputation.

LONG SYNOPSIS

It seems like the perfect house, and the price is right. But when Tom and Claire buy the beautiful old Thaddeus house, they know nothing of its dark history — one that includes murder and a mysterious cult of former residents. Tom and Claire soon learn the true cost of living in a “haunted” house — and it has nothing to do with ghosts. With its notorious reputation, the house attracts a steady stream of uninvited visitors who disrupt the owners’ lives and ultimately threaten their marriage. **House of Thaddeus** is a unique take on an old theme, a story about the power of belief, the clash of faith and reason, and how a house comes to divide a couple.

REVIEWS

“I was expecting a somewhat run of the mill ghost or haunted house story. What I got instead was a wonderfully complex tale mostly about a married couple who change over time.”

- The Reel Opinion with Geno Reynolds (WAND-TV)

“I was impressed with *House of Thaddeus*. It is suspenseful and engaging, and humorous at times.”

- Melissa Merli, Champaign News-Gazette

“This may be a local independent film, far from the huge [Hollywood] money machine, but the people behind it...are enormously talented at the crafts of acting, writing, and directing.”

- Mathew Green, SmilePolitely.com

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

By Michael Boedicker

House of Thaddeus came about for the most pragmatic of reasons: we had free access to a beautiful old house and the desire to build a feature film around it. The house was owned by Gary Gardner, who plays Prescott in the movie and who generously offered it for the film's main set. At the micro-budget level, you exploit the resources you have, and here was a photogenic, donated location we couldn't otherwise afford. Sadly, Gary died in June 2013, and the film is dedicated to him.

At the development stage, the story went through many incarnations -- ranging from straight drama to full-blown horror to black comedy -- most unrecognizable from each other. The only constants remained the house, and our idea to depict it as a character, and our goal to tell a new kind of story.

So when co-writer/co-producer Bill Kephart and I finally decided to fashion a haunted house story -- seemingly the antithesis of "a new kind of story" -- it was with the intention of subverting the genre, since we felt the world really didn't need another conventional haunted house movie. We



were less interested in the paranormal and more in the day-to-day reality of living in a place whose ominous reputation becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy -- one that virtually guarantees visitors will find the house "haunted."

We were also interested in telling a personal story about faith vs. reason, but with a twist. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first movie in which the skeptic does not bless himself at the end and admit solemnly that He Now Believes. Yet we did not want to simply proselytize on behalf of reason. Above all, we were interested in telling a human story about real people dealing with dark remnants of the past, and how a house can come to divide a couple.

PRODUCTION NOTES

House of Thaddeus was filmed mostly in the Jewell House, a 100 year-old historic landmark in Danville, Illinois that, like its fictional counterpart, was briefly a bed & breakfast. The script was written in the spring and summer of 2011 by director Mike Boedicker and lead actor Bill Kephart, and a great deal of time was spent constructing a detailed (albeit completely fictional) backstory for the house.

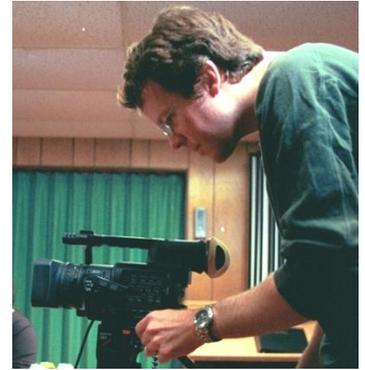
Filming began in the fall of 2011 and extended through the winter of 2012. Editing began that spring, with a screening of the rough cut for cast and crew four months later. The final cut (including special effects, scoring, mixing, and grading) took another year, and the movie premiered in August 2013 at the Art Theater in Champaign, Illinois.

The production was made entirely in East Central Illinois, using actors, crew, and musicians from the area. Though the cast was large, the crew was tiny, with Boedicker, Kephart, Director of Photography Johnny Robinson and Sound Recordist Victor Miely wearing many hats. The original score was composed and performed by John Toenjes of the University of Illinois, supplemented by classical music of Debussy and Chopin, and even a piece by J.S. Bach performed on player piano.

CAST & CREW

Michael Boedicker (Director/Editor/Co-Writer/Co-Producer)

Born in Alabama, Mike grew up in New York State and earned degrees in Communications and Library Science before completing his first feature film, *Show*, in 2005. In 2008, he formed Roselawn Productions Ltd. to further his goal of making low-budget feature films in his neck of the woods (Central Illinois). *Revolting*, a 2010 award-winning tragicomedy, was the first film made under the Roselawn banner. *House of Thaddeus* is his most ambitious project to date.



William L. Kephart (*Tom*, Co-Writer/Co-Producer)

Born in 1965, Bill grew up in Chillicothe, Illinois, eventually moving to Champaign-Urbana, IL, where he's lived for the last 25 years to be close to family. Bill has a B.A. in English Literature and works as a clerk at the local university. Bill has acted non-professionally most of his life. Only in recent years has he turned to film acting. In the last few years he's been involved in several award-winning commercials and shorts, including the feature film *Revolting*, where he and director Mike Boedicker first worked with each other. This is Bill's first time as a co-writer and co-producer on a feature film.

Joi Hoffsommer (*Claire*)

Joi grew up on a farm in Kansas and attended a nearby college. Starting as an English major, she saw an announcement for auditions for a production of *Dracula*, got cast and changed her major to Theatre soon after. She has an MFA in acting from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and has taught, acted and directed for the stage since. Meeting Mike and Bill changed that and she is now mixing her stage work with regular screen time. The role in *House of Thaddeus* is Joi's first leading role in a film.



Johnny Robinson (Director of Photography)

Johnny's film career began in San Francisco. In 1976 he turned to graphic design and illustration, earning BA and MFA degrees from Syracuse University. He did commercial animation work with Animotion and taught at Rochester Institute of Technology in the School of Film and Animation from 1999 to 2009. He then moved to Urbana, IL where he joined Dreamscape Cinema as a commercial filmmaker, and founded Champaign Movie Makers. He also teaches filmmaking at Millikin University in Decatur. After working with Mike Boedicker on *House of Thaddeus*, he is pleased Mike will be DP'ing Johnny's upcoming film *The Garden of Chloe*.

SELECTED ADDITIONAL CREDITS

Original Music Composed & Performed by John Toenjes
 Sound Recordist: Victor Miely

Featuring
 Prescott: Gary Gardner
 Lily: Barbara Evans
 Jacy: Julia Megan Sullivan

With

Victor: Steven M. Keen
 Marcus: Mike Trippiedi
 Therapist: Gary Ambler

Lawyer: Peter Davis
 Doctor: Andrew Peters
 Symphony Director: Ron McDaniel

News Anchor: Greg Trumbold
 Teacher: Michael Morgan

Visitors

Pizza Guy: Ian Williams
 Journalist: Carolyn Kodes-Atkinson
 Man in Black: Greg Williams
 Pregnant Girl: Kayla Johnson
 Guest with Wine: Jim Wolfe
 Guest with Beer: J. Edward DeVore
 Guest with Book: Marsha Williams

Halloween Drunks: Joseph Taylor, Thomas Nicol,
 Charles Pundt
 Goth Couple: Jonathan Harden, Cara Maurizi
 Blaine: Eric W. Sizemore
 Josh: Eric J. France
 Mary Ann: Carol Symes
 Female Tour Taker: Gladys Kephart
 Male Tour Taker: Brian K. Morris

Color; 16x9; Stereo.

Running time: 106 minutes.

Not Rated; contains adult language and situations.



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