

# **Tonner “Nightmares” Convention Competition Categories**

## **October 2008**

Competition Chairperson: Meg Hunt (meghunt@verizon.net); contact Meg for questions or clarifications on the categories listed below.

**Criteria for Judging:** Unless otherwise specified, judging will be based on originality, creativity, use of fabrics and trim, and the quality of the workmanship. **Word to the wise:** Please use props sparingly – or not at all, as this will slow photography when you register your doll in the competition room.

### **CHILD DOLL CATEGORIES:**

**# 1 – Be A Clown:** They can make you laugh, they can make you cry, and sometimes they make you afraid. But always they tug from you emotion. Costume your favorite Tonner/Effanbee child doll as a clown, drawing from your own imagination, your own sense of funny, or your deepest fears.

**#2 – The Haunted Carousel:** The merry-go-round at Captain’s Cove seems to have a mind of its own. Late at night, when the park is deserted, it takes off on a bizarre riderless journey; but not for long. Throughout the night, each gaily painted iron horse finds a master or mistress, drawn by the music of the carousel, which is at times lyrical, dramatic, scary, and bombastic. Costume your favorite Tonner/Effanbee child doll for a ride on the haunted carousel. Selection can include pre-teens and teenagers from the Harry Potter, Nancy Drew, and Hardy Boy collections, as well as any other child doll regardless of size.

### **FASHION DOLL CATEGORIES:**

**#3- Rebecca:** In DuMaurier’s famous novel, Rebecca is a haunting presence. Willful, passionate, cool and elegant in life, she manipulated, beguiled and bewitched all who came within her orbit. In death, she refuses to release anyone from her spell. Yet, she is never seen in the famous movie, starring Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine. By a strange twist of fate, the hands of time are turned back and Alfred Hitchcock is again making what will be his 1940 classic. This time he decides to cast the part of Rebecca and give her screen time. Costume your favorite Tonner/Effanbee female fashion doll (10 ½ inch, 16-inch or 22-inch) as Rebecca in any scene appropriate for the movie: for example, a secret visit to her doctor, the gala costume ball, her tempestuous fight with Max de Winter, receiving her lover, or scuttled in her sail boat. The scene is yours (as costume designer) and Hitchcock’s choice. Be imaginative.

**#4 – Patterns:** Complicated emotions rule our Ellowyne or Prudence when love is permanently and tragically denied . . . or would seem to be so in lazy afternoon flights of imagination. In this case, your choice of doll is lost in a poem, “Patterns” by Amy Lowell, and prolongs her emotional connection to the story in her choice of attire. Likewise, you should draw your inspiration from the words to costume your Ellowyne or Prudence (also reflecting their individual personalities). You must use some brocade in your design, and while the poem is from a particular period of time, your design should NOT be a recreation of a costume from that period.

**My dress is richly figured,  
And the train  
Makes a pink and silver stain  
On the gravel, and the thrift  
Of the borders.  
Just a plate of current fashion,  
Tripping by in high-heeled, ribboned shoes.  
Not a softness anywhere about me,  
Only whalebone and brocade.  
And I sink on a seat in the shade  
Of a lime tree. For my passion  
Wars against the stiff brocade.  
The daffodils and squills  
Flutter in the breeze  
As they please.  
And I weep;  
For the lime-tree is in blossom  
And one small flower has dropped upon my bosom.**

**#5 – Winchester House:** Following the youthful death of her husband and only child, Sarah Winchester, heiress to the great Winchester arms fortune and of Winchester rifle fame, feared that she was cursed and consulted a seer in Connecticut. The seer advised her to move West and thus began one of the strangest sagas in American architectural history. In 1884, the wealthy widow began a construction project that occupied the lives of carpenters and craftsmen until her death thirty-eight years later. The resulting 160-room Victorian mansion has rambling roofs, exquisite hand inlaid parquet floors, gold and silver chandeliers, Tiffany art glass windows and “modern” heating and sewer systems, gas lights that operate by pressing a button, three working elevators, and 47 fireplaces. But, the 4-6 story mansion also had corridors and rooms that didn’t match up and other quirks as Sarah Winchester constantly added to the mansion in the belief that by so doing she could stay ahead of the ghosts that she believed haunted and cursed her. Costume your favorite Tonner/Effanbee 16-17 inch male or female fashion doll as a ghost in one of the mansions rooms. You may also use teenagers from the Harry Potter, Nancy Drew, or Hardy Boy Collections, or Rufus by Wilde Imagination.

**# 6 - Masked Ball:** It is October, 2009, and your favorite Tonner/Effanbee female fashion doll of any size has been invited to a masked ball. You may costume your doll in a design of your choice (short,

long, or involving pants), but it must be an evening ensemble and the costume must include a mask of your own making and as the signature element of the costume. The ball is not a costume ball, in the sense that your doll is a representational character. Rather, she must wear a contemporary couture outfit coordinated with its mask.

**#7 -Tales from the Dark Side:** So the heart of your favorite Tonner/Effanbee child or adult male or female fashion doll beats to a darker drum? Ghoulish horror or quirky kinks, this category is for him or her to petrify, spook, or make us ill at ease. Draw your inspiration from the great and small characters of literature, poetry, film, theater, comics, music, or your imagination. **Note:** Please include a typed 3 x 5 card briefly identifying your character and inspiration source.

### **General Category:**

**#8 -Crafts/Embroidery:** Are you skilled in crafts, including quilting, embroidery, and any other homespun art or artistic product? Please submit your craft themed to NIGHTMARES in this competition category. Item must have been made by the entrant and will be judged on creativity, design, and quality of workmanship. Please note that typically, this category is not for dolls or doll outfits; which are better suited toward the design categories; judges may choose to move doll and doll outfits from this category to any of the other competition categories that may be more appropriate. If a doll or doll outfit is entered into this category, the entrant should be prepared to explain the nature of the craft used and its appropriateness to the category; for example, knitted clothing, hand-embroidered fabrics used, etc.