

Regent, Here! give old horror tales a new gay spin

By Gregg Goldstein

NEW YORK — Several classic horror tales are getting a gay makeover courtesy of Regent Studios, its sister cable channel Here! Networks and cult director David DeCoteau.

The helmer has inked a two-year deal with Regent to direct 10 films and two television series through his Rapid Heart Pictures shingle.

The projects, some of which will be released theatrically by Regent in the fall, include



DeCoteau

Edgar Allan Poe's "The Pit and the Pendulum" and adaptations of works by H.G. Wells and Arthur Conan Doyle. New features also will be made for "The Brotherhood" and "The Invisible Chronicles," two ongoing TV-DVD series.

All of the classic tales in the slate will be refashioned to include gay themes, as was DeCoteau's recently released Poe adaptation "House of Usher." The only film confirmed for release in the fall is the pansexual film noir "Playing With Fire," starring Susan Anton and Michael Bergin.

DeCoteau has produced and/or directed more than 50 genre films during the past two decades— including "Leeches!" "Creepozoids" and "Sorority Babes in the Slimeball Bowl-O-Rama" — after getting his start in the mid-'80s gay porn industry. **THR**

