

# The Rats in the Walls



When Howard Lovecraft's short story, "The Rats in the Walls," was published in 1923, it was only a modest success. However, its gothic horror seemed perfectly suited to the wide screen, so plans were made to film it the following year, which, in Chinese astrology, was indeed "the year of the Rat." More than two thousand professional rat actors were hired, and soon the sound stage was crawling with human vermin. Determined to stay in character, they promptly spread plague throughout the studio while eating the producer and best boy. Finding the walls in which they were supposed to lurk in the film too confining, they commandeered the entire studio lot, including the famous Paramount Theater, where, it's rumored, their progeny can still be found today.