

VANGUARD PRODUCTIONS

## **DEATH ROW DOLLS**

By Paige Taylor

“Women-in-prison” films have their own genre. These films have been made throughout the decades - during the 1930's, 1940's, 1950's, 1960's, 1970's, and even into the early 1980's. Robert Wise's 1958 *"I want to Live"* starring Susan Hayward; Ida Lupina's 1954 *"Women's Prison"*; and Jonathan Demme's 1974 directorial debut *"Caged Heat"* are some favorites. Throughout the decades, what remains relatively the same is the story, however it's the style that changes and that rather drastically. *"I want to Live"* is a powerful Academy Award winning film; *"Women's Prison"* is a quaint light-hearted prison film; and *"Caged Heat"* is a tough parody. These films are very different yet surprisingly similar. Eroticism, moral principles, and melodrama are usually always present in this genre of film and *"Death Row Dolls"* pays homage to these classic “women-in-prison” films. After an extended visit to a modern maximum security women's prison and a marathon viewing session of every women's prison picture available, *"Death Row Dolls"* was drafted. *"Death Row Dolls"* is the story of seven women and their struggle to stay sane while living on death row in central Florida.