

~ CREATING

THE

UNDERWORLD ~

# CUSTOM HADES DOLL

Doll - *Baja Battle Max Steel* {Mattel} - \$16.95 {Head}  
Strike Force Special Forces {Sunny Smile} {Body}  
- The one with the all black suit - \$10

Clothes - *Strike Force Special Forces* doll

Crown - An upturned wire silver headband, cut to size - \$4.00

Sword - *Conan Era* miniature sword - \$20 {Metal}

Dagger – {Pewter} From necklace at a market stall \$8

Got one for me too!

Fireball - Made from green cellophane and crystal organza decoration, which I had.

Boots and belt - Qui-Gon Jinn Star Wars {Hasbro} - Had Spare ☺

Belt Adornments – Zodiac symbol \$20

Clauddagh adornment \$15 – {Also got one for me!}

Adornments – Various metal buttons, etc, Obtained from bead shops and various market places - \$15 approx. Peace Symbol, Star, etc.

Gold and silver fuse wire thread used to embroid \$5.

Cape - Red crushed velvet \$6.00 a metre Lined with black satin \$6 Metre  
\$3

A friend made the cape for me, though a dressmaker would charge \$30 approx.

Paints: \$3

SUB TOTAL ~ \$119.95

# HADES ~ MAKING

The hardest part was finding a doll that looked even a bit like Hades. Ken has a dorky smile and the "Soldier Boy" dolls like Action Man are too square faced and rigid. {And Action Man has a scar on his left cheek} Some male 'Hero' type dolls look far too muscley. Not that Hades isn't strong 😊 Though he doesn't look over muscled, thank goodness {and the Gods ;}!

Max Steel's face had a gentler look and nice eyes :} Although his body was light and plasticity, whereas the Strike Force "Soldier Boy" doll's body was more sturdy and not too bulgy, and I so switched heads.

The crown was a challenge until I thought of wire headbands and I destroyed one by trying to get it right! 😊

I couldn't find a right sized toy sword anywhere until I tried a sword shop and got a mini sword. Metal is so much more authentic than plastic 😊

The cape! Oo the cape! Proved to be a real challenge. When I started to really get serious about making my Hades, it was near Christmas time {2000} and I thought, oh yeah, I'll just get a Santa figure. Well after trying heaps of shops, I gave up in disgust! Not *one* had the right cape!

And so I bit the fireball and was going to have one made. Had to wait until into the new year. Though I swapped a friend a full body massage for her to make the cape. I had to wait a while, but the cape was really gorgeous.

It was a bit of a journey, scouring stores, stalls, market places, garage sales, but finally I got there!

A bit of a challenge to sew the adornments on right, and the wire for the cape. Didn't want to use too many adornments and make him look cluttered.

Some of the adornments were expensive, but I didn't want to buy some cheap crap plastic thing, I wanted my Hades to be authentic!

I had to paint the boots and belt a hematite {dark silver} colour and the alternating bits a light silver.

A lot of work, an expensive Quest, but well worth it. I love my Hades!

# CUSTOM CELESTA

Doll - *Corduroy Barbie* {Green Outfit} \$12.95 {Mattel}

Clothes - *Barbie Bridal Dress* \$12.95

Tiara - \$3.50

Necklace - A small piece of silver necklace, with fairy ornament \$2 approx.

Candle and Holster: Gold dolls house candle holder \$4

Sandals - Painted on {gold} - Gold paint \$3 {Tamiya acrylic}

SUB TOTAL ~ \$36.90



## CELESTA ~ MAKING

A bit of background. Celesta was a mythical Goddess in the *Hercules and Xena*. She was Hades' sister.

The doll wasn't as hard to find as Hades. Harder was finding a suitable dress.

I had to cut her hair, carefully, as the doll's hair was a bit too long. I almost chose 'Hawaiian Theresa' though decided against her as the green Corduroy Barbie's skin was paler, like Celesta's and she didn't have that 'Barbie smile' Though I was tempted because Celesta was played by Theresa Healey in the Xena episode *Looking Death in the Eye*.

I originally made a candle holder, but then found a better one.

Celesta's sandals, I painted on, using gold and silver paint. The necklace, I used some of my own silver necklace and glued on a gorgeous little Fairy charm.

The tiara was the hardest to find. I ended up using a charm I found on a candle.

## CUSTOM PERSEPHONE

Doll - 'Spring Unsprung' Holly O'Hair – Ever After High Doll \$30 {loose on eBay} + postage

Dress: Bought on eBay – around \$7 + postage

Pants for Goddess of Spring outfit: 'Dragon Games' Holly O'Hair pants \$10

Wigs: Around \$25 ea

SUB TOTAL ~ \$72

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## PERSEPHONE ~ MAKING

Persephone proved very as did her dress.

I used different outfits and wis for Persephone as the Goddess of Spring and Goddess of the Underworld.

## KERBEROS, KHARON & CHARIOT

### KERBEROS

*Harry Potter's Fluffy.* {The smaller version, on the trapdoor}

\$34.95 - Ready made, nice & Easy! Ruff! ;} Got him at David Jones at the time of the release of the first movie. eBay is your best bet now.

Kerberos is Fluffy. I couldn't believe it when I saw him! In the book Hagrid said he got Fluffy as a puppy from a Greek chappie. {Not an Irish chappie like the movie says.} Greek makes more sense as it is obvious that Fluffy is Kerberos' son. {I had to remove the trapdoor that came with the Fluffy.}

SUB TOTAL ~ \$34.95

# KHARON

Doll: Wooden African Warrior doll \$14 – African shop

Ferry: Wooden ferry, found in a council cleanup. {Free}

Mad dreadlocks: Black wool - \$3

Various old coins: \$1.50

Paint: \$3

Dark wood stain: \$15

Dead People in Ferry:

*Tommy doll*, detective \$10

*Tommy doll*, Barbie as Rapunzel \$10 {Both Mattel}

*Mermaid doll*: \$10.95

SUB TOTAL ~ 69.95

## KHARON ~ MAKING

Kharon wasn't all that hard to find when I decided on what I was looking for. He was on a base which I had to saw off. I had to paint his face grey white and glue the black wool onto his head. I also made a cape for him from black velvet I already had.

For his coins, I went to a coin shop and got an array of different coins, but was careful none were dated. Real Ancient Greek coins were too expensive ☹️ And then again, back then ancient Greece wasn't all that ancient!

The ferry was very hard to find. The first one I got was too small :{ I did buy a wooden bowl and make one at first, but then I found a much better one in a council cleanup! I used a dark wood stain to stain the boat and I placed the people in it. I got two males and two females for balance. They also come from different ethnic backgrounds.

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# HADES' CHARIOT

Chariot: Porcelain chariot from eBay \$40 {Including postage from overseas}

2 Extra black horses *Premium Horse* {AV Toys} \$2 each.

Black Spray Paint \$7 {Humbrol Hobby Spray}

Silver paint \$4 {Tamiya acrylic}

Small *Magick Happens* sticker for the bumper ;) \$1.00

SUB TOTAL ~ \$54

You would think that two toy black horses would be easy to find, but nooooo! I searched high and low, toy shops galore, even market places and 2nd hand stores, even eBay! I finally did get two black horses after a long search! There are other similar horse toys you can buy like *Chestnut Ridge*, ranging from about \$5 - 10 each.

The chariot already had two horses, so I needed another two as Hades has four black steeds.

The chariot I got from eBay was white, so I spray painted it painted it black inside and out, including the horses, and then painted the more intricate patterns silver. There were some small white marks on the other horses which I painted black.

And the final touch, I cut the cute *Magick Happens* sticker smaller and stuck it on the back of his chariot ;)



# THE UNDERWORLD

Empty shelf, found in council cleanup {free} and painted black. \$24 for black acrylic {water based} paint

Various Crystals, I already had. Tumbled stones are about \$2 - 5 each. Hades is the God of riches after all! ☺ - Amethyst, Moonstone, Sunstone, Hematite. \$12

Rocks: \$6 {unpolished black river stones}

Chinese Elemental candles for table: \$15 {\$5 ea}

Amphora: {I already had this} though it was about \$35.

Items for table: Fruit bowl - \$7, Vase - \$4, Glasses - \$4 each. Ink well/quill - \$3 - 2 small candle holders \$8

Small candelabra: \$4

1 ½ metres black velvet for outside - \$8

Large candelabra: \$20

Candles - \$2 {pack of 10} Cream coloured

Blue, cellophane for the River Styx \$3

Black pebbled for River Styx - Already had - Black glossy river stones are about \$3 a bag

No Fishing Sign: \$6.50

Materials, DAS, glue: \$8

Berserk Silver glitter hair spray for exterior to sparkle like starlight: \$5

Photocopying and printing: \$10

Metallic pens: \$6

**SUB TOTAL ~ 189.50**



A load of time effort and expense, but that is art. It was spiritually satisfying and rewarding.

# THE UNDERWORLD ~ MAKING

It began in the year 1999. I wanted to make a Hades doll, based on Hades in *Xena and Hercules*. {Erik Thomson/Stephen Lovatt} I thought about making a Celesta doll too. When I saw *Harry Potter's Fluffy* and decided that's it! Now I had to make a whole Underworld. ☺

I bought Fluffy and so it began ... It would be a four-year journey for me finding all the things, moulding, cutting, gluing painting and so on.

Now for the Underworld ... I painted the shelf gloss black, and sprayed on silver glitter hair spray.

You would also think that a candelabra would be easy to find! {Shakes head} too big, too small, too modern, too ugly too ... well ... I did find one in the end, thankfully, on special too! I got the candles without much of a hassle though and painted the wicks to look like they were alight.

And the Chinese elemental candles! I saw them everywhere until I was actually looking for one! I had to glue them together and buy 2 more for the other elements ... And they double up as the table. I cut the wicks and painted the top of the table dark silver. I also had to cut down two candles and glue the elements to the sides of the table. I did try to find a table, but they were either too small, too expensive, too modern, too plain, too plastic ...

I made the apple in the fruit bowl into a pomegranate with DAS and painted it pinky red. Persephone was originally a mermaid barbie, but she didn't look right. I only got the Holly O'Hair doll in 2019.

The three archways leading to The Elysian Fields, Asphodel and Tartarus are slightly modified versions of J. R. R. Tolkien's drawing of the archway to the entrance of the Mines of Moria, in *The Lord of the Rings, The Fellowship of the Ring*. I traced around the outside with metallic green, silver and red pens, and made signs for The Elysian Fields, Asphodel and Tartarus.

{I will make this again, I had to let go the old book case and use a portable altar I made}

The picture for the Elysian Fields comes from the book *The Wisdom of Ancient Greece* compiled and photographed by Jaques Lacarrière. Scanned and slightly modified in Photoshop.

The picture for Tartarus is the surface of Mars, grey scaled and modified

slightly in Photoshop. {Found on <http://www.Google.com> image search}

The picture for Tartarus is a picture of Hell fire, also doctored in Photoshop and also found on Google image search.

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## ~ In Conclusion ~

A lot of time, effort, money, patience but most of all love went into the making of my Underworld. It was exciting to find the things I needed and to actually have it completed. It truly was an experience! I wonder if Hades had as many obstacles when he created his Underworld thousands of years ago! 😊 I wanted something wonderful, with a touch of humour, and something beautiful and sacred. Spending so much time, effort and money, I wasn't going to settle for second best, and the Feng Shui is just right! 😊

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