



DRACULA

by Bram Stoker
Adapted by Stephen Dietz

By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd

About the Production

Since its original publication in 1897, *Dracula* has epitomised the Horror genre and popularised the vampire legend, spawning countless spin-offs and reimaginings over the last 120-odd years. Like many Victorian classics, *Dracula* explores the clash between science and the supernatural, civilized society and the primal. The fear of the exotic and unknown; unspeakable evil hidden behind a cultured human visage; primal passions; the corruption of the soul; 'morality' (particularly the expectations placed on women); and courage against a seemingly unbeatable foe are all strong themes within this play.

MICHAEL HEMING - Director Michael is a director, writer, and performer. He has directed *Go Back For Murder* and *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure* for the Genesian Theatre Company, *Jack and the Beanstalk: The Pantomime* for St George Theatre Company, and wrote and co-directed *Dr. McCarb's Independent Surgical Hospital On The Hill* for Ostrisian Theatre for Sydney Fringe Festival (2015). Michael has completed the Directing For The Stage course at the NIDA Open program.

SHANE BATES - Assistant Director Shane has been a member of the GTC for 18 years and has directed and acted in over 45 productions. Most recently she was Mrs Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*, Abbess/Mother in *The Three Musketeers*, and Roxanne earlier this year in *Nothing Personal*. She directed *Hotel Sorrento* in 2014 and was Assistant Director on *The Complete Works of Shakespeare* in 2015. She is supported by her set building husband Garry, her son Cameron, and two cats Jenny and Ryuka.

MARTIN SEARLES - Set Design Martin's previous design credits include costume design for the Genesian Theatre production of *Sherlock Holmes* (2014), and costume and set design for *The Forced Marriage* at ANU (2007). Martin studied stage design via short courses at the Australian National University & NIDA. Martin would like to thank Garry Bates, Paul Gilbert, Ylaria Rogers, Noemie Jounot, and the Director, Michael Heming, for their generous assistance and input. It takes a village to build a set.

PHEONUH CALLAN - Costume Design Pheonuh started designing as a child making patterns for doll's clothes. She stems from an Irish family of several generations of costume designers. In her early years of designing, she trained in PVC, Gothic Underground, and Alternative couture under David Rochford from The Wild One Sydney. Her past projects include *Gods of Egypt*, *Mr Pole-Australia*, commissioned projects for Mardi Gras, Carriageworks, and Comicon, as well as designing with Ragav Handa (*Turke and Mens Rea*) and Paloma Negra (*Noir Review*).

LIAM O'KEEFE - Lighting Design Liam is a freelance Lighting Designer and technician based in Sydney. Recent design work includes *Transcience* (leftofcentre theatre co.), *Smudge* (The King's Fools), *The Tragedy of Antigone* (Ninefold), *Contrite Spirit* (Edgware Forum), *Shut up and Drive* (subtlenuance), *Year of the Family* (Tooth and Sinew), *The Poor Kitchen* (subtlenuance), and *Femme Fatale* (leftofcentre theatre co.). As a technician, he has been a part of the lighting team for five national tours, the Sydney Festival, and The Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour's *Carmen*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Aida*, and *Turandot*.

MICHAEL SCHELL - Sound Design Michael has been a member of the Genesian Theatre for over 35 years. A professional Sound and Lighting Designer, his Genesian credits include *Great Expectations*, *St Joan*, *The 39 Steps*, *Terra Nova*, *Frankenstein*, and *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*. Other recent Genesian sound design credits include *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Mousetrap*, *Crown Matrimonial*, *Spider's Web*, *Three Sisters*, and *Our House*.



MADELEINE BOYLE - Lucy Westenra Madeleine works as a high school Drama teacher at St Augustine's College in Brookvale. She studied Drama Teaching and Performance Studies at Sydney University, and has performed in the Sydney Revue as a part of the Sydney Comedy Festival (2014), and in the Hunters Hill Theatre production of *It's My Party And I'll Die If I Want To* (2015). Madeleine worked as an Assistant Director and acting coach at French Woods Festival of Performing Arts in New York (2015) and is performing in Rough Hewn's *Parramatta Girls* in March next year.

CASSADY MADDOX - Wilhelmina 'Mina' Murray Cassady's theatre credits include *Seven Days in the Life of Simon Labrosse* with Théâtre Excentrique, *Dinkum Assorted*, *Cherish*, *Vernon God Little*, and *The Crucible* at the New Theatre, *Frankenstein* and *Go Back for Murder* at Genesian Theatre, *Leader of the Pack* at Canterbury Theatre, *Educating Rita* at Riverside, and many staged readings with the Players in the Pub. She also performs in several Sydney bands including The Glimmer and Terry Serio's Ministry of Truth. Film & TV credits include *Locked*, *Sum of Existence*, *The 7th Hunt*, and *Deadly Women*.



DIMITRI ARMATAS - Jonathan Harker Dimitri trained for two years at the Actors College Of Theatre and Television. He left with his first play, *Errors*, which he staged at the Tap Gallery in 2012. Other published works are his play *Haus* and *In This Life*, which was the biography of a man struggling with MS. His recent theatre credits include playing John Proctor in *The Crucible*, Victor Frankenstein in *Frankenstein*, Duke in *Merchant of Venice*, and Jim in *Away*. His appearance as Jonathan Harker in *Dracula* marks his third time on the Genesian stage.

NATHAN BENNETT - John Seward Nathan is relatively new to acting, having recently signed up with a commercial talent and modelling agency. He has acted in a number of small television roles, and featured in a variety of TV & online commercials, short films, and photographic campaigns. He studied acting at Sydney Drama School and this year played the lead King Oedipus in a 10 minute play at the Short & Sweet Theatre Festival. He is making his full length play debut in *Dracula* as Dr John Seward.



CORMAC JAMES - Renfield Cormac studied English and Theatre at the University of Wales, Bangor, before completing a PGCE in English and Drama. He then spent a year touring with theatre in education companies before moving to London, where he divided his time between teaching and performing. After several years of travelling he found himself living in New Zealand. There he recently appeared as Brick in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Captain Edmund Blackadder in *Blackadder Goes Forth*, Shawn Keogh in *Playboy of the Western World*, and as Bassanio in *The Merchant of Venice*. This is his first production since arriving in Australia.



PAUL MURTON - Abraham Van Helsing This is Paul's first role in a 'straight play' after 20 years of performing only in musicals and operas. Originally from New Zealand, he first performed in Sydney as Guido Contini in Richmond Players 2013 staging of *Nine*, followed by playing Major-General Stanley in Chatswood Musical Society's 2014 production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Prior musical/operatic appearances have included *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Don Pasquale*.

DANIEL D'AMICO - Count Dracula Daniel is a 2016 Music Theatre graduate of the Academy of Film, Theatre & Television (AFTT). During his studies, Daniel played the lead roles of Guido Contini in *Nine* and the Dromio twins in *The Boys from Syracuse*, both directed by Stephen Helper. Daniel has sung at the Sydney Opera House and was a featured soloist in the Schools Spectacular at the Sydney Entertainment Centre. Daniel is a professional singer and has shared the bill with Australian artists such as Daryl Braithwaite, Jon Stevens, and Shannon Noll.



ANTOINETTE GREY - Vixen / Attendant Dracula marks Antoinette's debut with the Genesis Theatre, following her recent completion of NIDA's Actor's Studio. Antoinette is a Theatre and Performance Studies major at The University of Sydney. Previous productions have included *The After-Dinner Joke*, *The People*, and *Wan2tik?* for the NIDA Open Program.

ELENI PYRETZIS - Vixen / Attendant Eleni studied part-time at Actors Centre Australia in 2014 and has since been involved with the Genesis Theatre. This is her second performance with GTC. Her first role was in William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as the bubbly Peaseblossom. Eleni is thrilled to be part of *Dracula* and aspires to further theatrical pursuits.



TIM SWINN - Attendant Dracula is Tim Swinn's first show with the Genesis Theatre Company as an actor and Assistant Stage Manager. Tim has been involved in theatre for 21 years. He has Stage Managed *The Philadelphia Story*, *The Women*, *Summer Rain*, *Next to Normal*, *Avenue Q*, *The Producers*, *Company*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Les Misérables*. He has also worked FOH, in production or crewing for many companies including Chester Street Theatre, CTG, WTC, RMS, AMS, CMS, FAMS, Packemin Productions, and The Gilbert & Sullivan Society, as well as the Sydney Olympics Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

Production

Director

Michael Heming

Assistant Director

Shane Bates

Set Design

Martin Searles

Costume Design

Pheonuh Callan

Lighting Design

Liam O'Keefe

Sound Design

Michael Schell

Production Manager

Debbie Smith

Costume Assistants

Sarah Scott, Susan Carveth

Set Construction

Garry Bates, Paul Gilbert,

Members of the Company

Original Art

Chloe Cassidy

Photography

Mark Banks

Graphic Design

Tom Massey

Ticketing

Shane Bates

Archives

Grant Fraser

Transport

Debbie Smith

Acknowledgements

Ylaria Rogers, Amy Roberts

Crew

Stage Manager

Macushla McGown

Assistant Stage Manager

Tim Swinn

Lighting & Sound Operation

Dereck Cameron, Carlin Hurdis

Cast

Lucy Westenra

Madeleine Boyle

Wilhelmina 'Mina' Murray

Cassady Maddox

Jonathan Harker

Dimitri Armatas

John Seward

Nathan Bennett

Renfield

Cormac James

Abraham Van Helsing

Paul Murton

Count Dracula

Daniel D'Amico

Attendant / Vixen

Antoinette Grey

Attendant / Maid / Vixen

Eleni Pyretzis

Attendant

Tim Swinn

About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company celebrated our 70th year as a company in 2014. For over 60 years we have been operating from an historic church in Kent Street, in the heart of the Sydney CBD. We boast among our alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre and film such as Bryan Brown, Baz Luhrmann, Judi Farr, and John Bell. We are also just as proud of the hundreds of other talented actors, directors, designers, lighting and sound specialists who have contributed to Sydney's unique little theatre.

Over the years the company has developed into a theatre providing a training ground for young actors and a place where those who love the theatre can meet, share and extend their knowledge of the performing arts. The Genesian Theatre is one of Sydney's most active theatre companies. In addition to six main stage productions each year we run classes, workshops and many other activities.

The building which houses The Genesian Theatre Company was originally St John's Church, and dates from 1868. It has served as both a church and a poor school until 1932 when it became the Kursaal Theatre, housing the Sydney Repertory Company. In 1938 it became the first Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of The Genesian Theatre Company which was formed in 1944.

The Genesian Theatre Company acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the land our theatre stands on.

Membership

If you're interested in acting, directing, stage management, sound, lights, publicity, admin, etc, or if you just want to experience being a member of the group, we would welcome you as a member. You don't need to be experienced, we can provide training and can cater to different levels of involvement. Please see our web site for further information.

Coming next to the Genesis Theatre...

Much Ado About Nothing

by William Shakespeare

www.genesiantheatre.com.au

Subscriptions are available