

Repertoire

MARCH 2014

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group



DRACULA!

by Bram Stoker adapted by Liz Lockhead
Directed by Kerrin White

WARNING: contains nudity, strong language, scenes of a sexual nature and strobe lighting effects

Long before the teen vampires of 21st century popular culture, Bram Stoker's original tale chilled Victorian audiences with a mysterious Eastern European nobleman who insinuates his dangerous, sensual presence into the bedchambers of proper English ladies. Bram Stoker's classic vampire novel has been adapted by Liz Lockhead, a prominent Scottish playwright and poet. The fabled figures of Jonathan Harker, the archetypal innocent abroad, Mina Westerman, his anxious fiancé, the prophetic lunatic Renfield, Van Helsing and, of course, Count Dracula himself and his tragic victim Lucy are brought brilliantly to life in this adaptation for the stage which stays refreshingly close to Bram Stoker's original while grounding the whole story in a believable reality. Director Kerrin White is very excited to be involved in this production, "Dracula is a name that everyone grows up knowing, even if you've never read the novel or seen one of the many films". There have been dozens of film adaptations over the years but Kerrin says that "this play is a much more authentic portrayal of the Dracula tale than the tacky films of the 60s and 70s when camp horror was in vogue".

Dracula is essentially a gothic tale: it wasn't the first vampire tale, but it certainly created the mould for western audiences. It is the story of Count Dracula's attempt to move from Transylvania to England, the battle between Dracula and a small group of men and women led by Professor Abraham Van Helsing.

Van Helsing (played by Brian Knott) is a Dutch doctor with a wide range of interests and accomplishments, and is best known as a vampire hunter and becomes the arch-enemy of Count Dracula.

Count Dracula (played by Robert Drusetta) is a centuries-old vampire, from Transylvanian nobility who inhabits a decaying castle in the Carpathian Mountains. Unlike the vampires of Eastern European folklore, which are portrayed as repulsive, corpse-like creatures, Dracula exudes a veneer of aristocratic charm. In the Rep's production, Robert will take Dracula to new heights with



Joshua Coldwell, Lani Gerbi, Rosie Williams

his physical presence overshadowing those around him.

Jonathan Harker (Sandy Adams) is a fresh-faced solicitor who travels to Count Dracula's crumbling, remote castle in Transylvania. He is tasked with what should be a straight-forward real estate transaction, but soon realises he is being held prisoner. There are sprites in the castle, referred to in modern adaptations as the Brides of Dracula. Dracula uses Harker to obtain advice about life in England and then abandons him to the Brides. Meanwhile Dracula leaves Transylvania for London and seeks out Harker's fiancée Mina Westerman (played by Anna Bampton) and her sister Lucy (Lani Gerbi). Lucy soon comes to the notice of Count Dracula and begins to waste away suspiciously. Professor Van Helsing is called from abroad and immediately determines the cause of Lucy's condition but refuses to disclose it.

A word from the Chair

Hello and welcome to 2014! What a hot start to the year it has been. Our cast and crew for Dracula have certainly been feeling the heat, slaving away at rehearsals in the Thomas Nave Room over the summer.

Dracula looks like it will be a powerful play and we hope to attract large audiences with this classic tale. It's a play that is not for the faint-hearted and the subject matter continues to challenge us nearly 125 years since it was first written!

Staging such a classic is quite a feat and I would like to pre-emptively thank all the designers and artisans who have been working on putting this show together. The props and costume requirements for Dracula are quite unique!!

We are also looking forward to the rest of our season, which we unveiled on 8 February. The season launch was attended by a small number of members, actors and volunteers. It was a stinking hot day and I thank everyone who made the effort to attend. A special thanks to Rodger and Trish Clarke who catered the event despite having been evacuated from their home following a bushfire nearby in the Belair National Park. What troopers!

The Rep's AGM will be held on 31 March at the Arts Theatre at 7/pm. This is a public event and all subscribers and members should attend. The financial statements will be tabled and elections for a new board will be held (if required). If you are unable to attend please consider issuing a proxy who can vote on your behalf.

Penni Hamilton-Smith
Chair



AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

by Tracy Letts directed by David Sinclair

June 19 - 28

August: Osage County is set on the plains of modern day, middle-class Oklahoma. The Weston family members are all intelligent, sensitive creatures who have the uncanny ability of making each other absolutely miserable. When the patriarch of the household mysteriously vanishes, the Weston clan gathers together to simultaneously support and attack one another.

The story begins in August and the action takes place over several weeks in the home of Beverly and Violet Weston in Osage County, Oklahoma. Beverly is a poet and has a drinking problem while his wife suffers from mouth cancer and has become addicted to drugs. The story begins when Beverly is trying to hire a new live-in cook and caregiver for Violet.

A series of conflicts ensue over the next several days as Violet and Barbara have never understood each other and the other sisters and their partners are embroiled in scandals.

The text is rich with compelling characters and scintillating criticism of the modern American family. Having won the the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, along with a sway of Tony's and other Awards, it has been hailed a modern classic.

Following successful runs on Broadway and the West End, as well as touring across America; playwright Tracy Letts has adapted his drama for the silver screen. A stellar Hollywood cast has brought the play to the screen. Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts and Juliette Lewis star as the Weston family with a supporting cast including Ewan McGregor, Benedict Cumberbatch and Dermot Mulroney.

This play will run for approximately 3 hours.

Please note: Due to the length of this play, evening performances will commence at 7.30pm (rather than 8pm). The matinee will be performed on Sunday 22 June at 4pm, rather than on a Saturday

DRACULA

APRIL 3 - 12

Much of the focus of this play is on Dracula's experiences in England, particularly one in an insane asylum. It is here that Dracula comes across Renfield (Matt Houston) an insane man who feeds on insects and other creatures. Once Dracula is revealed as a vampire, this connection with Renfield will play a vital part in the coalition of vampire hunters, led by Van Helsing. Liz Lochhead's adaptation was first produced in 1985 at the Royal Lyceum in Edinburgh. It has been heralded as a feminist reading of Stoker's text, with more focus on the nuances of character and particularly the appeal of Count Dracula from a woman's perspective. Lochhead has recently acknowledged that her adaptation was influenced by Freudian psychoanalysis and symbolism.

With such a well-known text, Lochhead has admitted that it was impossible to ignore all of the re-tellings. Recently she has spoken of her influence by specific adaptations which she wove into the dialogue as subtle jokes and references to contemporary re-tellings.

Bram (Abraham) Stoker (born 1847) worked at the Lyceum Theatre in London for actor Sir Henry Irving and was a prolific writer, although his success in life was limited. Whilst some contemporaries such as Arthur Conan Doyle praised Stoker's work, he died penniless in London in 1912. In 1922 the first film adaptation was made, without authority from Stoker's estate and his widow successfully sued the filmmakers. The resulting publicity created a thirst for Stoker's works and he became more popular in death than he was in life.



Joshua Coldwell, Matthew Houston & Allison Scharber

The Cast:

Sandy Adams, Anna Bampton, Emily Burns, Lani Gerbi, Joshua Coldwell, Robert Drusetta, Therese Hornby, Matt Houston, Brian Knott, Mackinlee Martin, Peta Martin, Charlie Morman, Hannah Nicholson, Elizabeth Olssen, Benjamin Orchard, Allison Scharber, Brenton Williams and Rosie Williams.

DRINKS SPECIAL

Before the production of *Dracula*
or at interval
Buy a 'Bloody Mary' for \$7



Lani Gerbi, Anna Bampton, Peta Martin & Sandy Adams

Performances

Thursday 3 April at 8pm
Friday 4 April at 8pm
Saturday 5 April at 8pm
Wednesday 9 April at 8pm
Thursday 10 April at 8pm
Friday 11 April at 8pm
Saturday 12 April at 2pm – Matinee
Saturday 12 April at 8pm

Tickets
Adult: \$22
Concession: \$17



Season 2014

Dracula
April 3 - 12

August: Osage County
June 19-28

Misalliance
September 11-20

Tom, Dick & Harry
November 20-29

Notice of AGM

The AGM will be held on March 31 2014
with several board positions
becoming vacant.

All subscribers and financial
members are eligible to vote
at the AGM and are also
encouraged to nominate.

If you're interested in nominating
for the Board or
becoming a member,
please contact our Secretary,
Michelle Hickey
on 0402 878 495 or by email to
adelaiderep@gmail.com

wakefield hotel

Don't forget

If you're coming to the
theatre and wish to
have a meal before,
the Wakefield hotel is
offering 50% off the
2nd meal on
production of your
Rep ticket.

Diinner from 5.30

According to the Daily Mail,
Maria Agatha Franziska
Gobertina von Trapp, the
real-life, second-oldest
daughter of Georg Ludwig
von Trapp and Agatha
Whitehead von Trapp, has
passed away. She was the
last member of the von
Trapp Family Singers, who
inspired the musical and
film versions of THE
SOUND OF MUSIC. Maria
was portrayed as the
character Louisa in the
1965 film THE SOUND OF
MUSIC.

The success of Charlie and
the Chocolate Factory –
The Musical, continues in
leaps and bounds. Based
on Roald Dahl's classic
story it has been running on
the West End for almost a
year now and has been



extended until 2015. The
script is by David Greig and
songwriters Marc Shaiman
and Scott Wittman.

An interesting new twist on
an old tale

This off-west end production
of the George Orwell classic
is a new adaptation created
by Robert Icke and Duncan
Macmillan. Orwell's 1984,
published in 1949, is a
depiction of perpetual war,
pervasive government
surveillance and incessant
public mind-control. Its
ideas have become our
ideas, and Orwell's fiction is

often said to be our reality.
Filtering the spirit and the
ambition of the novel
through the lens of
contemporary culture, this
'radical new staging'
explores surveillance
culture, identity and how
thinking you can fly might
actually be the first step to
flying.

Also in London, The
Broadway Studio Theatre
Catford launches a new
adaptation of Frankenstein
by Mary Shelley this month.
It is a modern reworking of
the familiar story, looking at
the events from the
perspective of
Frankenstein's creature. As
a highly secretive
government research
laboratory aims to create
the perfect soldier,

Moore Street Car Park

undercover parking
is available from 6pm
until midnight
for \$8

\$8

The Adelaide Repertory Theatre Inc.

Patron: His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia

Vice patron: The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Stephen Yarwood

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