

# Dracula

A Dark (Biting) Comedy By

MAC WELLMAN

directed by

# PAUL BACKER

SEPTEMBER 30 to OCTOBER 3, 2010

McCLINTOCK THEATRE

IIIII MINITERIA

# **FALL 2010 SCHEDULE**

#### **RABBIT HOLE**

By David Lindsay-Abaire
Directed by Robert Bailey
Sept. 30 – Oct. 3 / Scene Dock Theatre

#### DRACULA

By Mac Wellman
Directed by Paul Backer
Sept. 30 – Oct. 3 / McClintock Theatre

#### **VENUS**

By Suzan-Lori Parks
Directed by Anita Dashiell-Sparks
Oct. 7 – 10 / Bing Theatre

#### **BE AGGRESSIVE**

By Annie Weisman
Directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera
Oct. 14 – 17 / Scene Dock Theatre

#### IS HE DEAD?

By Mark Twain Adapted by David Ives Directed by Michael Keenan Oct. 21 – 24 / McClintock Theatre

#### THE COLORED MUSEUM

By George C. Wolfe Directed by Gregg T. Daniel Oct. 28 – 31 / Scene Dock Theatre

#### TOO CLEVER BY HALF

By Alexander Ostrovsky
Directed by Brian Parsons
Nov. 4 – 7 / Bing Theatre

#### CABARET

Music by John Kander Lyrics by Fred Ebb Book by Joe Masteroff Directed by L. Zane Nov. 18 – 21 / Scene Dock Theatre

Fall Dance Concert:
AROUND THE WORLD
IN 80 MINUTES\*
Directed by Rafael Garcia
Dec. 2 & 3 / Bing Theatre











# **Ticket Information**

#### **SHOWTIMES**

(except where noted otherwise) Thursday & Friday at 7pm • Saturday at 2:30 & 8pm • Sunday at 2:30pm \*Thursday & Friday at 7pm

#### **TICKET PRICES**

General Admission \$10 • Seniors or USC Faculty/Staff with ID \$8 • USC Students with ID \$5



For tickets and information: www.usc.edu/spectrum • arts@usc.edu • 213-740-2167

#### THE USC SCHOOL OF THEATRE



A Dark (Biting) Comedy by Mac Wellman

### with

Chase Anderson-Shaw • Natalie Angiuli • Stephanie Crothers

Anna DiGiovanni • Miya Folick • Jennica Hill

Vanessa Hill • Zach Kaufer • Joey Millin

Evan Moore • Jonathan Muñoz-Proulx • Caitlin Wachs

SCENIC DESIGN

COSTUME DESIGN

LIGHTING DESIGN

Manuel Prieto

**Emily Town** 

Liza Jane

SOUND DESIGN
Philip G. Allen

STAGE MANAGER

Megan Laughlin

DIRECTED BY
Paul Backer

September 30 – October 3, 2010

McClintock Theatre

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.

The USC School of Theatre dedicates this production to the late Suzanne Grossmann (1937 – 2010), wife of former Dean Robert Scales.

# **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

(In Order of Appearance)

Mina	Jennica Hill
Lucy	Caitlin Wachs
Jonathan Harker	Jonathan Muñoz-Proulx
Dracula	. Miya Folick
Seward	Chase Anderson-Shaw
Simmons	Zach Kaufer
Quincey	Evan Moore
Van Helsing	Joey Millin
Vampyrette I	Stephanie Crothers
Vampyrette 2	Anna DiGiovanni
Vampyrette 3	Natalie Angiuli
Nun, Old Woman, Coachman	Vanessa Hill

# TIME

The last days of 1899.

# **PLACE**

Transylvania, London and Seaside at Whitby.

There will be no intermission.

#### **WARNING**

Please be advised that this production contains theatrical haze and mature themes.

# **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Technical Director	Emma Bramble
Assistant Director, Hair & Make-up Designer,	Chalana Pandallini
Choreographer	
Original Song Composer	Rachael Lawrence
Puppet Design	Shannon Dedman
Vocal & Dialect Coach	Andrea Odinov Fuller
Fight Choreography	Edgar Landa
Scenic Artists	Scott Gordon Sally Hewlett
Assistant Scenic Design	Berfyn Ataman
Assistant Costume Design	Esther Lee
Assistant Lighting Design	Omar Dana
Properties Assistant	Kelly Ridder
Crew	Dani Haberman Mayuka Ishikawa Mary Katherine Malone Sara Mardam-Bey AJ Noel Jesse Pilchen Sabrina Stoll Will Tranfo

#### **DIRECTOR'S BIO**

Dr. Paul Backer is an Associate Professor of Theatre Practice and Director of Undergraduate Voice and Movement at the USC School of Theatre. He has worked as an actor, director and in production on stage, television and film, and was the Artistic Director of the Ojai Shakespeare Festival for many years. At USC, he last directed August Strindberg's *A Dream Play*.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Mac Wellman is one of America's foremost experimental theatre playwrights, famous for use of language at the edge, and his exploration of the personal, political and outrageous. He has written over 40 plays, and is also a poet, novelist and essayist, and a co-founder of the Flea Theater in New York City. He has received numerous grants and awards, including three Obie awards, including one for Lifetime Achievement in 2003.

#### **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

Bram Stoker's Dracula was first published in 1897, but Stoker had been working on the novel for over ten years. Originally a civil servant, Stoker became a man of the theatre, working as the business manager for Henry Irving, who was England's premier actor-manager. Irving was a charismatic and controlling presence - many say the model for Dracula. One of Stoker's friends and colleagues was his fellow Irishman Oscar Wilde: in fact Stoker's wife was first courted by Wilde – she turned him down and married Stoker. Though Wellman makes key changes from the novel - most notably conflating Harker and Renfield, and the final fate of Dracula - in his own wild way he is more faithful to its spirit than most other adaptations: at least 30% of the text is lifted straight from the novel, he retains the disorienting narrative structure (using letters, diaries, interviews, telegraphs, etc.), and intensifies its chaotic tensions, social commentary, imagistic language and satiric bite. The most important addition is he lets Dracula finally speak for himself rather than only be defined by others. Dracula represents the power of transformation and the freedom to fly, both literally and figuratively. The men in the story want to categorize and kill it; the women embrace it in order to fly from the suffocating restraints of late Victorian England. Dracula is a projection of our own dark side: he feeds on life, but then so does every living creature on earth (whether plant or animal), so are we not all vampires in a way? As Dracula says, he is "clean" and "honest" – he is "pure otherness."

Chew over this. In the beginning, there was the act of biting...People are so afraid of death. But believe me, there is nothing they are more afraid of than a young girl, who is very pretty, very wanton, and knows exactly what she wants. Particularly when she is dead.

 Lucy Westenra from Wellman's Swoop, the companion vampire play to his Dracula

#### DEAN

Madeline Puzo

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Associate Professor Of Theatre Practice Jack Rowe (Artistic Director)

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Charlotte Cornwell
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Andrew J. Robinson (Director Of MFA in Acting)

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Paul Backer (Director Of Undergraduate Voice and Movement)
Brent Blair (Director Of MA in Applied Theatre Arts)
David Bridel (Associate Director Of MFA in Acting)
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Courtesy Joint Appointments: Thomas G. Cummings, Larry E. Greiner (Emeritus), Bruce Smith

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# PRODUCTION STAFF

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Properties Supervisor: Shannon Dedman

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