

PRESENTED BY THE SEMI-CIRCLE ENGLISH LANGUAGE THEATRE GROUP



The blood is the life
DRACULA

Adapted by William McNulty
Directed by Luca Manganeli

10. 11. 17. 18. 24. 25.
June 2016
Theater Rampe, Basel



Panto 2016

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Welcome from the President

Welcome to the Theater Rampe, and to Semi-Circle's very own production of Dracula, originally dramatized by John L. Balderston and Hamilton Deane from Bram Stoker's world-famous novel, as adapted by William McNulty.

Please join me in thanking every single member of the cast and crew for their hard work, dedication and commitment to this extraordinary production. In turn, we all thank you for being in the audience tonight, and for your continued support and encouragement.

We present to you the story of a vicious and unscrupulous monster, a deadly and alien invader, who thrives not only on the blood of his victims, but also on their suffering. This is the eternal battle between Good and Evil, the tale of a powerful and

charismatic Master who systematically seduces the young and beautiful, and methodically manipulates the weak.

We do not invite you to sit back, relax and enjoy the evening. Such words are inappropriate. Instead we ask you to bring an open mind, put your preconceived ideas about the Dracula story to one side, and be willing to allow yourself to believe in what you are about to see, no matter how unbelievable your brain tells you it is.

Now please, take a few minutes to sit quietly, before the sun sets, and prepare to immerse yourself fully. For this is magical – this is what they call “theatre”.

Sue Newstead
President



If you would like to get involved in...

acting, directing, stage-managing, producing,
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Contact us on info@semi-circle.ch
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**Theater Arlecchino,
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Pictures from the November 2015 production 'True Colours'.





Director's note

Luca Manganelli



"Welcome to my house. Come freely. Go safely; and leave something of the happiness you bring."

In this way Count Dracula greets the solicitor Jonathan Harker who knocks at his door. And I want to welcome you in the same way since you are going to experience the monstrous nightmare that struck upon the young Harker, his fiancée and friends. When the Semi-Circle Committee told me that I had been chosen to direct Dracula, I faced a challenge in bringing again to life the endless fascination carried by the vampire legend. The elegance and charm are still mesmerizing; the aura of mystery keeps its power; and the theme of immortality and defeat of death is more relevant than ever. The challenge has been exciting and the journey dark.

The adaptation by William McNulty is a modern re-writing of this ancient myth, coming from the original script based on Bram Stoker's story. The script, despite some liberties, is very close to the original spirit of the book with the merit of being adapted to an audience of the third millennium. In contrast to all the efforts made lately by books and movies to give to Dracula a romantic aura, we go back to the origins, looking into the Abyss for truth. There we see that Evil exists and it's a predator thirsty for blood and fear; an immortal legend that will continue to rise in any time and everywhere. Go safely. And leave something of the happiness you bring. Good night.

Luca Manganelli, Director





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Cast List



Count Dracula
Monster
Abram Van Helsing
Thomas Seward
Mina Grant
Margaret Sullivan
Norbert Briggs
Renfield
Lucy Westphal
Jonathan Harker
The Brides

Vampires/Lunatics

The Child
The Second Child

Luca Manganelli
Alice Ginger Zagato
Richard Brown
John Hyland
Janine Jakob
Beatrix Castellote-Iselin
Hansueli Müller
Melissa Magarici
Georgia Byrne
Saurabh Sinha
Barbara Bekalska,
Emily Kay,
Fiona Müller
Caroline Hackett,
Chloe Bernard,
Ioana Luciu,
Morgan Limbaugh
Viola Arcuri
Marilu' Cirillo

Synopsis

Professor Van Helsing and his brave comrades must hunt down and destroy the profoundly evil Count Dracula. But the Count is exceedingly resourceful, employing superhuman strength, psychic powers, and shape-changing to confound and frustrate his antagonists. Many dreadful things happen in this story: a young man drives a stake through the heart of his beloved; a woman begins to lose her true self and descend into bestiality; yet another woman's mind is completely destroyed and she becomes a helpless slave. Culminating in a wild and shocking confrontation between the King of Vampires and those who would rid the world of him, this adaptation is an action-packed, blood-soaked retelling of Bram Stoker's classic tale of horror. In this version there is nothing romantic about Dracula; he is a vicious and unscrupulous monster who thrives on the blood of his victims and on their suffering. This is a confrontation between Good and Evil as wild and bloody as in the best horror tradition.



ACT I
INTERVAL 15min
ACT II





Monster

Alice Ginger Zagato

I grew up in Milan where I studied biology while working in the glitzy world of art and fashion, and then decided it was time for a change. I moved to Vienna, studied Traditional Chinese Medicine in Southern China and Switzerland, and Shiatsu and Neuro-Linguistic Programming in Milan (not necessarily in that order). I lost interest in theatre completely after watching a particularly bad show in Milan, but regained my love for it while working with Silvia Barbieri and studying method acting at the ZES (Zentrum für Entwicklung im Schauspiel). My therapy practice in Basel has been expanding since 2008.



Van Helsing

Richard Brown

I have been acting in, directing and producing plays for Semi-Circle and the Basel English Panto for the last eight years. My previous roles for Semi-Circle have been as Brian in 'Shadow Box', Lucky Eric in 'Bouncers', Max Fischy in 'Outsourced' and Mr Grey in 'RENT'. Also for Semi-Circle, I have directed 'Night' by Harold Pinter and 'Jerry Springer is God'. I was President of the Club from 2010 to 2014.





The Cast

Dracula Luca Manganelli

I began acting 11 years ago, following a 3-year course in Italy, and then became a member and vice-president of an Italian theatre association. In Basel, I have the honour of being on the Semi-Circle Committee and I was in the cast of Calendar Girls in 2014. I have played in many comedies and dramas and in several children's play as well; I was also part of a clown therapy group working in hospitals. Being an actor and director simultaneously is an exciting new challenge!



Dr. Seward John Hyland

I have spent the last 22 years of my life in Switzerland. My first stage experience was in 1999 with a Semi-Circle production and I haven't looked back since. During the last 17 years I have been involved with various Basel-based theatre groups as Cast, Director, Writer and Crew.





Mina Janine Jakob

A media & communication expert and hobby sailor; I am doing my PhD in social history at Basel University on the subject of women's fashion of the 17th and 18th centuries. I work as a freelance journalist for daily newspapers at the Lake of Zurich in Canton Schwyz, where I originally come from. I adore being creative in all sorts of ways such as cooking and decorating, and I have a passion for sweet (not just chocolate) and pretty things – look at my dress tonight!



Margaret Sullivan Beatrix Castellote-Iselin

After playing theatre as a student (long, long ago!) I only started again in 2010 in the Swiss German open air productions of Livia Anne Richard in Bern, though always in a British or American role, and later in the English theatre 'The Caretakers'. The first thing I did even before moving to Basel was to apply for Semi-Circle membership and audition for a part in 'Dracula'. Being too old for a virgin and not bloodthirsty enough for a vampire, I got the part of the doctor's assistant.





Briggs Hansueli Müller

Having been a faithful supporter of the Semi-Circle as a member of the audience for many a year, I suddenly find myself (or rather Mr Briggs) on stage in the midst of the action and in a very disquieting atmosphere. However to be truthful, it is not the first time I've tried my hand at some acting, but formerly it was in Swiss German.



Renfield Melissa Magarici

I have worked in theatre, film and radio for most of my life. I am also a kite-surfer instructor, sailor, diver and rock climber. At the moment I enjoy teaching English to young kids, and being abused by an immortal Count from Transylvania.





The Brides

Barbara Bekalska

I have been living in Switzerland for the last 3 years, and this is my first performance with Semi-Circle. I have been acting previously in Ireland in small productions in my home town of Wexford. I learned all of my acting/ growling skills in Carmel Corish School of Speech and Drama in Wexford.



Emily Kay

I moved to Basel in January after spending several years living around the world. The last time I was involved in theatre seems a lifetime ago, when I was at university. However, I'm so glad to have become a part of this Dracula production. If you don't find me on stage, I'll probably be hunting out Basel's vegan restaurants and practicing my 'sultry' walk.



Fiona Müller

I've always been interested in acting. I played various roles at school and in an amateur group. I did some courses about acting in Vancouver and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow. For a long time I was too scared to even go for an audition in the Semi-Circle and wow – now I am in it! It's vampirastic!!





Lucy Georgia Byrne

I began acting at the age of 12 when I lived in England, after having being accepted as a member of the prestigious Lowry Young Actors Company, Salford. It's always been a great passion of mine and since then I have performed in many shows, both amateur and professional, including the National Theatre connections and performing for Upstart Entertainment and now for Semi-Circle.



Jonathan Harker Saurabh Sinha

The first time I stepped on stage, it was 25 years back and I was in 2nd standard grade. I was the lead 'dog' in the play. Little did I know then that those blinding lights, perspiring palms and eager eyes of the audience, would be addictive. Since then, I have done plays and musicals in India, US and Europe; the last one being 'Sand To The Egyptians' with Semi-Circle in 2015.





Morgan Limbaugh

I have been acting for 6 years in many different performances, most being comedy and musicals. This is my first serious performance and it was such a great experience. Although after all the screaming that went into the practice I don't think I will be able to speak again! I hope you enjoy!



Ioana Luciu

My passion for theatre started with the first play I saw in Bucharest – such an interactive, unpredictable and magical experience. When I am not on the stage, I am in the laboratory, researching new materials or doing scientific experiments with kids and adults.

The Child

Viola Arcuri

My name is Viola and I'm an eight-year-old kid. I love lyrics and I sing in the Kinderchor Confuoco at the Music Academy of Basel. During my short artistic life I did one theatre course at the QuBa (Quartierzentrum Bachletten, Basel), played the role of hyena in the 'Lion King' in an amateur show and last but not least two fashion shows. I do not miss any opportunity to get on a stage every time I find one.





Lunatics/Vampires

Caroline Hackett

Currently a student at the Biozentrum, this is my first time on stage. Happy to be a part of Semi-Circle, Basel!



Chloe Bernard

I was born in Edinburgh and grew up in Hertfordshire where I was a member of the Barn Theatre Company and took part in various theatre play and music theatre productions: 'Great Expectations', 'The Music Man', 'Oliver' and 'The Wizard of Oz'. I moved to Alsace at the age of 11 and am now 15 years old. I appeared in the last Basel Panto 'Young King Arthur'.



The second Child

Marilu' Cirillo

I'm Marilu', a seven-year-old energetic small girl. This will be my first official theatre experience even though I'm used to entertaining my family with shower singing and stomp-like dancing. I'm looking forward to this exciting experience!!





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Director	Luca Manganelli
Producer	Sue Newstead
Stage Managers	Tanja Spichty, Kirsten Gräser
Light, sound & special effects	Andreas Stahl
Publicity	David Laurie
Set design & art director	Dragana Blaser
Set Construction	Jon Apted, Mark Stanbrook
Costume design	Luca Manganelli, Dragana Blaser
Costume making	Valeria Wenger, Claudia Ott
Props	Tanja Spichty, Scott Holland
Publicity artwork concept & design	Jasmin Kossenjans
Publicity support	Janine Jakob, Clara Demin
Photographer	Davide Germano
Make-up	Helen Baldomero, Jan Hawley, Kathy Limbaugh, Francesca Rucci, Elena Degl'Innocenti
Fight Director	Richard Brown
Stage Hands	Peter James, Judith Mechias, Dragan Gelev
Videos	Davide Spina
Music	Luca Manganelli
Front of House Manager	Mike Bray
Box office	Suzan Wilson
Catering	Gourmets in the Hood

Acknowledgements and Thanks:

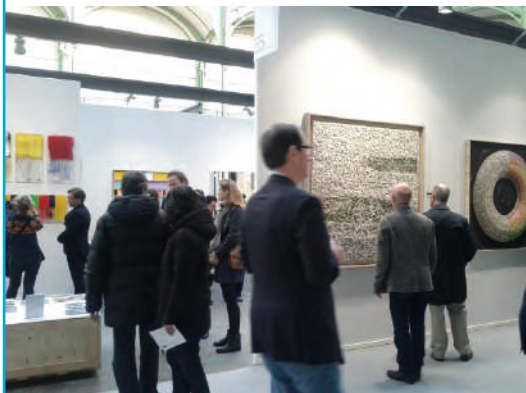
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