



DRACULA

A COMEDY OF TERRORS

BY GORDON GREENBERG AND STEVE ROSEN

AUDITION PACKET

Audition Dates:

August 10 @ 7:00pm

August 11 @ 7:00pm

August 12 @ 7:00pm [callbacks if needed]

Performance Dates:

October 23, 24, 29, 30, 31 @ 7:30pm

October 25 @ 2:00pm



Synopsis

When her sister Mina falls ill with a mysterious disease of the blood, Lucy Westfeldt and her fiancé Jonathan Harker, enlist the help of famed female vampire hunter Dr. Jean Van Helsing. Their hunt for the dangerous and sexy count Dracula abounds with clever wordplay and quick-change antics. This lightning fast, laugh-out-loud, gender-bending romp “very loosely based on the novel Dracula by Bram Stoker” is a combination of what would happen if the legendary vampire tale was put into a blender with Mel Brooks, Monty Python, and The 39 Steps!

A Note About This Production

My vision for this show is inspired by comic performances from Monty Python and Mel Brooks, especially Young Frankenstein, just to name a couple. Feel free to seek out YouTube videos of either of those shows for inspiration. I want you to give “good face.” As is typical in most comedy, sometimes the joke lies within the facial expression given to the audience. Something as simple as a perfect eyebrow raise or a manic laugh at an inappropriate moment. Impeccable comic timing is a must. Knowing when a pause will only build the laughter is a bonus. Don’t hold back.

– Colleen Hill Rakunas, Director

Production Leadership Team

Director: Colleen Hill-Rakunas
Stage Manager: Stephanie Johnston
Asst Stage Manager: Rio Lopez-Wild
Set Design: Matt McCormick
Costume Design: Kathy Verstraete
Sound Design: Nik VanWagner
Light Design: Bill Fishburn
Props: Bernadette Groppuso and Nan Worthington
Set Dressing: Betsy Willis
Creators: Elizabeth Stewart and Mindy Cotner
Set Build Leads: Kerr Anderson and Jeff Kroeger
Dialect Coach: Chelsea Kaye

What to Prepare for Auditions

Auditions will be held in the lower level of Old Town Playhouse (148 E. Eighth Street, Traverse City, MI 49684). As this is a Main Stage show with adult humor, anyone aged 16+ is welcome to audition. Feel free to bring a water bottle. We ask that you silence your cell phone prior to auditions / callbacks.

[Click here for some scenes/sides to read so you can show off your comedic chops.](#) Please note that people of all races, gender identities, and abilities are encouraged to audition for this inclusive and collaborative production. A solid RP British accent is used by every character, along with numerous other dialects. They do not need to be perfect, but please do try any accent given to you. Possible accents are: RP British, Scottish, Texan, Irish, Cockney, Sea Captain, German, European.

This play traditionally requires only five actors to play over a dozen roles. Casting focuses heavily on comedic timing, physicality, quick-changes, and the ability to satirize traditional gothic tropes.

[Sign-up online using this link!](#) There will be availability to sign up at the audition, but this will give you time to really consider your answers and be very helpful for us so we know who to expect! You will be able to edit your answers right up until the moment we start auditions on the night you are there.

If you cannot attend either of the first two audition days, please fill out the form anyway and indicate as such. If you are unable to make the callbacks, please let us know that as well. We will contact you to figure out how we can see you before we cast the show.

REHEARSALS

First all cast and production team meeting will take place on Sunday, August 16th from 5pm-8pm in the lower level of OTP.

Rehearsals will largely depend on availability of the cast. In general, rehearsal times will be scheduled on Sundays - Thursdays, between 6:45 - 9:00 PM (though Sundays may start earlier) until tech week.

All cast will not necessarily be called every night.

Tech week is October 18-22. Rehearsal on Tech Sunday, October 18th, will begin early afternoon. We will run full dress rehearsals throughout that week as needed (call time around 6pm) during and later exit times are possible.

Everyone **MUST** keep the week of Tech Week, Oct 18-22, and all performances, free of conflicts. Call times may vary depending on how long your character needs for hair/make-up, but a good rule of thumb is 6:00 PM for night performances and 12:30 PM for matinee performances.

Strike will be on November 1st if there is no extension. ALL cast and crew are expected to help at strike.

****We also request you keep the full day open on Saturday performance dates in case of an added matinee. You will need to indicate a definitive list of conflicts on the audition form. This play requires a tight, collaborative schedule.**

Scheduling Conflicts

PLEASE include all known and reasonably anticipated conflicts that exist or might arise with rehearsals (vacations, work trips, special events, etc). With only 5 actors in the cast, we require that actors do not have any conflicts during performances.

Additional FAQ:

Q. When will the cast list go up?

A. We will attempt to contact the cast no later than Friday, August 14th

Q. Will I hear something if I am not cast prior to the cast list being published?

A. We will email everyone who auditions prior to the cast list being published.

Q. When will the cast list be published?

A. We will make the cast list public after the cast has been offered and accepted their roles AND we have emailed everyone who came to audition.

Sign Up & Contact Info

Audition Sign-Up:

Please sign up for auditions via the [Old Town Playhouse website](#).

Questions & Contact:

If you have any questions about the audition process, rehearsal schedule, or the production itself, please contact the director, Colleen Hill-Rakunas at colleenrakunas@yahoo.com.

Additional Information:

Further details, including rehearsal schedules and any updates, will be communicated to cast members after auditions.

Character Descriptions

Dracula: Male, late 20's to 30's

Commanding European dialect. Hugely sexy, magnetically handsome, rock star presence with a killer body, he is a narcissist whose greatest love is himself – and his leather pants. Ironically lonely. He travels to Whitby to find his obsession, Lucy, steal her from Jonathan, whom he also fancies, and make her his bride for eternity. Dracula is attracted to anyone that he finds beautiful or alluring regardless of sex. Any actor who does not feel they meet the physical suggestions for this role must act as if they are confident that they do.

Actor One: all genders (plays male)

Jonathan Harker - RP British dialect. Prim and proper and obsessive compulsive real estate agent, frightened of his own shadow. Engaged to his childhood crush, Lucy Westfeldt and enamored of her fearlessness. Once bitten he loosens up... a lot... And becomes a Tom Jones-style rock star in leather pants.

Lord Cavendish, Lord Worthington, Lord Havemercy - Lord Cavendish is a Scottish dolt. Lord Worthington is posh and petulant with an RP British dialect. Lord Havemercy is arrogant, from Memphis with a Texas accent à la Yosemite Sam. All three are suitors attracted to Lucy. Actor One will portray all three simultaneously via puppet heads.

Bosun - Irish dialect. A scurvy sea man who goes down with the ship in a storm.

Gravedigger - cockney dialect. A drunk gravedigger with a secret.

Actor Two: all genders (plays male)

Dr Wallace Westfeldt - RP British dialect. Lucy and Mina's father, a blowhard; self-important misogynist given to proclamations and posturing with his pipe. A doctor caring for the criminally insane, he has recently lost his wife to consumption.

Renfield - Cockney dialect and salivary issues. Insane patient of Dr. Westfeldt who lives to serve and loves to eat bugs. In a word, the dude is nuts.

Sea Captain - Sea Captain dialect. The salty Captain of a doomed ship caught in a raging storm.

Actor Three: Female, 20's to 30's

Lucy Westfeldt - RP British dialect. Brilliant, plucky earth scientist daughter of Dr. Westfeldt, she is full of energy and the spirit of adventure and often underestimated because of her beauty. Engaged to Jonathan, but when Dracula moves to Whitby, she is curious about his strange ways and impressed by their similar interests.

Kitty Rutherford - cockney dialect. Older. A dotty kleptomaniac patient of Dr. Westfeldt, she serves as a maid in his house. Think Mrs. Lovett but servile and easily distracted.

Driver - Eastern European or Russian dialect. The male Transylvanian driver of the carriage carrying Jonathan to Dracula's castle, who tries to warn him. Borat meets Boris and Natasha.

Actor Four: all genders (plays female)

Mina Westfeldt - RP British dialect. The less attractive, less intelligent Westfeldt daughter; she lives in her sister Lucy's shadow and is desperate for attention. She is immediately pathetically receptive to Dracula's charms.

Dr. Van Helsing - German dialect a la Mel Brooks. Brilliant and sturdy German vampire-hunting doctor from the University of Schmutz. Deadly serious in the way Germans can be, she is accustomed to people not believing she is a real doctor. Strong, shmart, unt bold, she is a woman of action.

Crew: members of the stage crew in this production will be used in various ways on stage. If you don't get cast, consider volunteering for stage crew.

Old Town Playhouse Code of Conduct Information

The Old Town Playhouse Production Manual provides everything from contact lists to job descriptions, procedures, and everything else you need to know. [Click here to review the Production Manual before auditions.](#)

Discrimination, Harassment, and Intimidation

OTP is committed to maintaining an environment which fosters respect among all staff and volunteers. Unlawful discrimination, harassment, and intimidation undermines the integrity of our working relationships and disrupts the operation and management of OTP and our productions, events, and activities.

Accordingly, OTP will not tolerate any form of unlawful discrimination, harassment, or intimidation which is based upon a person's race, religion, disability, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, height, weight, marital status, veteran status, or any other basis protected by applicable law.

OTP expects all of its staff and volunteers (including but not limited to cast and crew members, and members of any production management team) to conduct themselves with dignity and with respect for fellow staff, volunteers, the general public, and others. We each have the right to work and participate in an environment free from discrimination, harassment, and intimidation. Any staff members or volunteers who witness or are subjected to any form of unlawful discrimination, harassment, or intimidation should immediately report such conduct to the Artistic Director or Executive Director.

All claims of unlawful discrimination, harassment, or intimidation will be promptly investigated, and appropriate remedial action will be taken, up to and including dismissal or replacement, when warranted by the circumstances. To the extent feasible, complaints will be handled confidentially.

Concerns can be raised in good faith without fear of reprisal or retaliation. OTP prohibits retaliation against a staff member or volunteer for making a good faith complaint under this policy or assisting in a complaint investigation.

Attitude and Professionalism

Frequently, the first or only person a patron has contact with at Old Town Playhouse is a volunteer. As ambassadors for Old Town Playhouse, it is essential that volunteers are professional, accessible, and welcoming. This is true for not only patrons, but also staff and fellow volunteers.

As a cross-section of the community, we're all coming from different places and beliefs. Once together at OTP we are working toward a common goal.

With this in mind, OTP expects all volunteers to comply with the following and promote a positive OTP environment:

- Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Comply with all applicable laws.
- Exhibit a spirit of professionalism.
- Be prepared for rehearsals, if applicable.
- Be open to receiving supportive and constructive feedback.
- Address conflict, if any, in a respectful and professional manner.
- Work together to keep OTP a place where people can learn, grow, and have fun.