

Spotlight Studios Auditions – **Dracula**

Thank you for auditioning for the Spotlight Performing Arts production of *Dracula*. We really appreciate your time and talent! Please be patient as we assemble the cast list. We will send an email if you are to be offered a part. Please understand that we have a limited number of parts to fill. Depending on audition turn-out, not everyone who auditions will be cast. We hope this doesn't deter you from audition for future shows and we thank you for your understanding.

If you have questions, please call Director John Barthelmes at 585-305-4767 or email him at johnb@SpotlightArts.com.

All rehearsals take place at Spotlight Studios for the Performing Arts (3 Railroad Street in Fairport). Not all cast members will be called to every rehearsal. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be emailed to the cast.

Two performances are to be held: At the Spotlight Studios in Fairport, 3 Railroad Street in Fairport
Friday October 26 at 7:00 PM
Saturday October 27 at 7:00 PM

Synopsis

Lucy Seward, whose father is the doctor in charge of an English sanatorium, has been attacked by some mysterious illness. Dr. Van Helsing, a specialist, believes that the girl is the victim of a vampire, a sort of ghost that goes about at night sucking blood from its victims. The vampire is at last found to be a certain Count Dracula, whose ghost is finally laid to rest in a striking and novel manner.

Characters (6m, 2f – please note gender of characters can be changed)

DRACULA - a tall, mysterious man; polished and distinguished; continental in appearance and manner; age 50

MAID - an attractive young girl

HARKER - a young man of about 25; handsome in appearance, a typical Englishman of the Public School class, but in manner direct, explosive, incisive, and excitable

DR. SEWARD - an alienist of about 55; intelligent, but a typical specialist who lives in a world of text books and patients, not a man of action or force of character

ABRAHAM VAN HELSING - a man of medium height in his early 50s, with a clean-shaven, astute face; has a nervous, alert manner, an air of resolution; clearly a man of resourceful action with incisive speech

RENFIELD - repulsive youth; face distorted, shifty eyes, tousled hair

ATTENDANT - dressed in uniform

LUCY - a beautiful girl of 20, her face unnaturally pale; she walks with difficulty and wears a scarf around her throat

Audition Scene 1: John Harker and Dr. Seward

HARKER: Doctor Seward. What is it? Why have you sent for me?

SEWARD: My dear John. I told you in my wire there was nothing new.

HARKER: You said "no change, don't worry," but to "come at once".

SEWARD: And you lost no time.

HARKER: I jumped in the car and burned up the road from London. Oh, Doctor, surely there must be something *more* we can do for Lucy. I'd give my life gladly if it would save her.

SEWARD: I'm sure you would, my boy. You love her with the warm blood of youth, but don't forget I love my daughter, too. She's all I have. You must see that nothing medical science can suggest has been left undone.

HARKER: Medical science couldn't do much for Mina. Poor Mina.

SEWARD: Yes, poor Mina. She died after these same incredible symptoms that my Lucy has developed.

HARKER: My Lucy too.

SEWARD: Our Lucy, then. *(A wild maniacal laugh is heard off stage)*

HARKER: Good God, what was that?

SEWARD: Only Renfield. A patient of mine.

HARKER: But you never keep violent patients here in your sanatorium. Lucy mustn't be compelled to listen to raving madmen.

SEWARD: I quite agree, and I'm going to have him sent away. Until just lately he was always quiet. I'll be sorry to lose him. An unusual case. Zoophagous.

HARKER: What's that?

SEWARD: A life-eating maniac. He thinks that by absorbing lives he can prolong his own life.

HARKER: Good Lord!

SEWARD: Catches flies and eats them. And by way of change, he feeds flies to spiders. Fattens them up. Then he eats the spiders.

Audition Scene 2: Dr. Seward and Van Helsing

SEWARD: My dear Van Helsing, I can never repay you for this.

VAN HELSING: Were it only a patient of yours instead of your daughter, I would have come. You once rendered me a service.

SEWARD: Don't speak of that. You'd have done it for me. Let me give you something to eat.

VAN HELSING: I dined on the boat train. I do not waste time when there is work to do.

SEWARD: Ah, Van Helsing, you cast the old spell on me. I lean on you before you have been two minutes in my house.

VAN HELSING: You wrote of your daughter's symptoms. Tell me more of the other young lady, the one who died.

SEWARD: Poor Mina Weston. She was a girl Lucy's age. They were inseparable. She was on a visit here when she fell ill. As I wrote you, she just grew weaker, day by day she wasted away. But there were no anemic symptoms, her blood was normal when analyzed.

VAN HELSING: You said you performed transfusions.

SEWARD: Yes, Sir William Briggs ordered that. You see this mark? Well, Lucy herself, and her fiancé, John Harker, gave their blood as well.

VAN HELSING: So – three transfusions – and the effect?

SEWARD: She rallied after each. The color returned to her cheeks, but the next morning she would be pale and weak again. She complained of *bad dreams*. Ten days ago we found her in a stupor from which nothing would rouse her. She – died.

VAN HELSING: And – the other symptoms?

SEWARD: None, except those two little marks on the throat that I wrote you about.

VAN HELSING: And which perhaps brought me here so quickly. What were they like?

SEWARD: Just two little white dots with red centers. We decided she must have run a safety pin through the skin of her throat, trying in her delirium to fasten a scarf or shawl.

VAN HELSING: Perhaps. And your daughter's symptoms are the same?

SEWARD: Precisely. She too speaks of bad dreams. Van Helsing, you've lived in the tropics. May this not be something alien to our medical experience in England?

VAN HELSING: (*Grimly*) It may indeed, my friend.

Audition Scene 3: John Harker and Lucy

HARKER: Why, I thought that you were here, Lucy.

LUCY: John, do you think this new man will be any better than the others?

HARKER: I'm sure he will. Anyway Lucy, now that I'm back I'm going to stay with you till you till you get over this thing.

LUCY: Oh, John. But can you? Your work in town?

HARKER: You come first.

LUCY: I – don't think you'd better stay, John. Sometimes – I feel that I want to be alone.

HARKER: My dear. How can you say that you don't want me with you when you're so ill? You love me, don't you?

LUCY: Yes John, with all my soul.

HARKER: Just as soon as you're well enough I'm going to take you away. We'll be married next month. We won't wait till June. We'll stretch that honeymoon month to three months and the house will be ready in July.

LUCY: John, you think we could?

HARKER: Of course, why not? My mother wanted us to wait, but she'll understand, and I want to get you away. (*Starts to kiss her. She shudders as he does so*) – Why do you shrink when I kiss you?

LUCY: Forgive me, dear. I am yours, all yours. Oh John, I'm so tired – so tired.

Audition Scene 4: John Harker, Dracula and Lucy

DRACULA: Gentlemen – Miss Seward, how are you? You are looking more yourself this evening.

LUCY: I feel better already, Count, now that father's old friend has come to help me.

DRACULA: A most distinguished scientist, whose name we know even in the wilds of Transylvania. But I interrupt a consultation.

HARKER: Not at all Count. It's good of you to come, and we appreciate your motives. Doctor Seward has told me of your offer, and I can't thank you enough.

DRACULA: It is nothing. I should be grateful to be permitted to help Miss Lucy in any way.

LUCY: But you do, Count. I look forward to your visits. They seem to make me better.

DRACULA: You encourage me, Miss Seward, to make them more frequent, as I should like to.

LUCY: I am always glad to see you.

DRACULA: Ah, but you have been lonely here. And my efforts to amuse you with our old tales will no longer have the same success, now that you have Professor Van Helsing with you, and especially now that Mr. Harker is to remain here.

HARKER: How did you know I was going to stay, Count?

DRACULA: Can the gallant lover ask such a question? I inferred it, my friend.

HARKER: You're right. Nothing is going to shift me now until Lucy's fit as a fiddle again.

DRACULA: Nothing?

LUCY: Please come as before, Count, won't you?

Audition Scene 5: The Maid and The Attendant

ATTENDANT: Excuse me Miss. Did you 'appen to have seen anything of the Guv'ner's pet looney? 'E's out again, 'e is.

MAID: And what would he be doing here? You'll not hold your job, you won't, if you can't keep that mane safe and sound. Why, he gets out every night.

ATTENDANT: 'Ere, don't go, Miss.

MAID: Miss Lucy's asked for the evening paper. (*Attendant looks out of window, then under couch*) Well, have you found him?

ATTENDANT: No, I 'aven't. And I'll tell you, Miss, this job is fair gettin' on my nerves.

MAID: Your nerves? And what about my nerves? Isn't it enough to have dogs howling every night and foreign counts bobbing up out of the floor, and Miss Lucy taking on the way she does, with everybody having their veins drained of blood for her, and this Dutch Sherlock Holmes with the X-ray eyes about, without you letting that Renfield loose?

ATTENDANT: I 'aven't let 'im loose. Just now I 'ears a noise like a wolf 'owling. I opens 'is door with me key, and what do I see but 'is legs goin' through the window as though 'e was goin' to climb down that smooth wall.

MAID: Climb down the wall?

ATTENDANT: I don't expect no one to believe it, but I seen it, and what's more, I grabbed 'old of 'is feet, I did.

MAID: (*laughs unbelievably*) Climbing down, head first, like a bat?

ATTENDANT: Queer you mentioning bats, for just as I got 'old of 'im, a bat flies in the window and 'its me in the face.

MAID: (*mysteriously*) I know where that bat came from.

ATTENDANT: You do? Where?

MAID: Out of your belfry!

Audition Scene 6: The Maid and Dracula

DRACULA: Forgive me, my footfall is not heavy, and your rugs are soft.

MAID: It's all right, sir – but how did you come in?

DRACULA: (*smiling*) The door of this room was ajar, so I did not knock. How is Miss Lucy and her nervous prostration?

MAID: I think she's better, sir.

DRACULA: Ah, good. But the strain of Miss Lucy's illness has made you also ill.

MAID: How did you know sir? But it's only a pain in my head that runs down into the neck.

DRACULA: I can remove this pain.

MAID: I don't understand sir.

DRACULA: Such pains yield readily to suggestion.

MAID: Excuse me, sir, but if it's hypnotism you mean, I'd rather have the pain.

DRACULA: Ah, you think of hypnotism as an ugly waving of arms and many passes. That is not my method. (*waving his hand in front of her face*) What is given can be taken away. From now on you have no pain. And you have no will of your own. Do you hear me?

MAID: I hear you.

DRACULA: When you awake you will not remember what I say. Doctor Seward ordered you today to sleep with our mistress every night in the same bed because of her bad dreams. Is it not so?

MAID: Yes, Master.

DRACULA: Your mistress is threatened by horror and by death, but I will save her. A man whose will is at cross purposes with mine has come to this house. I will crush him. Receive your orders. You hear me?

MAID: Yes, Master.

DRACULA: Hear and obey. From now on you will carry out any suggestion that reaches you from my brain instantly without question. When I will you to do a thing it shall be done. My call will reach you soon.

Audition Scene 7: Renfield and Professor Van Helsing

VAN HELSING: Renfield! You've been here all the time we've been talking. Did you hear what we were saying man?

RENFIELD: Yes, I hear – something – enough. Be guided by what he says. It is your only hope. It is her only hope. It is *my* only hope. (*falls on knees begging*) Save my soul! Save my soul! I am weak. You are strong. I am crazy. You are sane. You are good and he is evil.

VAN HELSING: I will save you, Renfield, but you must tell me what you know. Everything.

RENFIELD: Know? What should I know? I don't know anything. You say I'm mad and Doctor Seward will tell you about that. You mustn't pay any attention to anything I say.

VAN HELSING: We can't waste time. I'll have you taken away.

RENFIELD: Fool, fool and I thought you were wise. The whole world is mad just now, and if you want help you must come to a madman to get it. But I'll not give it to you, I'm afraid. A wise madman will obey him who is strong and not the weak.

VAN HELSING: Him? Whom do you mean?

RENFIELD: Need we mention names among friends? Come, Professor, be reasonable. What have I got to gain by being on your side? The Doctor keeps me shut up all day, and if I'm good he gives me a little sugar to spread out for my flies, but on the other hand, if I serve him –

VAN HELSING: The blood is the life, eh Renfield? What have you to do with Count Dracula?!

RENFIELD: Dracula. (*convulsed with terror*) I never even heard the name before.

VAN HELSING: You are lying.

RENFIELD: Madmen, Professor, lack the power to discriminate between truth and falsehood – so I take no offence at what most men would consider an affront. Send me away. I asked you to before and you wouldn't. If you only knew what has happened since then. I dare not tell you more. I dare not. I should die in torment if I betrayed -

Audition Scene 8: Lucy and John Harker

HARKER: Lucy, darling, you mustn't mind that poor, crazed Renfield.

LUCY: (*with a low laugh*) I don't. He amuses me.

HARKER: Oh Lucy, how can you? The poor devil. Thank God it will soon be dawn now.

LUCY: Dawn. The ebb tide of life. I hate the dawn. How can people like daylight? At night I am really alive. The night was made to enjoy life, and love – Come to me, John. My own John.

HARKER: Lucy, I'm so happy that you are better and strong again –

LUCY: I've never been so well – so full of vitality. I was only a poor, washed-out, pale creature. I don't know what made you love me, John. There was no reason why you should. But there is *now*.

HARKER: I worship you.

LUCY: Then tell me something, John. If you love me, you'll tell me what your plans are with Van Helsing.

Now don't turn away from me again.

HARKER: You made me promise that I wouldn't tell you – anything.

LUCY: Oh, but I release you from your promise. There now. What were you and Father and the funny Professor doing all day?

HARKER: I can't tell you. I promised.

LUCY: (*Angrily*) You say you love me, but you don't trust me.

HARKER: I would trust you with my life, my soul.

LUCY: Then prove it. What were you doing – over there in Carfax Castle? With the hammer and the horrible iron stake. (*pause, no answer from Harker*) You don't think I'm asking you because – I'm just trying to find out whether you really love me. (*pause, still no answer*) SO you try to hide your schemes and your plots. Afraid I'd give them away, are you? You fools. Whatever *he* wants to know, he finds out for himself. He knows what you do. He knows what you think. He knows everything.

HARKER: Lucy! (*Lucy collapses into Harker's arms*)

Audition Scene 9: Dracula, Van Helsing and John Harker

DRACULA: My friends, I regret I was not present to receive your calls at my house.

VAN HELSING: Four minutes until sunrise.

DRACULA: Your watch is correct, Professor.

VAN HELSING: Your life in death has reached its end.

DRACULA: Its end? Not yet, Professor. I have still more than three minutes to add to my five hundred years.

HARKER: And three minutes from now you'll be in hell, where a thousand years of agony will not bring you one second nearer the end of your punishment.

VAN HELSING: Silence, Harker. Miss Lucy forbade this. She asked for prayer, and for pity. (*To Dracula*) Make your peace with God, Man-That-Was. We are not your judges – we know not how this curse may have come upon you.

DRACULA: (*Furiously*) You fools! You think with your wafers, your wolf's bane, you can destroy me. Me, the king of my kind? You shall see. Five of my earth boxes you have polluted. Have you found the sixth?

VAN HELSING: You cannot reach your sixth refuge now. Take your true form as Werewolf if you will. Your fangs may rend us, but we have each sworn to keep you here – for two minutes and a half, when you must collapse and we can make an end.

DRACULA: *You keep me?* Fools, listen and let my words ring in your deathbeds. I go, I go to sleep in my box for a hundred years. You have accomplished that much against me, Van Helsing. But in a century I shall wake, and call my bride to my side from her tomb, My Lucy, My Queen. I have other brides of old times who await me in their vaults in Transylvania. But I shall set her above them all.

HARKER: Should you escape, we know how to save Lucy's soul, if not her life.

DRACULA: Ah, the stake. Yes, but only if she dies by day. I shall see that she dies by night. She shall come to an earth box of mine at her death and await her master. To do to her what you did to my Mina, Van Helsing, you must find her body, and that you will not.

HARKER: Then she shall die by day.

DRACULA: You will kill her? You lack the courage, you poor rat of flesh and blood.

VAN HELSING: Silence, John – he is doomed. This is his revenge. He hopes to trouble us – afterwards. Thirty seconds.

DRACULA: I thank you for reminding me the time.