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Count Dracula

Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department

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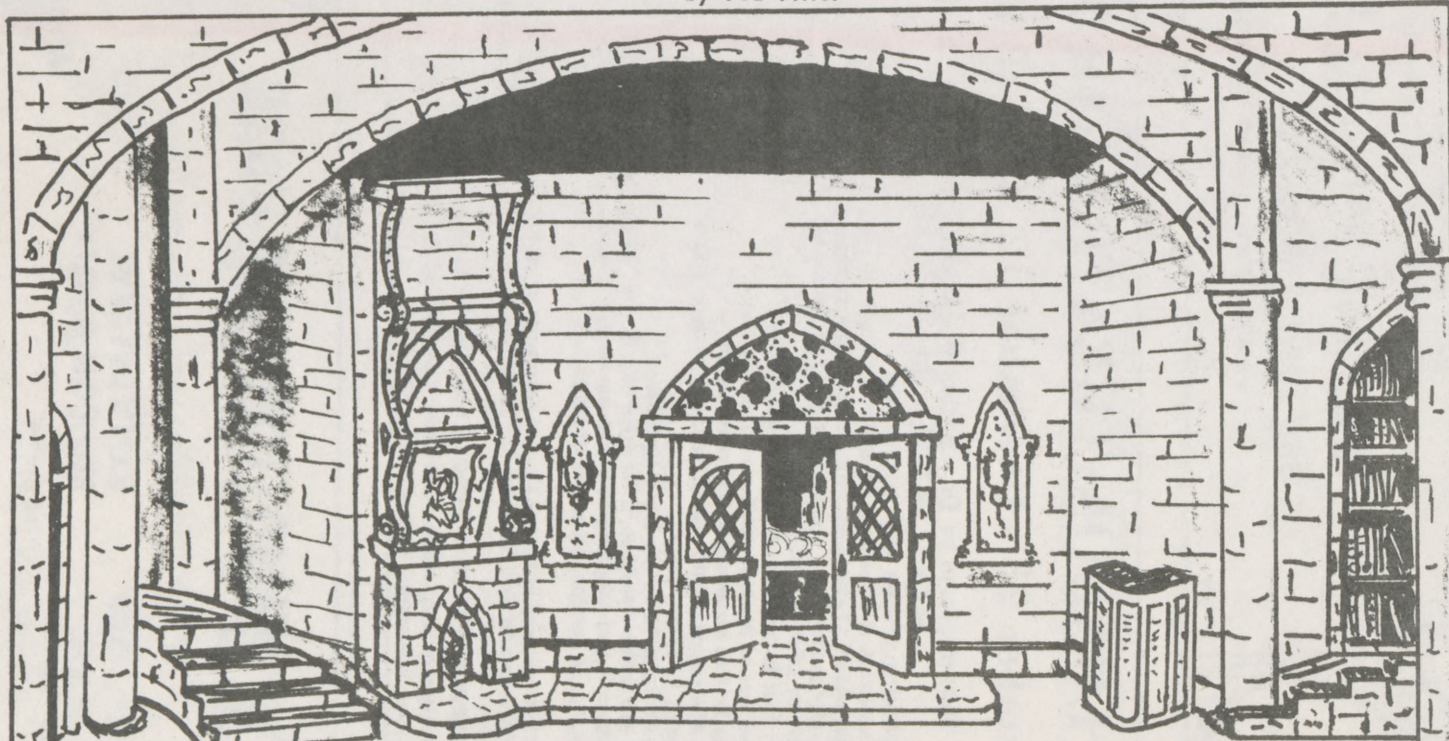
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OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE

presents its 267th production

COUNT DRACULA

by Ted Tiller

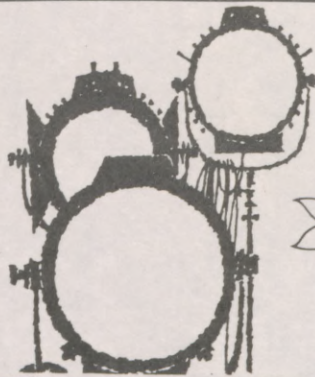


OCTOBER 16-17-18-19, 1974

Director – JAMES AVIDON
Designer-Technical Director – FRED J. THAYER
Costume Designer – PAMELA SIMMONS

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(Due to paper shortage and increased costs, only one program will be distributed per couple.)



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CONGRATULATIONS!

The staff and students of the Otterbein College Theatre (past and present) would like to publicly congratulate and celebrate with Prof. Fred J. Thayer, Designer-Technical Director, the successful completion of 100 scene designs with the settings for *Count Dracula*.

His first design at Otterbein was for *Teahouse of the August Moon* in the fall of 1960. In the succeeding 14 years he has designed over 75 major productions, including proscenium designs such as the setting for this production, thrust or open stage designs such as those frequently used for pre-modern plays, several children's theatre productions and the bulk of the arena theatre designs for eight years of the Otterbein Summer Theatre. He has worked with over 20 different directors at Otterbein during this period. Prior to coming to Otterbein he had designed for Bowling Green State University, the Huron Playhouse and the University of Toledo.

While it is impossible to estimate the thousands of hours of labor and creative effort so apparent in his 14 years at Otterbein, on this occasion of his 100th design it is possible to say "thank you" and to hope for at least another 100 designs in the years to come!

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we welcome James D. Avidon to the Otterbein College Theatre staff. A native New Yorker (he would probably say from Brooklyn) Jim has a B.A. and M.F.A. in theatre from Brooklyn College. Prior to his appointment at Otterbein he was employed as Director of Young People's Theatre at the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre in Michigan.

Jim has an extensive background in a variety of theatre activities, including numerous acting roles at Brooklyn College. Most recently his work has centered on directing, particularly children's theatre productions, and work as a designer-technical director assistant at Brooklyn Collège. His work at Grand Rapids also included the production of a TV children's theatre series. He was honored by the Grand Rapids Educational Association with their Distinguished Service Award for his contribution to their program during the 1972-73 season.

His activities at Otterbein for 1974-75 will include designing *Scapin*, working with the Workshop Theatre program, and teaching a variety of courses including makeup, creative dramatics and children's theatre, pre-modern and modern theatre and directing. He will also be working with our Summer Theatre as a director and designer.

C.W.D.



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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

For a number of years as time, space and inspiration have permitted, I have attempted to write brief essays for the theatre programs, ranging in content from concerns about specific productions to rationales for selecting a season of plays to "Why Theatre in a Liberal Arts College?" On occasion I have deleted the essay because I either didn't have time to write, didn't have anything to say, or most frequently didn't have time to write and re-write in order to formulate properly concepts that needed expression. Fortunately (or unfortunately) I have no excuse this fall – I'm not directing so I can't use time as an excuse and I do have something to share with our theatre-goers that excites us.

As a result of recent major changes we believe the Theatre has taken two very important steps towards maintaining the goal of "presenting the finest quality theatrical production possible while providing education and training for our students." Last year the theatre curriculum was modified to add new courses in acting, design, creative dramatics and children's theatre, theatre and arts management, while an expansion of our Workshop Theatre program to nine productions annually allows student directors and dozens of aspiring actors to practice and develop their creativity and technique.

This year another major innovative program is currently under way. Spawned last winter during my sabbatical leave and helped along with a Ford Foundation Venture Grant, we were able to conceive and establish a THEATRE INTERNSHIP program for our senior students which permits a complete term of on-the-job experience and training. In preparation for this program I visited 12 professional regional theatres, dinner theatres and several community and children's theatres. Professional groups agreeing to participate and cooperate with us in this program include the Actors' Theatre of Louisville, the Arena Stage of Washington, D.C., the Buffalo Studio Arena, Alliance Theatre of Atlanta, Indiana Repertory of Indianapolis, Barter Theatre of Virginia, Centre Stage of Baltimore, Trinity Square of Providence, Players Theatre of Miami and the Cincinnati Playhouse.

Twelve senior students were granted permission to participate in the program this year. During the current fall term five students are off-campus: Jerry Confer and Beth Machlan are acting interns and Pam Hill is a management intern at the Actors' Theatre of Louisville, while Robert Boles and Marty Bookwalter are working in stage management and technical theatre respectively at Arena Stage in Washington. Bill Brewer was to have worked at Cincinnati in management and acting, but he elected a student teaching experience and the opportunity to direct the Opera Theatre production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* instead. The winter and spring terms will find students working with the Columbus Players Club, the Columbus Junior Theatre of the Arts, the Country Dinner Playhouse, the Alliance Children's Theatre, Barter Theatre of Virginia and the Actors' Theatre of Louisville.

First reports from this new adventure are fantastically exciting – the students involved this term report enthusiastically about their new learning and work experiences; examples include Jerry Confer and Beth Machlan being cast in a major children's theatre production, major technical work and supervision by Marty Bookwalter and the development of new public relations work by Pam Hill. While we are tremendously excited by such reports we are perhaps even more excited by the response of professional directors in these theatres – they are excited about our program and our students, primarily because they have found them to be well trained, highly motivated and extremely responsible young ladies and gentlemen. Perhaps our desire to "bridge the gap" between educational and professional theatre is working!

This Theatre has always taken great pride in our total training program and we have attempted to achieve high production standards which would permit young graduates to continue in this highly competitive field. The continued success of a number of recent graduates is encouraging and rewarding, but we believe these two recent innovations in curriculum and internship programs will permit us to graduate students who are better prepared to compete in the modern realities of the theatre market-place.

Charles W. Dodrill

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CAST

(in order of appearance)

Sybil Seward	LESLIE YOUNG *
Hennessey	CABOT REA
Dr. Arthur Seward	JOHN CAIN **
Renfield	DAN HAWK *
Wesley	JON WHITE
Jonathan Harker	BILL BREWER **
Mina	SUE ANN KOCKS **
Count Dracula	JIM WEST **
Dr. Heinrich Van Helsing	GIAN MORELLI **

* Indicates membership in Cap and Dagger Dramatics Club

** Indicates membership in Theta Alpha Phi National Dramatics Honorary

SYNOPSIS

SCENE: Living quarters in Dr. Seward's Asylum for the Insane, north of London.

ACT I – An autumn evening.

Interval

ACT II – Nearly midnight, three nights later.

Interval

ACT III – **Scene 1:** Twenty-eight hours later, before dawn.
Scene 2: The Crypt at daybreak.

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THEATRE STAFF

Director of Theatre	DR. CHARLES W. DODRILL
Designer-Technical Director	PROF. FRED J. THAYER
Children's Theatre Director, Costume Designer	PETIE DODRILL
Instructor	PROF. JAMES AVIDON
Publicity	FRAN BAY
Chairman, Department of Speech and Theatre	DR. JAMES GRISSINGER
Student Assistants	TERRY ESPENSCHIED, ANNEMARIE SOIU, RUSS SCULL, JAMES DOOLEY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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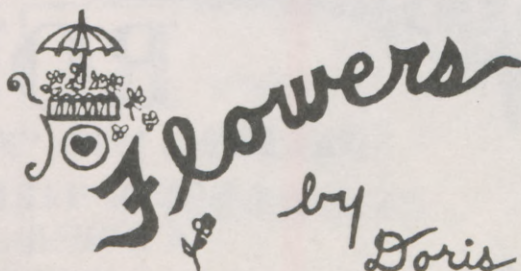
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Lights: JUDE JACOBS**, Chm., MICHAEL McCLEESE, DAN REPIK, DANA HAYNES, MARY BETH WATKINS

House Manager: RANDY ADAMS**

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MUSIC DEPT. – Otterbein Orchestra, Fri., Nov. 1, 8:15 p.m., Cowan Hall.

LECTURE SERIES – "L'Aventure Cousteau" – an illustrated lecture by Tom Horton, associate of the famed oceanographic explorer, Mon, Nov. 4, 8:15 p.m., Cowan Hall.



MAILING LIST – If you would like to be on our mailing list and receive announcements of college cultural activities, please fill out a card at the Box Office.

REFRESHMENTS – The refreshment stand is located in the north lobby for your convenience. We would appreciate your cooperation in not bringing cups into the auditorium. Thank you.

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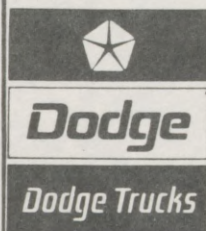
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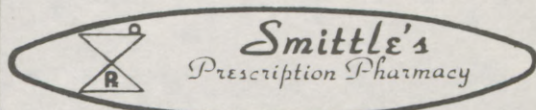
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