



This is the world premiere  
of a new adaptation  
of Bram Stoker's classic  
tale of horror.

Written and directed  
by Graham Wills

# Dracula

Presented by  
**COMMUNITY PLAYERS**

Community United Methodist Church  
20 N. Center Street • Naperville, Illinois

**Friday November 11, 8:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday November 12, 8:00 p.m.**  
**Friday November 18, 8:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday November 19, 2:00 p.m.**

# director's note

I went to college and studied the same courses in the same lecture halls as Bram Stoker, the author of *Dracula*, and have always had a strong affinity for the novel. A few years ago I played Van Helsing in Hamilton Deane dramatization of the book, and when I re-read *Dracula* a couple of years ago I realized that a lot of the material presented by Stoker had never made it into a version I had seen. That was the major impetus behind this new version; to highlight both scenes and themes that make the play more than just a story to frighten!

The play has been designed to run with a small cast and crew, to whom I am indebted for their willingness to work with a script that was a work in progress. It is always a joy to direct a group of talented individuals who have fun bringing life to words with their skills at acting and technical prowess. Thanks to all of the cast, young and old, on the stage and backstage, I hope you enjoy this re-working of Bram Stoker's most famous creation, *Dracula*!

# acknowledgements

Kris Visher & Magical Starlight Theater, Naperville

Dr. John Irving and Elie Cristobal for custom fangs for *Dracula*

Mary Elliott for the "The Dog Lies in his Kennel" melody

Rita Ryan for the English saddle

# for more information

To join the Community Players mailing list and learn about upcoming auditions and shows, send contact information to [suzanne@willsfamily.org](mailto:suzanne@willsfamily.org). You will receive an invitation to join the Community Players google group. Thank you for your interest!

Bram Stoker's novel starts in Dracula's castle in Transylvania, then moves to Whitby in the north of England, and then heads across Europe before finishing up in Transylvania again. However, it takes numerous detours and the action bounces around between locations. To accommodate this structure, the scenes in the play are shorter and more fluid than is traditional, and occasional scenes are split as the action takes place simultaneously in multiple locations. The action takes place over the course of several months, starting in July, 1897.

## Act 1

- Scene 1: Dracula's Castle in Transylvania, Romania
- Scene 2: Three people writing letters over the course of a couple of months:
  - Mina Murray writing to Lucy from her apartment
  - Lucy Westenra replying from her house in Whitby
  - Jonathan Harker writing from Castle Dracula
- Scene 3: The Westenra house in Whitby, northern England
- Scene 4: Near the ruins of Whitby Abbey, shortly after
- Scene 5: Castle Dracula
- Scene 6: The living room of the Westenra house, a month later
- Scene 7: Near the ruins of Whitby Abbey, a week later
- Scene 8: Lucy's bedroom, a few days later
- Scene 9: The same location, the next day

## Act 2

- Scene 1: The living room of the Westenra house, three days later
- Scene 2: The Westenra family crypt, the following night
- Scene 3: The Westenra house, next day
- Scene 4: A rented house in Piccadilly, London, the following evening
- Scene 5: A hotel room in London, three days later
- Scene 6: The wilds of Transylvania, a week later
- Scene 7: Two locations near Castle Dracula, two days later
  - In the wilds of Transylvania, a day's ride from the castle
  - The Borgo pass, close to the castle

*Epilogue: The Harker's house, three years later*

# cast

Dracula .....	Ed Green
Jonathan Harker .....	Ken Cox
Mina Harker .....	Sharon Cuneo
Arthur Holmwood .....	Dave Hollander
Lucy Westenra.....	Suzanne Wills
Van Helsing.....	Dale Zimmerman
Mr Swales.....	Garth Lawson
Sorena .....	Jill Morrow
Mirela .....	Irene Servose
Emily .....	Natalie Overstreet
Romanian Child .....	Mandy Wu
Gypsy .....	David Green

# production crew

Producer.....	Dave Hollander
Director.....	Graham Wills
Assistant Director .....	Mary Wu
Set Design .....	Ken Cox
Costumes .....	Pam Smith, Irene Servose
Properties .....	Kay Lawson
Sound Design .....	Ed Green
Sound Board.....	Dave Jenkins
Light Design .....	Graham Wills
Light Board.....	Dean Craig
Stage Crew.....	David Green, James Morrow, Joshua Wills Matthew Wu, Mike Wu
Logo & Poster Design .....	Beth Buffington
Photography.....	Mike Servose
Program .....	Suzanne Wills
Tickets.....	Ken Cox, Carol Craig, Mike Wu
House Manager.....	Mary Wu
Refreshments .....	Mike Wu
Set Construction .....	Ken Cox, Graham Wills

Ed Green, David Green, Garth Lawson, Dave Jenkins  
Kay Lawson, James Morrow, Natalie Overstreet  
Mandy Wu, Mary Wu, Suzanne Wills

# cast biographies



**Ken Cox [Jonathan Harker]** – Ken is happy to be on stage with the Community Players, and once again playing a character named Jonathan - although a sane one this time. His previous Jonathan was in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and he has also appeared as Ritchie in *Bleacher Bums*, Linus in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, Gribble in *Room Service*, and other roles.



**Sharon Cuneo [Mina Harker]** – Since 1991 Sharon has appeared in over 45 theatre productions. Her lead roles include Kate in *Broadway Bound*, and Bess in *Breakfast with Les & Bess*. She has enjoyed performing in *Equus*, *Jake's Women*, *Lost in Yonkers*, *Steel Magnolias*, and many others. An NIU graduate, Sharon has also worked in television production (*Paul Harvey Comments* and *MacNeil-Lehrer News*), and for Hanna-Barbera animation studios. She thanks Community Players, Graham, and husband Peter for his enduring support.



**David Green [Gypsy]** – David's earliest role was in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" 10 years ago. After a lengthy hiatus, he returned, fulfilling the rather closed-mouthed role of Mr. Hoskins in *Arsenic & Old Lace*, working as part of the tech crew in both *Bleacher Bums* and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Now, David is very pleased to take part in *Dracula*, playing what he believes to be his best, most lively role yet. (Which isn't saying much, since his last role was as a dead guy.)



**Ed Green [Dracula]** – Ed has been involved in a number of Community Players’ productions over the years. For the past three shows he has been performing backstage, designing and running sound for *Steel Magnolias* and *You’re A Good Man Charlie Brown*, and directing *Bleacher Bums*. Ed was last seen on stage as the Baron in *The Sound of Music*. Ed is glad to have his son David play the part of his gypsy minion (just like at home), and would like to thank his wife June for her continued support.



**Dave Hollander [Arthur Holmwood]** – Dave has appeared off and on for the last twenty years with the Community Players. Recent favorites include Charlie Brown in *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Matthew Harrison Brady in *Inherit the Wind*, and Ernie in *Amateurs*. By day, Dave is an 8th grade history teacher in Naperville. Thanks to all the cast of Dracula for a frightfully good experience! Break a leg!! Love to Amy and Nathan (and Sarah in Ames)!



**Garth Lawson [Mr Swales]** – Garth has been involved in most of the Community Players productions, either acting, set construction, or making props. His biggest role was Paravicini in *Mousetrap* and the role he had the most fun playing was The White Knight in *Alice in Wonderland*. He played a policeman in the first production of *Arsenic and Old Lace* and got promoted to Lt. Rooney in the second.



**Jill Morrow [Sorena]** – In 1992 Jill started her theater career landing a part as the mayor's wife in *Music Man*. From there she's done over 25 shows. *Bye Bye Birdie* found Jill on stage with her daughter Maren, *Inherit the Wind* with her son James, and *Arsenic and Old Lace* with her husband Jim. Other shows Jill has been in are *The Producers*, *Hello Dolly*, *My Fair Lady*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Oliver*, *Bleacher Bums* as Rose, *Singing in the Rain*, and in *Alice in Wonderland*, she was a 'dream' Cheshire Cat, tap dancing to a two minute song she choreographed. She thanks her family for supporting her along her journey in theater.



**Natalie Overstreet [Emily]** – This is Natalie's first play. This past summer she participated in Camp Summer Stock at the School of Performing Arts, here in Naperville. She had a blast and was excited to find her next opportunity in theater. Thank you to the cast, crew and director, who have made this a great experience! When not on stage, Natalie enjoys dancing, reading, and riding her bike.



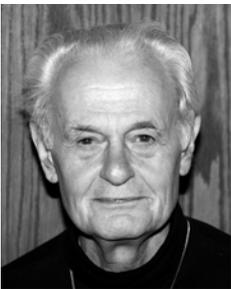
**Irene Servose [Mirela]** – This is Irene's 4<sup>th</sup> production with Community Players, her favorite role ever being that of Truvy Jones in *Steel Magnolias*. She has done a variety of stage and production work in community theater in the western suburbs and for The Artistic Home in Chicago where she is also a board member and a former student. She is grateful to Graham and the entire cast and crew for another fun show and for the opportunity to be one of the evil characters!



**Suzanne Wills [Lucy Westenra]** – Suzanne started with Community Players in 1993, four months after arriving from Ireland. Previous favorites have been *Schoolhouse Rock! Live*, *Oklahoma!*, *Bedroom Farce* and *Amateurs*. Special thanks to my wonderful kids, Joshua and Aisling, for helping learn my lines. Their patience with me was truly outstanding! When not on stage, Suzanne is practicing bass guitar, running, reading, learning JavaScript and designing websites.



**Mandy Wu [Romanian Child]** – This is Mandy's first show with Community Players. She has also enjoyed working with Vocal Motion at Kidz Kabaret. Mandy would like to thank Graham Wills for giving her this opportunity and she would like to thank the wonderful cast and crew. A special thank you goes out to her Mom and Dad for providing transportation.



**Dale Zimmerman [Van Helsing]** – Dale has appeared in many Community Player's productions since 1992. His favorite performances have been Father in *Life With Father*, Henry II in *The Lion in Winter*, Gregory Wagner in *Room Service*, Ernest in *Bedroom Farce*, Henry Drummond in *Inherit the Wind*, and now *Dracula*. He thanks his wife Rosemary for all love, support, and patience, particularly during the time- and attention-consuming rehearsals.