

Dracula: Back with a Bite

Unable to live, unwilling to die, The Count returns for a limited engagement

“If ever there was perfection in a dramatic story ballet, this is it.”

Carol Norris, Cincinnati Enquirer

COLUMBUS, OH—Drink deeply from the dark side of desire this Halloween with BalletMet Columbus’ *Dracula*, **October 10-18, 2008, at the Capitol Theatre, 77 South High Street**. The production will go underground following this season, after captivating Columbus since 1999. Inspired by the Bram Stoker novel, this spine-tingling ballet by David Nixon seduces audiences with exhilarating mystery and drama.

The evocative imagery of Stoker’s 1897 gothic horror tale is brought to life through Nixon’s choreography and the music of Michael Daugherty, Arvo Pärt, Sergei Rachmaninov, and Alfred Schnittke. *Dracula* tells the legend of the famed vampire, cloaked in contradiction, emerging only to feast upon the darkest desires of all who whet his appetite, and to seduce Mina, the woman who inspires his love. Nixon’s striking retelling is set in the Victorian era and exposes the forbidden and ageless passion between The Count and Mina. Eerie lighting designed by Alexander Nichols comes together with striking costumes by Linda Pisano and scenery by Dan Gray to feed the production’s stunning visual imagery.

Dracula premiered in 1999 while Nixon was Artistic Director of BalletMet and has been presented by BalletMet in seven seasons since its debut. The alluring dance drama has thrilled audiences with each performance.

“David Nixon’s *Dracula* is an exceptional work that skillfully combines dance, music, costumes and scenery to create a fascinating and enduring perspective of this legendary character,” said BalletMet Artistic Director Gerard Charles. “The story is told with great clarity, allowing the dancers to show off their dancing and acting skills, and the audiences to be drawn into this haunting world. Like all rare treats in this world, *Dracula* is available for a limited time only.”

Following its run in Columbus, the BalletMet Company will present five performances of *Dracula* in St. Louis, October 23-26. The engagement, at the Touhill Performing Arts Center, will kick off Dance St. Louis’ 43rd season.

Due to some adult content, *Dracula* is recommended for mature audiences.

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DAVID NIXON, CHOREOGRAPHER

David Nixon's career began at the National Ballet of Canada. In 1985 he joined the Deutsche Oper Ballet in Berlin as principal dancer and won the 1987 Critics Award for Best Male Performance. Nixon left for principal guest artist positions with National Ballet of Canada, Bayerisches Staatsballett Munich and Royal Winnipeg Ballet before returning to Deutsche Oper Ballet in 1994 as first ballet master. Nixon became BalletMet's Artistic Director in 1994. During his six year tenure he added 16 world and 15 Company premieres to the repertoire, including his own productions of *The Nutcracker*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, *Butterfly*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Carmen*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Swan Lake*, *Dracula* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He left BalletMet in 2001 to become Artistic Director of Northern Ballet Theatre and was voted Director of the Year by *Dance Europe Magazine* in 2003 and 2006.

COMPANY DANCERS

Dracula will feature all 28 of BalletMet's professional Company dancers and its three trainees. Starring as Dracula are **Jimmy Orrante**, who originated the role, and **Jackson Prescott Sarver**. Orrante is in his 14th season with the Company and performed as a guest artist with the Northern Ballet Theatre in England in its 2005 production of *Dracula*. Sarver is in his fifth season with BalletMet and first danced the role of *Dracula* last season.

SPECIAL EVENT

DINNER WITH DRACULA | Oct. 10, 6-7:30pm | The Capital Club, Huntington Center

Tickets: \$100 for dinner including a performance ticket or \$60 for dinner only

Dinner with Dracula returns for another bite! Le Bistro will be transformed into a Transylvanian dinner party and fundraising event for BalletMet. The performance will follow at the Capitol Theatre. Proceeds benefit BalletMet's artistic and education endeavors. RSVP: 614.586.8628.

FREE PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

PRE-PERFORMANCE TALKS | Capitol Theatre | Free

Oct. 12, 1:30pm: Amanda Hobson, Ph.D. candidate and adjunct faculty member at The Ohio State University, discusses "Romancing the Vampire: The Modern Vampire, Modern Audience."

Oct. 15, 7pm: Dr. Daniel Collins, Chair of The Ohio State University Slavic and East European Languages and Literature Department gives his talk "Vampires: Fact or Fiction."

VAMPARTY | Oct. 18, 11pm | Spice Bar, 491 N. Park St. | Free with *Dracula* ticket stub

Fang-Banger *noun:* human who is addicted to vampires.

If this is you, don't miss the best party of the season courtesy of CD101, Spice Bar and BalletMet. The evening will include a private party room to meet cast members, free appetizers, vampire games and more.

INTERVIEW WITH A VAMPIRE | Sept. 10 - Oct. 18 | balletmet.org

Visit balletmet.org and watch an interview with BalletMet's resident vampire, Jimmy Orrante.

SHOWTIMES & TICKETS

Friday, October 10, 8pm
Saturday, October 11, 8pm
Sunday, October 12, 2pm* & 7pm
Wednesday, October 15, 7:30pm

Thursday, October 16, 7:30pm
Friday, October 17, 8pm
Saturday, October 18, 8pm

**Audio description available. Reservations required: 614.229.4848.*

Tickets to *Dracula* are \$25-\$45 and available through balletmet.org, CAPA (614.469.0939) or Ticketmaster locations (614.431.3600, ticketmaster.com). Tickets for Member-Subscribers are \$23-\$43. Tickets for MetPass members are \$12-\$22. BalletMet Member-Subscribers and MetPass members should contact the BalletMet Box Office (614.229.4848) or balletmet.org for tickets. College students with ID can purchase \$10 Student Rush tickets at the theater beginning two hours prior to showtime. Students age 13 to 18 can purchase \$5 High Five vouchers at any Kroger Ticketmaster location. Group discounts available through BalletMet (614.229.4848).

SENIOR DRESS REHEARSAL

October 10, 11am. For ages 55+. Tickets are \$13 through balletmet.org, CAPA (614.469.0939) or Ticketmaster locations (614.431.3600, ticketmaster.com). Sponsored by WMNI.

SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS

There's still time to join BalletMet as a Member-Subscriber. Subscription packages start at just \$75. Exclusive extras include ticket discounts, receptions and discounts to local restaurants. BalletMet also offers MetPass, for young professionals ages 22-35. The MetPass is \$20 and offers all the benefits of the Member-Subscriber packages, plus discounts up to 50 percent off tickets. Call the BalletMet Box Office (614.229.4848) or visit balletmet.org.

SPONSOR SUPPORT

Dracula media partner is CD101. BalletMet Columbus receives support for its annual performance season from The Columbus Foundation, the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the Ohio Arts Council, Classical 89.7 WOSU-FM, NBC 4, Time Warner Cable, Pepsi and The Ohio State University Sports Medicine Center.

BalletMet Columbus ranks among the nation's 15 largest dance companies, and its Dance Academy ranks among the five largest professional dance-training centers. Since its inception in 1978, BalletMet has added 139 company premieres to its repertoire and produced 117 world premieres. It has also developed DanceReach, a series of educational and outreach programs that serve 40,000 people annually, as well as a scholarship program that provides full tuition for talented minority and underserved youth.

www.balletmet.org

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