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The Count Returns for Passion, Seduction

BalletMet's Dracula rises for a limited engagement

Note: Dracula at-a-glance Fact Sheet located on final page of this release

COLUMBUS, OH—

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

Carol Norris, Cincinnati Enquirer

The Count is back for a limited engagement in ***Dracula*, October 17 – 21 at the Capitol Theatre**. BalletMet Columbus' 30th anniversary season would be incomplete without this perennial favorite by former Artistic Director David Nixon. Inspired by the Bram Stoker novel, this spine-tingling ballet will seduce 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 haunting music of Michael Daugherty, Arvo Pärt, Sergei Rachmaninov, and Alfred Schnittke. *Dracula* tells the dark legend of the famous vampire and his passionate love that transcends the perceptions of life and death, man and beast. Nixon's striking retelling, set in the Victorian era, focuses on the relationship between The Count and Mina, the wife of the young Jonathan Harker, and the attraction of immortality. Eerie atmospheric lighting designed by Alexander Nichols, extraordinary costumes by Linda Pisano and scenery by Dan Gray enhance the production's stunning visual imagery.

Dracula premiered in 1999 while Nixon was Artistic Director of BalletMet and has thrilled audiences with each performance. BalletMet Artistic Director Gerard Charles says the appeal of the popular ballet lies in the story's familiarity and Nixon's innovative retelling.

"It is a very dramatic and well conceived work with well known narrative," Charles said. "David perfectly captures the essence of the story and weaves his own imagination into the work to support its mystery and attraction. The ballet is such a significant piece of BalletMet's repertoire and history, it is a must to showcase in our 30th anniversary season."

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

—More—

dare to be moved.

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. Mr. 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. Mr. 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 full-length 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 in England 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 six trainees. Starring as The Count are **Jimmy Orrante**, who originated the title role in Nixon's ballet, and **Jackson Prescott Sarver**.

SPECIAL EVENT

DINNER WITH DRACULA | October 19, 6-7:30pm | The Capital Club

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

Take another bite with Dinner with Dracula! The Count's return to Columbus is reason for this dark celebration! Le Bistro will be transformed into a Transylvanian dinner party. The performance will follow at the Capitol Theatre. All proceeds benefit BalletMet's artistic and education endeavors.

EXTRAS AT THE THEATRE

DRACULA TRIVIA | During intermission of every performance

Answer *Dracula* trivia and win exciting BalletMet prizes.

OPENING NIGHT WITH A BITE | October 17

The first 100 guests opening night receive a pair of fangs and an autographed *Dracula* poster.

PRE-PERFORMANCE TALKS | October 17 and 19, 30 minutes before curtain

October 17, 7pm: Guest speaker Dr. Daniel Collins, Associate Professor and Chair of The Ohio State University Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literature.

October 19, 7:30pm: Dr. Benita Blessing presents "Vampires Among Us: A History of Living with the Undead." Dr. Blessing is Assistant Professor in the Ohio University Department of History. In addition to courses on European women's and gender history, she teaches Modern Germany, Modern France, and a course on Vampires in Myth and Text.

OTHER EXTRAS

INTERVIEW WITH A VAMPIRE | October 1-31 | www.balletmet.org

Watch an exclusive interview with BalletMet's resident vampire, **Jimmy Orrante**.

DRACULA'S BLOOD BANK | October 5, 11am-4pm | BalletMet Dance Centre

We want your blood...to save lives! Come to the BalletMet Dance Centre, 322 Mt. Vernon Ave., and donate to the American Red Cross. Everyone who donates will receive special treats from The Count and CD101.

30TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT | October 1-31 | Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery

View stunning and memorable images from BalletMet's 30 years of artistic excellence.

SHOWTIMES & TICKETS

Wednesday, October 17 | 7:30pm

Saturday, October 20 | 8pm

Thursday, October 18 | 7:30pm

Sunday, October 21 | 2pm* and 7pm

Friday, October 19 | 8pm

**Free audio description is available for the 2pm October 21 performance. Reservations are required through BalletMet (614.229.4848).*

Tickets to *Dracula* are \$25-\$44 and available through the BalletMet Box Office (614.229.4848), www.balletmet.org, CAPA (614.469.0939) or TicketMaster (614.431.3600). Group discounts available through BalletMet (614.229.4860x174). MetPass Member tickets are \$13-\$22.50.

College students with ID can purchase \$10 Student Rush tickets at the theater beginning two hours prior to showtime. Students age 13-18 can purchase \$5 High Five vouchers at any Kroger TicketMaster location.

SPONSOR SUPPORT

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 and Pepsi. *Dracula* sponsor is Univar and media partner is CD101.

DRACULA AT-A-GLANCE FACT SHEET

WHAT: The Count is back for a limited engagement in *Dracula*, **October 17 – 21 at the Capitol Theatre**. BalletMet's 30th anniversary season would be incomplete without this spine-tingling audience favorite by former Artistic Director David Nixon, which the *Cincinnati Enquirer's* Carol Norris calls 'perfection.'

WHEN: October 17-21, 2007

- Wednesday, October 17, 7:30pm; Thursday, October 18, 7:30pm; Friday, October 19, 8pm; Saturday, October 20, 8pm; Sunday, October 21, 2pm and 7pm
- Free audio description is available for the 2pm October 21 performance. Reservations required through BalletMet, 614.229.4848.

WHERE: Capitol Theatre

- **TICKETS: \$25 - \$44**, BalletMet Box Office (614.229.4848), www.balletmet.org, CAPA (614.469.0939) or TicketMaster (614.431.3600).

EXTRAS AT THE THEATRE

- **Dracula Trivia**
 - During every performance
 - Answer *Dracula* trivia, win prizes
- **Opening Night with a Bite**
 - October 17
 - First 100 guests receive fangs and an autographed poster
- **Pre-Performance Talks**
 - October 17 and 19, 30 minutes before the performance
 - Experts in the field discuss the legend of Dracula

OTHER EXTRAS

- **Interview with a Vampire**
 - October 1-31, balletmet.org
 - See an exclusive interview with BalletMet's *Dracula*, Jimmy Orrante
- **Dracula's Blood Bank**
 - October 5, 11am-4pm, BalletMet Dance Centre
 - Donate blood and help save lives
- **30th Anniversary Exhibit**
 - October 1-31, Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery

SPECIAL EVENT

- **Dinner with Dracula**
 - October 19, 6-7:30pm, The Capital Club
 - Tickets: \$100 for dinner and performance; \$60 dinner only
 - Proceeds benefit BalletMet's artistic and education endeavors

With an annual budget of \$5 million, 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 132 company premieres to its repertoire and produced 109 world premieres. It has also developed DanceReach, a series of educational and outreach programs that serve 40,000 people annually, as well as a Community Outreach Scholarship program that provides full tuition for talented minority and underserved youth.

For more information, call 614.229.4848 or visit www.balletmet.org.