

## Dracula's behavior not acceptable

He says...

BY JIM BALLMER  
STAFF WRITER

In a long life of traditional Dracula movies, Director Frances Ford Coppola's is the new nineties version with some exciting and some not-so-exciting movie moments.

Based on the preview, I thought "Dracula" would be a gruesome tale of slaughter showcasing a cast of fresh new talent. It was neither. "Dracula" seemed like a romance with the twist of neck-biting.

I was pleasantly surprised to see Keanu Reeves, Anthony Hopkins, and Wynona Rider sharing the screen, but it made me wonder, "What's going on here? Didn't they want their names associated with the movie in the preview?"

One thing that was irritating to me throughout this movie was the fact that I couldn't understand half of what Dracula was saying. I don't know if it was the acoustics of the State Theatre or simply the movie itself, but when Dracula would start talking menacingly in his low registers, I could only decipher a few words. I felt like I was trying to decode a secret message.

Another down side to "Dracula" is the fact that Dracula turned out to be a theatric wimp. It's true! There's a scene where Wynona Rider wants to taste his blood and join him as one of the undead.

Dracula almost gave in but at the last second elegantly flailed his arms sobbing, "I can't. I'm sorry. I can't..." Spare me.

On the upside, this movie does have some incredible photography. The special effects are mind blowing, too. Coppola has stated that he reverted to older movie techniques for the special effects wanting them to fit the time period of the movie. He also spent three times as much on costuming (which was fantastic) as he did on sets. Hats off to the technical crew who put this movie together. As far as I'm concerned, they're the ones who made this movie work.

I had mixed feelings about Bram Stroker's, "Dracula." My advice is: If you're a romantic at heart, see this; if you want nonstop slaughter with no time-outs for a little passion, forget it. Personally, I think Bram owes me four bucks.

She says...

BY ELAINE KOSLOSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Gone are the days of "I want to drink your blood," With the Friday 13th release of Bram Stroker's "Dracula", the new phrases are "I want to be what you are, see what you see, and love what you love."

"Dracula" has entranced us since its creation in the early 19th century. It seems that

we love to be scared out of our wits but don't go to this movie with your crosses clutched and garlic around your neck. Dracula's character assumes three different characters: from an alien looking space creature with a long pony tail, to a handsome long haired prince who steals Mina's heart, to a grizzly looking ape man who makes love on the scene to our teasingly seductress Lucy.

During the course of the film, Dracula is constantly surrounded by women, women, women.

Mina, Dracula's new love, is willing to give up life on this earth to "end the death" even though she is already married.

Lucy in the world of the undead, must be put out of her misery with the typical stake through the heart. She makes a beautiful vampire in her wedding dress. Lucy's three beaux pursue Dracula through magnificent scenery and on to his castle for the climatic ending.

Overall with Dracula's three wives in his basement, or dungeon, and temptress Lucy and innocent Mina this movie has entirely too much sex and seduction to be a horror film. If you go, go prepared to be seduced to the darker side, but by all means see it with someone you love.



Photo by Linda Simpson

Teresse Strasser and Thomas Downey play the wife and husband in "The Gift of the Magi", a production for people of all ages. The play will be running Dec. 3 - Dec. 20 at Thunder Bay Theatre.

### The "Gift of the Magi" can be a holiday treat for the entire family

BY KRISTY PILARSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Thunder Bay Theatre will be presenting "Gift of the Magi", a production for the entire family, based on the O'Henry short story. The story concerns a young married couple who learn the true meaning of Christmas when each tries to surprise the other with the perfect gift.

Teresa Strasser who plays the wife is from Ohio and has her MA in Theatre. She came to Alpena from the Huron Playhouse and has been in productions of "Gypsy", "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown", and is part of the Treehouse Troop, a children's theatre company.

Thomas Downey came to Alpena from Henry Ford Community College, and has done theatre work in Ann Arbor. He

has appeared in "Little Shop of Horrors", "MacBeth", and "Charlotte's Webb", as well as working on sound design.

For those of you who have seen the television version, you'll notice a new twist to this as it is a musical, and will be a little longer than the thirty minute T.V. program.

The ACC student rate will continue at \$3.00, and on the second and third Thursday performances students can take part in the "give what you can" evening, which admits audience by donation.

"Because theatre attendance has been down, and state grants have been cut, things at TBT are very tight", said director David Drobot.

The play runs December 3rd through the 20th.

## It's not just another pretty face at ACT

BY KRISTY PILARSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Two ACC instructors and one ACC student will appear in Alpena Civic Theatre's next

production, a drama, "A Shayna Maidel," opening in January.

"A Shayna Maidel" (Yiddish for a pretty girl) will be directed by Instructor Sonya Titus and may be recognizable to some from last year's Hallmark Hall of Fame production entitled "Miss Rose White", which was an adaptation of the stage play.

The play is the story of a Jewish family in the early 1930's who are about to emigrate to America from Poland when the eldest daughter be-

comes ill with scarlet fever. Rather than the entire family staying in Poland, only the eldest daughter and her mother remain while the father brings his younger daughter to New York. Years later, following World War II and the concentration camps, the family is reunited in America.

Appearing in the production is Nan Hall, ACC's drama instructor.

The play runs January 21-24 with free tickets for ACC students. Reservations are necessary.

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