

# Count's flair chills, thrills opening night audience

By LORI TAYLOR  
 Herald Staff Writer  
 Count Dracula arrived in Georgetown Friday, and with a swirl of his scarlet-lined cape, he mesmerized audiences at Sacre Coeur Hall.  
 From the opening notes of music, which throbbled with foreboding, to the "heavenly" ending, audiences for the opening performances of GLT's "Count Dracula" were alternately tickled and chilled by the debonair and destructive Dracula.  
 There are three more performances beginning at 8 p.m. this Thursday, Friday

and Saturday.  
 Most people are familiar with the legend of the mysterious Count from Transylvania who has the power to turn into a bat and who feeds on human blood, turning his victims into vampires.  
 The play written by Ted Tiller differs somewhat from the original 1897 version by Bram Stoker. Its action takes place entirely in an asylum for the insane, owned by Dr. Arthur Seward, played by Derek Joyes. Also living in the house are the doctor's sister, Sybil, played by Pat Joyes, and their ward, Mina,

played by Melissa Bell.  
 As the play opens, the family is awaiting the arrival of Mina's fiancée, Jonathan Harker (Bob Willis) and Dr. Heinrich Van Helsing (Ron Hill). Both have been summoned to the house because of Dr. Seward's concern for Mina, who is suffering from a strange illness. Dr. Van Helsing is a specialist from Amsterdam and an old friend of Dr. Seward.  
 Rounding out the cast are Hennessey and Wesley, two employees of the asylum, played by John Day and Jack Ferguson, and Renfield, one of the inmates with a habit of escaping from his cell. Renfield is portrayed by Ken D'Cruz.

WINDOW LIGHT  
 Count Dracula, played by Keith Harris, is the second last character to be introduced, but he dominates the action whether on stage or not. The light in the window of his castle across the valley can be seen from the balcony of the house, and the other characters speak of him constantly with varying degrees of affection.  
 Sybil thinks of the Count as continental and charming, Hennessey recounts how the



Cast and crew of the Georgetown Little Theatre production of "Count Dracula" posed for a group photo before dress rehearsals last week. The play continues Thursday, Friday and Saturday, but be prepared - tickets for the

comedy-thriller are going fast. This play is Georgetown's entry in the Community Theatre's Central Ontario Drama Festival, and GLT seems to have come up with a winner.

Renfield was another favorite with the audience, receiving a round of applause after his exit in the first act. Bob Willis does well as the bewitched young lover, concerned about his fiancée's health and inclined to dismiss Dr. Van Helsing's wild theories about the cause of her illness.  
 But it is the battle of wills between Mina and Count Dracula, and between Dracula and Dr. Van Helsing, which really capture the attention of the audience. In the beginning, Mina is an innocent young girl, dressed in white, who doesn't understand what is happening to her. The audience is fascinated as she gradually turns into a temptress, dressed in a slinky red dress. Melissa Bell makes the transition smoothly

from innocence to evil as Mina falls further and further under Dracula's spell.  
 Dr. Van Helsing, as portrayed by Mr. Hill, is good as the scientist whose theory about the cause of Mina's "illness" proves to be true. He shows a strong will as he battles Dracula with all the weapons at his disposal.  
 Dracula himself is an enigmatic figure, seemingly sophisticated and worldly, but with a glimmer of evil lurking behind. Mr. Harris manages to let just that hint of evil show through, enough to rouse the audience's suspicions about his intentions without spoiling the surprise too soon.  
 Overall, the performances are good, although some of the roles are rather small. Some of

the actors seem to feel a little stiff in their roles yet, but that should be gone by the time tomorrow's performance rolls around.  
 This play is the Georgetown Little Theatre's entry in the Association of Community Theatre's Central Ontario Drama Festival, and judging by the performance Saturday, GLT has a winner on its hands.  
 Tickets for Thursday's and Saturday's performances can be obtained at the door, or by calling Jennifer Jackson at 877-5434. Friday's show is sold out.

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## HALTON HILLS ARTS COUNCIL

### Y's Kleinburg visit today

The Georgetown YMCA will host a day-trip to Kleinburg March 5, visiting Reeve's Greenhouses, the McMichael collection (Canada's largest exhibition of Group of Seven paintings) and the Doctor's House for lunch. The bus leaves the Y headquarters at St. Andrew's United Church on Mountainview Road South at 9 a.m., returning at 3:30 p.m. Bus, lunch and tours will cost \$20 per person and the Y asks that interested people pre-register at its office or call 877-6163.

Area youngsters who successfully completed mid-winter examinations held at Bramalea Civic Centre by Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music include Jeffrey Streutker (first-class honors, theory, Grade 2 rudiments), Debbie Vanzeuren (honors, theory, Grade 1 rudiments), Lori Haddon (honors, Grade 5 piano) and Judith Marshall (honors, Grade 3 piano).



Hamilton meets Hamilton March 6, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 14 when Hamilton Theatre Incorporated presents "The Sound of Music" as directed by Peter Hamilton. Georgetown's own Tom Trouton has the male lead as Captain Von Trapp in the popular musical, which Mr. Hamilton has previously directed on Boston, Pittsburgh and St. Catharines stages.  
 The engaging story of the Trapp Family Singers will be presented at St. John A. MacDonald Theatre (8 p.m. each night with a 2 p.m. matinee March 6). Tickets cost \$5 and \$7 and are available by phoning 522-3022 or by writing Hamilton Theatre Inc., PO Box 264, Hamilton.

Gallery House Sol's current exhibition of watercolors and porcelain continues until March 12. Former Georgetown resident Liz Sinclair displays the striking pottery creations she has developed in recent years, while University of Toronto linguistics professor E.J. Revell turns his attention to the delicate art of botanical watercolors. Hours at the Charles Street, Georgetown, gallery are 2 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 2 to 6 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

You can chuckle the morning away this Saturday at the Acton public library. Beginning at 10:30 a.m. and for the low, low admission price of 25 cents, you can see Erica Harris, star of Halton Cable TV's "Storytime with Erica" and the subject of a Herald profile last year, and Jerry Brodey of Toronto's Monkey Business troupe, in a fun-filled 45-minute story, song and laughter session. The program, presented by the town's public library board, is geared to children three years old and up and their families. Due to limited space, pre-registration is necessary. Call the library at 853-0301.

There'll be some monkey business at the Cedarvale Park gym March 21 when the Halton Hills Public Library Board presents the Lamppoon Puppet Theatre in a 50-minute show. Two "very special monkeys" will be created right before your eyes for an exciting and adventurous series of short sketches. The show starts at 2 p.m.

Actress and writer Pauline Carey will portray Anna Jameson, the trail-blazing wife of Canada's first vice-chancellor, in a special presentation at Cedarvale Park gym at 8 p.m. Mar. 23. Arranged by the Georgetown public library, the show lends insight into the political and sociological views of an adventurous woman who explored Lake Ontario and became the first white woman to shoot the rapids at Sault Ste. Marie.

"Milton's Paradise is not lost", the slogan goes, "at Premier Milton", the town's modern, new, multi-screen cinema, which opened last Saturday. Stylized black and white decor is only one of the theatre's many modern attractions, first-run movies being another. The cinema is the brainchild of Barry Allen, owner and president of Premier Operating Corporation and a member of the family which built Canada's first Nickelodeon in 1906. The theatre, described as a "picture palace", is located just west of the first traffic light on Highway 25 south of Highway 401.

## Region approves tourism boost

Halton regional council's hopes for a region-wide, tourist-oriented festival may not have materialized yet, but council is nevertheless honoring its funding commitment to the Festival Country Travel Association.  
 Council agreed last Wednesday to pay the balance of its \$3,700 grant pledge to the Association, which promotes tourism for Halton, Hamilton, Wentworth and Niagara regions as well as Fergus and Arthur.

Burlington Coun. Walter Mulkevic questioned the Association's sincerity in promoting Halton in particular and organizing a region-wide festival, as had earlier been proposed.  
 Business officer Brent Kears described tentative plans for a tourist booth in south Halton which would help promote such smaller, existing festivals as the Speyside Highland Games and Oakville's Putterfest.

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2. HELD OVER 4TH FILL FILLED WEEK Gene Wilder - Richard Pryor in  
 "STIR CRAZY"  
 Warning - some language may be offensive - Theatres Br. Ont.  
 Weekdays: 7:00, 9:15  
 Sat. Sun: 2:00, 4:25, 7:00, 9:20

3. HELD OVER 2ND WONDERFUL WEEK nominated for 7 academy awards including picture & actress  
 Bette Midler - Tommy Lee Jones  
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