

Capital Rep (theRep), Albany, NY

Dracula, A Comedy of Terrors, by Gordon Greenberg and Steve Rosen.

Directed by Gordon Greenberg. Reviewed by J. Peter Bergman

“It’s a bird. It’s a bat. It’s a bird. It’s a bat.”

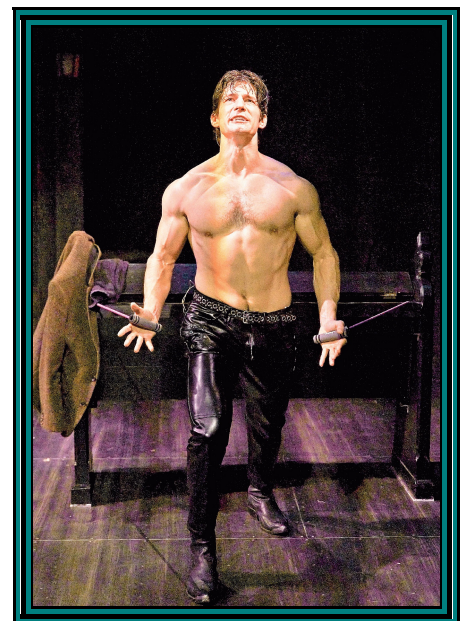
It’s a melodrama. It’s a comedy. It’s a horror story. It’s a farce. It’s all of those things wrapped up in a delectable ninety minute rondeau on the stage at Capital Repertory in Albany, New York, settling in for a run through the month of October. What it is, really, is a treat for your Halloween shopping bag, but one that comes with dozens of tricks all its own. Lightning flashes, thunder rumbles, people appear and disappear, some returning instantly as someone else: new wig, new costume, new voice and personality. It’s a delicious comedic romp is what it is. It even uses *the* classic comedy line of our time when Count Dracula intones the phrase “I Love Lucy.”



Jeremy Webb, Kathy Fitzgerald, Dan Rosales; Photo: Doug Liebig

In this edition of the classic Bram Stoker story, Count Dracula is a Leather-God super-stud, played to a gilded glow by David T. Patterson. He attracts sisters Mina (played by Jeremy Webb) and Lucy (played by Cathryn Wake), Lucy’s fiancé Jonathan Harker (played by Dan Rosales), insect-hungry Renfield (played by Kathy Fitzgerald who also plays Lucy and Mina’s father Dr. Westfeldt), and a variety of servants (also played by Wake). He bares his beautiful chest more often than he bares his teeth and, as Dracula, adores to be adored. In a thousand years, he tells us, he has never found his one true love until he saw Lucy Westfeldt and he swears he will have her. But first he’ll have Mina, and the Doctor’s housekeeper and random people in the park. This is one super toothsome stud.

The five member cast are brilliantly hilarious and



David T. Patterson;
Photo: Doug Liebig

after Mina suffers a death worse than fate Webb is transformed into his second major character, that famous Vampire hunter Van Helsing, a woman who can't keep her eyes off the widower Dr. Westfeldt. The new magically funny script by Gordon Greenberg and Steve Rosen opened on the eve of Yom Kippur and it might be said they took on atonement in a unique and personal manner. Directed by Greenberg in a non-stop, quicksilver production the audience response was a different form of redemption for our sins. This opportunity to laugh at the silliness of our world through a look at the late nineteenth century foibles of intelligent people is not to be missed.

This year's Jonathan Harker is a non-GMO vegan and his fiancée is an educated woman whose aspirations are as 21st century as could be conceived. Her massive sister is a coquette in drag and their father is a psychiatrist who cannot see the bad in any man, a virtual Bill Barr, supporting his crazy patient's right to indulge in fantasies of the viability of a loony, limited diet. Fitzgerald holds a frantic, manic dialogue between his Westfeldt and his Renfield that cracked me up and I can guarantee will do the same for you.



Jeremy Webb, Kathy Fitzgerald, Cathryn Wake; Photo: Doug Liebig

When Harker and Lucy wed she is nine months pregnant with a baby who kicks - or is it bites - without a care in the world. We can almost see him working out in leather pants. Tijana

Bjelajac's set, Rob Denton's lighting and Tristian Raines' costumes add to the delights of the show as do Michael Dunn's wigs and Victoria Delorio's sound design. Greenberg's fine direction holds the piece together like a perfect glove on a aged hand. This is a don't miss show - so don't miss it!

+ 10/04/2022 +

Dracula - A Comedy of Terrors

plays at theRep, 251 N. Pearl Street, Albany, NY through October 23. For information and tickets call 518-445-SHOW (7469) or go on line to capitalrep.org.



Cathryn Webb, Dan Rosales; Photo: Doug Liebig