

“Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Originally produced in New York by Drew Desky and Dane Levens, Drew & Dane Productions. DRACULA: A COMEDY OF TERRORS was commissioned and originally produced by Maltz Jupiter Theatre

Andrew Kato, Producing Artistic Director/Chief Executive

From the Department Head and Managing Director



Welcome back to season 2024-25! After a refreshing sabbatical filled with performing and various other theatrical experiences, Professor Nichole Hamiton brings her directing skill to this first show of our academic year - a wonderful teaser leading up to the Halloween season. We are quite excited to have a large and enthusiastic first-year cohort of students, and you will be seeing them onstage and behind the scenes, along with our wonderful returning students -some of whom will be graduating in December! Your attendance is vital to the experience of our students, as they hone their skills in order to be able to transition into the professional world. As always, we thank you for your patronage and please join us for the rest of our season. From drama, to romance to musicals, our season has much in store for you this year. And...we are already making plans for next year, which will include the holiday favorite, *A Christmas Carol*. While we choose a variety of genres for educational purposes, we also enjoy serving you, our beloved audience, so if there's something you would like to see onstage...please drop us a line! Happy viewing...and cover up your neck!

Run Time is approximately 110 minutes without an intermission

Warning, this show contains

Mature Content (recommended 16+)
Fog, Haze, Strobes, Gender Bending
Ridiculousness

No video recordings or photos permitted

Reminder to silence or turn off your technology

Thank you for your consideration.

Land Acknowledgement

New Mexico State University honors Native American knowledges and worldviews based on intimate relationships to the natural world. The genesis of the Southwest Indigenous Peoples, including the Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache, established their guardianship of the lands now occupied by New Mexico State University. As the state's Land-Grant University, we acknowledge and respect the sovereign Indian Nations and Indigenous Peoples. We pledge to have a meaningful and respectful relationship with the sovereign Indian Nations, Indigenous communities, and Native American Peoples within the institution.

Director's Notes



Comedy comes in many forms – physical, witty, satirical, farcical, slapstick, deadpan, blue, parody, observational, absurdist, and on and on and on... Luckily for us, Steve Rosen and Gordon Greenberg have written a piece that attempts to include them all.

Whether or not you have read the classic Bram Stoker gothic novel, you are most likely familiar with the story as it has embedded itself in our culture for over a century. Why? We might look to some of context in which it was written...the Victorian era when the British Empire first became a global economic power and set many of the standards we often (consciously or subconsciously) follow today. With those standards in place, what does it mean to be vampiric?

- Defying gender roles and what is sexually proper: in the novel, Lucy and Mina represent two aspects of the New Woman, either sexually daring or intellectually ambitious. One is rewarded, one is punished by being staked to her grave.
- Accepting invaders: there was great anxiety about outside threats being the demise of the empire, mostly the foreigner.
- Resisting the patriarchy: overcoming an unknown illness in childhood, Stoker went on to work for Henry Irving as a business manager at the Lyceum theatre and found him to be a god. Irving who was described as “a self-absorbed and profoundly manipulative man,” may have been an inspiration for the character of Dracula and the power role upon the employee.
- Confronting sexuality: while working on the novel, Stoker had brushed elbows with the likes of Whitman and Wilde. Stoker, who was queer himself, was witnessing the trials of Oscar Wilde who had been convicted in “one of the first celebrity trials” and served two years for “gross indecency” or relations with other men. Wilde died later of health complications contracted while in prison at the age of 46.

What has changed for us in 127 years since the novel was written? Are we more open to understanding there are more ways than one when defining what a woman or a man is? Have we embraced those that are different from us? Can we grasp that there is a world of everything in between and beyond societal norms? Do we push past our fears and accept the invitation to take risks, live our passion and our truth, and be the unicorns we were meant to be? Can we take a beat and laugh at our own expense?

Gordon Greenberg mentions in his podcast interview with The Present Stage: Conversations with Theater writers, that they chose to use the gothic novel to adapt as they prefer material that takes itself seriously. It is the easiest to poke fun of, to send up. At the same time, they attempt to honor what is underneath the silly, what is compelling – gender questioning, life questioning, the big thoughts and questions of the human plight.

A note from the Dramaturg

Published in 1897, Bram Stoker's gothic novel Dracula has remained a staple in the public eye for the past century. With its initial introduction to the public, Dracula was regarded in a positive light. Many early reviewers were charmed by Stoker's unique treatment of the vampire myth and use of horror, with one reviewer calling it the best vampire story ever written. Despite the praise, however, some found the novel “excessively frightening” and could not be read by those “who were not strong.” Part of what made the novel so effective

and horrifying to the British public was the choice of bringing the titular monster to their front door. No longer was the vampire roaming in the vague moors or living in some distant country far away. Now he was coming to our home with the intention of never leaving.

The novel's blend of folklore, legend, vampire fiction, and Victorian gothic conventions has led it to be considered a formative piece in the gothic horror genre. With over 30 film adaptations and countless appearances in pop culture made by the characters, Dracula has remained one of the most famous and recognizable pieces of English literature.

The novel's depictions of gender roles, sexuality, and race have long been explored by modern scholars within the context of Stoker's Victorian world and our contemporary one. To this day, Dracula has never gone out of print, and has proceeded to shape our understanding of the vampire and all its characteristics. We can thank Stoker and previous Dracula adaptations for the common vampiric tropes of bat transformation, disdain for garlic, weakness towards sunlight, and contempt for crucifixes.

Cast List

ACTOR 1 (JONATHAN HARKER, CAVENDISH, WORTHINGTON, HAVEMERCY, BOSUN,
GRAVEDIGGER) **CARLOS HUERECA**

ACTOR 2 (DR. WESTFELDT, RENFIELD, CAPTAIN, MAN-EATING WOLF)

ELIZA PHILLIPS

ACTOR 3 (LUCY WESTFELDT, KITTY, DRIVER, MAN-EATING WOLF)

OKALANI VENTURA

ACTOR 4 (MINA WESTFELDT, DR. VAN HELSING, MAN-EATING WOLF)

VANCE COOK

ACTOR 5 (DRACULA)

MARIO MONTIEL

UNDERSTUDY ACTORS 1 &

ALLISON GILES

UNDERSTUDY ACTORS 3 & 4

SIOBHAN PYPER

Production Team

Director.....	NICHOLE HAMILTON
Scenic, Lighting, and Props.....	AARON KROHN
Assistant Props Designer.....	DAMEON VASQUEZ
Costume Designer.....	DR. HEATHER STRIEBEL
Sound Designer.....	JIM WILKINSON
Stage Manager.....	JJ HANLEY
Assistant Stage Manager.....	DANIELA GALLOSO

Cast Biographies



Vance Cook is a senior at NMSU, and is planning on graduating with a BFA in December. His previous acting credits include Charlie Brown, Caliban, and Clyde Barrow. He wants to thank his family for never giving up on him and for showing endless support. He also wants to thank his friends, near and far, who made sure he was never alone. Post-graduation, he plans on pursuing a career in props crafts/ management.



My name is **Allison Giles**, and I'm understudying for actors one and two. I'm from California, and I enjoy art, musicals, cartoons and clowns! I'm a freshman majoring in 2D animation, but my love for acting has driven me to become involved in NMSU's amazing theater program! I believe improv is one of the most exciting things you can do on stage, and *Dracula: A Comedy Of Terrors* has quite a few moments of improvisation, making it one of the most fun shows I've had the pleasure of being a part of.



Carlos Huereca is a sophomore at NMSU and is a theatre major. This is his 4th main stage production at NMSU. You may have seen him in the roles of Uncle Fester in The Addams Family or Big brother in Carmela Full of Wishes. He's excited to play his various roles in *Dracula a Comedy of Terrors* and bring enjoyment and laughter to the audience.



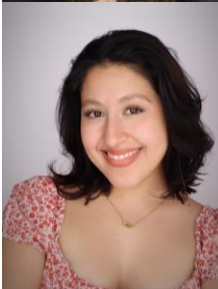
My name is **Mario Montiel** I'm a 21 year old junior at NMSU. The learning experience I have had at NMSU is a blessing. When I'm performing in the spotlight, I feel more than just "seen", I feel PURPOSE.



Eliza Phillips is currently a senior here at NMSU, and is absolutely ecstatic to be in this production! Previously, Eliza has starred as Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Lexi in *Hookman*, Magrat in *Wyrd Sisters*, Cecilia in *Fefu and Her Friends*. Eliza would like to thank her cast members for making this experience the most fun they've ever had.



Siobhan Pyper is a freshman theater major at NMSU. This is her first production at NMSU but has been involved in community theater for years. She's grateful for the opportunity to be involved in *Dracula: a Comedy of Terrors* and grow a deeper friendship with her cast.



Okalani Ventura is currently a sophomore at NMSU and majoring in Theater. She is extremely honored to make her acting debut at NMSU in *Dracula*. Her past credits include Penny Pingleton (*Hairspray*) and Peter (*Peter & Wendy*). She would like to thank her family for their support and encouragement throughout the process. She also encourages all individuals to overlook any troubles or perturbations in the world during this time and enjoy the beauty of theater 😊

Student Production Biographies



Daniela Galloso (Assistant Stage Manager)- This is Daniela's first show at NMSU as the Assistant Stage Manager. She is a first year from El Paso and she can't wait to watch the actors in their element and see the audience's reactions. She is also glad to gain more experience to hopefully earn the privilege to stage manage on her own.



JJ Hanley (Stage Manager)- She is in her fourth at NMSU, focusing primarily on stage management, costume design, and makeup design. Her goal after graduation is to join I.A.T.S.E. (The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees) and pursue careers all over the country so she can continue to afford her tattoo addiction.

Production Staff

Technical Director
Theatre Manager
Scene Shop Assistant

Diana Dávila
Jim Wilkinson
Daniel Aguilera

Assistant Props Designer
Scene Shop Work-study
Costume Shop Manager
Master Electrician
Lighting Electricians
Light Board Operator
Follow Spot Operator
Sound Board Operator
Crew Chief
Stage Crew

Set Construction
Wardrobe Supervisor
Costume Construction
Costume /Wig/Makeup Crew
Laundry/Maintenance Crew
House Manager
House Crew
Box Office Manager

Dameon Vasquez
Eva Cullen, Arleth Lopez, and Ben Ramsey
Tamara M. Carruthers
Jim Wilkinson
THTR 347 students
Eva Cullen
Chantel Turner
Dameon Vasquez
Ace Medina
Emily Glover, Erick Granillo, and
Delaney Dwyer (Fly)
THTR 141L & THTR 346 students
Cyp Fira
THEA 1310L & THEA 345 students
Aslan Longoria, Athena McPeake
Delaney Silvis
Indira Devi
Jackson Giffing, Edward Leyva, Alex Smith
Katie Mayers

Resident Company Biographies

Tamara M. Carruthers received a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts (with an emphasis in Costume Design) from New Mexico State University. She managed NMSU's Costume Shop for three semesters directly after graduation then joined Wayside Theatre (Middletown, VA) and spent ten years as their Resident Costume Designer and Costume Shop Manager. She has also been a Costume Designer, Costume Shop Manager, and Draper/First Hand at Creede Repertory Theatre (Creede, CO). She has been the Costume Shop Manager and an Instructor at NMSU since 2017 and is the proud recipient of the Fall 2021 "A" *Mountain Staff Award* and the Spring 2022 *College of Arts and Sciences Exempt Staff Development Award*.

Diana Dávila (she/ella) was born in Juarez, Mexico and moved to El Paso, TX when she was very young. She graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Tech/Design with an emphasis in Scene Design from the University of Texas at El Paso, where she worked as a Visiting Assistant Professor from 2021-2022. She has worked in theater professionally across multiple states, most recently as an Assistant Technical Director for the California Shakespeare Theater in Orinda. Throughout her work in New York, Colorado, and California, Diana has worked with many excellent designers and directors, and enjoys the collaboration magic that always shines through at the end of putting together a production. She enjoys the challenge of coming up with solutions for a difficult technical aspect of a production, and prides herself on always advocating for the laborers of the shops where she's worked to ensure their safe and healthy work environments. When she isn't working, Diana likes to go hiking and exploring different outdoor trails, usually bringing along her best trippawd friend, Camila. She'd like to thank her parents and community of friends and loved ones for supporting her through all the funky adventures she's gone on through the last few years; there'll always be more, and she'll always be grateful to have their love and support through all of them.

Nichole Hamilton (she/hers) is an Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts at NMSU, teaching classes in vocal production and acting. At NMSU, she has directed *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *Inspecting Carol*, *The Wolves*, the 2020 original and interactive virtual play *Tracer*, and last year's production of *Fefu and her Friends*. Nichole has been an actor, director, and instructor for over 20 years and is a proud member of Actors Equity Association and the Hippodrome Acting Company. She is a certified teacher with the National Michael Chekhov Association and a practitioner with the Lessac Training and Research Institute. Nichole is the recipient of the NMSU 2020 Patricia Christmore Faculty Teaching Award.

Lisa Hermanson is originally from Seattle, Washington. She holds her MFA in Theatre Pedagogy/Performance from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she was also adjunct faculty in Theatre and Speech, and her BA in Theatre and Music from Seattle Pacific University. Lisa is a music director, director, pianist, vocalist, and composer/playwright. She has worked in theatres in both the Seattle and Richmond areas, including Virginia Repertory Theatre (Richmond, VA) and the 5th Avenue Theatre (Seattle, WA), as well as multiple years in theatre education in Seattle. Favorite music credits include *Into The Woods* (TheatreVCU), *Spitfire Grill* (Northwest University), *The Little Mermaid* (Broadway Bound Children's Theatre), several years with *Covenant Kids* (Shoreline Covenant Church), and work on the revival of *Paint Your Wagon* (5th Avenue Theatre). Favorite directing credits include *Little Shop of Horrors* (TheatreVCU), *12 Angry Jurors* (Meadowdale High School), *The Good Doctor* (Seattle Pacific University), and *Robin Hood* (Shoreline Christian School). In addition to working with published and classic pieces, Lisa also focuses on new work. Her current project is a musical on the question of immigration, the first draft of which was developed and workshopped in Richmond, VA as a culmination of her graduate work.

Wil Kilroy joined NMSU after many years in Maine where he was Chair and Professor of Theatre at the University of Southern Maine. At USM he directed dozens of plays and musicals including *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Laramie Project* which were invited to Kennedy Center regional festivals. Wil has worked nationally as an actor, with roles ranging from Steve in *Becky's New Car* to Laertes in *Hamlet*, and on TV productions such as *All My Children* and *Babylon Five*, and is an annual alumni guest artist with The State Ballet of Rhode Island. As the co-founder of the National Michael Chekhov Association, Wil has taught nationally and internationally. Wil was awarded the Kennedy Center bronze medallion for achievement in Theatre Education in 2014. Wil is currently under contract with Routledge Press for his upcoming book, "Improvisation the Michael Chekhov Way: Active Exercises for Acting".

Aaron Krohn joined NMSU's Theatre Department in 2023 as an Assistant Professor of Design and as the resident lighting and scenic designer for the University's theatre productions. He came to NMSU from Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina where he served as an Assistant Professor of Lighting and Scenic Design as well as the Technical Director. Aaron earned his MFA in Lighting Design from The University of Houston and received his BA in Theatre with a minor in Art and Art History from Trinity University in San Antonio. Before returning to school for his graduate degree he served as the Production Manager and Acting Technical Director for Ballet San Antonio. Prior to his time with the ballet, he worked at Mega Systems Inc. developing and building lighting control consoles aimed at megachurches and nightclubs. He regularly works as a guest designer and technical director in both theatre and dance.

Larissa Lury, is an Associate Professor at NMSU (where she's taught since 2013), as well as a director, deviser, and former acrobat. She loves artwork and experiences that open her to new ways of looking at the

world around her, and strives to create those experiences for others. She's directed and workshopped plays for companies around the country, including: Nashville Rep, American Shakespeare Center, San Diego Rep, The Assembly, Cherry Lane (Mentor Project), The Playwrights' Center, Urbanite, Dorset Theatre Festival, Portland Center Stage, Southern Rep, San Diego Rep, InterAct, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Clubbed Thumb, New Georges, Ma-Yi, New Jersey Rep, Keen Company's Keen Teens, McCarter Theatre's Youth Ink!, Curious Theatre Company, American Southwest Theatre Company, Lake Dillon, Passage Theatre, Abingdon/Small Pond, Leviathan Lab, and Prospect Theatre. Larissa was a member of the inaugural group of National Directing Fellows, received a *Next Stage* Residency through The Drama League, an Audrey Residency through New Georges, was an LMCC *Process Space* Resident, a Resident Director at Ensemble Studio Theatre, and a chashama AREA Award recipient. She was a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, and is a New Georges Affiliate Artist, and a member of the National Alliance of Acting Teachers. She received a BS from Northwestern University and an MFA from UC San Diego. She works to cultivate practices, processes and structures for our field that are as innovative, equitable, inspiring, productively malleable, supportive and humane as an industry built on creativity warrants (so if you've got ideas and want to talk about how to do that better, please reach out!). larissalury.com

Bobbi Masters (she/hers) is so happy to return to Las Cruces. Since directing *THE BALD SOPRANO* at No Strings Theatre Company, she has earned her MFA at Southern Illinois University and serves as the Artistic Director at Stage Left Theatre in Chicago. She directed the online streaming production of Crystal Skillman's *OPEN* and created the monthly new play reading series, *Off-Stage Left*. Her passion is new plays and throughout her career, she has worked in various roles in the development of countless new works. As a director, her work has been seen regionally at theatres such as Kitchen Dog Theatre (where she served as an artistic associate) to Off-Off Broadway at Theatre for the New City. She previously served as Resident Director at Coffee Black Productions and an Artistic Associate at Milk Can Theatre. For more information, please visit her website www.bobbimasters.com

Dr. Heather Striebel is an Assistant Professor of Costume Design/Resident Costume Designer at New Mexico State University. She is a freelance costume and fashion designer who earned her Ph.D. in Apparel Design and M.F.A. in Technical Theatre, Costume Design from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. She is a two-time recipient of the Mary Mitchell Fashion Design Award (2020-2021) with one garment selected by the Costume Society of America for presentation at the 2021 National Symposium. Other awards include: ariZoni (Zoni) Award for Best Costume Design for *The Little Mermaid* (Theater Works, 2019) and the Arizona Theater Teacher of the Year Award (2013). Select Design Credits: Fashion - Omaha Fashion Week (2018 - 2020), Miss USA Pageant 2022 – *Lady Liberty* Costume for Miss Nebraska 2022, Film - *The Bell Affair & The Michael Shiner Diaries* (Salt Marsh Productions), Stage – *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors*, *As You Like It*, *The Addams Family*, *Carmela Full of Wishes* (NMSU), *Something Rotten!* (Theater Works), *Spamalot*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Dirty-Rotten- Scoundrels*, *A Christmas Carol* (Arizona Broadway Theatre), *Violet* (Glenn Korff School of Music), *Mother Courage* (Nebraska Rep), *The Serpent* (Nebraska Rep), *This Random World* (U.N.L.). To learn more about Dr. Striebel's work please visit: www.hscostumedesigns.com

Jim Wilkinson is a graduate of Oñate high school in Las Cruces New Mexico where he studied technical theater. He continued his education at Full Sail University in Orlando, Florida where he received an associates of science in show production and touring. He returned to New Mexico to become the head of the audio department at the Spencer Theater. He travelled the U.S. and Canada on tours of Broadway shows including;

Oklahoma, Big River, My Fair Lady and Movin' Out. In 2007 he moved to New York City and worked as a sound operator and mixer on many Broadway productions including Hair, Spamalot, Porgy And Bess, A Christmas Story, Spiderman: Turn Off the Dark, and If/Then. Jim is thrilled to be back living in the southwest and to be part of the NMSU Theatre

Special Thank You To

Derek Flodmand, Cameron Francis, Allison Giles for Cabin Boy Drawing, Arik Ruiz (Almas Kitchen) and Héctor Madrid

From the ASTC Board President



The American Southwest Theater Company (ASTC) and the NMSU Department of Theatre Arts is excited to present the performance of *Dracula, A Comedy of Terrors* as the 2024-25 season opener! The cast of five of our theatre student actors will be playing over 15 different characters. Directed by Associate Professor Nichole Hamilton, the twist on the classic Bram Stoker novel will have you laughing for the entire 90 minutes.

We hope you have secured your favorite seat(s) with the purchase of a season ticket so you can enjoy the performances of *Mother Courage and Her Children*, directed by Larissa Lury, in November, *That Drive thru Monterey*, student directed by Eva Cullen, in February 2025 and our season closure *The Prom*, directed by Wil Kilroy, in April 2025.

ASTC has been busy this year supporting the 2023-24 season closer, *The Addams Family* with \$3000.00 for musicians, supporting the NMSU Summer Theatre Camp this past June with 22 students, greeting incoming students during “move in day” and hosting a pizza party the first of school for new and returning theatre students.

ASTC hosted a fund raiser brunch in March showcasing several of our talented students with snippets of their performances from The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Although the fund raiser was very successful it is not enough to support all the needs in a season. Please keep an eye on the web site for future events. Donations are critical to our ability to provide emergency funds, a senior scholarship, fund the travel, lodging, and honorarium for guest speakers to work with our students in all aspects of theatre.

Please contact me via e-mail, dwelsh@nmsu.edu with any questions, comments or information about ASTC.

Denise Welsh, ASTC President

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Wil Kilroy	Professor/Department Head/Managing Director
Tamara M. Carruthers	Costume Shop Manager
Diana Dávila	Technical Director
Nichole Hamilton	Assistant Professor
Lisa Hermanson	Assistant Professor
Aaron Krohn	Assistant Professor
Larissa Lury	Associate Professor
Bobbi Masters	Production Stage Manager/Assistant Professor
Dr. Heather Striebel	Costume Designer/Professor
Jim Wilkinson	Theater Manager/Sound Designer

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Department of Theatre Arts Scholarship

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Vance Cook
Ana Cotton
Jackson Giffing
Emily Glover
Edward Leyva
Athena McPeake
Grace Mellen

Eliza Phillips
Angelique Reagan
Timothy Roulscup
Indira Rucker
Delaney Sivils

Our 2024-2025 Season

DRACULA, A COMEDY OF TERRORS by Gordon Greenberg and Steve Rosen

Directed by Nichole Hamilton

September 27-October 6

MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN by Bertolt Brecht, translated by David Hare

Directed by Larissa Lury

November 8- 17

THAT DRIVE THRU MONTEREY by Matthew Paul Olmos

Directed by Eva Cullen

February 21-March 2

THE PROM books and lyrics by Chad Begullin, book by Bob Morton, music by Matthew Sklar

Directed by Wil Kilroy

April 11- 27

**Purchase your tickets by visiting theatre.nmsu.edu
or by calling our box office at 575-646-4515!**



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Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.