

PRESS RELEASE
Drakul by John Heimbuch

Press Release
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WALKING SHADOW'S RE-VAMPED VERSION OF "DRACULA" GOES STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART

DRAKUL written and directed by John Heimbuch
February 11-26, 2011 at the Red Eye Theater

Walking Shadow Theatre Company presents the world premiere of *Drakul*, a new adaptation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* written and directed by company member John Heimbuch (*The Transdimensional Couriers Union*, *William Shakespeare's Land of the Dead*).

Under the electric lights of London, Mina is enamored of a handsome young solicitor. But when Jonathan disappears on a business trip and Mina is approached by an alluring foreign prince, a shadow falls over their lives. Now, seven years since the defeat of the vampire, the wounds of betrayal remain... until their private journals are published under the name "Bram Stoker" and they must either face the past or be destroyed by it.

Freely adapted from the book *Dracula* by company member John Heimbuch, this fresh take on the classic vampire story closely follows Bram Stoker's book while speculating about the lives of the characters in the aftermath of their violent supernatural encounter. As the memories and journals of the survivors are brought to light, they also unearth a variety of personal secrets they have tried hard to protect. *Drakul* uses the fantastical events of the original novel to examine the role of desire, love, trust and fear in the lives of the survivors.

Drakul is John Heimbuch's sixth original script for Walking Shadow, following *The Transdimensional Couriers Union*, *SQUAWK*, *William Shakespeare's Land of the Dead*, *10-Speed Revolution*, and *The Lives of the Most Notorious Highwaymen*. His other plays include *Or the White Whale*, *S. Gunter Klaus and the Story Before*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, and *The King is Dead* with Jon Ferguson, and the *London After Midnight* series for Hardcover Theater. This will be the fourth production he has directed for Walking Shadow (*The Transdimensional Couriers Union*, *36 Views*, and *Seventy Scenes of Halloween*).

The cast includes **Melissa Anne Murphy** (WS: *Robots vs. Fake Robots*, *The Transdimensional Couriers Union*), **Alan Sorenson** (WS: *The Transdimensional Couriers Union*, Latte Da: *The Christmas Truce of 1914*), **Sam Landman** (WS: *The American Pilot*, *Caligula*), **Ian Miller** (Gremlin: *The Homecoming*, MN Fringe: *Buyer's Remorse*), **Joanna Harmon** (Red Eye: *Maria/Stuart*, New Theatre Group: *American Sexy*), **Wade Vaughn** (Gremlin: *Burn This*, Pro Rata: *Traveling Light*), **Keith Prusak** (WS: *The Lives of the Most Notorious Highwaymen*, *William Shakespeare's Land of*

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the Dead), **Erik Hoover** (WS: *Amazons and Their Men*, *Novi Most: The Oldest Story in the World*), with **Charles Hubbell** (WS: *Caligula*, *Gremlin: The Homecoming*) as Vlad Drakul.

The production staff includes **Steve Kath** (sets), **E. Amy Hill** (costumes), **Kristen Larsen** (props), **Logan Jambik** (lights), **Tim Cameron** (sound/composition), **Mira Kehoe** (dialects), and **Brian Hesser** (fight choreography), **Sarah Holmberg** (stage management), and **Justin Alexander** (dramaturg). This production also features two students who are participating in Walking Shadow's young artist training program: **Maya LeBeau** (assistant director) and **Bronwen Marshall-Bass** (lighting intern).

About Walking Shadow Theatre Company:

Since 2004, Walking Shadow Theatre has gained a reputation for creating well-staged and carefully researched independent theater. Past productions include *Robots vs. Fake Robots* by David Largman Murray, Neil LaBute's *Some Girl(s)* and *Fat Pig*, and David Greig's *The American Pilot*, as well as notable Fringe Festival successes including *1926 Pleasant*, *William Shakespeare's Land of the Dead*, *SQUAWK* and *See You Next Tuesday*. This show marks Walking Shadow's 20th production for the Twin Cities stage.

This activity funded, in part, by the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

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TICKETS: \$18/\$15
RESERVATIONS: 612-375-0300
MORE INFORMATION: www.walkingshadowcompany.org

EVENT **Drakul**
WRITTEN BY: John Heimbuch
DIRECTED BY: John Heimbuch
NOTE: World Premiere

DATES: February 11 - 26, 2011
VENUE: Red Eye Theater
15 West 14th Street, Minneapolis, MN, 55403

SUMMARY: Under the electric lights of London, Mina is enamored of a handsome young solicitor. But when Jonathan disappears on a business trip and Mina is approached by an alluring foreign prince, a shadow falls over their lives. Now, seven years since the defeat of the vampire, the wounds of betrayal remain... until their private journals are published under the name "Bram Stoker" and they must either face the past or be destroyed by it. Freely adapted from the book *Dracula* by company member John Heimbuch.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Friday, February 11, 7:30 pm	Opening Night Reception following performance
Saturday, February 12, 7:30 pm	
Monday, February 14, 7:30 pm	Pay What You Can Performance
Thursday, February 17, 7:30 pm	
Friday, February 18, 7:30 pm	Post-Show Discussion
Saturday, February 19, 7:30 pm	Audio Described Performance
Sunday, February 20, 3:00 pm	Matinee
Thursday, February 24, 7:30 pm	
Friday, February 25, 7:30 pm	ASL Interpreted, Post-Show Discussion
Saturday, February 26, 7:30 pm	

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