

Dracula fills dance with chilling, horrific power

DANCE Review

When I was in the fifth grade, our class went to see the Nutcracker Ballet. It was such a sweet and innocent ballet with two young lovers dancing across a fantasy land of candy canes and Christmas trees.

Sugar Plum Fairy, meet Dracula, King of the Vampires.
Wednesday night's Ballet Omaha

interpretation of Bram Stoker's "Dracula" at the Lied Center shattered the typical white satin and Beethoven image of ballet forever. "Dracula's" appeal lay in the overall aspect of the theatrical paradox of using ballet as a medium for such a horrific creature.

The ballet revolves around the famous vampire, played by Reed Scott, and his addictive desire for mortal blood. He yearns for an eternal bride. He has chosen a young mortal woman named Lucy, played by Susan Chowing.

Dracula, clothed in the traditional black cape of vampire lore, moved

with a strange grace. He seemed to covet his victims with his power.

The vampire king and his "undead" ensemble were sheathed by a layer of fog and darkness. The rest of the undead dancers resembled a scene from "Tale of the Body Snatchers" as they moved in sync with Dracula's gestures as if transfixed by his powers.

Within the first scene, Dracula took to the air as a bat, enveloped in his cape. The flying element of the ballet worked well. It gave the entire performance a new dimension.

"I am Dracula, King of the Vampires. I am indestructible," Dracula

warned as he retired to his coffin in an eruption of fog and fireballs.

The addition of dialogue worked very well in expressing Dracula's thoughts and intentions, but it lost its effect when it was used by other characters in direct speech.

The ballet movements themselves also served as dialogue. They gave a strong distinction between the living and the undead. Mortals moved with grace and poise, while the undead moved with harsh and broken motions.

The transformation of Lucy was the most captivating scene of the play. As Dracula sucked the blood from her

neck, the life was visibly taken from the girl through a series of syncopated thrashing movements.

The entire ballet was composed of similarly powerful scenes. The meticulous organization of events also made it easy to follow the plot.

The foreboding musical score lent to the evil atmosphere of the play, as did the mysterious fog and darkness.

Through the combination of modern dance techniques, special effects and dialogue, "Dracula" has definitely given new blood to the power of ballet.

—Paula Lavigne

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Calvin and Hobbes



Crossword

Edited by Eugene T. Maleska

No. 1219

ACROSS

- 1 Unit of capacitance
- 6 Actor Everett from South Bend
- 10 Lip
- 14 Small egg
- 15 Scottish philosopher
- 16 "A Death in the Family" author
- 17 Commenced
- 18 Sandarac tree
- 19 Lose pep
- 20 Protests noisily
- 23 "___ So Easy," Ronstadt song
- 24 Malayan gibbon
- 25 Goes into a rage
- 33 Crazylegs Hirsch of football fame
- 34 Sprint
- 35 Skill
- 37 Decree
- 38 Watchful
- 40 Jacob's twin
- 41 ___ chi (self-defense system)
- 42 ___ Brothers of songdom
- 43 Blemish
- 44 Has cabin fever
- 48 Former French coin
- 49 Old musical note
- 50 Paces nervously

DOWN

- 1 Watch pocket
- 2 Assert
- 3 Anatomical wrinkle
- 4 Jal ___
- 5 Thickness
- 6 Dance step
- 7 "The Accidental Tourist" star
- 8 Oriental nurse
- 9 Negligent
- 10 Spiritual goal in Zen Buddhism
- 11 Exchange premium
- 12 Lord's lackey
- 13 Meet a bet
- 21 Numerical suffix
- 22 Chest murmur
- 25 Weight
- 26 Kind of vein
- 27 Chisholm or Santa Fe
- 57 Poem by Tennyson
- 58 Make well
- 59 Rustic roads
- 61 It may be Dutch
- 62 Chalet feature
- 63 Mink's kin
- 64 "Coming of Age in Samoa" author
- 65 Scott, the slave
- 66 Whatever person, old style
- 28 Tippler
- 29 Arete
- 30 Labyrinth locale
- 31 Of the nose
- 32 Last Supper utensil
- 36 Wine casks
- 38 Waylaid
- 39 Bandleader Brown
- 40 Greek vowel
- 42 Bad way to run?
- 43 Purple martin
- 45 What no man is?
- 46 Well-___ (rich)
- 47 Peri
- 50 Used a loom
- 51 Tract
- 52 Rend
- 53 Own
- 54 Vow
- 55 Double preposition
- 56 Nickleby portrayer
- 57 Actor DeLuise
- 60 Angel's favorite letters

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PLACE EMIT ATEN
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LIE TAM AOK
ERISA LEGION
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MOON ADANO USES
ASTER ASTROLOGY
TOSSES SELLS
DES RED LAC
ASTRONAUT STARE
QUIT OLLA TAPIR
UELE RANI ERASE
ADES ASAN RAZES

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Oh, God! It's that creepy Ted Sheldon and Louis Dickerson. ... They're skinheads, you know."