

Vampire

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What helps the film are the super-cool visual and makeup effects to transform Murphy into a prince of darkness.

The story doesn't have very sharp teeth; Maximillion (Murphy) has come to Brooklyn to marry the last remaining survivor of his people, a half-vampire (Angela Bassett, "Strange Days") who isn't even aware of her heritage.

For comic relief, Max turns into a ghoulish with that "drinking vampire blood" stunt, but with one bad side effect — his body parts begin to fall off.

Murphy actually shows a new spirit to this role; he isn't using that

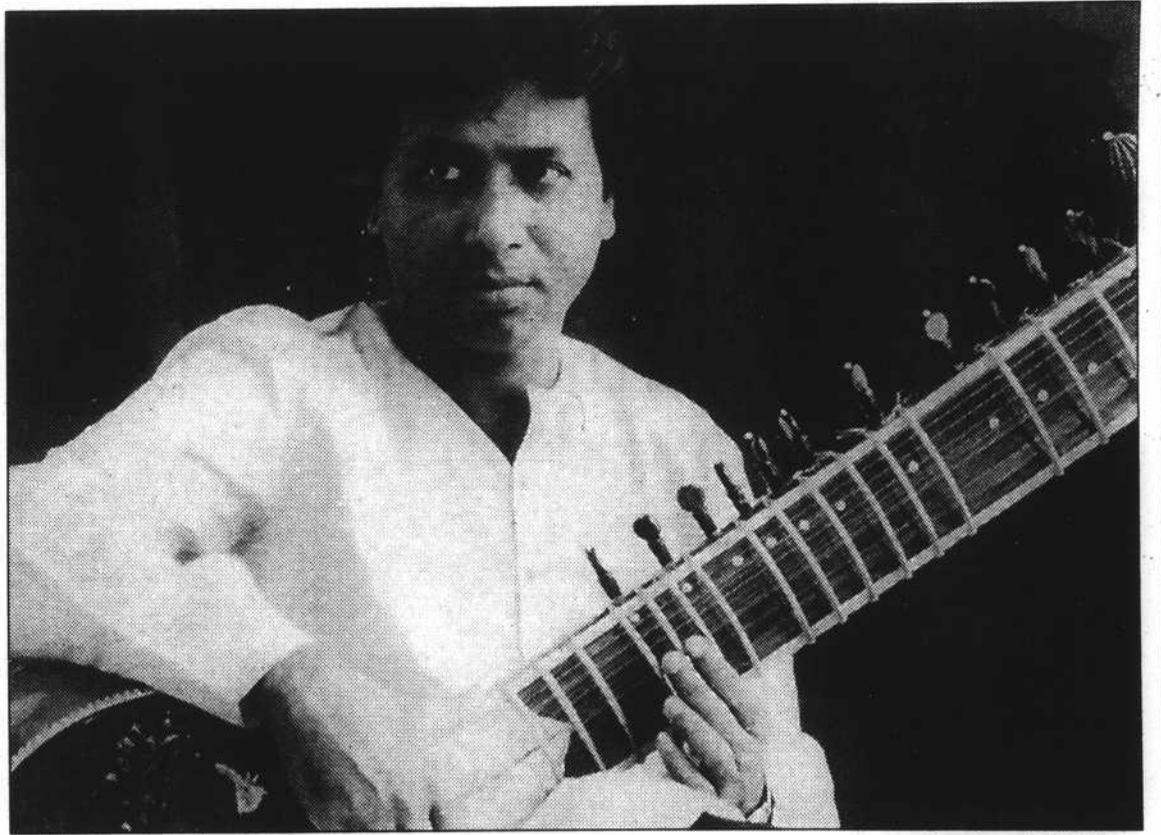
annoying laugh or doing a bunch of fast-talking crap. He's a little creepy and even exudes an attitude of evil about him.

Bassett overacts somewhat, but it's better than just mumbling her lines while waiting for a paycheck. She knows the story line is sadly predictable and overused, but she still instills some light into the darkness.

Craven keeps the movie rolling along at a decent pace, pausing long enough for some plot development here and neat-o special effects there, but also is dragged down by the story line.

Again, the real treat in "Vampire in Brooklyn" is the special effects.

Those seeking the lighter side of vampirism who aren't worried about being burdened down with an untested plot might want to check it out.



Courtesy of UNL Raag
Shahid Parvez Khan, one of India's leading sitar players, brings his music to UNL in a concert at Westbrook Music Hall Friday.

Sitar virtuoso to play at UNL

By Patrick Hambrecht
Staff Reporter

The second-best sitar player in the world, Shahid Parvez Khan, performs tomorrow at Westbrook Music Hall.

Concert Preview



Khan is widely accepted in India as superior to all other sitar players, with the exception of Ravi Shankar, said R a d h a Balasubramaniam,

head of the UNL Raag organization.

Ravi Shankar brought Indian sitar music to the West in the 1960s. He is widely accepted in India as the best sitar musician, because of both his international renown and beautiful improvisational melodies, which can last

anywhere from 10 minutes to close to an hour.

Shankar tutored George Harrison of the Beatles, who helped make sitar melodies like "Norwegian Wood" and "Within You and Without You" into rock classics. Shankar also influenced the Moody Blues and has played with the New York Philharmonic.

Now, Khan is seen as the rising star who may someday replace Shankar as the premiere sitar player. Khan, the child prodigy of an old musical family, first performed at age eight.

Khan's sitar will be supported by Vijay Ghate on tabla drums and by another bass instrument performer. Together, they will explore Indian "raags," similar to a basic tune or chord progression.

"Jazz and this type of music are very improvisational," said Divya Karan, a Raag member. Karan said though the two styles were very

different in structure and melody, both had more in common than other classical western styles.

Listeners can count on hearing a performance entirely original, Balasubramaniam said, different from what they might have heard on Khan's CDs.

She said the only things predictable about Khan's music were the traditional rules of the raag, but even these might be broken and amended.

"A lot is left to the main player," she said. "They only have to play in the bandwidth of the raag. But the greatest musicians, like Shankar, they can break the rules. Change the rules and make new rules. New raags."

Like Shankar, and perhaps tomorrow, Shahid Parvez Khan.

Tickets are available at the City Union TicketMaster and at the door of the Westbrook Music Hall. Tickets are \$15 and \$7 for students.

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