

## NEWS RELEASE

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### University of Saint Mary Theatre Goes Batty With the Halloween Thrills and Chills of 'Dracula'

*7:30 p.m. Oct. 28, 29 & 30 and 2 p.m. Oct. 31, Xavier Theatre*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—Grab your garlic necklace and crucifix as the University of Saint Mary department of fine arts-theatre presents “*Dracula*,” a stage adaptation of Bram Stoker’s seminal horror novel at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28, through Saturday, Oct. 30, and a special Halloween matinee performance at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31. All performances are in Xavier Theatre on USM’s Leavenworth campus, 4100 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and are available at the door. Call (913) 758-6152 or go to [www.stmary.edu/tickets](http://www.stmary.edu/tickets) online for advance tickets. The USM production of “*Dracula*” is recommended for audience members over the age of 10.

The USM stage version of “*Dracula*” tells the story of Lucy Seward, daughter of an English doctor, who has been stricken by a mysterious illness. Dr. Van Helsing, an arcane specialist, believes the girl is the victim of a vampire—an undead creature that stalks the night drinking the blood of its victims. Dr. Van Helsing helps lead the hunt for the monster.

For the play, USM theatre faculty and students are building a “haunted house”-style entrance to Xavier Theatre featuring student ushers in costume and other “frightful” sights. Theatre patrons will have to proceed through the entrance to attend the play (though a tamer entry option will be in place for the faint of heart).

“‘*Dracula*’ gives us the opportunity to teach our students about the larger-than-life style of acting, directing, and writing that such a tale demands,” said USM Theatre Instructor Danielle Trebus. “We are brewing a sophisticated and scary story with many wonderful twists and magical turns.”

The cast includes USM junior Mitchell Ludwig as Count Dracula, sophomore Emily Nold as Lucy Seward, and senior Brett Buffum as Van Helsing.

Call (913) 758-6152 for tickets or for more information.

*The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit [www.stmary.edu](http://www.stmary.edu) for more information.*

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