

*the  
Stage  
Co.*

SEASON 42



By Steven Dietz

October 6-8 , 12-15, 2023

The Varsity Center  
Carbondale, IL

[Stagecompany.org](http://Stagecompany.org)

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**This season is dedicated in part  
to the memory of founding member  
Craig Hinde**



**Craig was one of the original founders of The Jackson County Stage Company. For roughly 40 years, Craig nurtured and guided our organization, bringing joy and inspiration to all those he encountered. Craig's passion for the arts was infectious and his dedication and hard work laid the foundation for the incredible performances and artistic experiences that The Stage Company continues to offer. Craig's legacy and enthusiasm for the arts will forever be remembered and his impact will be felt for many years to come.**

The Stage Company Presents

# DRACULA

**By Steven Dietz**

Originally produced by the Arizona Theatre Company, Tucson/Phoenix, Arizona  
David Ira Goldstein, Artistic Director

**Directed by: Tricia Beth Burns**

**Technical Direction by: Brandyn McGhee**

## CAST

Mina .....	Nikki Davis
Harker .....	Cary Laake
Lucy .....	Ramsey Uhter
Seward .....	Clint Borcky
Renfield .....	Jeff Keasler-Bird
Van Helsing .....	Conner Gooden
Dracula (London) .....	Travis Westbrook
Dracula (Transylvania) .....	Kim Curlee
Waitress/Vixen/Maid .....	Kellee Estel
Waitress/Vixen/Asylum Attendant .....	Niccolette Tindall
Asylum Attendant/Ship Captain .....	Hayden Burns
Lucy's Victim .....	Edie Marie Burns



## SHOW SYNOPSIS

This new adaptation restores the suspense and seduction of Bram Stoker's classic novel to the stage. As Count Dracula begins to exert his will upon the residents of London, they try to piece together the clues of his appearances—in a valiant attempt to save themselves from a hideous fate. Rich with both humor and horror, this play paints a wickedly theatrical picture of Stoker's famous vampire.

# SETTING

1897

London, England and Transylvania

*\*There will be one 15 minute intermission between Acts I & II.\**



## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....Tricia Beth Burns  
Assistant Director ..... Lauren Hickle  
Technical Director ..... Brandyn McGhee  
Set Design/Construction .....Tricia Beth Burns, Brandyn McGhee,  
Lauren Hickle, Nathan Scholes & Andrew Scholes  
Stage Manager .....Hayden Burns  
Assistant Stage Manager.....Maggie Degen  
Stunt/Fight Coordinators ..... Hayden Cole Schubert & Lauren Hickle  
Costumes..... Ruth Dougherty & CJ Jasinski  
Music Orchestration.....SWE Sound  
Sound Design..... Brandyn McGhee & Jeff Keasler-Bird  
Sound Board Operator .....Alastor Cullen  
Lighting Design .....Brandyn McGhee  
Light Board Operator..... Brenden Gallegly & Sam Stace  
Properties Coordinator..... Maggie Degen  
Makeup.....Lauren Hickle & Tricia Burns  
Set Painters..... Tricia Burns, Edie Burns, Brandyn McGhee,  
Lauren Hickle, Nikki Davis & Travis Westbrook  
Stage Crew..... Edie Burns

## HOUSE STAFF

House Manager ..... CJ Jasinski  
Box Office Manager ..... Alex Weinhold

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I am so delighted and honored to be back directing my seventh production with the Stage Company! I have always loved *Dracula* ever since I first read the book in Jr. High! I fell in love with the idea of vampires and everything scary. It has been a long time goal of mine to direct *Dracula* so I'm beyond thrilled to be given the opportunity!

The best part about bringing a show to life is fantastic group of people you get to work with. I would like to start by saying a big thank you to my fabulous assistant director, Lauren Hickle. Lauren, you have been such an amazing assistant director and I don't think this production would have been the same without your awesome insight, your attention to detail and your spectacular knowledge of stage movement.

Thank you to the rest of the production staff, especially Brandyn, for building me a wonderful set, and Ruth for creating such beautiful costumes! Big thank you to Hayden and Maggie for all of your hard work and teamwork as Stage Managers, and with the help of your crew, you have both made this production fantastic!

Next, I would like to thank my amazing, supportive cast. You guys have honestly made this directing thing seem so easy because you are all so incredibly talented. Thank you for all of the hard work and dedication to this show and these iconic characters!

Finally, to you the audience, thank you for your support of theatre and for coming to the show this evening! Without your continuous support, we would not be able to do what we love and bring these wonderful shows to the area. I hope that you enjoy the performance and most of all that you have fun!

Special thank you to Shay Miller, Jeff Keasler-Bird, Maggie Degen and Michael Burns.

## DIRECTING TEAM

### **Tricia Beth Burns (Director)**



Tricia is a Southern Illinois native and graduate of SIUC, earning a BFA in Theatre. She is very excited to be directing another show with Stage Company and working with this amazing group of people. Tricia has been working with The Stage Company, acting and directing, since 2008 and has been involved in over 50 productions within the Southern Illinois area. Most recently she directed *Clue* and *Alice in Wonderland* last season for Stage Co., and she last appeared

in *Oklahoma!* as Aunt Eller for Skyline Productions in Marion. She has performed with many local theater groups, and some of her favorite roles include: Lorraine Jensen (*Charitable Sisterhood Christmas Spectacular*), Pablo Picasso (*Picasso at the Lapin Agile*), Ebenezer Scrooge (*A Christmas Carol*), Antonia (*Almost Identical*), Rivkah (*Miller and the Jabberwock*), Rose (Enchanted April), Sylvia and Debra (*Smell of the Kill*). She would like to thank her family and friends for their continuous love and support!

### **Lauren Hickle (Assistant Director)**



Lauren is incredibly excited to be back with Stage Co. for her fourth production. This time around, she has stepped from the stage and taken on the role of Assistant Director. This is her first time in this role with this company and she has enjoyed every minute of it. Lauren is an Illinois State University graduate with a Bachelors in Acting. She is overjoyed to be able to take what she has learned and use it to aid the actors in this production. She is extremely proud of all the hard work and dedication she has seen throughout the

rehearsal process and cannot thank everyone involved enough. Lauren thanks you for attending this production of *Dracula* and invites you to return for the upcoming shows in Stage Company's 23-24 season!

### **Maggie Degen (Assistant Stage Manager)**



Maggie has been involved with the theater for nearly 50 years, but became more active with the Stage Company upon her retirement as the Jackson County Public Defender in 2019. *Dracula* is Maggie's first time as crew member, rather than as an actor, though she is no stranger to the challenge of finding props. Most recently, Maggie appeared in the Stage Company's *Charitable Sisterhood* and *Zap!* and hopes to continue to expand her theatrical skill set so that she might one day direct a production.

# **THE STAGE COMPANY 2023-2024 COUNCIL**

President .....	Brandyn McGhee
VP of Productions.....	Tricia Burns
VP of Operations .....	Tia Arthur
Treasurer .....	Jeff Keasler-Bird
Secretary .....	Shay Miller
Box Office Coordinator .....	Alex Weinhold
House Coordinator .....	CJ Jasinski
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Members are those who want to participate in our production activities, not just as actors, but also as part of the production staff. There are perks to being a member, including:

- ◆ Two free tickets to a production in which a member is working
- ◆ Special discounts on workshop fees and/or other productions (such as readers’ theater)
- ◆ Invitation to our two social events of the year (annual picnic in May and mid-winter holiday party)
- ◆ Invitation to our annual Appreciation Gala held to honor our donors

To download the official membership form and to find out more information about becoming a Stage Company member, please visit our website at [www.stagecompany.org](http://www.stagecompany.org), hover over the “About Us” menu section and then click “Become A Member”.

**We would love for you to join our Stage Company family!**

## MEET THE CAST

### **Clint Borcky (Seward)**



This is Clint's first time acting with the Stage Company since 2006, and he is so excited and honored to be chosen for this role. He regularly acted through high school, but fell away from the theater over time. Clint currently resides in Herrin with his partner Heather, her daughter Gabba, and their dog Carver. When he is not avoiding the teeth of the undead, Clint regularly enjoys hiking, fishing, reading, writing, and public speaking.

### **Edie Marie Burns (Lucy's Victim/Crew)**



Edie is excited to be returning for her fourth production with Stage Company. She was last seen as the Dormouse in *Alice in Wonderland*, and she was Helen Withers in *A Christmas Story*. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of the love and support! She hopes you enjoy the show!

### **Hayden Burns (Asylum Attendant/Ship Captain/Stage Manager)**



Hayden is returning for his third production with Stage Company. Hayden was Stage Manager for *Alice in Wonderland* and light board operator for *Clue*. He is excited to be working with this cast and crew of *Dracula*! He thanks you all for coming and hopes you enjoy the show!

### **Kim Curlee (Dracula-Transylvania)**



Kim is delighted to add the Count to his dramatic endeavors...Dracula joins a varied cast of characters he has explored on stage, including those written by Shakespeare, Williams, Albee, and Sam Shepherd...to site but a few examples from his forty years of performing. Thanks as always to the Stage Company and our dear director, Tricia Burns.



## MEET THE CAST

### **Nikki Davis (Mina)**



Nikki is a graduate of SIU with a degree in Languages, Cultures and International Studies. This will be her third show with the Stage Company and is excited to be returning to the Varsity. Some of her other appearances include Agnes in *She Kills Monsters* and the Cook in *Alice in Wonderland*. She hopes you enjoy the show!

### **Kellee Estel (Waitress/Vixen/Maid)**



Kellee's theater journey began this year and has been exclusive to the Stage Company. Her first role was the Cheshire Cat in *Alice In Wonderland*. She was then cast in the gala show, *Zap*. Now she's ready to sink her teeth into her third production. She would like to say "Fang you very much" to the family, friends, and theater folks that have supported her along the way.

### **Conner Gooden (Van Helsing)**



Conner is a Herrin native who has been performing in theatre since 6th grade. He only participated in school shows until last year when he began doing community theatre in the area. *Dracula* marks his second show with Stage Company, and he is honored to be stepping into the boots of Van Helsing. Some previous roles include: The Sheriff (*Bonnie & Clyde*), Jack (*Brighton Beach Memoirs*), Alex (*Madagascar: The Musical*), Lazar Wolfe (*Fiddler on the Roof*), and Colonel Mustard (*Clue*).

### **Jeff Keasler-Bird (Renfield)**



Jeff began his love for theatre at an early age. He moved to Southern Illinois in 2008 and has been heavily involved in the theatre community ever since. Besides the Stage Company, he has worked with many organizations over the years (SIC, JALC, Pyramid Players, Skyline Creek, Kre8ive, The Anna Arts Center, and his own group 13Theatrics). Some past credits include Vinnie (*The Odd Couple*), Ken Gorman (*Rumors*), Narrator (*The Rocky Horror Show*), Howard Wagner (*Death of a Salesman*), and Tobias (*Sweeney Todd*). He currently sits on the Stage Company's executive council as treasurer. Special thanks to the production team & his fellow cast members for being so great to work with. Additional thanks to the patrons for their continued support of the arts and live theatre in Southern Illinois. Sweet Dreams.

## MEET THE CAST

### **Cary Laake (Harker)**



Cary is a returning actor for The Stage Company, a routine performer for the community theater scene of Southern Illinois, and is pleased and honored to be presenting this character in this production. All love, gratitude and appreciation go to his friends and family and all patrons of the arts. It is their contributions that inspire him to continue this noble pursuit.

### **Nicolette Tindall (Waitress/Vixen/Asylum Attendant)**



Nicolette is excited to be in her 3rd show with Stage Co. and to be working with such a talented cast and crew. Some previous performances include *She Kills Monsters* (Evil Tina), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Margot), and *Heathers* (Heather Duke). She wants to thank her family, friends, and all of you for supporting community arts.

### **Ramsey Uhter (Lucy)**



Ramsey is thrilled to play the lovely Miss Lucy Westenra. Lucy has a very special place in her heart. She actually previously played Lucy with Shhh! Productions Vintage Radio Hour a year prior, so maybe it's a sign! Some favorite roles she's played in the past have been Fastrada (*Pippin*), Rita (*White Christmas*), Anne (*Anne of Green Gables*), Wednesday (*The Addams Family*), and Audrey (*Little Shop of Horrors*). In addition to performing, Ramsey is also a produced playwright, having seen 3 of her works (*Idemo!*, *For Lease Navidad*, and *Alice in Wonderland*) performed professionally. *Dracula* will be her 54th theatrical production!

### **Travis Westbrook (Dracula-London)**



Travis is a native of Southern IL and a graduate of theater and music from SIUC. He has performed on both coasts in Los Angeles, CA and Charlotte, NC. Past roles include Jud Fry (*Oklahoma!*), Jesus (*Jesus Christ Superstar*), Captain Von Trapp (*Sound Of Music*), and John/Judas (*Godspell*). Travis wishes to fang you all very much for coming. Yes someone was bound to say it.

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**Second Stage Reading Series**



A staged reading is a rehearsed read-through of a script. While the rehearsal time is much less because the script is not memorized, some readings can include elements of sets, costumes, lighting, etc. Our four readings are free to attend (donations welcome at the door). Stay tuned for more information!

*Open*—Directed by AB Art

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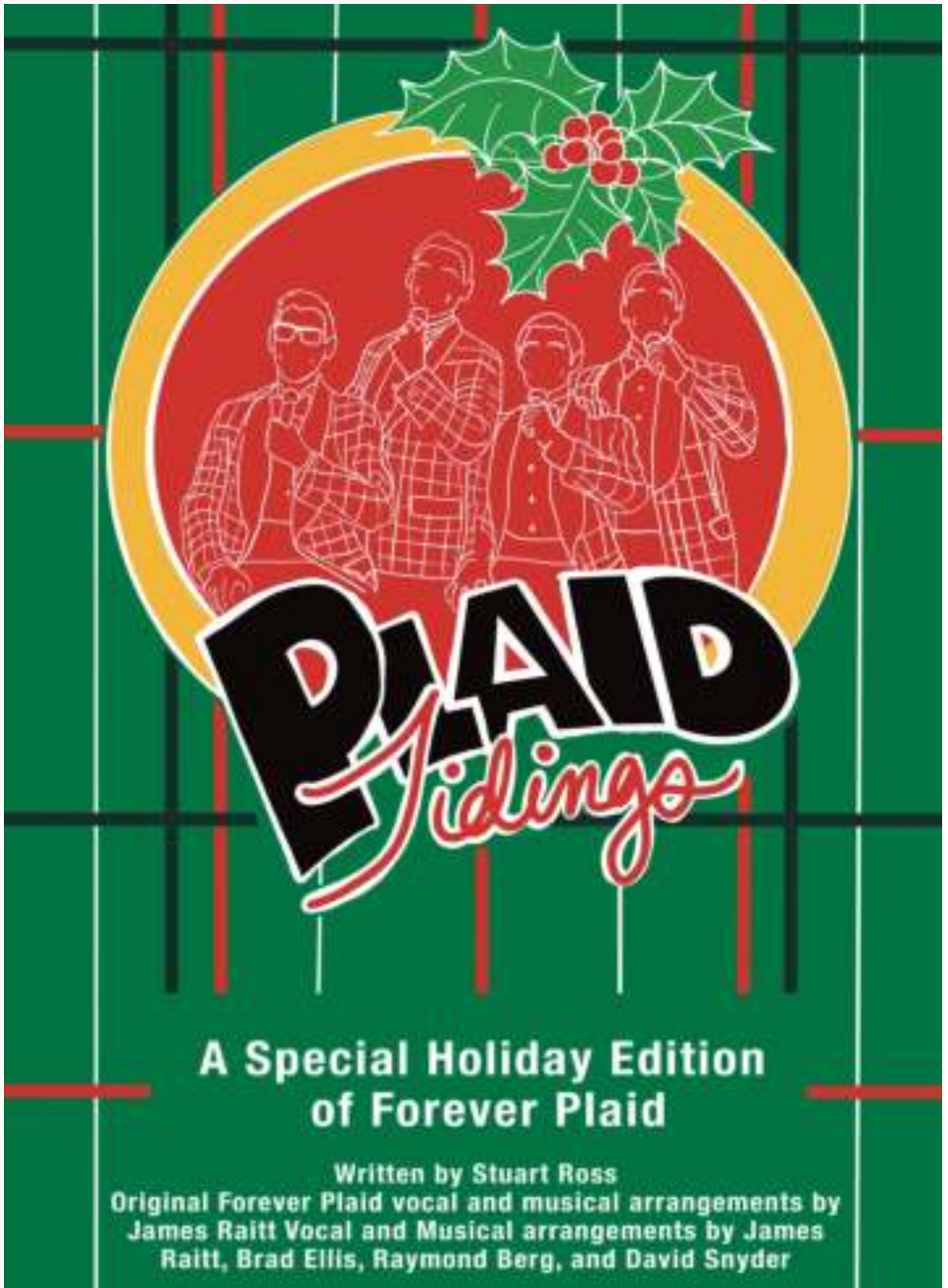
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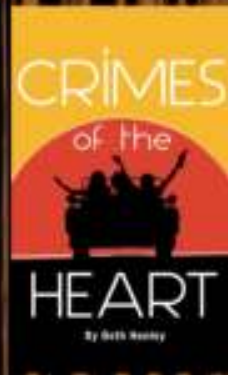
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