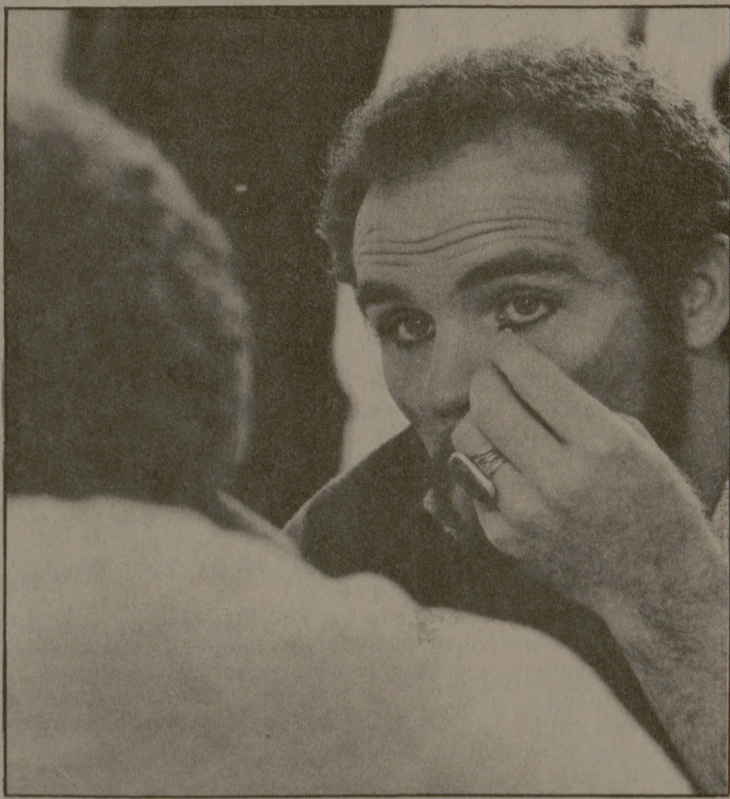
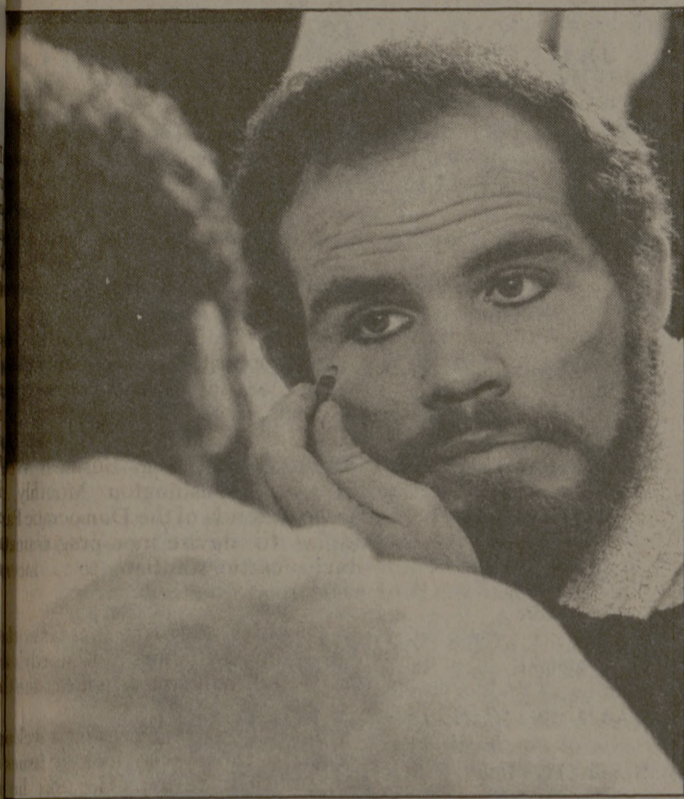


Local

# Theater arts group takes a stab at 'Dracula'



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

Pat Martine who plays the title role in 'Dracula' applies his makeup prior to the opening performance of the production.

By GARY BARKER  
Battalion Staff  
Dracula, that fanged favorite, made his unearthly presence known once again last night in the theater arts' presentation of "Dracula: A Vampire Play" in Rudder Forum.

The play, which is being presented mainly by theater arts seniors as a senior showcase, will play nightly through Saturday. Showtime is 8 p.m., except on Friday when it will begin at midnight.

According to the play's program, the cast said they wanted to overcome the melodramatic nature of the script and make the play as believable and shocking as possible. Well, they tried very hard, but the presentation was still several bites away from frightening.

The story is of course familiar. The daughter of a doctor who runs a sanatorium in England becomes mysteriously ill. The father, Dr. Seward, calls a friend, the Dutch Dr. Van Helsing, to help him find the cause of his daughter's illness.

Van Helsing figures out that the Seward's new neighbor, Count Dracula, is the cause. The two doctors, with the help of the

daughter's fiance, plot to kill the vampire.

The cast did its best to make the play enjoyable despite the script's lack of surprises; however, they added to it by noticeably dimming the lights each time before Dracula appeared on stage, removing any possibility of him making a startling entrance.

Despite the melodramatic script, the actors made the play. Senior Pat Martine, tall and equipped with piercing blue eyes, played Dracula with a hurried passion that added excitement to the show. And David Troxell was convincing in his role as the older, sophisticated Dr. Van Helsing

who figures out the identity of Dracula. The scene in which Van Helsing confronts the Count with this knowledge is probably the most engrossing and frightening scene in the play.

The fog which came rolling out of Dracula's tomb and his disappearance through a trap door were also impressive.

Melissa Bradley was also captivating in her appearance and performance as the doctor's daughter, Lucy Seward. The other actors including Bryan McKenzie as Dr. Seward, John Redman as Lucy's fiance, and Chip Washbaugh as the crazy man Renfield were competent in their roles, but like the play they brought few surprises.

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## Farm tour for children starts today

By BARBIE WOELFEL  
Battalion Staff  
Sounds of horses, pigs, chickens, cows, sheep and goats. Is it old MacDonald's farm? No, it's the annual Children's Barnyard sponsored by the Saddle and Sirolo Club at Texas A&M University.

The event begins today and runs through Friday, and 2,400 kindergarten and first-grade children from surrounding schools will tour all the livestock centers on campus.

"We sent out invitations to 24 schools in surrounding towns including Bryan-College Station, Caldwell, Centerville, Navasota, North Zulch, Franklin, Madisonville, Hearne, Normangee and Lola," said Viola Berzinski, chairman of the Children's Barnyard Committee and an animal science major from Normangee.

The Club also has invited children from local child care centers and church schools.

"We will give these young children a tour of the beef, horse, sheep and goat, swine, poultry and dairy centers and try to make them aware of agriculture, what it is and hopefully stir some interest in agriculture from some of these children," she said.

Berzinski said that during the tour, 120 Saddle and Sirolo members will provide several demonstrations including how to saddle a horse, how to shear sheep and goats and show the different types of animals with their young.

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