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**ODESSA COLLEGE**  
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**Movie Review**

# 'Bram Stoker's Dracula'

It's not just another blood-sucking monster movie

By **JENNY MAGEE**  
 Reviewer of THE BATTALION

"Bram Stoker's Dracula" starring Anthony Hopkins, Gary Oldman, Keanu Reeves, Winona Ryder. Directed by Francis Ford Coppola. Rated R. Playing at Cinema 3

struck me as an antonym for the "milk does the body good" commercials. Something about all the bloodsucking that goes on in the movie kept making me think that this was some sort of hype for the nutritional power of blood.

However, a glass of milk never lets me turn into an invisible creature of the night or become a neon green mist that floats through the darkness.

But that is the point of Dracula; a commitment to the deep dark underworld may provide a few extra powers but it also comes with a lot of evil responsibilities, the hassle of finding necks to suck on and some nasty bloodstains.

"Dracula" is a visual playground. The creative cinematography is the hip of hop, the king of cool, and secured my approval, but the movie did lean rather heavily on visual spectacles.

After four centuries of existence, Dracula (Gary Oldman) is ready to quench his deep-down body thirst. So he heads out for London, where he meets Mina (Winona Ryder), the young and beautiful fiancée of Harker (Keanu Reeves).

Mina's resemblance to Dracula's deceased wife again brings out his human side. However, when Dracula begins a rather explicit relationship with Mina's friend Lucy (Sadie Frost), something must be done.

The eccentric doctor, Van Helsing (Anthony Hopkins), leads a rescue squad that is, for better or worse, out to catch itself a monster.

"Dracula" pulls that ever-loved good vs. evil theme out of the literary woodwork. But, it also sounds pretty much like modern romance to me. Lovers being caught somewhere between loving each other for the rest of eternity or sucking out all of each other's blood. Hey, sounds about right.

The characters in "Dracula" are strong, as I anticipated from the well-known names in the cast.

I was most impressed by Winona Ryder's performance. She was sincere in her intensity, authentic in her desperation, and her accent sounded cool.

On the same note, this is the first movie that Keanu Reeves has managed to keep that way-cool surfer sound from creeping out of his mouth, even though he sounded sort of congested.

Watching "Dracula" was sort of like looking at modern art. The action flips back and forth across different parts of the world rather frequently, and it is easy to fall one step behind in comprehension.

Fortunately, Francis Ford Coppola provides such creative transitions between scenes that I almost did not mind the moments of confusion.

The movie is a rather erotic interpretation. Some of the more bizarre sexual scenes caught my attention but made me wonder if they were necessary or merely included for their shock value.

If the movie is taken beyond the level of mere blood-sucking monster horror story, it provides insight into the nature of evil and man. That is more than can be said about "Friday the 13th" or "A Nightmare on Elm Street."

If you plan to see "Dracula," I would suggest A) waiting for the novelty to die down or B) purchasing tickets in advance. I spent 30 minutes just waiting to get into the theater.

Keanu Reeves and Winona Ryder star in "Bram Stoker's Dracula."

## Aggie Players perform Andrew Lloyd Webber compositions for Wednesday's Brown Bag lunch

By **ANAS BEN-MUSA**  
 Reviewer of THE BATTALION

The Aggie Players will perform songs from composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's Broadway hits for this Wednesday's Brown Bag concert.

The concert, titled "A Wednesday with Webber," will feature popular tunes from musicals such as "Cats," "Jesus Christ Superstar," and "Phantom of the Opera."

Aggie Players Tonya Cochran, Sombra Davis, M.A. Sterling, Stephany Tramel and Mike Whiteside will sing at 12:30 p.m. in 402 Academic.

The program consists of "Close Every Door" from "Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "I Don't Know How to Love Him" from "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Don't Cry For Me, Argentina" from "Evita," "Love Changes Everything" from "Aspects of

Love," "There's Me" from "Starlight Express," "Think of Me," "Phantom of the Opera" and "All I Ask of You" from "Phantom of the Opera," "Memory" from "Cats" and "Pie Jesu" from "Requiem."

KAMU-FM 90.9, Texas A&M's public radio station, will broadcast the concert.

The Brown Bag Concert is presented by the OPAS Stark Series and the Department of Philosophy and Humanities' Music Program.

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**Sore Throat/Strep Throat**

Individuals at least 13 years old needed to participate in a sore throat (strep throat, tonsillitis) research study involving an investigational oral antibiotic in capsule form. \$100 incentive paid to those chosen to participate upon completion of the study.

**ADULT SKIN INFECTION STUDY**

Individuals age 13 and older wanted to participate in a research study for bacterial skin infections such as infected wounds, earlobes, infected burns, boils, infected hair follicles, impetigo, infected ingrown toenails and others. Investigational oral antibiotic in capsule form. \$100 incentive for those chosen who complete the study.

**CHILDREN'S SKIN INFECTION STUDY**

Children, age six months to 12 years, wanted to participate in a research study for bacterial skin infections such as: infected wounds, bug bites, earlobes, burns, boils, hair follicles, ingrown toenails, impetigo and others. Investigational oral antibiotic in liquid form. \$150 incentive for those chosen who complete the study.

**SINUS INFECTION STUDY**

Individuals age 13 and older with a sinus infection to participate in a clinical research study for 3 to 5 weeks with an investigational antibiotic in capsule form. Minimum incentive of \$150 paid to those who complete the study.

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