

STUDY THE ARTS AND CIVILIZATIONS OF THE AEGEAN

PHOTOGRAPH AND SKETCH GREECE AND TURKEY



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Aggieworld 2001

AggieLife

Page 4

THE BATTALION

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Stoker's 'Dracula' takes the stage at Rudder Forum

By JOHN SALERNO
 THE BATTALION

One of A&M's most well-known former Yell Leaders has become a vampire. Ricky Wood, a senior theater arts major and lead in the upcoming production of "Dracula," has long endured the difficulty of balancing involvement as a member of the theater department and as a Yell Leader.

"I was involved in some classes in which I helped build sets for some plays, and I worked backstage for a couple of shows, so I was involved with the department," Wood said. "But as far as actually being on stage, this is my first time."

Due to his commitments as a Yell Leader, Wood was unable to participate in a large way in any single production.

"My schedule was such that I never had the opportunity to try out for a play," Wood said. "But I have extra time now and I'm able to devote myself to other things."

Wood said performing in any play is a big commitment.

"You have play practice every night," Wood said. "When you get close to performance time, it pretty much takes up all of your mind."

But Wood said he does not mind the commitment involved in playing the production's lead role. If anything, he is sur-

prised to find himself in such an important position so quickly.

Wood said that he read for the role of Dracula during auditions but was willing to take any role simply because he wanted to be on stage.

"It's humbling," Wood said. "I was so excited and blessed and overjoyed when I found out that I got the lead part."

Wood also described the process involved in developing his character before and during rehearsals.

"It's good just to do research. You read the play, obviously, and you do research on different people, whether it be the playwright or the actual character itself," Wood said. "In this case we had Bram Stoker's novel to read, and I actually did some research on the actual person of Dracula and who he was as a literal figure."

Barbara Bailey, theater arts professor and director of the play, had the cast write a character analysis on their roles. Bailey echoed the importance of the actors' work in understanding their characters.

"Picking the right cast is a huge part of the job," Bailey said. "And if you pick the right cast, they actually do a lot of the work for you, which this cast has done. They have good instincts and good training, and a lot of times you just point them in the right direction and they do a lot of the work themselves."



STUART VILLANUEVA, THE BATTALION

Bailey also said the decision to produce "Dracula" was based largely on the Players' interest in Stoker's tale.

"Some interest had been expressed in doing 'Dracula' because it hadn't been in a few years here, and it's a classic tale," Bailey said.

But some differences in the tale can be seen in the play in two ways: content and the structure.

Wood said the audience should be prepared to be "creeped out."

"There are some things that are done in the show that are not in the book, though they might be more appealing, are just scary," Wood said. "It's a very deep play, definitely is a 'for mature audiences' play."

Bailey said that in addition to the regular story, the audience will see a unique presentation of the tale.

"It's the same telling, probably in a different style than most people are used to see," Bailey said. "[Steven Dietz] has done a very good job of adapting the style of the book."

While the book is written as a series of journal entries, Bailey describes as "very connected," the play has a linear storyline and scenes are disconnected.

"It very much takes the episodic quality of the book," Bailey said.

In addition to its literary merit, Wood said "Dracula" is the type of play that is unfamiliar to most audiences.

"The play was chosen because it's a very different show than A&M has done in a very long time," he said. "I'm definitely taking a step forward as far as getting out there and doing stuff that College Station hasn't seen in a while."

"Dracula" opens tonight at the Rudder Forum at 8 p.m. and runs through Nov. 17.



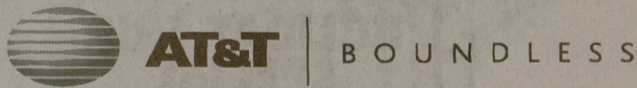
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Detroit Pistons owner Steve Ballmer is planning to expand his post-NBA business ventures by buying a majority stake in an Orange County restaurant.

The former NBA star is in negotiations to buy Sloppy Joe's restaurant in Irvine, said Steve Stevens, a partner of a group that owns the eatery. He is considering renaming the restaurant Rodman's Roadhouse.

Rodman already owns a restaurant in Newport Beach where he has irked residents and police by throwing parties at his beachfront home. He recently pleaded guilty to violating the city's noise ordinance and was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine and \$500 in court costs.

Doug McAllister, Rodman's business partner, said the 37-year-old former basketball player will transform the restaurant into a trendy venue featuring live entertainment and tattooing and piercings, which Rodman has said. Rodman plans to spend \$500,000 to renovate the restaurant.

He still needs the approval of the property's landlord, Irvine Co., and its owner, billionaire Donald Bren.

McAllister said Rodman wants to build a restaurant with future spots likely in Vegas and Dallas.

- Aaron Alexander
- Aaron Boner
- Aaron Davis
- Aaron Lambeth
- Adam Baker
- Adam Prewett
- Adam Stallman
- Adam Withers
- Alex Jennings
- Alex VanRooyen
- Allen Moon
- Andres Gomez
- Andrew Ball
- Andrew Grohmann
- Andrew Johnson
- Andrew Middleton
- Andrew Offer
- Andrew Shoenfeld
- Andrew Widmer
- Andy Floumoy
- Andy Herreth
- Angel Hart
- Anthony Shea
- Arash Ghanbarpour
- Austin Cooke
- Austin Vass
- Barré Benoit
- Barry Hammond
- Bear Littleton
- Ben DeBellis
- Ben Edelbrock
- Ben Edgerton
- Ben Hansen
- Blake Mote
- Blake Porter
- Bo Wilson
- Bobby Jee
- Boone Burton
- Brad Bennet
- Brad Clark
- Brad Gaultney
- Brad Laughton
- Brad Lintz
- Brad Matlock
- Brad Schob
- Brad Solo
- Brandon Bailey
- Brandon Bolo
- Brandon Boyd
- Brandon Davidson
- Brandon Griese
- Brandon Hodges
- Brandon McMah
- Brandon Spence
- Brennan Speaks
- Brent Shultz
- Brent Umstead
- Brett Nabors
- Brian Shoppe
- Brian Travis
- Brian VanDyck
- Brian Wedemeyer
- Brinson Holiday
- Bryan Bolterman
- Bryan Cohen
- Bryson Smith
- Bucky Pauling
- Caleb Rosier
- Cardo Walthall
- Carl Thompson
- Carlos Guerra
- Case Copeland
- Casey McDaniels
- Casey Pratt
- Genar McGuire
- Chad Capps
- Chad Hanley
- Chad Heflin
- Charles Wheeler
- Charlie Saenz
- Chase Faulder

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