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Historian to speak on the Real Dracula vs. the Reel Dracula

Come to the Fischer Theatre and spend an evening with Count Dracula--both of them!

Local writer/historian Kevin Young of Rossville will help bridge the gap between the real Dracula, a 15th century Romanian hero, and the "reel" Count Dracula, the fictional vampire character created by Bram Stoker in 1897 and immortalized in film starring Bela Lugosi.

The single evening presentation will include a Power Point presentation of the real Dracula, followed by a viewing of the 1931 fictional film, Dracula.

The "real" Dracula was a Transylvanian prince who lived in the mid-1400's and was three times ruler of Wallachia. Known as Vlad III, the tag Dracula came from his father being a member of the Order of the Dragon (Dracul). In his own time, he earned a reputation of being a fearless fighter with a manic cruel streak, earning him the nickname of Vlad Tepes or Vlad the Impaler, a reference to his favorite form of execution. According to Young, "In many ways, Vlad Dracula was far more terrible than anything Stoker could come up with."

Today, Vlad III is regarded as a national hero to modern Romania primarily due to his resistance to the expansion of the Ottoman Turks. "When Stoker was researching background for his vampire novel, he set it in Transylvania (Land Beyond the Forest)" noted Young. "One of the names he found in its history was Dracula."

From there, Dracula became associated with vampires and Stoker's novel can be considered the grandfather of the whole Vampire craze. "Certainly, there had been vampire stories in folklore and in other novels before but Stoker's book really is the milestone in the whole pop culture experience."

Classic among the various depictions of the Dracula character is the 1931 film portrayal by Hungarian actor Bela Lugosi. The film made its Danville premier at the

Fischer Theatre.

Young credits his own interest in the subject to late night viewings of the Lugosi film on WCIA's old "Monster Movie" show called Way Out hosted by Trebor (Robert Shive). "Between that and WGN's Creature Features the whole thing got set. And of course, I was among those who ran home from school to watch the ABC gothic soap opera Dark Shadows which was the Twilight of its day."

Having worked in the field of Texas history for many years, Young notes there is a Texas/Alamo connection

See DRACULA on other side

 Manager Brian Armstrong says
 "Gas prices have gone up
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Police News

Gloria G. Colunga, 43, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 4:44 p.m. Monday to Jerry's IGA, 1030 W. Chestnut. She was charged with disorderly conduct on a complaint from a 43-year-old Hoopeston woman who, police said, was shocked and alarmed after an incident.

She was released on a notice to appear in city court.

Apolinar Solis, 49, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 11:58 p.m. Monday at Sixth Avenue and Washington. He was charged with driving while license revoked and was released on a notice to appear in traffic court.

New Books at the Library

Children's Room Non-Fiction
National Geographic Kids Almanac 2012
Shy Spaghetti and Excited Eggs: A Kid's Menu of Feelings

Books
Catch the Wind, Harness the Sun
Max Archer, Kid Detective: The Case of the Wet Bed Computer
Farm

DVDs
Once Upon An Avalanche (Adventures in Odyssey)
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and the Island of Misfit Toys
Rodrick Rules! (Diary of a Wimpy Kid 2)
The Poky Little Puppy and Friends

Madeline on the Town

Fiction
The Art Collector by Jan Wahl
Meltdown by Robin Wasserman
Hands off, Harry! by Rosemary Wells
City of Ice by Laurence Yep

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 6:46 p.m. Sunday to Monical's Pizza, 618 W. Orange, for a fire behind a stove. The business was evacuated. No injuries were reported.

Dracula continued from other side

to the Stoker novel and some Texas wildlife gets a cameo in the 1931 film.

Following the historical look at Vlad Tepes and the development of the Stoker character and novel, there will be a short break followed by a showing of the 1931 Lugosi film, Dracula.

The Real Dracula vs. the Reel Dracula. A historical discussion followed by the 1931 classic film, Dracula starring Bela Lugosi will be held at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 18, and repeated at 7 p.m., Thursday, October 27, in the Fischer Theatre lobby. The café will be open, offering snacks and beverages.

Seating is limited. Tickets sell in advance for \$15 and may be purchased at Stage Presents-The Fischer Theatre Gift Shop, open 10-3 Thursday through Saturday or contact workshop event coordinator Amy Chrisman at ChrismanStudio@aol.com, 217-497-4686. Proceeds benefit the Fischer Theatre.

Weather

Sunny today. High 81. Tonight, clear. Low 51. Tomorrow, sunny. High 81, low 53.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Applications being taken for a part time bartender at Hoopeston American Legion. Applications can be picked up Wed.-Sat., after 3 p.m. Experience not required.

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