

# IUN

## International Upire News

Vol. 2, May 2007

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**Catalunya (Catalonia)**

*Països Catalans (Catalan Nations)*

## **Trio charged with murder of woman at Bare Root**

Three persons yesterday appeared at the Sparendaan Magistrate's Court charged with allegedly beating to death a Good Hope woman of unsound mind at Bare Root for supposedly being an 'Old Higue'.

Magistrate Yohannseh Cave remanded two men and a woman to prison for the murder of the woman. Rayon Bobb, 28, a cane cutter, Aletha Roberts, 25, of Bare Root and Roland Spencer, 41, a contractor who resides at Haslington were not required to plead to the capital charge.

It is alleged that on April 28 at Bare Root the trio murdered Radika Singh. According to reports reaching Stabroek News, Singh, 55, wandered away from her 713 Good Hope home last Friday morning and was beaten to death early Saturday morning by residents of Bare Root who believed her to be an 'Old Higue'.

Singh's younger sister Bibi Putulall stated that her sister had been taking treatment at the Georgetown Hospital for five years and was a bit incapacitated even before she was diagnosed with mental illness and would wander off. Putulall said that her sister was not an 'Old Higue' and was merely disabled and of unsound mind. Singh leaves to mourn a husband and a 19-year-old son. Residents of Bare Root had said that the woman was beaten with a manicole broom (made of fronds of the manicole palm) and left at the side of the road. According to some residents, a mark had been left on a child's chest. They also said that two men had called out to the woman as they thought it was someone they knew and instead of getting an answer they were greeted with a snarling sound. The men then called residents out. Residents reportedly surrounded the woman and threw rice around her while some threw kerosene and tried to burn her. No one Stabroek News spoke to admitted witnessing the woman's death. According to reports, the woman was beaten so badly, her hands and legs were broken. The post-mortem which was conducted on the body yesterday morning revealed that she died from haemorrhage due to blunt trauma. She also had several broken bones.

The case for the three was transferred to the Vigilance Magistrate's Court for May 10.

Singh's funeral is expected to take place today.

Speaking about Singh's life Putulall said that her sister was the eldest of four children for Rhoda and the late Randat Singh. She was born in Cummings Lodge and grew up in Mon Repos where she met her husband. They left Mon Repos and went to Good Hope to live. She did domestic work for a living while he worked as a labourer. Her first child died at birth due to complications and when she had her son she took him everywhere she went when he was younger. Although the couple was not legally married they lived together for about thirty years. Putulall said some years ago she noticed that her sister had become quiet and behaved strangely. It was then she realized that something was wrong. Five years ago Singh had a mental breakdown and moved in with her and she would take her for treatment. After two years when she was feeling better her husband came and took her home.

She was anxious, the sister said, to go as she longed to be with her family again. There she lived and would sometimes not take her medication and wander away from home. She would usually spend a night out but would be found by family members and brought back home. Putulall stated that she had not been taking her medication for about three months when she wandered off again on Friday morning.

Other residents stated that Singh who was better known as "Chan" was a quiet woman who never troubled anyone and was loved by everyone in the Mon Repos market. They all said that she should have been taken to the police instead of being beaten. "If only they had taken her to the police station" and "Humans don't treat other humans in such a manner" were some of the sentiments expressed by family members.

Stabroek News., 3 May.

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### **Hawke bites on "Daybreakers" vampire thriller**

LOS ANGELES Ethan Hawke has signed on to star in the futuristic vampire film "Daybreakers."

He will play a researcher in the year 2017, when a plague has transformed most of the world's population into vampires. As the human population nears extinction, vampires must capture and farm every remaining human or find a blood substitute before time runs out. However, a covert group of vampires makes a discovery that has the power to save the human race.

Australian horror veterans Peter and Michael Spierig ("Undead") wrote and will direct the high-concept Lionsgate project, which begins shooting in July in Australia, with Peter Jackson's Weta Workshop creating the creature effects.

Hawke most recently wrote and directed the indie "The Hottest State," based on his novel, which premiered last year at the Venice Film Festival. He next stars in Sydney Lumet's "Before the Devil Knows You're Dead."

Tatiana Siegel  
Reuters/Hollywood Reporter, 9 May.

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### **Restored Hammer Classic 'Dracula' To Screen At Cannes**

The BFI has announced that the Cannes Classics section of the forthcoming 60th anniversary edition of the world's biggest film festival will feature the BFI National Archive's new restoration of 'Dracula' (1958).

This screening on May 17 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Hammer Horror cycle which rapidly became a hugely influential and popular strand of British horror.

Amanda Nevill, BFI Director said: "We are delighted to be showcasing our latest restoration. Dracula is, for many, the film that has come to characterise the British Gothic horror genre and we are proud to be able to show it in the prestigious Cannes Classics strand.

"The BFI National Archive holds the most significant collection of film and television material in the world. Caring for such an enormous collection is a great challenge to our resources, particularly as the balance between investing in preservation and making the collection available to a wider audience is so precarious. We are immensely grateful to the sponsor of this restoration, Simon Hessel, for his generosity and support."

Based on the novel by Bram Stoker first published in 1897, this was the first colour version of Dracula. It was a massive international success on its original release and established Christopher Lee for many as the definitive interpreter of the demonic count. Peter Cushing also gives a great performance as the vampire hunter Van Helsing. High production values and a host of character actors, aided by a cracking script by Jimmy Sangster, add up to a rich and satisfying horror classic.

BFI National Archive, Senior Preservation Manager Andrea Kalas added: "The restoration of what many fans call the best Hammer horror film required extensive research into reported censored scenes. Rumour and fact, not unlike the Dracula story itself, are intermingled.

"Our research into missing scenes led us to every conceivable resource from the vaults of Warner Bros to an archive in Japan. Scenes censored by the BBFC for the release of the UK version, but included in the US version, have been recovered. In addition, the US title, "Horror of Dracula", had been attached to most theatrical and video releases. We have restored the original British release title with its distinctive illuminated "D."

"Ben Thompson of the BFI National Archive film lab oversaw the restoration and it is due to his diligence and perfectionism that the film is restored. We owe special thanks to Richard Dayton and Eric Aijala of YCM Laboratories and Tim Everett, Ned Price and Bill Rush at Warner Bros."

The film was restored from the original negative, except for the original British title and the censored scenes, which were from dupe negatives found in Warner Bros' vaults. The original prints were released on IB-Technicolor prints, and Richard Dayton at YCM Laboratories in Burbank worked with Ben to achieve this particular look.

The restoration will have a UK theatrical release later this year and Dracula will become one of the many thousands of films vital to British film history that are preserved at the BFI National Archive.

One of the world's largest and busiest archives, the BFI National Archive contains more than 230,000 films (features, shorts and documentaries) and more than 675,000 television programmes.

The collection is made available through public screenings at festivals and cinemas throughout the UK including regular screenings at BFI Southbank, alongside video and

DVD releases, and online through the BFI's unique education resource, Screenonline  
[www.screenonline.org.uk](http://www.screenonline.org.uk)

[www.4rfv.co.uk](http://www.4rfv.co.uk), 11 may

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## **Dracula Remains Very Much UN-DEAD**

From Count Chocula to Grandpa Munster, thousands of characters owe their undead existence to the fact that Dracula is a public domain character, in the United States at least. But now a new chapter in the Dracula story has the proper, shall we say, bloodline. The Un-Dead, a novel by Bram Stoker's great grand-nephew Dacre Stoker, is on its way to the screen.

The Un-Dead will be made into a film, with a script by Stoker's co-writer Ian Holt. Ernest Dickerson is set to direct, and the entire project has the endorsement of the Stoker family. Shooting will begin late this year in Eastern Europe with some private financing shoring up production investment by AEI and Jan De Bont's shingle Blue Tulip Productions.

The storyline of The Un-Dead picks up 25 years after the end of the original Stoker book, and ties in Jack the Ripper and the notorious Madame Bathory in the plotline. Reportedly some details in The Un-Dead were originally in Bram Stoker's Dracula, but the book was reportedly heavily edited when it was first published. No casting has been announced as yet.

Dennis Michael  
FilmStew.com, 17 May

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