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# International Upire News

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**Catalunya (Catalonia)**

*Països Catalans (Catalan Nations)*

## **Vampire's Ball Musical in Budapest**

Roman Polanski's original and highly successful theatre production is given a new life with an international creative team on the stage of the Magyar Theatre by PS Productions. Following its debut in Vienna in 1997 audiences in Stuttgart, Hamburg, Warsaw and Berlin have been amazed by this acid-tongued, unusual, spectacular and mind-blowing, energetic musical explosion. So far over 5 million people across the world have seen this vampire parody and it has something of a cult following. The fantastic score by Jim Steinman faithfully follows the story dreamt up by Polanski. Michael Kunze's lyrics poetically conjure up the macabre and grotesque anti-world of the vampires.

The story is set at the end of the nineteenth century in the snowy wilds of Transylvania. Fearless vampire hunter Professor Abronsius and his young assistant Alfred are on the trail of vampires. They arrive at Chagal's Inn where garlic hangs everywhere. The villagers are unaware that the nearby castle is inhabited by vampires even though their liking of garlic borders on obsessive. The romantic and sensitive Alfred falls in love with the inn-keeper's daughter who harbours similar feelings for him. The girl's innocently enchanting singing attracts the attention of vampire Count Krolock, who invites Sarah to the ball in the castle where she develops a yearning for the vampires' immortal world. This unquenchable desire brings about many exciting complications, spiced up by the humorous adventures of the bumbling vampire hunters.

Leading director: Roman Polanski  
Director: Cornelius Baltus  
Composer: Jim Steinman  
Lyrics and songs: Michael Kunze  
Choreographer: Dennis Callahan  
Set and costume designer: Kentaur  
Lighting designer: Chris Ellis  
Hungarian translation: Tibor Miklós  
Musical Supervisor: Bernd Steixner  
Art director: Balázs Póka  
Producer: Edit Simon  
Conductor: Géza Köteles  
Assistant to the director: Eszter Hajós  
Assistant to the choreographer: Kati Heidebrecht

07/06/2008. - 31/08/2008.

Magyar Theatre (4, Hevesi Sándor tér, 7th district, Budapest)

Theatre News, 1 Jun.

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## **Dracula stamp gets a launch at Whitby Abbey**

DRACULA may bite your neck but from today you will be able to lick his back.

A commemorative stamp has been launched in Whitby to mark the 50th anniversary of the release of the iconic horror film, Dracula.

The stamp will go on sale today and to mark the occasion Whitby ghost tour organiser Harry Collett went in search of Bram Stoker's creation at Whitby Abbey.

The six stamps also depict famous films from the Hammer and Carry On stables.

Classic Carry On and Hammer Films stamps take the public back to 1958, a year which saw the release of Dracula and Carry On Sergeant, films produced on shoestring budgets but which kick-started a series of follow-ups and a host of imitators.

The Dracula stamp features the original poster for the film and shows actor Christopher Lee as the count, leering over a female victim.

The strap line reads: "The terrifying lover who died – yet lived!"

It also warns that viewers must not see the film alone.

The film was a huge success upon its release and also starred actor Peter Cushing, who played Dracula's nemesis Van Helsing.

Cushing and Lee would go on to reprise their roles in the film's sequels.

Harry Collett, chairman of Whitby and District Tourism Association, speaking at the launch, said: "It's fantastic that the stamps recognise these iconic films.

"Bram Stoker's acclaimed novel Dracula put Whitby firmly on the map and for it to become an iconic film and now the subject of a stamp is going to create more interest for visitors."

The Dracula stamp will have a value of 48p meaning it is classed as being at the worldwide basic rate.

Other titles in the range include The Mummy, Carry On Screaming, Carry On Cleo and The Curse of Frankenstein.

Ever since the release of Stoker's novel Whitby and Dracula have been irreversibly linked.

Stoker used places in the town for key scenes in his book and each year visitors flock to see the locations for themselves.

Carl Gavaghan

Whitby Gazette, 10 Jun.

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