

THE HOUSE OF DRACULA

Westhoughton Methodist Amateur Dramatic Society will be presenting the comedy-horror, **The House of Dracula** by Martin Downing on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th May.

Castles in Transylvania fall into two categories, grim and macabre. Baron Victor Von Frankenstein and his attractive wife Elizabeth ought to know better than to accept an invitation for a few days away from a stranger, who merely signs himself CD. The gothic towers of the mysterious CD's castle conceal an interior that is both grim and macabre. Elizabeth has chosen to ignore the rule about "No pets" although this might cause problems. Much worse, the Frankenstein's two faithful servants, the unsavoury hunchback Ygor and the Valkyrian housekeeper Frau Lurker, have been left behind on the journey along with the Frankenstein's luggage. Even if they turn up it does not bode well for a relaxing holiday.

After an eventful journey, arriving in a howling gale gets the holiday off to a bad start for the Frankensteins. Things go downhill rapidly for not only is the castle surrounded by monsters, fiends, ghouls, ghosts and long-leggerty beasties, but some of them are inside as well. Harry Talbot was harmless once but his werewolf tendencies have almost become permanent rather than only at full moon. The previously delightful Isabelle Channing is now not just assertive but downright aggressive. And to cap it all, CD's servant Groat, is a decaying zombie.

Can the Frankensteins and their fellow guests rise to the challenge of the gruelling test that their mysterious hosts, the Count and Countess, have in store for them? Who is the fiendish Doctor, the final guest to arrive? Will the bells drive Ygor mad, or is he already mad? What is inside the strange box that has been propped against the wall and covered with a sheet? It's large enough for a full-grown person but why, and even worse who?

As darkness begins to fall the visitors all arrive and the wolves begin to howl to celebrate the start of Walpurgisnacht. Once the visitors arrive, they will be unable to leave. Neither will you, as you face the mixture of laughs and frights as the plot twists and turns and the doors open and close in quick succession. Just remember: In Castles in Transylvania, no-one can hear you scream!

Directed by Bill Greenhalgh

"The House of Dracula" is not suitable for young children.

Performance dates are Friday 17th and Saturday 18th May.

Tickets are £4.50 for Adults and £4 for OAPs and Concessions.

Tickets are available from the Church Hall from 10 am to 12 noon on Saturday mornings or can be booked by phoning 01942 811051 or by sending an email to: wmads@f2s.com.

Curtain Up is 7.30pm prompt.

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd

All performances will be held at the Westhoughton Methodist Church Hall, Wigan Road, Westhoughton BL5 3RQ