

PRESS RELEASE

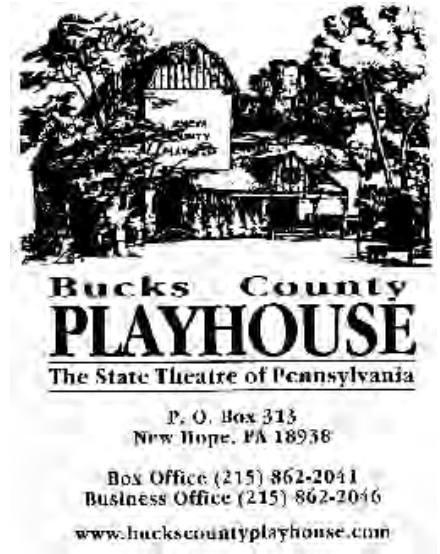
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GORDON THOMSON SET TO STAR IN BUCKS COUNTY PLAYHOUSE PRODUCTION OF *DRACULA* BEGINNING OCTOBER 12, 2005

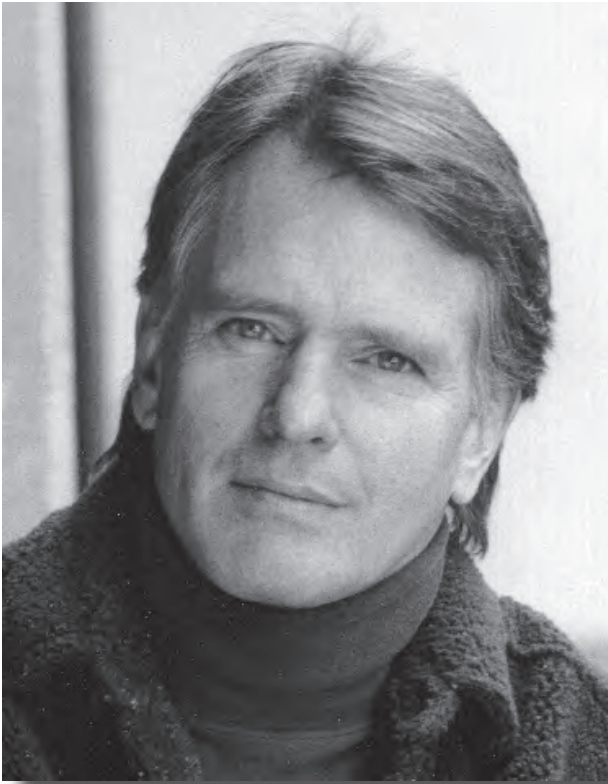


One of the most popular stories ever told, *Dracula* starring **GORDON THOMSON** takes the Bucks County Playhouse stage for two weeks beginning Wednesday, October 12 and continuing through Sunday, October 23, 2005.

The quintessential story of suspense and horror, *Dracula* centers on one of the most terrifying characters in literature: centuries-old Count Dracula, a bloodthirsty vampire whose diabolical passions prey upon the innocent, the helpless and the beautiful.

Television audiences know **GORDON THOMSON** from numerous roles on daytime and primetime dramatic series. Daytime audiences first saw him on "Ryan's Hope". He went on to appear on other daytime dramas including "Sunset Beach", "The Young and the Restless" and "Santa Barbara" where he enjoyed a four year run as the character of 'Mason Capwell'. Prior to his role on "Santa Barbara", primetime audiences saw Gordon as 'Adam Carrington', son of patriarch 'Blake Carrington' on the ABC-TV series, "Dynasty". Aside from taking the character of 'Adam Carrington' to the "Dynasty" spin-off entitled "The Colbys", Gordon has also guest starred on numerous television series such as "The Nanny", "Grosse Pointe", "Baywatch" and "Murder, She Wrote" to name just a few.

The Bucks County Playhouse production of *Dracula* starring **GORDON THOMSON** opens on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 and continues through Sunday, October 23, 2005. Performances are Wednesday and Thursday at 2 PM and 8 PM, Friday at 8 PM, Saturday at 4 PM and 8 PM and Sunday at 2 PM. Ticket prices range from \$22.00 to \$24.00. **A "Day of Show" discount is available to students ages 21 and under and all active military.** Discounts are available day of only with valid identification. For information and reservations, call the Box Office at 215-862-2041. The Bucks County Playhouse is located at 70 South Main Street in historic New Hope, Pennsylvania.



Gordon Thomson Biography

Gordon Thomson was born in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. When the Canadian native enrolled in Montreal's McGill University at age 18, he was headed for a more traditional career - architecture, law or whatnot. "Deciding to become an actor was very late-coming," he sighs, noting that it took 17 years of struggle, mostly in Canada, before he was suddenly wandering around the Carrington Mansion every Wednesday night.

At the same time, he has had to deal with difficulties in his personal life. "My father died when I was 18," he begins. "He left home; it was sort of messy." Indeed, Thomson pere was killed while driving drunk with a girlfriend, prompting Thomson's mother to divorce him posthumously. The actor's one marriage ended in 1982, and he has remained notoriously guarded about his relationships ever since. The disappointments and damages have left him philosophical, and understanding of his characters'

motivations. "I think we all have a dark side to us," he says. "I find that I can't trust sunny-natured people, people who are constantly sunny. I think that's major denial."

By his own account, Thomson lives a somewhat reclusive existence nowadays. He eschews team sports, partly because of a prohibitive leg injury and partly because he just doesn't like 'em. He'd rather tend to the garden outside his rented Encino, CA home, sharing his time with four dogs (one is deaf and senile, two arthritic) and a cat. He had another dog, Jack, who was put to sleep when even acupuncturists couldn't cure his stomach disorder.

He graduated from McGill University in Montreal with an honors degree in English and appeared in dozens of stage productions (including "Godspell"). He eventually moved to the United States to continue his stage work and briefly appeared as Aristotle Benedict-White on "Ryan's Hope" before garnering the role of Adam Carrington on the primetime show "Dynasty" in 1982. He was nominated for a Golden Globe for his work on "Dynasty" in 1989, but was out of work when the show was suddenly cancelled.

From there, he landed the role of Mason on "Santa Barbara." Gordon Thomson was chosen for the role of Mason Capwell on "Santa Barbara" in October 1990. He took over the role from Terry Lester, who had opted to leave the show. In the late 1990s, he appeared as Patrick Baker on "The Young and the Restless" for a few months. He was seen as A.J. Deschanel on "Sunset Beach." He also did guest stints on such primetime shows as "Murder, She Wrote," "Silk Stalkings," "Baywatch," "The Nanny," and "Beverly Hills, 90210."

A Brief History of *Dracula* . . .

Irish Playwright and director, Hamilton Deane, brought *Dracula* to the stage in 1924. *Dracula*, was a derivative work from Bram Stoker's 1897 *Dracula* novel. Deane had negotiated a deal with Bram Stoker's widow, Florence Stoker, for dramatic rights. Deane transformed Dracula into a more aristocratic character to fit in with British society and was the first to depict Dracula with evening attire and opera cloak, that would later become the trademark of Dracula.

Some of the scenes were treated with sensitivity, such as the end where Dracula is staked to death. The scene was set so that the performers would all be gathered around the coffin and give the impression of the staking, instead of it being openly viewed. Deane's *Dracula* was an immediate hit with British society. Every performance had a full house. It became so popular and loved by so many that it was not surprising to hear viewers repeating lines before the actors ever spoke them.

The play premiered at the Grand Theatre in Derby, England. On February 14, 1927, Deane opened *Dracula* at the Little Theatre in London. In 1927, Horace Liveright purchased the American dramatic rights from Florence Stoker. Horace Liveright then hired newspaper editor, John L. Balderston to cast the novel for the New York stage. Although entirely rewritten, Hamilton Deane's name had been respectfully retained on the publication, and on the various Balderston versions as well. Then, with the release of The Universal Pictures 1931 "Dracula" starring Bela Lugosi, Deane was in demand to keep the production going in England.

In 1939, Deane's company appeared at the Lyceum Theatre, where Stoker had once worked, and where Deane wrote the play, and once recited his work while trying to establish his dramatic rights. Here, Deane played Dracula for the first time. After a short time of performances, the Lyceum made the final curtain call and closed its doors forever. During one of the performances there, Bela Lugosi was in the audience, and rushed on stage at the close of the performance to embrace Deane.

Deane's last performance of *Dracula* was in 1941 at St. Helen's, Lancastershire. Deane passed away in 1958. His play, unfortunately, faded and was no longer used, with most post performances favoring the Balderston revision.

Dracula: The Vampire Play

Fact Sheet

WHAT: The Bucks County Playhouse production of ***Dracula*** starring Gordon Thomson, dramatized by Hamilton Deane and John L. Balderston and directed by Michael Licata.

Dracula centuries-old Count Dracula, a bloodthirsty vampire whose diabolical passions prey upon the innocent, the helpless and the beautiful.

WHERE: The Bucks County Playhouse, 70 South Main Street, New Hope, Pennsylvania

WHO: Direction by **MICHAEL LICATA**
Costume Coordination by **STEPHEN CASEY and MOLLY CASTOR**
Scenic and Lighting Design by **ERIK H. REID**
Sound Design by **JOSHUA VAN MILLS**

CAST: Count Dracula **GORDON THOMSON**
Miss Wells, maid **JESSICA BRADISH**
Dr. Seward **KEN RITTER**
Abraham Van Helsing **BOB MARCUS**
R. M. Renfield **PETER MARTINO**
Butterworth, attendant **LOUIS PALENA**
Lucy Seward **LORELEI PRINCE**
Mina **JESSICA BRADISH**
Children **MARISSA MILLER**
LAUREN HUTWELKER

TICKET PRICES: Tickets range from \$22.00 to \$24.00.

WHEN: ***Dracula: The Vampire Play***

October 12 thru October 23, 2005

OPENING PERFORMANCE: Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at 2 PM

Wednesday thru Saturday at 8 PM

Saturday at 4 PM

Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday at 2 PM

CLOSING PERFORMANCE: Sunday, October 23, 2005 at 2 PM