



THE SFSFS SHUTTLE

The Official Newszine of the South Florida Science Fiction Society

JUNE MEETING The next meeting of the South Florida Science Fiction Society will be held on Saturday, June 17th, starting at 2 pm. SFSFS Chairman Edie Stern will join member Becky Peters in presenting "Classic Fantasy (Before 1900)".

Location: The Riverland Branch, Broward County Library, in Fort Lauderdale, 2710 W Davie Blvd. Take I-95 to Davie Blvd. Go west on the Blvd, about half a mile, to the 2nd light beyond the train tracks. Make a left onto SW 27th Avenue (aka Riverland Road). The library is just off 27th Avenue to the right, in the Riverland Center Plaza.

BOD MEETING After the general meeting, SFSFS Board members are requested to convene at Becky Peter's house. On the agenda is a discussion of the updated by-laws, and other matters of current interest & importance. This meeting is open to all interested SFSFS members. Becky's address is 1501 E Broward Blvd, Apt. #704, in Ft. Lauderdale (Phone 305-463-5471).

LIVE POET'S VARIETY Once again, ORION'S BELT, that talented filk group of SFSFS members Fran Mullens, Dina Pearlman, and Doug Wu will provide the opening act for a evening of song. Performances start at 8pm and 10pm and will continue with the main act WHISKY CREEK. It takes place a short time after the SFSFS meeting, June 17th, at POET'S: 904 East Las Olas Blvd, Ft. Lauderdale. Phone (305) 523-5001. There is a \$4 cover charge.

THE SECOND ANNUAL TRAVELING FETE is only about a month away. On July 21-23, join chairman Joe Siclari and Guests of Honor Joe & Gay Haldeman for a weekend of sun, fun & relaxation in Gainesville, FL. Bring your inflatables for the pool party (last year's was a Wild menagerie). Register before July 1st for only \$15 for the entire weekend. Hotel rates are \$42 single, \$48 double at the Holiday Inn West. Rumor has it, the first (or is it second?) annual STEWMASTER MIRANDA MEMORIAL FILK will occur at an hour to be posted at the con. For further information on all planned Fete events, call Siclari at (407) 392-6462.

TROPICON 8 According to chairman Linda Hill, the date of the next meeting is as yet unscheduled. However, plans are being made to hold it in the Ft. Lauderdale Airport Hilton, where the convention will be this year. For date, time & room number contact Linda Hill (305) 345-9326, or hotel liaison Joe Siclari (407) 392-6462.

GHOSTBUSTERS II/BATMAN- Media Research Chair Carol Gibson continues organizing our almost weekly outings to this summer's genre movies. A number of SFSFS members and friends attended recent screenings of INDIANA JONES, STAR TREK V, and MIRACLE MILE. If you'd like to join in, call Carol at her work number Monday thru Thursday (305) 763-7700. Next scheduled outing is Friday, June 16th for GHOSTBUSTERS II. We'll follow that up with the BATMAN movie on June 23rd. Regular Media Research meetings will resume in July, with a discussion of Arch Obler's film THE TWONKY.

LITERARY DISCUSSION GROUP Last report has Joe Siclari considering a change in schedule from that listed in the January issue of the Shuttle. Details will be presented at upcoming meetings and future Shuttles. For those of you interested in the Best Novel Hugo nominees (still a likely source for a future Literary meeting) they are:

Cyteen, by C. J. Cherryh
Falling Free, by Lois McMaster Bujold
Islands in the Net, by Bruce Sterling
Mona Lisa Overdrive, by William Gibson
Red Profit, by Orson Scott Card

A BLOCK OF TEN Any SFSFS members attending Noreascon III in Boston (the 47th World Science Fiction Convention) and wishing to reserve a table at the Sunday Morning Brunch should get in touch with Bill Wilson immediately (305) 983-0749 (or at the latest...the June 17th SFSFS meet). Registrations must be made well in advance and are available individually or in table blocks of ten. The cost is \$21 per person and attendance is limited to 2000, a goal they'll quickly meet. Issac Asimov is scheduled to be Master of Ceremonies.

COSTUMERS MEETING Our intrepid designers are planning a field trip in search of costuming ideas and parts on June 24th. Meet at Terri Well's house at Noon. Call (305) 491-8027 if you would like further information.

DRACULA: THE MUSICAL? Several mothers & their SFSFS members attended this theatrical presentation on Mother's Day. For details on the play, see Mitch Silverman's review in this Shuttle issue.

CLARIFICATION OF PROPOSAL Interested fans please note: Smofcon 7 in Fort Lauderdale is a proposal put together by Joe Siclari, Edie Stern, Tony Parker, Judy Bemis, Dave Cantor, Gary Feldbaum, Sharon Sbarsky, and the South Florida Science Fiction Society, to hold a convention by this name in or near Ft. Lauderdale, FL in 1990. Neither the Orlando based group sponsoring Magicon/Orlando in '92 nor the Orlando Area SF Society are sponsors of the Smofcon bid.

---excerpted from a letter by Judy Bemis

CONTACT/IT CAME IN THE MAIL A listing of newszines, fanzines, and selected other correspondence received by SFSFS. All are available for perusal by SFSFS members upon request. This month's list is prepared by Tony Parker & Judy Bemis

Light in the Bushel #6- A fanzine from Richard Brandt of El Paso, Texas. This issue contains Richard's personal experiences at the Phoenix NASFIC (Cactuscon) and the following year's Phoenix Westercon. There is also a letter column filled with discussion of Corflu IV, mimeo's, and other trufannish topics.

Westwind #138, 2/89- the newsletter of the Northwest SF Society. This issue has the usual news, club announcements, fanzine reviews, video reviews, and a bit of fiction.

FOSFAX #137, 3/89- A 44 page effort published under the auspices of the Falls of the Ohio SF & F Association. It is chock full of reviews and letters of comment.

OASFiS Event Horizon #23, 4/89- the newsletter of the Orlando Area SF Society. This club was very busy preparing for OASIS II and with other club activities. It appears that they may have a permanent meeting space available in a few months. Rembert Parker was chosen to chair OASIS III.

The Texas SF Inquirer #27- fanzine published by the Fandom Association of Central Texas. This issue includes a report on the Nolacon Masque and tips for Masquerade participants (Teri & Cynthia take note).

Stone Hill Launch Times 3/12/89- newsletter of the Stone Hill SF Association. The usually light-hearted zine editor, Ann Morris, writes a serious personal editorial about Satanic Verses and free speech.

The Mad 3 Party #33, 3/89- this publication of Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc. (the organization that is responsible for Noreascon 3), edited by Leslie Turek (Tropicon 8's Fan Guest of Honor) continues to bring you "more than you ever wanted to know about running a Worldcon." (If you haven't mailed your hotel reservation form for Noreascon, you probably won't be able to get into the Sheraton or Hilton).

Bcsfazine #190 & 191, 4/89- clubzine of the British Columbia SF Association. Mostly reviews (con, book, fazine, etc.) plus information about the upcoming V-con and the Vancouver in '91 Westercon bid, and an active letter column. They note that we have been misspelling Bcsfazine. Sorry!

CONTACT/IT CAME IN THE MAIL (Continued)

Robots and Roadrunners, 3/89- publication of Ursa Major, the Bexar County Literary SF & F Organization. A substantial portion of this issue is devoted to fiction (including part 2 of a multipart story).

The NASFA Shuttle, 3/89- Newsletter of the North Alabama SF Association. This issue was dominated by the letter column.

Transmissions #277/278, 3/25/89- newsletter of Nova Odysseus, United Gulf Coast Fandom. The usual from the panhandle.

The Insider #148, 3/89- newszine of the St. Louis SF Society, who just held elections. Familiar names to me are President Michelle Zellich and Treasurer Richard Zellich. Congratulations! This issue also included a thought provoking letter from Bruce Farr in reference to paid professionals running Worldcons (why it's not a good idea) and why New Orleans was so bad.

Instant Message #454, 3/5/89- newszine of the New England SF Association. Contains the usual minutes, sales reports, news (Nebula nominations list) and an ad for Niekas back issues (writing about F & SF), "A Silverlock Companion" and "The Once and Future Arthur." This issue also contains a page of book reviews by Tony Lewis, reprinted from APA:NESFA.

Instant Message #455, 3/19/89- News this issue includes a 1989 Hogu Black Hole nomination ballot, an unpaid fannish service announcement for NESFA/NOREASCON worksessions, minutes, a Lunacon '89 report by Pam Fremon, miscellaneous fan news, the results of NESFA's nomination ballot for the Hugos, and more book reviews (this time by Mark Olson).

De Profundis #206, 3/89- Newszine of the Los Angeles SF Society; contains autograph parties in town, an income summary & financial statement for 1988, reprint of the Hugo nomination ballot, mtg minutes, and notice of a special auction of computer software donated to LASFS

DASFAX V21 #3, 3/89- Newszine of the Denver Area SF Association: contains mtg announcements, mtg minutes, column of trades highlighting Florida this month, book reviews by Don Thompson, a Milehicon 21 report, and a few LOCs.

The Intergalactic Reporter Vol 13 #3, 3/89- News and reviewzine of the New Jersey SF Society: xeroxed this month and probably from here on out. When the editor took her typewriter to be repaired, the repairman told her that chemicals on stencils can destroy any modern typewriter or computer printer.

We also received a Deep South Con progress report and a bundle of flyers from Fandata Computer Services.

Dracula: The Musical? Review

by Mitchell L. Silverman

For SFSFS *Shuttle*

Printed 5/30/89

Dracula: The Musical? is Rick Abbott's adaptation of Bram Stoker's novel about the vampire Transylvanian Count. Abbott's musical, borrowing liberally from the Hamilton Deane play and from modern musical comedy, and the Actors' Playhouse director (David Arisco), actors, and crew combine for quite an enjoyable performance - funny, schticky, and occasionally eclectic. This despite the songs, which to my untrained ear sounded like *Dracula* by Tom Lehrer - lyrically witty and enjoyable sometimes despite rather than for their music.

As the musical opens, we see Nelly Norton (Donna Kimball, who also appeared in the Actors' Playhouse's excellent "Tomfoolery"). Nelly gives a solid performance - cheeky and never obsequious - in a vital supporting role. Nelly's accent is quite good - the equal of most in the Florida Shakespeare Company's road show of *Pygmalion*.

Mina Seward (Mandy Munnell), whose character is an odd combination of the novel's Mina Murray and Lucy Westenra, first appears dressed all in white, down to white boots. And Mina lives up to her pristine appearance as she pines chastely for her beloved Jonathan - until Dracula (Marc Kudisch) appears and sweeps her off her feet. The first meeting between Dracula and Mina, even in this spoof, is charged with sexual tension, as father Sam Seward conducts the introductions. Mina, as if in a daze, asks if she had met Dracula before (foreshadowing later events), and Dracula says no. Then Mina asks if she might get Dracula something to drink, and Dracula replies "Later, perhaps." When Mina appears in the second act, she has changed into a purple dress and shoes. As she loses her blood to Dracula, she also loses her innocence - in thought and in behavior.

Count Dracula (Marc Kudisch) himself is darkly handsome, and, despite his comedic role, full of the sexual attraction that Bram Stoker evoked from the vampire myth. And Kudisch uses this magnetism to good advantage during his first song ("Alone"),

and when, during the family's attempts to catch him, he exclaims, "You have lost. I am too... (thrust of crotch) powerful..." But the Count has his funny moments as well. Renfield introduces him at one point with "heeeeere's Dracky!" When Renfield asks "Are you going to make me immortal, as you are?" Dracula, more La Cosa Nostra than Boyar noble, responds "Sure, kid, sure." Towards the end, Dracula, castle and coffins in flames, exclaims (in an adaptation for the Florida audience) "Oy vay iz mir!"

Dr. Sam Seward (Drew Morris) is a mix of Dr. John Seward, the novel's sanatorium proprietor, and Mina Murray's and Lucy Westenra's fathers. Sam is well played, dry and inattentive, a perfect father for a victim in the making.

Sophie Seward (Gail Rae Threlkeld) is a cipher, the perfect "nervous" Victorian wife, played well and almost invisibly in another important supporting role.

Bubu Padoop (Grace Cook), a character with absolutely no antecedent in either the novel or the movie, nonetheless acts, with her 1920s-vintage flapper body-language, hipshot Mae West moves, and exaggerated New York accent, as an excellent counterpoint to Mina's innocence. This almost becomes overdone — at one point, Bubu tells jokes followed by drum shots. Drum shots? In a musical comedy? Well, it works. One of the funniest bits in the whole musical, a hilarious bit of self-referential humor, involves Sam Seward and Bubu. Sam mentions those "simply dreadful" plays, where a phone call in the beginning supplies vital information. Bubu astutely replies that the telephone (and there *is* a phone onstage) hasn't been invented yet. The action stops dead, all the actors stock still. The stage manager (wearing an incredibly anachronistic radio headset) comes out and removes the phone, and Nelly replaces it with a vase of flowers. The action then resumes as if nothing had happened.

Boris Renfield (Randy Redd) serves excellently as a comedic foil for Dracula, with his "contagiously enthusiastic" monologues anytime a location he visited in his Gypsy childhood (mostly American states — but hey, this is *comedy!*) is mentioned. And further, in this version, Renfield invites the Count into the

sanatorium, as he does in the novel, but not the movie. Renfield also contributes to the comedy, as when Van Helsing announces that, to save Mina from Dracula's influence, she must be tied down and rubbed all over with garlic, and Renfield says "Whee! Can I help, huh, can I, huh?!"

Dr. Hezekiah Van Helsing (Art Suskin), changes but slightly from Stoker's original, his age between that of the character in the novel and in the play. Rather than the knife-edged rationalism of the novel, the musical's Van Helsing seems bent on besting Dracula through sheer moral indignation. Suskin's accent as Van Helsing, whether by accident or design, is quite reminiscent of the mock-Dutch language of Van Helsing in Stoker's novel.

Jonathan Harker is, in a most interesting foreshadowed reversal, played by Marc Kudisch (as the script directs). And Jonathan, it turns out, has eyes only for Nelly, the maid. "But what about the note from Jonathan you showed me?" Mina complains. "I was just braggin'" retorts Nelly.

"But enough," as Jonathan says, "of this Tomfoolery. . . . Sorry - you can blame the director for that one!" Indeed, I've said enough. If Actors' Playhouse shows their version of *Dracula: The Musical?* again, go see it. It's campy, it's schticky, but it's fun. There are occasional flaws in the musical, more in the script than in the performance. But if making the audience laugh is all that *Dracula: The Musical?* sets out to do, then the Actors' Playhouse and its excellent director, cast, and crew accomplish more than they set out to.

PHANS OF THE PHANTOM On Sept. 28th the Ft. Lauderdale Film Society is presenting the original 1925 film PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, starring Lon Chaney, at Broward Community College's Bailey Hall. The silent film with be accompanied by a live organist. Sounds like grounds for another SFSFS outing to this editor.

BUT WAIT...THERE'S MORE On Nov. 8 - 13 the play PHANTOM OF THE OPERA is being performed in Dade county. See the ad below. Should we decide to go to this as a group we will have to act fast to reserve tickets. Let your thought's be known at the SFSFS general meeting this Saturday (June 17) and we'll take it from there.

Artie Fader AGENCY, INC. PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS

EXCLUSIVE MIAMI ENGAGEMENT NATIONAL TOUR FIRST

The PHANTOM of the OPERA

THE PLAY WITH MUSIC



by John Kenley & Robert Thomas Noll

A Tribute to the Original Lon Chaney Film

NOVEMBER 8-13
Dade County Auditorium
2901 W. Flagler Street

MATINEE: SAT-SUN 2:30 PM EVENING: FRI-SAT-SUN 8:00 PM
EVENING: WED-THU-MON 8:00 PM Prices: \$32-\$28-\$24
Prices: \$28-\$24-\$18

Tickets Go On Sale Monday, June 12, 1989

TICKETS ON SALE AT TICKETMASTER OUTLETS

CHARGE BY PHONE (305) 358-5885 (407) 839-3900	THEATER BOX OFFICE 545-3395	INQUIRIES FOR GROUP DISCOUNTS 949-0212
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GOINGS CON The latest listing of Florida SF conventions & national cons where a SFSFS member is expecting to attend.

	Jun 17-18	Orlando, FL
Vulcon Orlando		
Midwestcon	Jun 23-25	Cincinnati, OH
Westercon 42	Jun 30-Jul 4	Anaheim, CA
OKon '89	July 14-16	Tulsa, OK
Traveling Fete 2	July 21-23	Gainesville, FL
Noreascon 3, 47th World Science Fiction Convention		
	Aug 31-Sep 4	Boston, MA
Necronomicon '89	Oct 20-22	Tampa, FL
Tropicon VIII	Dec 1-3	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Omnicon Cruise*	Jan 7-14, 1990	Miami, FL
Confiction, 48th World Science Fiction Convention		
	Aug 23-29, 1990	The Hague, Holland
Condiego 1990, North American Science Fiction Convention		
	Aug 30-Sep 3, 1990	San Diego, CA
Chicon V, 49th World Science Fiction Convention		
	Aug 29-Sep 2, 1991	Chicago, IL

If you're a SFSFS member going to a con not on this list, please notify the editor, Bill Wilson, so it may be added.

Shuttle Credits. Editor: Bill Wilson. Contributors: Carol Gibson, Dina Perlman, Edie Stern, Joe Siclari, Judy Bemis, Tony Parker.

The South Florida Science Fiction Society is a FL non-profit organization established for literary and educational purposes and recognized by the IRS under Section 501(c)(3). The deadline for submission of material to the SFSFS Shuttle is the general meeting of each month. For more information, write:

SFSFS, P.O. BOX 70143, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143

AT A GLANCE

Jun 17 SFSFS GENERAL MEETING 2:00pm Ft. Lauderdale
Jun 17 SFSFS BOARD MEETING after meeting Ft. Lauderdale
Jun 17 ORION'S BELT AT POET'S 8:00pm Ft. Lauderdale
Jun 24 Costumer's Meeting Noon Ft. Lauderdale

Jul 21-23 TRAVELING FETE 2 Gainesville, FL

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