



In celebration of the 129th anniversary of the publication of *Dracula*, [Brother Wolf](#) is proud to present *Dracula's Guest*, an all-new interpretation based on the works of Bram Stoker. Adapted and directed by acclaimed actor/writer/producer/director, [James Hyland](#), this multi award-winning production takes you into the dark heart of Victorian horror to reveal the very meaning of terror and the consequences of collective evil and personal spite. *Dracula's Guest* is Brother Wolf's 12th production to date and is preceded by a catalogue of celebrated works including *A Christmas Carol – As told by Jacob Marley (deceased)*, the "definitive telling of A Christmas Carol" (Redditch Standard), winner of Best Performer in Theatre (Fringe Report Awards, 2012); *Fagin's Last Hour*, "a masterclass in character acting" (British Theatre Guide), winner of an OffComm Commendation (Off West Awards, 2023); *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, "One of the most mesmerising and terrifying performances you'll ever see" (The Sheerness Times Guardian), winner of Best Male Act (Solo Fest, 2013);

A Lesson from Auschwitz, "a majestic statement of the power of theatre" (Plays To See), commended by The Foundation of Memory Sites Near Auschwitz-Birkenau; and *Silver & Gold*, "a truly unforgettable performance... utterly incredible" (Pink Prince Theatre).

Praise for "Dracula's Guest":

WINNER: THE HAMILTON DEANE AWARD (*The Dracula Society, 2022*)

WINNER: OFFCOMM COMMENDATION (*Off West End Awards, 2022*)

"not for the faint of heart... though that is what makes it so wonderful."

Rating: ★★★★★

~Kashmini Shah, Voice Magazine

"powerful... extraordinarily violent... go see it while you can."

Rating: ★★★★★

~Simon's Horrible Hothouse of Horror

"Hyland commands and dominates the stage... breathtaking... powerful"

Rating: ★★★★★

~Elaine Chapman, Theatre, Films and Art Reviews

"the Godfather of vampire adaptations... unique, powerful... unmissable"

Rating: ★★★★★

~Mark Carter, British Theatre Journal

"Remarkably intense... true to Victorian gothic horror"

Rating: ★★★★★

~Eloise Lonsdale, OX Magazine

"magnificent and terrifying... masterly... horrifyingly realistic"

~Susan Elkin, Sardines Magazine

"horrific but mesmerising... brilliantly clever, albeit disturbing"

~Riana Howarth, North West End UK

"A superb piece of horror theatre, presented with striking commitment!"

~Bianca, A Shiny Life For Me!

"plenty of surprises, and some clever effects... We really enjoyed it."

~Des Bradley, The Dracula Society

"wildly vicious... truly terrifying... thoroughly enjoyable... Heartily recommended!"

~ScareTOUR

"the most intense 55 minutes of drama you're ever likely to encounter."

~Julia Kruk, Voices from the Vaults

"guaranteed to shock you out of your seat and give you nightmares for weeks."

~Peter Fuller, Vincent Price Legacy UK

JAMES HYLAND

Actor | Adapter | Producer | Director

James Hyland is Artistic Director and Founder of [Brother Wolf](#). He is also a multi award-winning stage and film actor as well as an award-winning writer, producer and director with more than thirty years' experience in the profession. James' work has been described by the press as "magnificent" (Plays to See), "highly accomplished" (The Stage) and "astonishing" (The Courier). Following his education at the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain and Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance, he made his professional acting debut in *The North Pole*, winning the Guardian International Student Drama Award in 1996. Since then he has appeared in over 70 professional productions, working with a variety of directors including Adrian Noble, Matthew Warchus and the late Michael Boyd, as well as acclaimed companies such as the Royal Shakespeare Company and Brother Wolf, winning a further 42 [awards](#) including Actor of the Year (Pink Prince Theatre Review of the Year, 2025) for his solo performance in [Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde](#), Best Performance of the Year (The Actors Awards LA, 2022) for his performance as Mr Guthrert Vratrol/Narrator in the film [The Impatient Man Who Made His Life Considerably Shorter](#), The Hamilton Deane Award (The Dracula Society, 2022) for his performance as Dracula in [Dracula's Guest](#), an OffComm Commendation (Off West End Awards, 2023) for his stage production of [Fagin's Last Hour](#), and Best Performer in Theatre (Fringe Report Awards, 2012) for his solo performance as Marley's Ghost in [A Christmas Carol - As told by Jacob Marley \(deceased\)](#), the longest running stage production of *A Christmas Carol* in the UK. John Park, Director of the Fringe Report Awards, said "The award celebrates the work of James Hyland, actor, and in particular his creation and delivery of *A Christmas Carol - As told by Jacob Marley (deceased)*. It reflects his fine work as an actor in film, TV, radio and theatre in a remarkable

range of productions." In the same year, further honours were bestowed by [Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace](#) in recognition of Dickensian Scholarship. By 2014, *A Christmas Carol - As told by Jacob Marley (deceased)* had been officially rated as one of "the top Christmas shows in London, Edinburgh and around the UK" (High 50 Culture). The show's unique presentation has even been discussed in best-selling books about the theatre. In 2018, during the 175th anniversary of Dickens' original novella, James performed his award-winning show at The Royal Albert Hall, selling out to capacity. The production was followed by two more award-winning one-man shows, *Fagin's Last Hour*, reviewed as "powerful and highly accomplished" (The Stage), and *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, described as "nothing short of supernatural... a genuine acting genius" (Pink Prince Theatre), as well as his very latest solo drama, [Silver & Gold](#) (based on *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson), recently nominated for Solo Performance in a Play (Fringe Theatre Awards, 2025/2026), and reviewed as "theatre as it should be. Raw, engaging, and unapologetic" (Pink Prince Theatre). James serves as actor, adapter and producer on all four productions. The shows have toured extensively, breaking box office records along the way, as well as his commemorative drama [A Lesson from Auschwitz](#), of which he is the writer, director, producer and co-actor (commended by The Foundation of Memory Sites Near Auschwitz-Birkenau), reviewed as "one of the most powerful and most important pieces of theatre I've ever seen" (Centre Stage); his double award-winning stage adaptation of *Dracula's Guest*, of which he is the adapter, director, producer and co-actor, described as "the most intense 55 minutes of drama you're ever likely to encounter" (Voices from the Vaults); and his fantastically original Theatre-of-the-Absurd interpretation of [The Mad Hatter's Tea Party](#), of which he is the adapter, director, producer and co-actor, hailed as "an absolute masterpiece" (A Youngish Perspective). Among his many screen credits is the acclaimed *The Impatient Man Who Made His Life Considerably Shorter* in which he plays the dual lead roles of Guthrert Vratrol and the Voiceover Narrator for which he received 31 Best Actor awards including Best Performance of the Year at The Actors Awards LA, Best Actor in a Comedy at the Best Actor & Director Awards New York, the Made You Laugh BBC Comedy Award at The World Cinema Film Festival and Best Actor at The APEX Film Awards at which his performance was reviewed as "absolutely hilarious and played to perfection." To date, James has played the lead in 5 international award-winning films.

[ASHTON SPEAR](#)

Actor

A graduate from the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts (ALRA) with a Masters Distinction in Performing Arts, Ashton is a Canadian born actor residing in the United Kingdom. Since graduating he has worked extensively in theatre, film and television. He has starred in

several short films, several of which have been multiple award winners on the festival circuit. Screen credits include *Locked Up Abroad*, *Dearly Departed*, *Still Young*, *999 Killer on the Line* and *The Haunting of Margam Castle*. Ashton most recently starred as Edward VIII in the 4-star production of *Falling in Love Again* at The King's Head Theatre where his performance was described as "masterful" (The Review Chap). His other stage credits include *The King in Yellow* at The Lion and Unicorn, *Boudica* at The Barn Theatre and *The Frontier Trilogy* at The Hen and Chickens. Ashton has also begun training in voice over and motion capture performance. He has recently lent his voice to the short film *Joy Ride* as well as a number of audio dramas including *X-Men: The New Mutants* and an adaptation of *The Nurse's Tale*.

CHRIS WARNER

Music

Chris Warner is a composer, sound designer, musical arranger and orchestrator whose range of work covers theatre, television and film. Other Brother Wolf credits include: *The Mad Hatter's Tea Party*, *A Lesson From Auschwitz*, *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, *Fagin's Last Hour*, *A Christmas Carol - As told by Jacob Marley (deceased)*, *Dracula's Guest*. Recent composing and sound design credits include: *Blue Stockings*, *Sadie (Lyric Belfast, BBC4)*, *Booming Voices*, *From Rushmere With Love*, *The Tide Jetty* (Eastern Angles), *ART* (East Riding Theatre), *Archie in Manhattan* (Grand Opera House, Belfast), *Macbeth* (RSC Associated Schools). As an arranger, orchestrator and producer, recent credits include *The Ipcress File* (ITV), *The Mauritanian* (BBC Films, 30West), *The Rise of the Tudors* (Sky History), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (The Royal Shakespeare Company). As a composer for TV and Film Chris is published by Audio Network, producing original music that is featured extensively in TV, Film and Advertising in this country and around the world. Recent collaborations include an album with percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie and cellist Ayanna Witter-Johnson.

Listings Information

Synopsis

Dracula. An ancient creature, embittered by the burden of immortality and the intolerance of those who would decry him monster. Alone in his keep, but for the memories of centuries past. A living death that only a vampire could understand. Or perhaps a special guest or two. Providing they can live long enough to survive their host's unique hospitality and his deliberate attempts to drive them insane.

Performance Date:

FRI OCT 2 @ 8pm

NEWPORT - THE RIVERFRONT | GLAN YR AFON

Kingsway, Newport, Casnewydd, NP20 1HG

TIX: 01633 656757 www.newportlive.ticketsolve.com

Recommended for: Ages 12+

This category is recommended when the material is suitable only for those aged 12 and over. Works classified at this category may upset children under 12 or contain material (including scenes of a violent and bloody nature) which many parents will find unsuitable for them. In such circumstances, responsibility for allowing a child under 12 to view the work lies with the accompanying adult.

Cast and creative team:

Actor/Writer/Producer/Director: James Hyland

Actor: Ashton Spear

Composer: Chris Warner

For further details please contact:

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