

## Dracula's Favorite Haunts

The Derby Dracula returns this Halloween with city-wide celebrations of Bram Stoker's famous vampire.

At Halloween, millions of people the world over will dress as Dracula. This costume was invented in Derby. His cloak, evening dress, and even his charming manner derive from Hamilton Deane's 1924 stage adaptation, the premiere of which took place at Derby's Grand Theatre on Babington Lane. Edmund Blake was the first Count Dracula. He was later portrayed by Bela Lugosi, Christopher Lee and thousands of actors on stage and screen.

We are called the [Derby Dracula](#) and it is our mission to restore the city's place in the story of the world's most famous vampire by highlighting Derby's connections to Bram Stoker, Hamilton Deane and Bela Lugosi. We seek to develop Derby's gothic heritage through sponsoring festivals and events and driving tourism to Derby.

This October sees the launch of a new season of activity to mark the spookiest time of the year.

We're thrilled to announce the return of Dacre Stoker (Bram Stoker's great grand-nephew) to Derby with our partners Derby Museums! Dacre will be hosting an exclusive [meet and greet](#) event at Pickford's House on Wednesday 22 October and [Dissecting Dracula](#) in The Wardwick at Derby Museum and Art Gallery on Thursday 23 October.

For Halloween, gothic events will animate the streets with after dark markets planned at [Derby Market Hall](#) and by Love Sadler Gate, where Peter Ray Allison, of LARP-producers [Mythic Echoes](#), will be hosting the costumed March of the Vampires on [Thursday 30 October](#) on behalf of Derby Dracula.

The Dracula exhibition ([101 Years and Counting!](#)) is on at Pickford's House, where the shop stocks all our Dracula merchandise. Don't miss [Dracula By Night – A Gothic Christmas at Pickford's House](#) on 5 December.

The next session of the Dracula reading group is 5.30pm on Thursday 6 November at Thrivemind Village on Iron Gate, where we're planning on reading 'If America Goes on Breeding Men Like That: *Dracula's* Quincey Morris Problematized' by James R. Simmons. If you'd like a copy, please get in touch with the convenor Maia Bodnar ([maiabodnar@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:maiabodnar@hotmail.co.uk)). [In the Derby adaptation Quincey Morris was a woman, of course]

Finally, we have another season of our free online talks, Dracula Lunchtime Bites! Tickets can be booked [here](#). The next speaker is Claire Mead who will be speaking about 'Queering the Slayer, from Dracula to Buffy' on Wednesday 15 October 2025, 12.30–13.00. All welcome and free to attend.

Not only can you follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#), you can listen to our compilation album *Dracula Returns*, on [Spotify](#) and [Bandcamp](#) (where you can buy the tape) and our [project book](#), which is back in stock. Finally, you can experience the original 1924 play through the listenings created by [Derby Theatre Community Company](#).

## Contact

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