Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors 01.19.23

LUCY

Now? In the middle of my engagement party? Silly. We'll find time in the next week or two.

DRACULA

Oh. So you don't want to--

LUCY

Go home with you?

She LAUGHS. They all join in, assuming Dracula is making a joke.

DRACULA

I usually don't have to ask twice.

They all continue LAUCHING. Dracula joins in for a moment, trying to play along, then:

DRACULA

I'm serious.

LUCY

Thanks for the laugh, Count. Welcome to Whitby.

HARKER

Come Lucy, darling. I want to introduce you to my cousins, Mary and Shelly.

SFX: MUSICAL FLOURISH

Mina / Dracula/ Westfeldt / Renfield

START

MINA and DR. WESTFELDT approach.

MINA

Raise your hand if you're awkward at parties!

She does. He does not.

MINA

Just me? Soooo how are you getting on? Has Renfield offered you a canapé?

DRACULA

Renfield?

DR. WESTFELDT

One of my patients. And my butler. He's working the party to develop his social skills.

Dr. Westfeldt calls off-stage to Renfield.

DR. WESTFELDT

Renfield!

Dr. Westfeldt leans behind proscenium (or faces upstage) to respond as Renfield.

RENFIELD (O.S.)

Yes, doctor!

DR. WESTFELDT

Will you please come back in here?

RENFIELD (O.S.)

Coming, doctor!

DR. WESTFELDT

He's got little to no confidence, so he's highly suggestible.

DRACULA

Not a problem.

MINA

(confidential)

And he eats bugs.

DR. WESTFELDT

I'll see what's keeping him.

Westfield exits.

MINA

(awkwardly)

I like your trousers. And your shirt. And your...face.

Westfield calls from off-stage.

DR. WESTFELDT (O.S.)

Mina!

MINA

DAD, I'M COMING! GOD!

(to Dracula)

You must be parched from your shipwreck. I'll get you a drink.

Mina exits. Actor Two re-enters as Renfield.

RENFIELD

Good evening, sir. Would you like a cheesy fing?

Dracula identifies his next target.

DRACULA

Let me guess...Renfield.

RENFIELD

Do I know you?

DRACULA

Not yet. But I know you.

RENFIELD

You do?

DRACULA

Better than you know yourself. You're lonely. You're misunderstood. You're without purpose.

RENFIELD

It's like you can see right into my soul. My only relief is in serving others.

DRACULA

Well, I've got a little penchant for being served. And I could use some help cleaning up around Withering Manor in case I should have a guest. You're not afraid of a bug or two, are you?

RENFIELD

(salivating)

Bugs?! What sort of bugs? Can you be more specific?

DRACULA

Why don't you come by later tonight and see for yourself? I'll prepare an assortment. When it comes to living ingredients, I'm a master chef.

RENFIELD

(excited)

A master chef?!

DRACULA

Come by. Three a.m. Tell no one.

RENFIELD

Yes, Master.

