

## **NOSFERATU THE VAMPYRE**

(Nosferatu: Phantom der Nacht)

**Directed by Werner Herzog**

**Germany-France 1979, 107 mins, Cert 12A**

**Klaus Kinski, Isabelle Adjani, Bruno Ganz**



**Halloween previews on 31 October**

**Opening on 1 November 2013**

**at BFI Southbank & selected cinemas nationwide**

***"I feel the vampire genre is one of the richest and most fertile cinema has to offer. There is fantasy, hallucination, dreams and nightmares, visions, fear and, of course, mythology."* Werner Herzog**

3 September 2013 – Previewing at Halloween and opening on 1 November 2013, Werner Herzog's ***Nosferatu The Vampyre*** is the first of three films released in cinemas nationwide this autumn/winter by the BFI as part of GOTHIC: The Dark Heart of Film, a nationwide celebration of gothic film and television.

Jonathan Harker (Bruno Ganz), happily married to his young wife Lucy (Isabelle Adjani), works as an estate agent in the small town of Wismar. When his employer sends him off to Transylvania to close a property deal with Count Dracula (Klaus Kinski), Lucy immediately senses danger and the locals he meets en route also try to persuade him to break off his journey. He is greeted by the Count, an eerie, rodent-like apparition, with his white bald head, dark-rimmed eyes, pointed teeth and ears and gruesomely long nails. While dining that night, Jonathan cuts his finger, provoking a very strange reaction in his host ...

As critic and programmer Geoff Andrew has written: "Werner Herzog's typically personal contribution to vampire lore is both a luminous tribute to the great Gothic landmarks of an earlier era of German cinema and a remarkably resonant and powerful film in its own right. While echoing both Bram Stoker's 'Dracula' and Murnau's *Nosferatu*, Herzog's account of the Harkers' fateful encounter with the Transylvanian count is considerably more than just another horror movie.

Klaus Kinski's extraordinary, painstakingly detailed playing of Dracula produces rich undertones of melancholy – could the warmth of human intercourse ever compensate for the chilly tedium of immortality? – while Isabelle Adjani's tremulous, wide-eyed performance, drawing on silent-movie tropes, brings a profound intensity both to Lucy's anxieties and to her courage in protecting her husband Jonathan.

Often to the accompaniment of music by Wagner or Popul Vuh, Jörg Schmidt-Reitwein's stunning images – whether of the Count's castle in the Carpathian Mountains or of bourgeois Delft (which stands in for Wismar) caught up in a crazed dance of death – both heighten and enlarge the drama. For Herzog, what's at risk is not so much a hitherto happy marriage as humanity itself."

Klaus Kinski's outstanding performance has been acclaimed by Herzog himself: "It took fifty years to find a vampire to rival the one Murnau created, and I say that no one in the next fifty years will be able to play *Nosferatu* like Kinski has done."

Herzog's *Nosferatu*, with its unforgettable vampire exuding existential anguish, stands alongside Murnau's legendary silent as a distinctive masterpiece of the genre.

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Images are available at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) >BFI>Theatrical releases

More details at [www.bfi.org.uk/releases](http://www.bfi.org.uk/releases)

More details on GOTHIC: The Dark Heart of Film and downloadable trailer here:

[www.bfi.org.uk/gothic](http://www.bfi.org.uk/gothic)

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**Notes to Editors**

- *Nosferatu the Vampyre* (Werner Herzog, 1979) previews on Halloween and is released in selected cinemas nationwide by the BFI on 1 November
- The film will be released in a Dual Format Edition (DVD and Blu-ray discs) by the BFI in spring 2014
- On 25 October Palgrave Macmillan will publish a second edition of the BFI Film Classic *Nosferatu – Phantom der Nacht* by S.S. Praver, which features a new foreword by Brad Prager, priced £10.99. This is one of eight Gothic BFI Film Classics publishing to coincide with the Gothic season. Find out more about these books at [www.palgrave.com/bfi/gothic](http://www.palgrave.com/bfi/gothic)
- F.W. Murnau's *Nosferatu* (1922) is released in cinemas on 25 October by Eureka! Entertainment
- Also released in cinemas nationwide by the BFI as part of GOTHIC: The Dark Heart of Film will be *The Innocents* (Jack Clayton, 1961) on 13 December and *La Belle et la Bête* (Jean Cocteau, 1946) on 3 January 2014

## **About GOTHIC: THE DARK HEART OF FILM**

**GOTHIC: The Dark Heart of Film** runs from August 2013 – January 2014 celebrating one of Britain's biggest cultural exports. With over 150 titles and around 1000 screenings GOTHIC features spectacularly terrifying special events to thrill every corner of the UK. The project also incorporates the longest BFI Southbank season yet (4 months), UK-wide theatrical and DVD releases, an education programme, a new BFI GOTHIC book and a range of exciting partnerships, special guests and commentators. GOTHIC will explore film's most popular theme, spawning some of the medium's most iconic, powerful and terrifying scenes and characters whose lasting popularity just refuses to die.

## **About the BFI**

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences