## THE VAMPIRE;

OR, THE BRIDE OF THE ISLES:

A ROMANTIC MELO-DRAMA,

In Two Acts,

BY J. R. PLANCHE,

Author of Charles the XII. The Merchants' Wedding, A Woman Never Vest, The Mason of Buda, The Brigand, A Daughter to Marry, &c.



R. Cruikshank, Del.

G. W. Bunner, Sc.

The Vampire.

Lady Margaret. Hold! I am thine; -the moon has set.

#### **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

Our production of *The Vampire* has taken the Gothic melodrama and romance as its keynote and injected into it some of the low comedy spirit that delighted audiences at The Surrey and The Coburg in the heyday of the 1820s spectacular.

Despite Planché's concern over copyright he adapted this play from a French source and we have therefore had no compunction in raiding other plays of the genre to develop some of the characters. There are heavily disguised extracts from *The Drunkard*, *The Silver King*, *The Castle Spectre*, *My Poll and My Partner Joe* and even Da Ponte's libretto from *The Marriage of Figaro*. No prizes are offered for identifying the pieces as by the time the cast had finished improvising them into a spurious Scots, even the director had forgotten what was what, and resisted a suggestion that the piece should be titled as by J. R. Planché *et al*.

As that joke is at about the level of most of those in the play, you now know what to expect and can settle down to an evening of hiss and boo, known in academic circles as 'audience participation'. To help you do this, the music adapted by our maestro, (now in his umpteenth melodrama) from 'the Scottish Melodies' as the title page has it, includes lyrics from the original piece and some even more original. Our designer also assures us that the now traditional Christmas hexagons are accurate representations of Fingal's Cave and a Scotsman's jaundiced view of Highland architecture the day after Hogmanay.

We can only hope that Planché would not have disowned it. At least we will never know that, and as long as you, our audience, accept it;

'Love Conquers All'!

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# THEVAMPIRE

## by J.R. Planché

#### Cast in order of appearance

Unda, Spirit of the Flood	Carol Metcalfe
Ariel, Spirit of the Air	Judy Rose
Lady Margaret, daughter of Lord Ronald	Oenone Grant
Ruthven, Earl of Marsden, The Vampire	Alan Drake
Bridget, Lord Ronald's housekeeper	Jennifer Tudor
Robert, an English attendant on Lord Ronald.	Robert Jones
McSwill, Lord Ronald's henchman	Ted Scrivener
Ronald, Baron of the Isles	Ken Ratcliffe
Effie, daughter to Andrew	Alison Pollard
Andrew, steward to Ruthven	Richard Cowne
Spirit of the Night	Joan McQueen
Father Francis	. Graham Williams
Retainers, Peasants, Bargemen, Bandits et ceter	
	Joan McQueen Anna Piet
	Martin Rutherford
	John Stacey
	Martin Stoner

Directed by Alan Chambers

Sets designed by Norman Barwick Costumes designed by Ray Childe Musical Director: Eric Kirby

### Synopsis of Scenes Introductory Vision

#### Act I

Scene i - A Hall in the Castle of Lord Ronald Scene ii - An Apartment in the Castle

Scene iii - Garden of Lord Ruthven's Castle

INTERVAL

#### Act II

Scene i — The Tomb of Fingal in the Cavern of Staffa Scene ii — An Apartment in Lord Ronald's Castle Scene iii — View of Lord Ronald's Castle by Moonlight Scene iv — The Chapel.

Stage Manager	
Deputy Stage Manager	
, included the stage manageror in the transfer of the stage manageror in the stage managero	Tony Dodd
	Rita Fenoughty
	John Griffin Danielle Johnson
	Roger Kelly
	Pat Larkin
	Mark Moran
	Eve Noakes
	lan Russell Janet Smith
	Hilary Thompson
Wardrobe	Anna Piet
assisted by	Hilda Collins
	Edith Ricket Lesley Taylor
and members	of The Questors Wardrobe
Properties	Joan Curry
	Bob Ricket
	Lucy Patten
Construction	
	Geoff Moore Andrew Muir
	Roger Sturm
assisted by	
Lighting	Bob Anderson
assisted by	
	Kate Anderson
Sound	Alison Colston-Lake
Wigs dressed by	
vigo arcooca by	Julie Gratteriden

## DISCUSSION DISCUSSION Had fun? Enjoyed it? Or not?

Either way, you probably talked about it on the way home. Come and talk about it again. Or listen to others talking about it, at the Open Discussion which will be held on WEDNESDAY, 16th JANUARY, at 7.45p.m., in the Bernard Shaw Room. This will be led by

#### KITTY BLACK

There are few areas of theatre in which Kitty Black has not been involved. While probably best known as a playwright, with over 20 plays to her credit including English versions of plays by Anouilh, Sartre and Hochwalder among others, she has also been a Play Agent, been involved in management for H. M. Tennent and the Company of Four and in promoting children's theatre, is Secretary of the Apollo Recital Society and was producer and editor of simultaneous translations for the Apollo Recital Society and was producer and editor of simultaneous translations for the Aldwych World Theatre Seasons.

If the show was worth seeing, it is worth talking about, so come along! **NOTE THE CHANGED DATE** — *Not* Tuesday, but

WEDNESDAY, 16th JANUARY at 7.45 p.m. in the Bernard Shaw Room

## The Author- 'renaissance man'

James Robertson Planché (1796-1880) is best known as a prolific writer of burlesques, extravaganzas and pantomimes, though he also wrote melodramas and comedies. His first play, a burlesque, was given at Drury Lane in 1818, and The Vampire or The Bride of the Isles was adapted from a French play and given in 1820. It first introduced to the English stage the 'Vampire trap', a device which our production has attempted to reproduce. Planche was a serious student of art and designed costumes for Kemble's production of King John in 1824. He is reputed to be the first to approximate to historical accuracy. In 1834 he published A History of British Costume, for long a standard work. We found that the problems he set us in estimating the period of The Vampire were beyond the bounds of history and we have settled on a romantic gothic with a judicious sprinkling of doubtful tartan. He was also a good musician, being musical director of the Vauxhall Gardens from 1826 to 1827, writing libretti for opera including Weber's Oberon and English versions of William Tell and The Magic Flute. He helped to lead the agitation for reform in the laws concerning copyright which resulted in the 1833 Act.

Not content with this, our 'renaissance man' included the study of heraldry among his activities and was appointed Rouge Croix Pursuivant of Arms at the Heralds' College, and several times went abroad to confer the Order of the Garter on foreign royalty.

Hartnoll comments that 'his work appears to have no literary merit whatever.... it depended largely on its music and staging'. It was, however, 'enormously successful'!

rews of a query who set up in an abandoned lighthouse.

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## **FUTURE ATTRACTIONS!**

In the Theatre

THE MISANTHROPE by Molière January 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. February 1, 2 at 7.45 p.m.

In the Studio

THE CONSTANT COUPLE by George Farquhar January 17, 18, 19, 20 at 7.45 p.m.

At the Film Society

THE SAILOR WHO FELL FROM GRACE WITH THE SEA

January 11 at 11.00 p.m.

and

RIVER OF NO RETURN February 1 at 11.00 p.m.

## 

and don't forget, during the run of The Vampire

COUNT CORNETTO'S CREEPY CHRISTMAS January 5, 6, 12 at 3.00p.m.