

“Its characters may be undead, but the film itself  
is crazily, passionately alive”

— A.O. Scott, The New York Times

“Quick-witted and dazzling...Imagine Murnau’s NOSFERATU  
remade by Kenneth Anger, edited by Eisenstein on a cocaine binge,  
and produced for Masterpiece Theater.” —Nathan Lee, New York Sun



# Dracula

Pages from a Virgin's Diary

a film by Guy Maddin

A VONNIE VON HELMOLT PRODUCTION

A ZEITGEIST FILMS RELEASE

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After garnering widespread acclaim with his mini masterpiece THE HEART OF THE WORLD, Canadian cult auteur Guy Maddin has concocted his most ravishingly stylized cinematic creation to date. Beautifully transposing the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's interpretation of Bram Stoker's classic vampire yarn from stage to screen, Maddin has forged a sumptuous, erotically charged feast of dance, drama and shadow. The black-and-white, blood-red-punctured DRACULA: PAGES FROM A VIRGIN'S DIARY is a Gothic grand guignol of the notorious Count and his bodice-ripped victims, fringed with the expressionistic strains of Gustav Mahler.

WINNER

International Emmy Award  
Arts Programming 2002

WINNER

Gemini, Best Performing Arts  
Program 2002

WINNER

Gemini , Best Direction in a  
Performing Arts Program, 2002

WINNER

Best Film, Fantastic competition,  
Sitges International Film Festival (Spain)

WINNER

Grand Prix at the Prague  
International Television Festival

# Guy Maddin

## Director

Guy Maddin's body of work is as beautiful as it is confounding and delirious. He incorporates the language of past cinema, with which he is most intimately familiar from his countless hours of film viewing, and combines this with a pre-cinematic sensibility learned from the books he voraciously devours. A man of prodigious intellectual appetites, Maddin's many interests and obsessions can easily be discerned in his work.

His first film, produced through the Winnipeg Film Group, was the haunting family fable **The Dead Father**. This brought him the recognition he needed to embark on his second film, the cult hit **Tales From The Gimli Hospital**. This film played for months as a midnight movie in New York City and paved the way to perhaps his most delirious and insensible picture, **Archangel**. Certainly the most lyrical of war films, **Archangel** is the story of amnesiac lovers skirting the northern frontiers of World War 1, and its release brought Maddin the U.S. National Society of Film Critics' prize for Best Experimental Film of the Year.

Following this triumph was Maddin's first work in color, a story of repression and unnatural couplings entitled **Careful**. The film opened Perspectives Canada at the 1993 Toronto Festival of Festivals and it went on to screen at the Tokyo and New York Film Festivals.

In 1995 Maddin created a short filmic prose-poem based on the work of Belgian charcoalier **Odilon Redon**. It was organised by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), who also invited such directors as Jonathan Demme, Jane Campion and Tim Burton. The resulting production won a Special Jury Citation at the Toronto Film Festival and played festivals from New York to London to Telluride, Colorado.

Also in 1995, Maddin was the recipient of the Telluride Medal for Life Time Achievement at the Telluride Film Festival. He is the youngest person ever to have been awarded this honour, which he shares with such luminaries as Francis Ford Coppola, Gloria Swanson, Clint Eastwood, Leni Riefenstahl, Michael Powell and Andrei Tarkovsky.

Maddin has also made many short films, few of which have been seen. These include: **Mauve Decade** (1989), **Indigo High-Hatters** (1991), **The Poms of Satan** (1993), **Sea Beggars** (1994), **Sissy Boy Slap Party** (1995), **Maldoror: Tygers** (1999), and **The Cock Crew** (1999).

In 2000, along with other notable Canadian filmmakers, Maddin was commissioned to make a six-minute "prelude" for the Toronto International Film Festival in celebration of their 25th anniversary. The resulting short film, **The Heart of the World**, was proclaimed by many festival-goers and critics to be the best film of the entire festival and became the most acclaimed film to date of Maddin's career. It won a special award from the National Society of Film Critics as the best experimental film of the year, won a Golden Gate Award at the San Francisco Film Festival for best narrative short, and was voted one of the ten best films of 2001 by both J. Hoberman of The Village Voice, and A.O.Scott of The New York Times, a highly unusual honor for a six-minute film.

Now a regular contributor to Film Comment, Guy Maddin recently premiered a video peep-show installation entitled **Cowards Bend the Knee**, (which is also screening as an hour-long feature at film festivals) and is currently working on a new film with acclaimed author Kazuo Ishiguro.

# Guy Maddin Filmography

## FEATURES:

- 1988 TALES FROM THE GIMLI HOSPITAL (72 mins)
- 1990 ARCHANGEL (90 mins)
- 1992 CAREFUL (100 mins)
- 1997 TWILIGHT OF THE ICE NYMPHS (92 mins)
- 2002 DRACULA - PAGES FROM A VIRGIN'S DIARY (75 mins)
- 2003 COWARDS BEND THE KNEE (60 mins)

## SHORTS:

- 1985 THE DEAD FATHER (30 mins)
- 1989 MAUVE DECADE (7 mins)
- 1989 BBB (12 mins)
- 1990 TYRO (4 mins)
- 1991 INDIGO HIGH-HATTERS (34 mins)
- 1993 THE POMPS OF SATAN [aka THROUGH A MAN'S EYEGLASS] (5 mins)
- 1994 SEA BEGGARS, or THE WEAKER SEX (7 mins)
- 1995 ODILON REDON [aka THE EYE, LIKE A STRANGE BALLOON, MOUNTS TOWARDS INFINITY] (5 mins)
- 1995 SISSY-BOY SLAP-PARTY [aka THE COMING TERROR] (2 mins)
- 1996 IMPERIAL ORGIES, or THE RABBI OF BACHARACH (3 mins)
- 1998 THE HOYDEN [aka IDYLLS OF WOMANHOOD] (4 mins)
- 1999 THE COCK CREW, or LOVE-CHAUNT OF THE CHIMNEY (5 mins)
- 1999 MALDOROR: TYGERS (4 mins)
- 1999 HOSPITAL FRAGMENTS (3 mins)
- 2000 FLESHPOTS OF ANTIQUITY [aka GAS III] (3 mins)
- 2000 THE HEART OF THE WORLD (6 mins)

# Vonnie Von Helmolt

## Producer

Vonnie Von Helmolt has worked in the Canadian and American film industry for almost 20 years, producing features, made-for television movies and television specials.

As well as *Dracula*, she has produced of a one-hour ballet television special which premiered on BRAVO!. *Journey* starred world-famous ballerina Evelyn Hart and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. "*Journey*" was awarded a Gemini Award - Best Production Design and a Blizzard Award - Best Performing Arts Special. It was designated a Hors Concours Selection by the Banff Television Festival.

As Head of Production for GFT/Paquin Von Helmolt co-produced the feature film *The Clown at Midnight*, starring Christopher Plummer, Margo Kidder and James Duval (*Independence Day*) and line produced the feature *Silver Wolf*, with Roy Scheider, for Blue Rider of Los Angeles.

Von Helmolt was Production Manager on the four-hour miniseries *The Arrow* (CBC), starring Dan Aykroyd, Christopher Plummer, and Michael Ironside, the 22-part television series *My Life as a Dog* for Showtime. She recently completed production on Robin Cook's *Acceptable Risk*, for Turner Broadcasting.

Additionally, she produced a series of music videos for Oak Street Music which received a Cable Ace nomination, and a Blizzard Award for Best Music Video.

Von Helmolt was the founding chair of both Film Training Manitoba and the Manitoba District Council of the Director's Guild of Canada, and continues on the executive of both organizations. She is also Co-chair of the board of the Manitoba Motion Picture Industry Association. She was a CTV Fellow at the Banff Television Festival in 1995.

# Mark Godden

## Choreographer

Born in Dallas, Texas, Godden studied acting at Carnegie-Mellon University, then switched his focus to dance, studying with Hugh Nini at the Denton School of Ballet in Texas. In 1981 Godden entered the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, Professional Division, joining the Company in 1984 after his graduation.

As one of the RWB's leading soloists, Godden distinguished himself in leading roles including Hans van Manen's Adagio Hammerklavier and Piano Variations III, Rudi van Dantzig's Four Last Songs, Jirí Kylián's Nuages, and Peter Martins' Valse Triste. However, as early as 1982, Godden began to focus on choreography. Today he is considered one of Canada's foremost young choreographic talents.

Godden's creations have won him international acclaim. His choreographic career initially began with creations for the Professional Division students of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. One of his first efforts was Forms of Distinction, which premiered to enthusiastic praise at the RWB School's Dance Spectrum in 1998. Forms of Distinction was later performed by the company of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet at the biennial Canada Dance Festival in Ottawa. In, 1989, Godden's Sequoia received its world premiere at the Banff Festival of the Arts, was taken into the RWB's repertoire that same year and later entered the repertoire of Mexico's Compañía Nacional de Danza in 1991.

Godden has also created two special pas de deux to feature RWB dancers competing at international competitions. On both occasions, Godden himself won awards for his choreography. Myth, created in 1990 for Laura Graham and Steven Hyde for the 14th International Ballet Competition in Varna, Bulgaria, won Godden a 2nd Prize certificate-the top honour awarded for new choreography that year. At the 1991 2nd international Ballet Competition in Helsinki, Finland, Godden shared 2nd prize for new choreography for La Princesse et le Soldat, created for Suzanne Rubio and Gino Di Marco.

In, 1990, Godden was appointed Resident Choreographer for the RWB and created Symphony No. 1. During his appointment, Godden created three additional ballets specifically for the Company: Angels in the Architecture, set to the score of Aaron Copland's "Appalachian Spring" and Dame aux Fruits, to the music of New York composer Michael Torke's "Ecstatic Orange", "Green" and "Purple" in 1992, and A Darkness Between Us, to Anton Webern's "Five Movements for String Orchestration Op.5" in 1993. Godden's La Folía was originally created for the RWB School Professional Division's Concert Hour Ballet series in 1992.

During the 1994/95 season, Godden began working as an independent choreographer, making his home in Montréal. He has created new works for Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, Alberta Ballet, Ballet British Columbia and for Ballet Jörgen. He created Miroirs, set to Ravel's music of the same name for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet in 1995. The Rite of Spring, set to Stravinsky's music, premiered in Winnipeg on May 7, 1997. He premiered Dracula, his first full-length ballet on October 21, 1998 in Winnipeg.

Godden's "constant collaborator" for his works to date is designer Paul Daigle, a former RWB dancer who has created sets and costumes for all of Godden's major pieces.

# Dracula

## Pages from a Virgin's Diary

A Vonnie Von Helmolt  
Mark Godden and Guy Maddin  
Production

based on  
Mark Godden's DRACULA  
adapted and choreographed  
for Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet

featuring  
Zhang Wei-Qiang as Dracula  
Tara Birtwhistle as Lucy  
David Moroni, C.M. as Van Helsing  
CindyMarie Small as Nina  
Johnny Wright as Harker

Design and Art Direction Deanne Rohde  
Costume Design Paul Daigle  
Cinematography Paul Suderman  
Super-8 and Bolex deco dawson and Guy Maddin

Associate Director and Editor: deco dawson  
Produced by Vonnie Von Helmolt  
Directed by Guy Maddin

A Co-Production with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet  
Artistic Director Andre Lewis

Executive Directors  
Bob Sochasky, Andrew Willem-Boyles, Catherine McKeenan

Robert Sherrin  
Executive Producer Arts Programming  
CBC Television

Co-Producer Lesley Oswald  
Associate Producer Danishka Esterhazy

CAST

Dracula	Zhang Wei-Qiang
Lucy Westernra	Tara Birtwhistle
Dr. Van Helsing	David Moroni, C.M.
Mina Murray	CindyMarie Small
Jonathon Harker	Johnny Wright
Arthur Holmwood	Stephane Leonard
Jack Seward	Matthew Johnson
Quincy Morris	Keir Knight
Renfield	Brent Neale
Mrs. Westernra	Stephanie Ballard

MAIDS

Sarah Murphy-Dyson Gail Stefanek  
Carrie Broda Janet Sartore

GARGOYLES

Jennifer Welsman Chalnessa Eames  
Emily Grizzell Vanessa Lawson

NUNS

Sarah Murphy-Dyson Chalnessa Eames  
Carrie Broda Emily Grizzell  
Jennifer Welsman Vanessa Lawson  
Janet Sartore Michelle Lack

VAMPIRESSES

Sarah Murphy-Dyson Gail Stefanek  
Kerrie Souster

Sound Track - Excerpts from  
Symphony #1 "Titan"  
Symphony #2 in C Minor  
by Gustav Mahler (1860-1911)

Filmed in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Vonnie Von Helmolt Film  
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