

# THE GLOBE



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OCTOBER 24, 2012  
ISSUE 11 / FALL '12

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## FUN, FITNESS & FORMAL SKILLS

Photo by Kachina Choate

## Social dance classes teach techniques for the budding socialite

**Kachina Choate**

Contributing Writer

Thanks in large part to a number of reality television shows like *Dancing with the Stars*, social dance has enjoyed an American revival. SLCC classes might not partner students with the likes of Cheryl Burke, Emmitt Smith, Gilles Marini or Anna Trebunskaya, but they do offer a way to start.

The Department of Health and Lifetime Activities (HLA) offers a wide range of activities to encourage lifelong wellness,

including social dance I and social dance II. These classes not only encourage fitness, they also teach a useful skill for a variety of occasions.

"Social dance has many great applications throughout your life," said SLCC social dance instructor Nina Welker. "It is a great skill to know if you are ever caught in a gala type experience where there is dancing."

The beginning social dance class teaches the foxtrot, cha-cha, waltz and triple swing. The foxtrot is a progressive dance known for the

Nina Welker teaches some moves in HLA's social dance class.

long flowing movements across the floor.

The cha-cha is a Cuban dance known for the Cuban hip movement.

The waltz is one of the oldest dances around and when it was first introduced it was conceded very scandalous because partners are held in closed dance position.

The triple swing is a variation of the Lindy Hop and is also known by the name east coast swing.

Social Dance II teaches a variety of dances that may include tango, west coast swing and samba.

"We kind of vary the class based on the students that are there and the dances that they would like to participate in," said Welker.

Social dance usually involves a

partner, but the social dance class is not limited to couples, and there is no need to bring a partner to take the class. Some dancing skills are better learned by dancing with a variety of partners.

"We rotate partners [even if] you bring a significant other with you. Even spouses who sign up are required to switch partners," said Welker. "The partnering leading and following skills learned in this class are very important, and if you stay with the same partner then you are not learning those different skills as effectively."

Welker hopes that students will continue their life long wellness and love social dance so much that they take the skills they learn on campus and use them in their lives long after they leave college.

## Beyond 21st century resume: free tuition for exceptional ePortfolio

**Vance Howard**

Contributing Writer

In 2012 ePortfolios are the name of the game for all SLCC students, whether they like it or not, but some students will earn extra payoff for their efforts.

Each semester, four students who create exceptional ePortfolios are awarded a waiver that covers one semester's full tuition. The General Education ePortfolio Tuition Waiver for spring 2013 will be awarded in December.

"Students who generate a good ePortfolio and meet requirements are eligible for a waiver, as well as fulfilling a general education requirement," said SLCC ePortfolio Director David Hubert.

Winning ePortfolios are selected based on exceptional performance on signature assignments, creative

and effective use of multi-media and extraordinary reflection throughout. Students are also required to include a one to two-page essay on their experience creating their ePortfolio.

Students seeking the spring 2013 tuition waiver must submit their application by December 14.

Salt Lake Community College introduced ePortfolio in several classes in 2005. By the summer of 2010, an ePortfolio became a course requirement for all General Education courses.

SLCC's ePortfolio is a digital collection of materials and reflections that document student learning. Every General Education course requires one or two signature assignments to be added to the student's ePortfolio, along with a reflective writing piece.

It is a SLCC course-level requirement to have an ePortfolio, although instructors are not required to teach students how to create it.

"I didn't have [an ePortfolio] for a class and it dropped my grade a whole letter," said SLCC student Stevie Omer.

SLCC has a trained staff to assist students in creating their ePortfolio. The ePortfolio Support Lab is located in the basement of the Markosian Library at Taylorsville Redwood Campus.

ePortfolio Coordinator Kati Lewis is available to help individuals, or groups of students. Free workshops are offered throughout the semester.

SLCC is one of 22 colleges and universities around the country that are participating in a three-year study of ePortfolio

implementation. This study is funded by the Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education. SLCC is on the leading edge of a broad national movement in higher education.

"Currently about half of all colleges and universities are using some kind of ePortfolio. We were the first to do so in Utah," said Hubert.

SLCC began by modeling Clemson University's ePortfolio guidelines. At Clemson it has been a graduation requirement for all students since 2006.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2015, Westminster College made it a graduation requirement for all students to complete a similar ePortfolio. Westminster

ePortfolio/ continued on page A4

## Laughter Yoga class heals with a hearty guffaw

**Jefferson Curtis**

Contributing Writer

Laughter is the best medicine, at least that's what people who practice Laughter Yoga say.

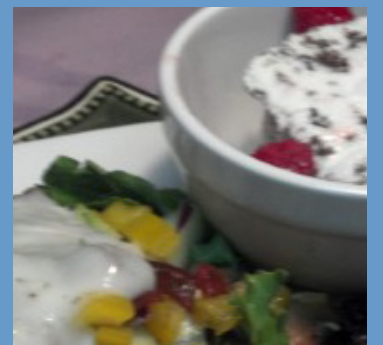
Laughter Yoga is the unique combination of laughing and yoga breathing that has been growing steadily in popularity around the world. The main idea behind Laughter Yoga is that the body cannot differentiate between fake laughter and real laughter.

"Laughter and play can be important tools for wellness," said Karen Bayard, SLCC's head Laughter Yoga instructor. "There is a vehicle of strength and power that comes through the body, through really feeling our feelings, and laughter is one of the many ways that we can do that."

According to Dr. Madan Kataria,

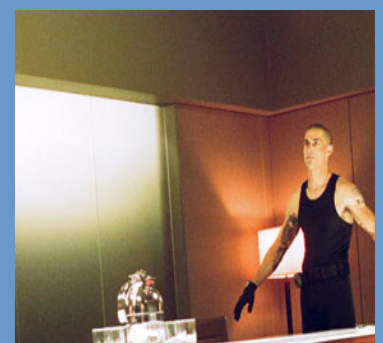
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for daily news updates



Date Night

Cooking  
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'Alex Cross'

Review  
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# STUDENT EVENTS

WED/24

8:30am-2:00pm

Fall 2012 Job Fair  
@ TR Campus, SEC

10:45am-1:00pm

Pumpkin Bowling  
@SC Campus, East  
Entrance, Left Lobby

11am-2pm

Student Multicultural Art  
Showcase  
@ SC Campus, East  
Foyer

12pm-2pm

Shot of Reality  
@ TR Campus, SEC

THURS/25

11am-1pm

Depression Screening  
@ TR Campus, SEC

12:30pm-1:30pm

D.C. Intern Program Infor-  
mation Session  
@ TR Campus, SEC Rm  
217

2pm-3pm

Free Laughter Yoga Class  
@ SC Campus, Rm  
W230

7:30pm-9:00pm

Scratch - Pupper Theater  
@ SC Camus, Black Box  
theater, W-210

FRI/26

1pm-4pm

Job Seeking Skills  
Workshops  
@ SC N195

4pm-5pm

Club Meeting - ASCE -  
Membership Meetings  
@ TR Campus, SI 054

7:30pm-10:30pm

Into the Woods  
@ The Grand Theatre

7:30pm-9:00pm

Scratch - Pupper Theater  
@ SC Camus, Black Box  
theater, W-210

SAT/27

10am-1pm

SL&L Halloween Carnival  
@ TR Campus, SEC

1pm-3pm

SLCC Volleyball vs. Snow  
College  
@ TR Campus, LAC

7:30pm-10:30pm

Into the Woods  
@ The Grand Theatre

7:30pm-9:00pm

Scratch - Pupper Theater  
@ SC Camus, Black Box  
theater, W-210

MON/29

11:30am-1:00pm

The Student Voice Project:  
SLCC Disability Students  
@ TR Campus, SEC

12pm-1pm

APA Citation Workshop  
@ TR Campus, AD 214

6pm-9pm

'Romeo & Juliet' Auditions  
@ SC Campus, Black  
Box Theater W-210

8pm-10pm

Villain and Vixen Student  
Ball  
@ Log Haven

TUE/30

1pm-2pm

What is your dream  
job? MCAP Career  
Advancement Pro-  
gram  
@ SC Campus N195


4:30pm-5:30pm

Clubs- Irish Heritage and  
Culture of Ireland  
@ Senate Chambers

6pm-9pm

'Romeo & Juliet' Auditions  
@ SC Campus, Black  
Box Theater W-210

Submit student events to [calendar.globe@slcc.edu](mailto:calendar.globe@slcc.edu)  
Visit [www.globeslcc.com/calendar](http://www.globeslcc.com/calendar)  
for more student events



Each week a different picture from an SLCC campus will be featured. If you know the location and campus of this week’s featured picture, entrer to win passes to Castle of Chaos by emailing your answer to [contest.globe@slcc.edu](mailto:contest.globe@slcc.edu).

Deadline for entries is Tuesday October 30th  
Entrants may only win once per semester. Mass Communication staff and SLCC faculty are not eligible to win.

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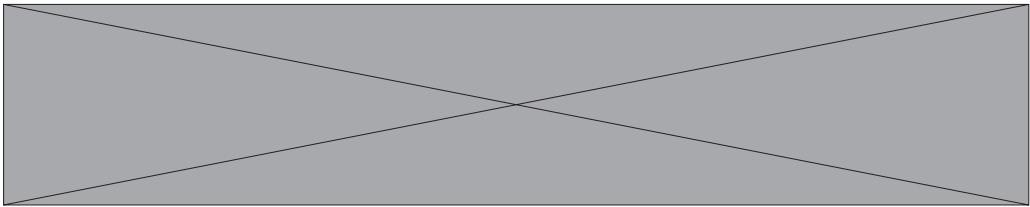
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ACROSS

1 \_\_\_\_-on-Don,  
Russian port of 1+ million

7 Tycoon,  
informally

13 Theoretically

15 Maryland state  
symbol

16 Wassily \_\_\_\_,  
Russian-American  
Nobelist in  
Economics

18 Like the Kremlin

19 Comics outburst

20 Conservative  
leader?

21 Divulges

22 Nouri al-Maliki,  
for one

25 Pro \_\_\_\_

27 Highest-rated

28 They may be sold  
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30 Desirous look

31 “Third Uncle”  
singer

32 When repeated,  
cry after an award  
is bestowed

33 Alphabet run

34 Clay pigeon  
launcher

35 End of the saying

38 Persevering, say

41 Dictionnaire  
entry

42 Shade of red

46 Single dose?

47 “Got milk?” cry,  
perhaps

48 Cerumen

49 “For hire” org. of  
the 1930s

50 Picker-upper

52 Watts in a film  
projector?

53 Drill instructors?

55 What may be  
caught with bare  
hands?

57 Treadmill setting

58 Half

59 It’s not required

62 Info on a personal  
check: Abbr.

63 Mandela

64 Long Island  
county

65 Certain race entry

DOWN

1 Product whose  
commercials ran  
for a spell on TV?

2 Undiversified, as a  
farm

3 Expo ’74 locale

4 Go for the  
bronze?

5 Go (for)

6 Red Cross hot  
line?

7 Start of a four-  
part saying

8 Unpaid debt

9 Window  
treatment

10 Ride up and  
down?

11 City in the  
Alleghenies

12 Justin Bieber’s  
genre

14 Ship hazard

17 Part 3 of the  
saying

23 Search

24 Intense desire

26 Silver State city

29 Part 2 of the  
saying

34 Latin land

36 Create an open-  
ended view?

37 Stand for

38 Lady pitcher

39 Pudding thickener

40 It leans to the  
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43 Setting for Clint  
Eastwood’s “Flags  
of Our Fathers”

44 Russian urn

45 Urgent

47 Italian tourist  
attraction, in brief

51 Leg part

54 Team that got a  
new ballpark in  
2009

56 Ship hazard

60 Corp. head

61. Sleuth,  
informally

PUZZLE BY MICHAEL SHTEYMAN



CAMPUS

campus.globe@slcc.edu

# Chess Club welcomes players of all skill levels

**Aldo Gomez**  
Contributing Writer

The Chess Club at Salt Lake Community College Taylorsville Redwood Campus invites new and veteran players to play and join the club.

The club has a roster of close to 20 players, but with a recent schedule change, they are now averaging four or five players at club meetings.

“We just changed days and we need to get folks out here again,” says Club Advisor Grant Hodson. “We’re getting really, really bored.” The club meets twice a week at the Markosian Library. On Thursdays, it sponsors casual play in room 146, and rated matches on Saturdays in the upstairs area. The club welcomes players of all

skill levels, from seasoned players to those who just want to learn the game.

“I love to teach chess,” Says Hodson who has been teaching chess for over 15 years. “I’m also the president of the Utah Chess Association.”

SLCC student David Vasquez is the president of the Chess Club. He shares the title of Co-State Champion in Utah.

“He’s the reason we’ve been winning the last couple of years,” Says Hodson.

The SLCC Chess Club was created seven years ago by Hodson, and the club has been winning tournaments since then. The club’s latest big victory was in April when they hosted the Salt Lake Community College Intercollegiate Tournament, defeating players from The



University of Utah, Brigham Young University and Utah State University.

Members of the SLCC Chess Club contribute their time to after school programs in Grantsville and West Valley City, and host tournaments for the schools. The club also participates

annually in a charity chess tournament for the Red Cross.

“Outside of the United States, chess is considered a sport,” Hodson said. “Internationally, it comes second to soccer for the most played sport in the world.”

The international appeal of chess helps to draw in international students who come to SLCC through various study abroad programs. In recent years Chess Club membership has included students and players from countries such as Russia, Ukraine, Iran and Mexico.

“It simply reaches out to all nationalities,” said Hodson. Those interested in playing or joining can simply show up for a club meeting. Thursday meetings are held in room 146 on the main floor of the Taylorsville Redwood Markosian Library from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., as well as Saturdays on the upper floor of the library from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

People who are interested in participating in the Saturday rated matches

are recommended to join the United States Chess Federation. Players have to pay a fee and receive a monthly magazine, but more importantly they receive a rating score that tracks the wins and losses from matches played.

Players that have signed up need only bring their membership card to the Saturday meetings in order to start being rated. If you don’t have your card the club advisor is more than willing to help by looking you up in the system. Membership to the United States Chess Federation isn’t required in order to attend, but it is for those who want to be rated. For those interested in ratings and membership there is more information available online at USChess.org.

## Yoga

continued from A1

the inventor of Laughter Yoga, real or fake laughter reduces mental stress, can ease pain, and promotes healing.

Kataria started the Laughter Yoga movement in 1995 with only a handful of people in a park. Now Laughter Yoga is in 60 countries and there are more than 6000 laughter clubs. Despite the growth worldwide, colleges around Utah have been slow to adopt this form of yoga.

“SLCC is pioneering this,” said Bayard. “No other colleges in the state are doing this.”

SLCC first adopted Laughter Yoga into its class choices a few years ago. Since then the number of Laughter Yoga classes at SLCC have risen to 13, with Bayard as the head instructor.

“I was leading a class for free and someone from SLCC came to the class,” said Bayard. “They liked it so much that they invited me to go teach faculty and staff. That was the beginning of my process of coming to SLCC to teach.”

Bayard had already been teaching Laughter Yoga for a few years at this point. She first became interested in Laughter Yoga after the death of her brother.

“I first got into Laughter

Yoga about four years ago. My brother had passed away and I promised myself I was gonna try more new and adventurous things,” said Bayard. “My brother’s death made me realize that life is short. It really changes the way you think about things. This is when I started looking into Laughter Yoga.

While researching Laughter Yoga she came across a training opportunity in Chicago and decided that she was going to just jump in.

I was really curious, so I decided I was going to go,” said Bayard. “I went and I loved it.”

Bayard believes Laughter Yoga helped her to remove the negative feelings she

had from her brother’s death. Others have also reached out to Laughter Yoga to help them in their time of need.

“I had forgotten how to laugh,” said SLCC student Dori Jimenez. “I had two family members struggling with serious health conditions and I felt sad most of the time.”

Hearing about the benefits of Laughter Yoga, Jimenez signed up and tried out the class.

“It helped me so much just laughing for no reason even though it was difficult sometimes,” said Jimenez. “The class helped me feel better. I would recommend this class to anyone.”

Laughter Yoga is not just a free college activity. Students

can sign up for the classes as part of their normal school schedule. Students can also become Laughter Yoga instructors.

“Laughter Yoga counts towards your degree,” said Bayard. “This is also the first semester that we’re offering a certification for those that want learn how to instruct Laughter Yoga sessions.”

In order to obtain the certification, a student must complete the Intro to Laughter Yoga course and the Certification course. The intro courses can be taken

at either the South City Campus or the Taylorsville Redwood Campus and the Certification course is at the Taylorsville campus as well.

“Part of [the certification student’s] job in their learning process is to lead classes for other students,” said Bayard. “This is so they can see what it feels like to lead a class.”

Bayard realizes that many students might be skeptical of Laughter Yoga but encourages students to check out the class anyway.

“Jump In,” said Bayard.

“Verbal text cannot fully prepare anyone for this. You will never know how amazing it all is until you are actually in it.”

Free Laughter Yoga classes run throughout the semester. The dates, locations, and times are available on globeslcc.com in the calendar section. For more information about Laughter Yoga, go to the class’ website.

“Check out info about our class blog at thelaughteryogaclassroom.blogspot.com,” said Bayard.



Photo by Jefferson Curtis

**SLCC’s Laughter Yoga class teaches students how to reduce mental stress.**

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# Parents, don't let your fear of Halloween ruin it for your kids

**Justin Fulton**  
Staff Reporter

One major October highlight for many people is Trick-or-Treating on Halloween night. There's just something thrilling about dressing up and going door to door through your neighborhood to scare, and be scared by your neighbors. The free candy, however, is by far the best part.

It's also an unfortunate truth that there are people out there who use the opportunity to cause harm to others. Classic stories of tainted candy and kidnapping make many parents wary of the holiday. In an effort to help reduce the risks that come along with Halloween, a new tradition called "Trunk-or-Treating" has become popular, which is little more than tailgating with an added spook effect.

Instead of parents decorating houses, leaving the lights on, and

passing out candy to all the neighborhood kids that knock on the door, they move all the fun to the parking lot. Parents decorate their cars and place a bowl of candy in their trunk. Then they all congregate at the local church parking lot and the kids go from car to car to collect candy.

Trunk-or-Treating takes all the fun out Halloween. Taking measures to protect children is all fine and dandy. I understand that. However, there is such a thing as taking it too far. Instead of sneaking around in the dark, scaring people, getting scared and knocking on doors, Trick-or-Treaters are forced to walk around a lit parking lot. The opportunities to scare and be scared are gone.

Trunk-or-Treating also effectively shortens the Halloween experience. I remember going out to Trick-or-Treat on Halloween night and spending multiple hours running around neighborhoods, hoarding as

much candy as I possibly could. With Trunk-or-Treating, how long does it take to walk around a church parking lot? Maybe a whole hour if you're lucky?

Trunk-or-Treating is ruining all of the fun of Halloween. The experience of dressing up and running from house to house simply can not be replicated in a parking lot.

Trick-or-Treating can be just as safe as Trunk-or-Treating if parents just take some simple precautionary measures. Simple rules such as "always stay in well-lit areas" can mitigate most late-night risks, and if parents can't accompany their children, they should make a pre-determined route and have them follow it.

Trick-or-Treating is the most important feature of Halloween. Don't let it die out and get replaced by some lame parking lot tradition.

## ePortfolio

continued from A1

uses a different platform, but has worked out an agreement for SLCC transfers.

Research at colleges and universities show that ePortfolios promote student learning, engagement and retention.

"As a student it is one more thing to do, but as a mom, staff member and adult I see the benefits. I think it's a great tool," said Sherrie Curtis, Secretary of Student Services.

Important application and eligibility requirements for the General Education ePortfolio Tuition Waiver can be found at the Financial Aid Office at Taylorsville Redwood Campus room 268 in the student center, or online at [slcc.edu/financialaid](http://slcc.edu/financialaid).



# Radio SLCC

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**November 1, 2, 3**  
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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# ‘Alex Cross’ is solid crime drama with unwanted modern elements

**Stephen Romney**  
Staff Reporter

★★★★☆

I’m a fan of crime dramas that weave the psychological profile of the perpetrator into the narrative. “Alex Cross” delivers on what is advertised, but still suffers from a few flaws. Tyler Perry stars as Alex Cross, a detective and psychological profiler who works for the Detroit Police Department. He matches wits with a psychopathic serial killer, played by Matthew Fox, who is obsessed with pain

in its many forms. The case becomes personal when the killer threatens Cross’s family and fellow detectives. The story is pretty much what you would expect to see in a crime drama. All introductions are brief and many of the plot points are similar to what you see in most neo-noir films. The film makes up for these unoriginal elements with minor injections of comedy and well-planned exploration of both Cross and the killer he’s pursuing. The technical aspects of “Alex Cross” are where most of the flaws appear, especially in the climax.

There is a mix of steady shots and the nauseating shaky-cam, and the editing does not do either types of shots justice. When we see the steady shots, the fight movements and general actions of the actors are slow and awkward, which is a pretty good indication that the shaky cam shots were simply a failed attempt to make the actions appear more fast-paced than they actually are. The faulty camera work in the climax is really disappointing, as the film is technically strong up until that point. The dialogue is engaging without getting too wordy. The shots



Courtesy of Summit Entertainment

While not on the same level as Holmes and Moriarty, Perry (left) and Fox (right) convey a good sense of rivalry on screen.

are well composed and planned out, and the sound design is on the level of a professional film. There is great deal of time spent on character development, and it shows in the actors’ performances.

While there was nothing that will generate an Academy Award, I was able to look past the instantly recognizable faces and see the characters as the characters. I also find it refreshing to see Tyler Perry in a more mainstream movie instead of one based on his plays. Overall, despite the hiccups toward the end, I found this film to be entertaining and easy to be drawn into, especially if you’re into crime dramas

like “Criminal Minds.” I went into the movie without having seen Alex Cross’ first film appearance in 1997’s “Kiss the Girls” starring Morgan Freeman, nor having read the James Patterson novels. There is really no need to see the previous films or read any of the novels to enjoy this new incarnation. For the most part, “Alex Cross” is well shot, makes some pretty good editing decisions, and has a fully developed story.

CAMPUS CURSE by C.A. Trahan

**Correction:**  
A story about National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the Oct. 17 issue of the Globe should have stated that Ryan Robinson has been ordered to stand trial for murder in connection with Shantelle Reid’s death.

Salt Lake Community College

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# A battle of two Draculas: Lugosi vs. Oldman

Stephen Romney  
Staff Reporter

Created by Abraham “Bram” Stoker in 1897, Dracula has appeared in everything from movies, television and even video games. The original novel has itself been adapted several times.

This week, we’re taking a look at two notable adaptations of Bram Stoker’s novel. The first is the 1931 version of Dracula directed by Tod Browning and starring Bela Lugosi. The second is the 1992 version, directed by Francis Ford Coppola and starring Gary Oldman in the role of Dracula. Both versions have been praised by fans and critics alike.

Round 1: Atmosphere

[1931 version] The gothic sets are extremely well designed. Although simple by today’s standards, they capture the gothic atmosphere that Bram Stoker most likely envisioned. The cinematography of this film is what makes some of the moments of this film classic. By showing the grandiose and derelict nature of Castle Dracula it makes the halls and undercrofts look even emptier, setting an eerie tone.

[1992 version] The

settings in this film are on the same level as the 1931 version, but Coppola doesn’t hesitate to use many colorful elements. He uses color to differentiate the settings—a grim black for Transylvania, shades of gray for London and more extravagant colors to express the characters’ personalities.

Everything in this film is shot in a style that is reminiscent of all of the classic horror films. But Coppola also puts his own style into the film with some of the more artistic shots, achieving its own unique sense of eeriness.

**Winner:** The 1992 version. The atmosphere of this film is a little more complete and is a little bit easier to be drawn into.

Round 2: Story

[1931 version] Things are kept simple and treated like a stage play. The pacing of the story does feel a bit rushed at times, with some unexplainable transitions put in to keep things moving.

The cast of characters is greatly reduced in this version from the original novel. As a result, the dynamic is different and several events are omitted. To me, it feels a bit like the Cliff Notes version of Dracula.

[1992 version] This version is a little more complex than the 1931 version and has more events happen overall. The pacing of this is steadier, nothing feels rushed nor does the film drag. This seems like a more detailed version of the story that adds subtle nuances here and there to make a more realistic world.

All of the characters from the novel are present and are given a great deal of development, having better defined traits and personalities, resulting in the viewer being more invested.

**Winner:** The 1992 version, as it tells a more engaging and complete story that’s easier to become absorbed in.

Round 3: Faithfulness to the source material

[1931 version] This version has minor deviations throughout. The characters of Quincy Morris and Arthur Holmwood are omitted and Harker is replaced by Renfield in the opening scenes. The climax itself is also different, with only Van Helsing killing Dracula in the undercroft of Carfax Abbey instead of the full party of Harker, Van Helsing, Quincy, Holmwood, Seward, and Mina slaying him back in Transylvania.



Images courtesy of Universal and American Zoetrope

This week’s combatants, Bela Lugosi (left) and Gary Oldman (right).

The other deviations are mainly character based while the premise of the story is kept intact.

[1992 version] As my good friend Smitty put it, “It’s the truest to the novel, but it makes the biggest departure.” It stays incredibly true to the novel, but its large departure is the romance between Mina and Dracula. Part of a subplot is about Dracula’s lover from when he was alive. Elisabetha, he believes has reincarnated into Mina. This was probably added to make Dracula a little more sympathetic, but

people tend to be divided about this, especially in recent years with “certain” iterations of vampire lore.

**Winner:** It’s almost no contest. Despite the huge departure, the 1992 version is still more faithful to the source material.

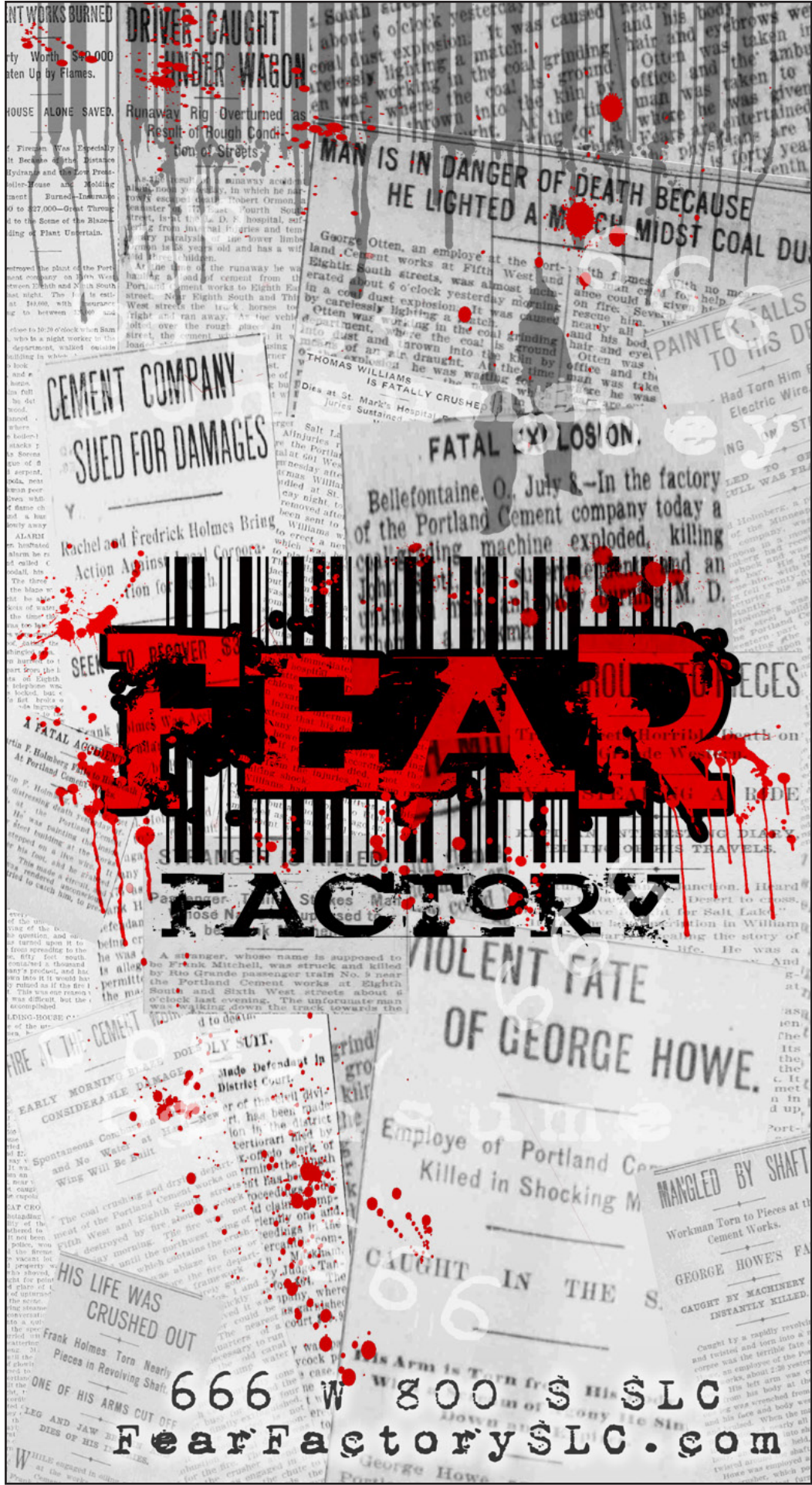
**Final Verdict**

The 1931 version is a classic, but the 1992 version is the more complete film. If you are in the mood for a poetic form of gothic horror, and are also a fan of the original novel, then this is the version for you.

I still highly recommend the 1931 version of Dracula since it’s a classic and gives you a great insight into the evolution of the vampire in fiction.

**Winner: “Bram Stoker’s Dracula” directed by Francis Ford Coppola**

Next week, given that the next paper will be released on Halloween, we’ll be taking a look at the old and new versions of “Halloween”. Just hope you don’t have to do any babysitting that day.



### What about Vlad the Impaler?

Now I know what you’re probably thinking, what about Vlad Tepes (TEH-PESH)? Contrary to popular belief, this Romanian prince was not the direct inspiration for Dracula. According to his working notes, Stoker had the basic outline of the story already laid out before tying in the stories of Vlad the Impaler, leading many scholars to believe that it was more of an afterthought.

Many scholars also suggest that Stoker drew inspiration from various folk legends and historical figures like Erzsébet Báthory, who tortured and killed over 650 young girls in order to bathe in their blood, believing it would preserve her youth.

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### Bonus Round: Who’s the better Dracula?

[1931 version] Bela Lugosi’s performance set the standard for how Dracula is portrayed in many other forms of media. Lugosi has a look that was both alluring and terrifying, and comes across as someone who could be a friend, but could also stab you in the back at a moment’s notice, almost like a character from an Oscar Wilde story.

[1992 version] The way Gary Oldman portrayed Dracula captured both the terrifying elements as well as more of the romantic elements that were brought to the character, which is where he is at his strongest. It may not be on the same level as Lugosi, but Oldman gives a performance that creates another original form of Dracula that has also translated to other media, as well as indirectly serve as inspiration for some “other” vampire lore.

**Winner:** For Dracula, it’s a tie because it’s two entirely different schools of thought at work here. Do we want a simple two-dimensional villain, or a villain with a sympathetic back story? Do we want the repulsive fiend from the novel, or the tortured soul with a violent temper?

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