

April's Top Five Favorite Vampires/Vampire Movies.

#### 5. Van Helsing

Stars Hugh Jackman as vigilante monster hunter Van Helsing, and Kate Beckinsale as Anna Valerious. The character was inspired by the Dutch vampire hunter Abraham Van Helsing from Irish author Bram Stoker's Novel Dracula. In 1887 Transylvania, Doctor Victor Frankenstein creates a monster with the anticipated aid of Count Dracula, who reveals that he plans to use the creature for his own evil plans and kills the doctor as his castle is raided by a mob of villagers. The villagers are scared off by Dracula and his brides, who witness the monster and the doctor's research apparently destroyed by the fire. One year later, after killing the elusive Mr. Hyde at the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, monster hunter Van Helsing returns to the Vatican in Rome. He learns his mission to destroy Dracula and his amnesia are penance for past, unremembered sins that cause nightmares. He is tasked with helping the last of an ancient Romanian bloodline, Valerious and his sister Anna, who must kill Dracula before their ancestors may enter Heaven. Hugh Jackman, Kate Beckinsale, Richard Roxburgh, David Wenham, Robbie Coltrane

#### 4. Fright Night

Originally a 1985 American horror film. Follows young Charley Brewster, who discovers that his next-door neighbor, Jerry Dandrige, is a vampire. When no one believes him, Charley decides to get Peter Vincent, a TV show host who acted in films as a vampire hunter, to stop Jerry's killing spree. Chris Sarandon, Roddy McDowall, Amanda Bearse, William Ragsdale.

2011 version: same story line as the 1985 version, except Peter Vincent is a Las Vegas Magician, current cast: Anton Yelchin(Charley), Colin Farrell(Jerry), Toni Collette(Charley's mom), David Tennant(Peter Vincent), and Dave Franco.

#### 3. Interview With a Vampire

Focuses on Lestat, played by Tom Cruise, and Louis(Brad Pitt), beginning with Louis's transformation into a vampire by Lestat in 1791. The film chronicles their time together, and their turning of a twelve-year-old girl, Claudia, into a vampire. The narrative is framed by a present day interview, in which Louis tells his story to a San Francisco reporter. Cast: Christian Slater(Malloy the reporter), Kirsten Dunst (Claudia), Antonio Banderas(armand), and Stephen Rea(Santiago).

#### 2. Bram Stoker's Dracula

In 1462, Vlad Dracula, a member of the Order of the Dragon, returns from a victory against the Turks to find his wife, Elisabeta, has committed suicide after receiving a false report of his death. Enraged that his wife is now damned for committing suicide, Dracula desecrates his chapel and renounces God, declaring

that he will rise from the grave to avenge Elisabeta with all the powers of darkness. In a fit of rage, he stabs the chapel's stone cross with his sword and drinks the blood which pours out of it.

Then in 1897, new qualified solicitor Jonathan Harker takes the Transylvanian Count Dracula as a client from his colleague R. M. Renfield, who has gone insane. He travels to Transylvania to arrange Dracula's real estate acquisition in London, including Carfax Abbey. Jonathan meets Dracula, who discovers a picture of Harker's fiancée, Mina and believes that she is the reincarnation of Elisabeta. Dracula leaves Harker in Transylvania with his brides, and travels to London to find Mina. While there, he seduces, rapes and bites Lucy Westenra, with whom Mina is staying while Jonathan is in Transylvania. Lucy being "ill" gets Abraham Van Helsing summoned. Cast: Gary Oldman(Dracula), Winona Ryder(Mina Harker), Anthony Hopkins(Abraham Van Helsing), Keanu Reeves (Jonathan Harker), Richard E. Grant (Dr. Jack Seward), Cary Elwes(Lord Arthur Holmwood).

### 1. Queen of the Damned

The Vampire Lestat is awakened from decades of slumber by the sound of a heavy metal band which he proceeds to take over as the lead singer. Achieving international success and planning a massive live concert, Lestat is approached by Marius, and warned that the vampires of the world will not tolerate his flamboyant public profile. Jessie Reeves, a researcher for the paranormal studies group Talamasca, is intrigued by Lestat's lyrics and tells the rest of the group her theory that he really is a vampire. Her Mentor, David Talbot, takes her aside and tells her they know he is a vampire and that a vampire called Marius made him. Cast: Aaliyah(Queen Akasha), Stuart Townsend (Lestat), Marguerite Moreau(Jesse), Vincent Perez(Marius), Paul McGann (David Talbot)

### Honorable Mention: Dracula 2000

Plot built upon Bram Stoker's Dracula novel, with Count Dracula resurrected in the year 2000.

Matthew Van Helsing, the alleged descendant of the famed 19<sup>th</sup> century Dutch medical doctor, Abraham Van Helsing, owns an antique shop in London, 2000. One night with Van Helsing upstairs, his secretary, Solina, allows a group of thieves, led by her boyfriend, Marcus, into the shop. The thieves infiltrate the shop's underground high-security vault and find a sealed silver coffin protected by a deadly defense system. Solina and Marcus steal the coffin, and flee to New Orleans Louisiana.

Cast: Gerard Butler (Dracula), Christopher Plummer (Abraham Van Helsing), Johnny Lee Miller, Vitamin C(Lucy Westerman), Jennifer Esposito (Solina), Omar Epps (Marcus) Danny Masterson (Nightshade)