

= Dracula 's Daughter =

Dracula 's Daughter is a 1936 American vampire horror film produced by Universal Studios as a sequel to the 1931 film Dracula . Directed by Lambert Hillyer from a screenplay by Garrett Fort , the film stars Otto Kruger , Gloria Holden in the title role , Marguerite Churchill and features , as the only cast member to return from the original , Edward Van Sloan ? although his character 's name was altered from Van Helsing to Von Helsing .

Dracula 's Daughter tells the story of Countess Marya Zaleska , the daughter of Count Dracula and herself a vampire . Following Dracula 's death , she believes that by destroying his body she will be free of his influence and can live as a human . When this fails , she turns to psychiatry and Dr. Jeffrey Garth . When his efforts fail , she kidnaps Janet , the woman Jeffrey loves , and flees with her to Transylvania in an attempt to bind Jeffrey to her . She is foiled and destroyed when her jealous manservant shoots her with an arrow .

Ostensibly based on a short story titled " Dracula 's Guest " by Bram Stoker , the film bears little or no resemblance to the original source material . David O. Selznick initially purchased the rights to the story for Metro @-@ Goldwyn @-@ Mayer . Selznick , probably knowing he could not legally make the film because of Universal 's copyright on the original film , sold the rights to Universal . After first assigning the picture to James Whale , Universal production head Carl Laemmle , Jr. finally put Hillyer in the director 's chair .

Dracula 's Daughter was not as successful as the original upon its release , although it was generally critically well @-@ reviewed . In the intervening decades , criticism has been deeply divided . Modern critics and scholars have noted the strong lesbian overtones of the film , which Universal acknowledged from the start of filming and exploited in some early advertising .

= = Plot = =

Dracula 's Daughter begins a few moments after Dracula ends . Count Dracula has just been destroyed by Professor Von Helsing (Edward Van Sloan) . Von Helsing is taken by police to Scotland Yard , where he explains that he indeed did destroy Count Dracula , but because he had already been dead for over 500 years , it cannot be considered murder . Instead of hiring a lawyer , he enlists the aid of a psychiatrist , Dr. Jeffrey Garth (Otto Kruger) , who was once one of his star students .

Meanwhile , Dracula 's daughter , Countess Marya Zaleska (Gloria Holden) , with the aid of her manservant , Sandor (Irving Pichel) , steals Dracula ? s body from Scotland Yard and ritualistically burns it , hoping to break her curse of vampirism . However , Sandor soon makes her realize that her thirst for blood has not been quenched and that all that is in her eyes is " Death " . The Countess resumes her hunting , mesmerizing her victims with her exotic jeweled ring . After a chance meeting with Dr. Garth at a society party , the Countess asks him to help her overcome the influence she feels from beyond the grave . The doctor advises her to defeat her cravings by confronting them and the Countess becomes hopeful that her will plus Dr. Garth 's science will be strong enough to overcome Dracula 's malevolence .

The Countess sends Sandor to fetch her a model to paint ; he returns with Lili (Nan Grey) . Countess Zaleska initially resists her urges but succumbs and attacks Lili . Although the girl survives the attack , when Dr. Garth tries to hypnotize her to learn what happened , she suffers heart failure and dies . As the Countess comes to accept that a cure is not possible ? and the doctor discovers the truth about her condition ? she lures him to Transylvania by kidnapping Janet (Marguerite Churchill) , the woman he loves . She intends to transform him into a vampire to be her eternal companion ; Dr. Garth agrees to exchange his life for Janet 's . Before he can be transformed , Countess Zaleska is destroyed when Sandor shoots her through the heart with an arrow as revenge for her breaking her promise to make him immortal . He takes aim at Dr. Garth but is shot dead by a policeman .

= = Cast = =

Otto Kruger as Dr. Jeffrey Garth
Gloria Holden as Countess Marya Zaleska - Dracula 's Daughter
Marguerite Churchill as Janet
Edward Van Sloan as Professor Von Helsing
Gilbert Emery as Sir Basil Humphrey , Scotland Yard
Irving Pichel as Sandor
Halliwell Hobbes as Hawkins
Billy Bevan as Albert
Nan Grey as Lili
Hedda Hopper as Lady Esme Hammond
Claud Allister as Sir Aubrey
Edgar Norton as Hobbs
E. E. Clive as Sergeant Wilkes
Vernon Steele as Squires
Hedwiga Reicher as the innkeeper 's wife (uncredited)

= = Production = =

Universal originally did not hold the rights to " Dracula 's Guest " , a chapter excised from Bram Stoker 's original novel and the purported source material for the film . The story includes an encounter between a man (presumed by some to be Jonathan Harker although the character is not identified as such) and a female vampire . The story does not establish a filial relationship between the female vampire and Dracula . Metro @-@ Goldwyn @-@ Mayer executive David O. Selznick negotiated a contract in 1933 with Stoker 's widow , Florence , to buy the rights to the chapter for an advance of \$ 500 against a purchase price of \$ 5 @,@ 000 . MGM 's lawyers and executives were worried about the use of the word " Dracula " in the film 's title , fearing that Universal would take legal action , although Selznick 's contract with Stoker explicitly listed " Dracula 's Daughter " as a possible alternate title . The project was code @-@ named " Tarantula " in correspondence .

Selznick hired John L. Balderston , who had previously worked on the 1931 Dracula and Frankenstein , to write the screenplay . Balderston 's screenplay involved tying up loose ends from the original film . In it , Von Helsing returns to Transylvania to destroy the three vampire brides seen in Dracula but overlooks a fourth tomb concealing Dracula 's daughter . She follows him back to London and operates under the name " Countess Szekelsky " . She attacks a young aristocrat and Von Helsing and the aristocrat 's fiancée track her back to Transylvania and destroy her . The script included scenes that implied that Dracula 's daughter enjoyed torturing her male victims and that while under her control the men liked it too . Also included were shots of the Countess 's chambers being stocked with whips and straps , which she would never use on @-@ screen but whose uses the audience could imagine . Regardless of any objections that the Production Code Administration (PCA) would have raised to many aspects of the scenario , Balderston 's script could never have been filmed because Selznick 's contract with Stoker expressly barred him from using any Bram Stoker characters that did not appear in " Dracula 's Guest " . Selznick re @-@ sold the rights to " Dracula 's Guest " to Universal in September 1935 for \$ 12 @,@ 500 , which included the rights to Balderston 's scenario . Horror film scholar David J. Skal theorizes that this was Selznick 's actual motivation in buying the rights in the first place , to profit from Universal 's desire for a sequel by tying up the only obvious source material .

= = = Director = = =

Universal studio head Carl Laemmle , Jr . (nicknamed " Junior ") wanted James Whale , fresh from his great success with Bride of Frankenstein , to direct Dracula 's Daughter . Whale was idle , waiting for Irene Dunne to finish work on Magnificent Obsession so she could begin work on Whale 's Show Boat . Wary of directing two horror films in a row , Whale instead convinced Laemmle to buy

the rights to a mystery novel called *The Hangover Murders* . Laemmle agreed only after extracting a promise from Whale that he would direct *Dracula 's Daughter* next . Whale completed work on the film , titled *Remember Last Night ?* for release , on September 14 , 1935 . *Magnificent Obsession* completed filming on October 29 . With Dunne freed up , Whale went to work on *Show Boat* . Laemmle replaced him with A. Edward Sutherland , who was best known for his work on comedies . Sutherland had as little interest in *Dracula 's Daughter* as Whale and soon left the studio , and Hillyer came on to direct .

= = = Universal script = = =

The earliest scenario for the Universal film was written by R. C. Sherriff . It began with three scenes set in the 14th Century and centered on the Dracula legend . It then switched to the present day , focusing on two engaged couples who visit Transylvania . The men explore the ruins of Dracula 's castle . One is later found , insane , and the other goes missing . Professor Von Helsing is summoned and he tracks the missing man to London , where he is in thrall to Dracula 's daughter , the Countess Szelinski (sic) . When she attempts to flee with her thrall to the Orient by ship , Von Helsing and three others book passage on the same ship . During a violent storm , Von Helsing destroys Dracula 's daughter and , with her hold over the men broken , the scenario closes with a double wedding . This version was submitted on August 28 , 1935 to the British Board of Film Censors , which rejected it , saying in part " ... Dracula 's Daughter would require half a dozen ... languages to adequately express its beastliness . " On September 10 Sherriff met with BBFC representatives and submitted a revised scenario two days later . This scenario was passed but because its details were not recorded by the BBFC it is unknown how much it differed from the original or how much if any of that scenario was retained in the final script .

Universal also submitted Sheriff 's first draft to the PCA on September 5 , 1935 and encountered stronger resistance from PCA enforcer Joseph Breen than it had from the British . Breen reported back that the script " contains countless offensive stuff which makes the picture utterly impossible for approval under the Production Code . " A second draft was submitted on October 21 , but it too was rejected , with many of Breen 's objections centering on the 14th Century scenes in which Dracula himself appeared . It is unclear whether this submission was the same submission that the BBFC had previously passed . A third Sheriff draft was submitted on October 24 and Sherriff 's fourth and final draft on November 10 . All remained unacceptable , and Whale biographer James Curtis suggests that Whale , who had no interest in the project and feared that his commitment to it might cost him control over the filming of *Show Boat* , encouraged Sherriff to submit ever more wildly unacceptable versions in hopes of getting himself off the film . On January 14 , 1936 , producer E. M. Asher advised Breen that the Sherriff script was not going to be used and that a new script would be put together from scratch . Screenwriting duties were assigned to Garrett Fort .

= = = Casting = = =

Dracula 's Daughter was Gloria Holden 's first starring role and reportedly she was extremely displeased at having been assigned it . Like many actors , Holden looked down on horror films . She had also seen Bela Lugosi struggle over the years since *Dracula* was made to free himself from typecasting and feared that the role would lead to the same fate for her . Critic Mark Clark believes that ironically it may have been Holden 's disgust for the role that led to the quality of her performance . " Her disdain for the part translates into a kind of self @-@ loathing that perfectly suits her troubled character . "

Initially Lugosi and Jane Wyatt were set to star in the film . Universal also announced that Boris Karloff and Colin Clive , who had starred together in *Frankenstein* and *Bride of Frankenstein* , would appear , and that Cesar Romero would play Dr. Garth . According to the *Hollywood Reporter* , before casting Pichel Universal had sought Herbert Marshall for the role of Sandor . None of them appeared except , after a fashion , Lugosi , in the form of a wax bust molded in his image for use in *Dracula 's* coffin . Some sources report that Lugosi was paid as much as \$ 4 @,@ 000 for his

abortive involvement , but the only confirmed record of any financial arrangement is a letter in which Lugosi consents to the use of his likeness at no cost to create the wax bust .

= = = Shooting = = =

Shooting on Dracula 's Daughter began on February 4 , 1936 , rushed into production before Fort had completed the script , because of a deadline clause in Universal 's option of the property from Selznick . The script was not finalized until shooting had been underway for three weeks . The film was completed on March 10 . Despite studio orders that the film be shot on a seven @-@ day @-@ per @-@ week schedule , filming ran seven days over its schedule and \$ 50 @,@ 000 over budget , with the final cost of the film tallied at \$ 278 @,@ 380 .

Dracula 's Daughter was the last in the first cycle of Universal Horror films that reached back into the 1920s . Publicly , Universal said it was because a British ban on horror films would cut too deeply into the revenue such films could generate . In truth , the cycle was suspended because , just before filming on Dracula 's Daughter had wrapped , the Laemmle family had lost control of Universal . Because of cost overruns on a number of pictures , Junior Laemmle was forced to borrow \$ 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 on November 1 , 1935 . The money came from J. Cheever Cowdin , head of the Standard Capital Corporation , and from Charles R. Rogers . When the loan was called in March of the following year , Universal was unable to repay it . Standard assumed control of the studio on March 4 , 1936 and Rogers replaced Junior as head of production . Rogers did not like horror films and he shut down production on them following the release of Dracula 's Daughter to focus on fare like Deanna Durbin musicals . Universal would not return to the horror genre for three years , when it released Son of Frankenstein in 1939 .

= = = Other production aspects = = =

Makeup artist Jack Pierce and special effects supervisor John P. Fulton worked together closely , especially on Holden 's make @-@ up design . They combined special lighting with a greyish @-@ green make @-@ up for Holden 's final scenes , creating a pallor that contrasted with the more normally flesh @-@ toned make @-@ ups of the others in the scene . Heinz Roemheld composed the score and Albert S. D 'Agostino redressed Charles D. Hall 's set of Dracula 's castle and created new sets including a London bridge , the moor where Dracula 's body is burned and Countess Zaleska 's apartment .

= = Reception and influence = =

The New York Times gave Dracula 's Daughter a solid , albeit somewhat tongue @-@ in @-@ cheek , review upon its release , citing the film 's " blood @-@ curdling events " and noting that " Gloria Holden is a remarkably convincing bat @-@ woman " in concluding that the film is both " quite terrifying " and " a cute little horror picture . " Variety also praised the production and Holden 's performance in particular . Despite critical approval , Dracula 's Daughter did not have the same box office success as the original .

Recent reviews of Dracula 's Daughter are sharply split . Entertainment Weekly , reviewing the film following its video release , called it " one of the most satisfying vampire pictures ever made " . Describing director Hillyer 's visuals as " lush , evocative , and suffused with just the right gothic chiaroscuro " and noting that " Gloria Holden , as the reluctant vampire protagonist , absolutely drips patrician eroticism " , EW concludes that this film is better than Lugosi 's original Dracula .

Ryan Cracknell of Apollo Movie Guide , while echoing the praise for Holden 's performance , nonetheless found that the film " doesn 't hold up so well today " . Citing what he sees as slow pacing and " long bouts of over @-@ the @-@ top dialogue " , Cracknell compares the film to " reading a textbook ? not the most exciting thing in the world , but it does provide insights into and perspectives on the foundation of early horror movies and how many similarities carry over into movies half a century and more later . " Michael W. Phillips , Jr. concurs , calling the film " a marked

improvement on the original film [but] still a bit of a snooze , relying too much on forced comedy and not enough on suspense or fright . " Phillips again praises Holden 's performance and also Pichel 's portrayal of Sandor , but finds the rest of the cast weak .

Horror author Anne Rice has named Dracula 's Daughter as a direct inspiration for her own homoerotic vampire fiction . She named a bar in her novel Queen of the Damned " Dracula 's Daughter " in honor of the film . Author Ramsey Campbell , under the pseudonym " Carl Dreadstone " , wrote a novelization of the film also entitled Dracula 's Daughter that was published in 1977 . A juvenile fiction version , written by Carl R. Green , William R. Sanford and Howard Schroeder , was published in 1985 . Some observers have suggested that the film served as an inspiration for Sunset Blvd . , noting similarities between the outlines of each film . Michael Almereyda 's 1994 film Nadja has been described as an " unofficial remake " of Dracula 's Daughter .

= = Lesbian implications = =

The lesbian vampire has been a trope in literature dating back to Joseph Sheridan le Fanu 's 1872 novella " Carmilla " . Dracula 's Daughter marked the first time that the trope was incorporated into a film . The lesbian implications of Dracula 's Daughter were obvious from the start and were of great concern to the Production Code Administration . PCA head Breen took special notice of the scene between the Countess and her model , Lili , writing , " This will need very careful handling to avoid any questionable flavor . " The day before the scene was to be shot , Universal 's Harry Zehner asked Breen to read a draft of the scene . In response , Breen wrote :

" The present suggestion that ... Lili poses in the nude will be changed . She will be posing her neck and shoulders , and there will be no suggestion that she undresses , and there will be no exposure of her person . It was also stated that the present incomplete sequence will be followed by a scene in which Lili is taken to a hospital and there it will be definitely established that she has been attacked by a vampire . The whole sequence will be treated in such a way as to avoid any suggestion of perverse sexual desire on the part of Marya or of an attempted sexual attack by her upon Lili . "

Gay film historian Vito Russo noted in his book The Celluloid Closet that Universal highlighted Countess Zaleska 's attraction to women in some of its original advertising for the film , using the tag line " Save the women of London from Dracula 's Daughter ! " He further cited Countess Zaleska as an example of the presentation of the " essence of homosexuality as a predatory weakness " . Some reviewers of the day picked up on and condemned the lesbian content , including the New York World @-@ Telegram which noted the Countess 's tendency to wander around " giving the eye to sweet young girls " . Other reviews missed it entirely , including the aforementioned New York Times which advised " Be sure to bring the kiddies . " Entertainment Weekly describes the encounter between the Countess and Lili as " so hot it 's impossible to imagine how it ever got past ' 30s censors " whereas Time Out London finds only a " subtle suggestion " of lesbianism . Horror scholar Skal notes that the scene has come to be seen as a " classic ' lesbian ' sequence , although of a decidedly negative stripe " . The scene between Countess Zaleska and Lili was included in the 1995 documentary film adaptation of Russo 's book .

Another lesbian @-@ tinged scene which has received less critical attention comes when the Countess is holding Janet captive . Described as " the longest kiss never filmed " , Countess Zaleska " hovers lovingly over Janet ... hovers ... and hovers ... slowly descending to kiss the recumbent Janet ... " until interrupted by the arrival of Dr. Garth .

Bright Lights Film Journal , after noting that " Gloria Holden in the title role almost singlehandedly redefined the ' 20s movie vamp as an impressive Euro @-@ butch dyke bloodsucker " , draws an implicit comparison between Countess Zaleska 's seeking to cure her vampirism through psychiatry and the former position of mainstream psychiatry of homosexuality as a mental illness (a view still held by a minority in the profession) . Zaleska 's cruising the streets of London is seen as parallel to cruising for sex (although that tends to be a gay male activity) and as suggesting " society 's image of the lesbian as soulless predator " but the conclusion is that " Holden 's striking , masklike face and haunting , luminous eyes [are] the intoxicating essence of transgressive lesbian power . "

= = In popular culture = =

A joke pop @-@ song Dracula 's Daughter was issued in 1962 by Screaming Lord Sutch and the Savages , a British rock group with an ever @-@ changing line @-@ up of musicians and a taste for horror themes and zany humour .