



If the sight of blood scares you...
don't miss this movie!

Oneira Pictures International Presents

BASHAR SHBIB'S
DRAGHOULA



SYNOPSIS

Harry (Chris Lee) is a young, Jewish scientist who lives with his overprotective and overbearing mother, Ida (Victoria Barkoff). He spends most of his time in his laboratory trying to isolate the guilt gene, using live rats for his tests.

When the laboratory administration announces a major budget cut, he can no longer afford the number of rats he needs to continue his research. But Harry does not despair; he finds an agency that supplies rats from Transylvania at a very low price. When he is bitten by one of these specimens, his quiet life takes quite a radical turn...

Henceforth, Harry undergoes a nightly transformation into Draghoula, a vampire in drag who roams the streets in search of fresh, human blood. This daily metamorphosis does not go unnoticed by Harry's mother, nor his co-worker, Sabrina (Stephanie Seidle), who is secretly in love with him. Convinced they are each the only ones that hold the key to returning Harry to his original state, they both set out, in turn, to save him.

ONEIRA PICTURES INTERNATIONAL
PRESENTS

DRAGHOULA

STARRING STEPHANIE SEIDLE CHRISS LEE ROBYN LANE

VICTORIA BARKOFF BOBO VIAN

ART DIRECTOR GABOR ZSIGOVICS

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JAY FERGUSON

EDITOR MEIYEN CHAN WARDROBE CLAIRE NADON

MAKE-UP AND HAIR CLELIA MARSADIE

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR KARINE ZERBE SOUND ERIC ZIMMER

MUSIC TALAMASCA AND SASSY SCARLET SCREENPLAY BASHAR SHBIB

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER RICHARD GOUDREAU

PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR BASHAR SHBIB

WITH THE FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION OF TELEFILM CANADA

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ABOUT THE CAST



Chriss Lee, in his feature film debut, stars as Harry, a Jewish genetic engineer who lives with his overbearing mother, Ida. After being bitten by a Transylvanian laboratory rat, Harry roams the streets at night dressed as a vampire in drag.

One could say that Lee, a heavy metal rock musician, has been preparing for the role of Harry all of his life. He has always been into vampire imagery as evidenced by the vampire-bite tattoo that adorns his neck. Lee, a fan of Kiss and Kabuki Theater describes his role: «I love Harry's sexual ambiguity, his inadequacy as a Vampire... All he is trying to do is to exorcise his inner feelings. I think he is a hero».

In 1980, Lee moved from Montreal to Paris, where he studied music at L'École des enfants du spectacle. He earned his fame as a rock journalist for Hard Force Magazine and Rock Spirit.

In 1985, he returned to Montreal to create Insane, a heavy metal rock band with whom Lee produced two albums, Insane and Striptease, mostly distributed in France and Germany.

The soft-spoken Lee's fascination with the dark side of human nature led him to form Talamasca, an eclectic alternative band, in 1989. Besides being the principle songwriter, Lee is the vocalist and bass player.

ASA Records has just produced their first album Justice, which Lee describes as being «about the underworld and its decadence». Lee's Talamasca' and Sassy Scarlet composed and performed the original soundtrack of BASHAR SHBIB'S DRAGHOULA.

Stephanie Seidle stars as Sabrina, the research assistant, whose love for Harry is stymied by his disapproving mother. Seidle, a vivacious, passionate young woman, enthusiastically describes her role: « I wanted to have fun with Sabrina who was written as a sweet gentle young woman. I transformed her into a stronger character... I played myself. It was great fun».

Seidle has always loved being in the limelight; at the age of fifteen she started making films about her own life. She is currently modelling for artistic photographer Dominic Brunet.

BASHAR SHBIB'S DRAGHOULA is her feature film debut. She graduated in 1990 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film Production from Canada's Concordia University, where she received the Mel Oppenheim and the Sonolab awards for outstanding achievement in film production. Since then, Seidle, an independent artist, has directed many of her own films including WHEN YOU'RE SMIUNG and HAPPY HOUR.

This energetic and talented young woman explores the full range of her creativity. Besides being a filmmaker, model, and actress, Seidle is currently writing and composing an opera for film, QUACKERS is about a young woman who lives in a mansion with ducks who quack in harmony.





Robyn Lane stars Armadona sent from Transylvania to seduce and initiate Harry. Armadona's difficulties begin when she realizes that Harry, chosen as the successor to the real Dracula, will never become a competent vampire.

This sensual and intelligent actress from Los Angeles never refuses a challenge though her spontaneity was severely tested by Shbib who offered her the DRAGHOULA role just two days prior to the commencement of filming. She arrived in Montreal the following day, not knowing anything about the character she was going to portray. Lane and Shbib developed Armadona as the film's humorous story line unfolded.

Originally written as a minor character, Armadona became an essential element in the story. Lane sarcastically explains: "As we were filming, it became clear to me that the character personified the dark side of humanity». She passionately describes her DRAGHOULA experience as exploration of «my raw and dark sexuality, my sadistic side... I was like a lion». Bashar Shbib's DRAGHOULA is Lane's second movie with director Shbib with whom she has been friends and collaborators for a couple of years. Lane played Paula Neiser in Shbib's last film RIDE ME. They have also written the first draft of a new feature film called HOT SAUCE.

The American actress has been a performer all her life. In St. Louis, Missouri, she performed on stage with her mother who did regional theatre. Lane obtained a degree in Dance and Drama at Colorado College, in Colorado Springs. She subsequently moved to New York to pursue her acting career, where she studied with Sandy Meisner and Katherine Galeli for 2 years at the Galeli Poole Studio. In addition to her acting, Lane has produced fashion segments for The Today Show, NBC. Lane is currently living in Los Angeles where her career has taken off. Her film credits include James Spader's other love interest, MR. & MRS. BRIDGE with Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, and VENICE, VENICE directed by Henry Jaglom.

Just prior to her performance in BASHAR SHBIB'S DRAGHOULA, Lane appeared in COVER STORY with Chris McDonald and Tuesday Knight.

Victoria Barkoff stars as Ida, an overbearing Jewish mother who employs a variety of unusual and creative means to save her beloved son, Harry, from transexuality and vampirism.

Barkoff, a humorous and charming woman who studied Mythology and Comparative Religion with Joseph Campbell at Sarah Lawrence College in New York, believes that Bashar Shbib's DRAGHOULA is connected to the director's life.

"An exploration of his past history in a wacky kind of way», she describes it. Barkoff enthusiastically characterizes Ida as the quintessential Jewish mother stereotype : neurotic, possessive, guilt-tripping, and overprotective. She says: "I guess the director chose a New York Jewish mother because everything is intensified, it makes her more insane... My mother is a Jewish mother! I'm a Jewish mother!».

Her experience on BASHAR SHBIB'S DRAGHOULA was invigorating. She was inspired by the director's imaginative and unique ways of working. Barkoff honoured in English at McGill University, where she was awarded scholarships including the Scott Scholarship in Classics. She pursued graduate studies in English Language and Literature at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia.

Barkoff's career has taken many different turns. In addition to acting which she began late in life, she works as a French to English translator. She is an accomplished theatre photographer, and for eleven years she has co-produced a radio show with Allan Romano (the hospital administrator in BASHAR SHBIB'S DRAGHOULA).The show, written and directed by young people, is broadcasted on CKUT-FM, in Montreal.

On stage, Barkoff has portrayed numerous Jewish mothers, including, Mrs. Frank in THE DIARY OF ANN FRANK and Harvey Fierstein's mother in TORCH SONG TRILOGY.

Barkoff's most recent film credits include FOR LOVE ALONE a CBS Movie of the Week, soon to be aired. She appeared in SCANNERS II, directed by Christian Duguay, and in ENEMIES: A LOVE STORY, directed by Paul Mazursky.





Bobo Vian portrays Leila, a Moslem fundamentalist librarian who specializes in vampirism. Her life takes a turn when she meets Ida, an overbearing Jewish mother. Together, they try to save Ida's son Harry from vampirism.

Vian, a classically trained actress, describes her experience with amusement «Improvising is like being on the edge... It is bewildering and absolutely outrageous... It was exciting and I loved the fact that it allowed me to explore another aspect of my acting. The character unfolded with every given situation which made her intriguing. She didn't have time to get cemented by specific mannerisms; Leila is like a barbarian princess.

A performer most of her life, Vian was born and raised in Hungary. In her teens, she was part of a group of poets and actors who performed in various schools and theatres. Vian received her classical theatre training in Hungary with A. Rencz. Amongst a variety of roles, Vian performed Hermaphrodite and Medea at the National Theatre in Szeged, and the Three penny Opera with the Flamingo group in Budapest.

Vian moved to Toronto, Canada, in 1982, to pursue her acting career. She has worked in theatre, television and film. She appeared in J. Michaelson's adaptation of "Sherman's" at the Mercury Theatre. At Toronto's Q Theater, Vian performed in various plays written and directed by her husband Gabor Zsigovics.

She appeared on the television series «Street Legal», and «Best on the Box». Her film credits include «Sandor» directed by Aaron Shester. Vian has been living in Montreal since 1989. She is a board member of QDF(Quebec Drama Federation).

« DRAGHOULA» is her second film with director Bashar Shbib. She played the lead in CLAIR OBSCUR, Shbib's last film shot in Canada before he moved to Los Angeles. Her most recent television appearance is in the successful series RENÉ LÉVESQUE, and in the feature PAPER BOY from Allegro Productions.

COMPLETE CAST AND CREW CREDITS

With the financial participation of
TELEFILM CANADA
Special Thanks to LOUISE LAMARRE

CAST

Sabrina Stetter
STEPHANIE SEIDLE

Harry Silberman
CHRISS LEE

Armadona
ROBYN LANE

Ida Silberman
VICTORIA BARKOFF

Laila Zresbos
BOBO VIAN

Rat Salesperson
KATHY SLAMEN

Librarian
JENNIFER CLARK-ANSELL

Lee
LINDA DAWN HAMMOND

Naomi
MAIA NADON-SHBIB

Cristelle
VALERIE VERRIER-DIACONESCU

Bar singer
SUSAN EYTON-JONES

Karate Kicker Victim
DANIEL DAHAN

Head Doctor
AL ROMANO

Doctors
SERGE JOTHY
LEDUYLAM

Victims
GABOR ZSIGOVICS
INGRID PHANEUF
SUSILA MARAVIGLIA
VALERIE CARIS
BERNARD LEVEILLE
HUBERT LEBLANC
HENRI MOSIMANN
MANON LEBLANC

Delivery Boy
BERNARD COUSINEAU

CREW

Art Director
GABOR ZSIGOVICS

Wardrobe
CLAIRE NADON

Props
MICHEL GAGNON

Make-up and Hair
CLELIA MARSADIE

Special Effects Dentist
DR. EILEEN MARGOSSIAN

Production Co-ordinator
KARINE ZERBE

Assistant Production Co-ordinator
JENNIFER CLARK-ANSELL

Production Assistants
CHAKER AYADI
RONIT BEZALEL
CHERIF CHBIB
SASHA GOUDRIAAN

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JAY PERGUSON

First Assistants Camera
MICHAEL WEES
GUY SAINT-DENIS

Second Assistant Camera
KATHY SLAMEN

Gaffer
BERNARD COUSINEAU

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Assistant Editor
ANITA MALHOTRA

Dialogue Editor
LAURENCE GREEN

Assistant Dialogue Editors
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HAIG HARMEN
CLELIA MARSADIE
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ANITA MALHORTA

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ERIC ZIMMER

Re-recording Mixers
DINO PIGAT
SCOTT PURDY

Machine Operator
DAVID ROSE

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SERGE GAUDET

ADR Transcription
SOPHIE DELORME

ADR and Effects Facilities
CINELUME

Sound Effects Editor
PATRICE RIVARD

Foley Artist
STEVE HAMMOND

Foley Recordist
STEVE COPLEY



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MUSIC

Music Produced by CHRISS LEE

Score performed and written by
DAVID JAGE
CHRISS LEE
KY ANTO
JACQUES ANTONIN

Cello by
LYNN SELWOOD

Music recorded at
CRÉASON STUDIO, Montreal
Engineered by
JEAN-GUY MONTPETIT

Poetry by
JENNIFER CLARK-ANSELL

'SOMETHING TO FEED ON'
Written by CHRISS LEE and KY ANTO
Performed by SASSY SCARLET AND
TALAMASCA
Produced by CHRISS LEE

'DISAPPEAR'
Written by CHRISS LEE
Performed by TALAMASCA
Produced by CHRISS LEE

'I'D GIVE UP'
Written by CHRISS LEE
Performed by TALAMASCA
Guitar Solo by KY ANTO
Produced by CHRISS LEE

'I'M A BOY AND I'M A GIRL'
Written by KY ANTO
Performed by TALAMASCA AND
SASSY SCARLET
Produced by CHRISS LEE

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COMMISSION
ATWATER LIBRARY
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MICHEL GAGNON
RAYMOND GRAVELLE
LINDA DAWN HAMMOND
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AZRA KHAN
JOANNA KOTKOWSKA
CLAIRE NADON

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DRAGHOULA





TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Title:	DRAGHOULA
Genre:	Comedy/Horror
Running Time:	84 minutes.
Format:	35mm Color
Aspect Ratio:	1:78
Release Date:	1999
Original Language:	English
Production Company:	Oneira Pictures
Producer:	Bashar Shbib
Director:	Bashar Shbib

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