

## *Vampires: Another Form of Witch hunt?*

*Much of modern vampire lore as we know it today in popular culture stems from the myths and legends originating within Slavic folklore. Characters such as Vlad the Impaler and Elizabeth Bathory often fuel these stories and serve as inspiration for our modern vampire tales. But it could be argued that we the audience are only getting one half of these stories. As can be seen here often what we are looking at is a matter of opinion.*



*Most accounts of Countess Elizabeth Bathory paint her as being a horrific monster who killed countless young women. However there is evidence to suggest that her arrest and trial was all an elaborate political conspiracy. Most of the information that was used against her was gained via torture and there is some evidence to suggest that by framing her as a vampire, her political rivals would have been better able to seize her lands. (countessbathory.wordpress.com)*



*The information about Vlad Tepes Dracula aka Vlad the Impaler is often conflicting. Most stories about him paint him as the bloodthirsty inspiration behind Bram Stoker's "Dracula". While his exploits are based in historical fact, the way he is portrayed to the world is hotly debated depending on where you are in the world. In his homeland of what is now modern day Romania, he is seen as being a noble prince and someone who stood up to the Ottoman Empire and kept them at bay, by contrast in the rest of the world he is seen as a sadistic killer who enjoyed inflicting cruel punishments upon his enemies, once again proving that portrayal is a matter of who you ask and where they are.*