

Vampire Fangs Lecture Notes

Lady Nova – Speaker

Autumn – Transcriber

(Note: All caps sections are written as such to denote times in which a broad topic is summarized or input from the text chat is referenced. I hope that their inclusion will be helpful in following the flow of the live discussion, though at times they are an imperfect truncation of a much broader discussion that was impossible to fully capture.)

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I normally do my notes beforehand, I don't really script things for the most part. This one is a little more chill. So welcome everybody, today we are going over vampire fangs. This will be more the concept of it being dress up or even how it makes you feel with your vamp identity, or even what fangs have done for the community.

We do have our disclaimers, you can go over those, it's always good to check them out. But we can go ahead and hop in. Again for those who were not around earlier, I am not allowed to talk about the REDACTED content today due to scheduling issues, so that won't be present in this discussion. You might end up seeing an announcement this week. Something to look forward to.

So. Fangs! As you know fangs are kind of a big staple piece when it comes to vampire media. It's one of the first things you see. I would say within the community, back then, a lot of people—it depends on who you were talking to—but there were a good portion of people who were all in on it and others who found it very LARPy. Back then, believe it or not, being a lifestyler was not something people were so readily accepting of (same for Hybrids). It's a lot different now. A lot of people are more open to the lifestyle elements of it. Some people will even both identify as a vamp and a lifestyler, it may go hand-in-hand for some.

So before I really begin, who here has fangs. Fake fangs, permanent fangs, etc.

[BACK AND FORTH WITH THE CHAT]

[A LOT OF MENTIONS OF BOTH TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT FANGS, AND THE VARIOUS SOURCES, AS WELL AS THE PROBLEMS THEY PRESENT]

Ah yes, and I think that's something to discuss with fangs. The comfortability. I haven't worn fangs religiously before, only recently I've really gotten into it and I actually kinda like it, it's kinda fun.

We will definitely get into the differences between permanent fangs and the ones that you can pop in and out. I personally don't have experience with permanent fangs, I know a lot of people do but I haven't gotten them done. So now that that's out of the way and everyone is roughly

familiar with the concept—the origin of vampire fangs. So when I talk about this I’m specifically meaning media representation. It’s interesting how fangs have evolved in vampire media over the years. Does anyone know who was the first vampire in media that had vampire fangs.

It was actually *Varney the Vampire* in 1845. In the first or second chapter there was a scene where he revealed himself. I don’t know if anyone is familiar with this story—I would have to google it real quick again just to not misrepresent the material. It was a Victorian piece here, so it was the foundation really when it came to the Vampire trope.

(Transcriber’s Note: The very first modern vampire tale from this time is actually Dr. John Polidori’s The Vampyre (1819), which was penned from an oral tale he’d heard from Lord Byron some years earlier. It’s known that in Polidori’s retelling of the story, the vampyre presented is meant to represent Lord Byron himself, as the two had a falling out some time prior to the novelette’s publication. While many of the tropes and visual iconography present in vampire media to this day trace their way back to The Vampyre, including an overall wild, animalistic appearance for Lord Ruthven at times, the text does not explicitly say Ruthven’s teeth were at all fang-like. Corpses left behind by Ruthven bear “the marks of teeth having opened the vein,” but it is never said or suggested that these marks are strange or inhuman. In fact, that they are immediately recognized by all in attendance as bite marks (where other media of the century often showed characters perplexed at the strange presence of fang marks), suggests that Ruthven had no fangs at all!)

One of the first in media, especially with fangs. I did write a mini timeline for this discussion when it comes to who had the fangs. When I think of the first one in media, you think like Carmilla, Nosferatu, Dracula. It was none of those, and I found that to be very interesting. It was essentially about a vampire who terrorizes the female lead in the story, and he definitely has a thing for her. A very specific thing for her. It’s very much a gothic thriller vibe, and I found that very interesting that, y’know, I haven’t heard anyone really talk about Varney the Vampire. I don’t know if anyone here had heard of it.

Honestly I’ve read that because of the specific language at that time, some people aren’t even sure if that’s his name, and I’m sitting here thinking okay so what IS his name then?

So when we are discussing about various fangs, to my research at least when it comes to base principles of any vampire media, Varney is the first one that really came out with the fangs.

[SOMEONE ASKS IF HIS FANGS WERE RETRACTABLE]

Retractable fangs didn’t really become a thing until... let me see... I think it was the 80s, or no the 70s. Based off of my notes we have “the very first fanglike teeth,” that’s the description for Varney. 1872 Carmilla was implied to have fangs. 1897 Dracula had the fangs—“peculiar sharp white teeth that protruded over the lips.” Then in 1922 we had Nosferatu, with his iconic rat fangs—which I would say is where we kinda start to have like a little bit of an interesting

transition of the shape of the fangs—I don't know if anyone knew Nosferatu was an unauthorized adaptation of Dracula.

[TALK ABOUT IT BEING NEARLY DESTROYED BECAUSE OF THE LEGAL ISSUES]

1931 we got Bela Lugosi's Dracula, which, from what I saw they did not have fangs despite the 1897 book description of Dracula. So in 1958-1973 is where we have the long-fanged Dracula. The character goes through many different evolutions, he's been to many different dentists throughout the years. That was Christopher Lee's Dracula, and it's where I think they started to get popular and people wore them in costumes and such.

So 1973, Interview With the Vampire, they did not have retractable teeth, it wasn't quite in media yet but it was coming very soon. 1987 The Lost Boys, we're very much in the realm of Anne Rice. (Our fearless leader admits she has not actually interacted with The Vampire Chronicles, GASP) For now I am in a committed relationship with The Vampire Diaries. If I do not continue to watch my shows one at a time I will forget to complete them. I'll circle back to the Chronicles when I'm done with that.

Lost Boys. Animalistic fangs and facial features. This changes the entire biology of the vampire in media. Before they were just permanently in their mouth (unless you were Dracula), but The Lost Boys really started the animalistic transformation in the face (which you will see again in the early 2000s). Throughout the 90s and 2000s the supernatural transformation angle keeps coming up, especially in the face.

So the 90s. Retractable teeth or the change in the face starts to be cemented as standard, especially going into Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Now, the controversial time of the vampire where the vampire balded. The vampires became bald, and what I mean by that, they turned into Disco Balls. In 2005 Twilight enters the scene in vampire media. It becomes one of the first pieces of vampire media after the 70s that had no fangs. There is one scene where Edward does have fangs, but it's debated whether or not they were even there or if that was just his regular teeth. They didn't give him a prosthetic for the shot.

I don't know if any of you have noticed this or not, but old concepts of the vampire really begin to resurface in the early 2000s. This was the time where anything supernatural began to show up everywhere. All of the good shows were out. I honestly wish I could go back just to experience it. We saw a lot of these old concepts resurfacing but being slightly altered for a more modern feel. Before this it's all very Victorian, maybe 50s/60s vibes, but now it's getting more modern. Twilight is central to a lot of this.

Supernatural releases an episode in which vampires are shown, but every single one of their teeth is a fang. It was very beastly, much like old vampire media. Nosferatu and such. So the current times, now we have vampires with fangs of all shapes and sizes. We are in the midst of adaptations coming out—Nosferatu, Abigail, new vampire anime, new IWTV, but yeah. Now I

would say there is no specific trending type of fangs right now. Whatever you can conjure up in media, that's what the fangs will be like.

Right now, if I were to say there's one dominant type of fangs, it'd be the retractable fangs with the full animalistic facial transformation. I think that's the most popularized one currently.

If you go back far enough in folklore to find what the original vampire was—you can't. You really can't. The concept has evolved so much, you can't really pinpoint it anymore when you go so far back. You start seeing stuff about werewolves, witches, the fae, demons, they all become jumbled up over time. So yeah, I could see that the animalistic transformation angle of it is almost circling back into the modern day, influencing media. And of course all of this influences the VC in my opinion. I think that's really cool to look at when you really think about it.

We see a lot of people nowadays who are interested in the VC that lead with "oh, I have real fangs!" I think they say that to relate, or at least to relate to the idea of vampires when they first interact with us.

[SOMEONE TALKS ABOUT A DENTAL ANOMOLY AND THAT A LOT OF FOLKLORE VIEWS THIS AS A PACT WITH ENTITIES, SPIRITS, DEMONS]

The concept of real vampire fangs, you either see people over here using it as a type of discussion to break the ice, or there's kids that'll bring it up like "yeah I've got fangs!" I think I was just talking about this with someone. On Youtube, the old youtube days, there were these videos about spells that you could use for vampire transformations. I was gonna put that in a blog about etsy shops and turning scams and such. But you would go through the comments and it was just full of kids talking about fangs coming out during the full moon. It was a wild time on youtube, I remember seeing a lot of that on there. Of course it wasn't just for vampires, there were some for mermaids, werewolves, there was a lot of them.

Anywho, so the concept of real vampire fangs. I would say for those with more prominent fangs, they tend to kind of claim vampire identity specifically because they have more prominent teeth, or at least that's central to the idea for them. I noticed on the Strange Aeons video [people] asking if they were a vampire just because they had more prominent teeth—no other context, just because they had teeth that were sharp. Not everyone can be blessed by the gods to just have really cool teeth like that. But from my research I learned that wasn't always a good or healthy thing. Sure cosmetically it'll look cool and it doesn't do any damage, but depending on your genetics it can really significantly impact your teeth positioning, and that's how some people have a lot of more prominent "real vampire fangs." Overcrowding and such, and it can cause some teeth to be pushed around and that's why some are more prominent looking than others.

[The rate of overcrowding is] 22-27% when it comes to molars, there are levels of variation—genetic and selective pressures—that can change how these teeth grow in and how they appear, and especially how they're becoming more and more overcrowded over the years.

I find it very interesting how, you know, as we go farther down the line, people are having more crowded teeth than before. Now, apparently, it's 80% [total rate of overcrowding throughout the entire mouth]. When I'm reading it out that doesn't really make sense to me—of course I'm not a dentist—but it seems too that the areas that are most commonly suffering from overcrowding are different too. Same with respect to wisdom teeth concerns.

So when it comes to real vampire teeth, cosmetically it's fine, it doesn't necessarily indicate any medical issues, but it might point to some genetic factors. To point back to the folklore anomaly bit, you would think that uniquely placed teeth were not super common but I see it a lot more often now. There is a full-on genetic shift taking place that we are starting to notice.

Alright, so, purchasing fangs. I assume this is something a lot of people here will be interested in. I asked earlier at the beginning where everyone got their fangs from. A few people said permanents—I assume that was from your particular dentist—someone said they got insurance to cover it but I'm fairly certain that can't be true because insurance doesn't cover cosmetic procedures and even if they did it'd be a copay. I say this as I'm an insurance agent, though I'm going into the medical field next year (LADY NOVA LORE REVEAL). Phlebotomy and maybe eventually medical imaging.

Anyway, getting fangs purchased varies in price. Going through the permanent route has its own concerns and associated costs which I wouldn't know much about. I'll give you all the floor for that.

(Transcriber's Note: I chimed in at this point to offer my experience. In the fall of last year I very nearly got permanent fangs at my local dentist. He was very nice about it and receptive to the whole idea, and we had a very cordial and adult discussion about the procedure and any potential concerns. They use the same material that they use for fillings, which does minimal damage to the surrounding teeth (provided there's no major trauma to the underlying tooth while the material is on it). I was quoted at \$400 CAD a tooth, which is the same rate they have for fillings. I should say that I backed out not because I had some sudden aversion to the idea, but rather because life threw an unexpected expense at me right after I scheduled the appointment. I would definitely recommend if you consider permanents to have a good relationship with your dentist, and also to consider keeping the teeth healthy after you get them—my dentist recommended having a mouthguard made so I wouldn't accidentally injure my teeth at night from grinding against the points. This would have been more expensive than the fangs themselves, but it is worth considering if you want that sort of thing done, and want to avoid additional costs or medical concerns.)

Scarecrow fangs I think are genuinely pretty good and offer a lot of range in design for how cheap they are. Very accessible too. You can get them at Walmart or from their site, especially around Halloween. They have that plasticky feel to them though, there is definitely a quality difference. But for 20 bucks, if you're wearing fangs to a party or something, definitely go for them. It's especially good if you're just getting into wearing fangs. Purchasing them to see if you even like the idea of having bulky fangs in your mouth, then you can go from there. I have a

thing about texture, I didn't like the plasticky feeling and it didn't feel personal to me with the design.

So I went to Kaos, and I would say with that it genuinely felt like real teeth. It was kinda disturbing. They shipped me a bite tray, and then you bite into it and let it harden onto your teeth and pull straight down, then you mail it back. This process takes about 2 months for them to create your fangs, but it's very custom. They shipped it back and I opened the package, and I kid you not it honestly looked like something out of a horror film. Yeah I purchased fangs but they looked very realistic. It looked like someone ripped Dracula's teeth out. I was taken aback by that, honestly. The quality difference between costume fangs and this—these had very natural teeth texture, and I can't tell the difference in my mouth. It's very creepy, it's odd. So if you have a texture thing then 100% I would experiment. See if you can even function with having fangs in your mouth (though I wouldn't recommend eating with them). See how you feel about it because some people might get overstimulated with textures, which I completely get.

Go to an online fangsmith. There's many different types of fangs that you can purchase online. It's a bit pricier of course, there's multiple shipments and they are specifically working on your teeth. It's not like Scarecrow where you just get them. It's very customizable.

[FROM THE CHAT: "Word of caution, the custom ones are often much much sharper than the scarecrow fangs!"]

Yeah, it is very sharp. The ones that I have, again I have doubles—my canines and my incisors. They're very sharp and there's been times where I have talked or chewed gum or something (not sure if you should really do that, but I do), but I bit my lip and totally forgot that I had them in. I bit the shit out of my lip.

So there are some fangsmiths, though it's very specific based on their practice, there are some that will make full on dentures. If you have gaps in your teeth they will make a full tooth that goes in that gap. I don't know how that works specifically but it will fill in the space and they will connect an additional fang. So depending on where you want those fangs, they'll do it based off of the measurements you give them. Some aren't specialized in that. I know Kaos is specialized to people who have specific cosmetic teeth, if they have cavities or crowding or missing teeth or whatever, they work with that kind of thing, but not every fangsmith does those. So definitely do your research on the company. A lot of them will have a way where you can privately email them anything for custom orders. Because you don't want to purchase a decently expensive product like that (some range from 100-300 bucks depending on the shape you're going for) and then find out that you don't even like it or you can't even wear them. Definitely communicate, because you're putting them in your mouth, it's important that things feel right. Teeth are very dainty in my opinion, and that's coming from someone who has a phobia of teeth. They're very delicate and you have to take care of them. I wouldn't rush the process. Really think about the texture, the shape, the size, everything.

Also, if you need them in a timely manner for an event or something, I would recommend ordering these fangs months in advance. This is a custom procedure that takes a lot of time. A lot of these fangsmiths are small businesses and artists and it's something that you have to give a lot of time for.

There was another fangsmith company that I was looking into—let me go to my instagram because I follow them on PV. Deadfangs. I was looking into them because they're a small business and they do custom fangs, and they look pretty good too. Let me get to their website so I can link you guys. I haven't tried them yet so I can't say if they're any good, but they look cool to me.

Deadfangs:

https://www.deadfangs.com/?utm_source=ig&utm_medium=social&utm_content=link_in_bio&fbclid=PAZnRzaATiAqRwZG9mAmZkaWQWUMA6MFWRH07D6G267Bky81qHMsXZ-mV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydGMGYXBwX2lkDzEyNDAYNDU3NDI4NzQxNAABp63HorHVL7mg0FHCpHKvoDO807rBj2LXMFtFBWCV6arIWQh16gQNXlaPwLzl_aem_iXDPjoMY__LSD9WZnuaYXg

Kaos, where I purchased mine from:

https://www.kaoskustomfangs.com/?utm_source=ig&utm_medium=social&utm_content=link_in_bio&fbclid=PAZnRzaATiAuBwZG9mAmZkaWQWUMDTKSI8qiBy1ZyAhF4kyjR3YXbm-GV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydGMGYXBwX2lkDzEyNDAYNDU3NDI4NzQxNAABp3ekaQzMGIQ7DWXwpy8OxRNKGqh0GmopWZ5ar2q2ogOiAgR-RsMAR1aYzfaz_aem_ax4IMguY9xxtTbXphnX6KQ

Scarecrow:

https://www.scarecrowvampires.com/?utm_source=ig&utm_medium=social&utm_content=link_in_bio&fbclid=PAZnRzaATiAsdwZG9mAmZkaWQWUMA4Tj_qVKyHUCjwe71gGsEnxuIGBGV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydGMGYXBwX2lkDzEyNDAYNDU3NDI4NzQxNAABpy-oHlgldTqd8pO-6WG3E4Yme51LZuphIOVXZ1ra6n8Pi84vksUAMSwt6tRX_aem_iOTLZQ9eWV70oqy7L7RPxQ

So we've talked about purchasing various fangs, and the ups and downs. Again I would not try to eat in fangs or sleep in them because that's a genuine choking hazard. There are some people that say they do eat with them and that stresses me out. You never know! They could break out or you could bite wrong. A lot could go wrong, but, you know. On the Kaos website they have a disclaimer about biting people, haha. I would maybe be careful about that too, you know, at your own discretion. I would not endorse that but if that's what you do in your free time I'm not gonna stop you. Just be very careful, you can definitely cause serious injury.

But yeah, does anyone have any questions so far before I get into the VC aspect of vampire fangs?

[WE PING IT TO CHAT FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND LADY NOVA RUNS TO GET A BIT OF WATER]

So I mentioned it before, but lifestylers were not always accepted in the community. There were places that would be accepting and others where you would be looked at strangely, which I find funny because a lot of the community found each other through VtM games and they were definitely dressing up. VC politics doesn't make much sense

[Your fearless transcriber types, "JUST LIKE VTM POLITICS" in the chat. This unfortunately derails the discussion slightly for a few minutes.]

So now the VC is a little more accepting of various identities, at least in a "live and let live" sort of way. Now you have some vamps that play into the aesthetics, and it's different from person for person. To me, my fashion has a bit of a vampiric essence to it, like a hint of it, but my room decor is very witchy, very vampy looking. But for others they just quite literally may not care for it. They can't really see their identity as separate, or as connected to the aesthetic.

Now, when it comes to fangs, there are some figures (the Voldemort of the community) that do make fangs, and they are not the only community fangsmith, right? So let's say for Father Sebastiaan, he views his fangs as more of a transformative process towards self-acceptance of some form, which I kind of found interesting. But for other VC fangsmiths, there are very specific ones that you can even purchase your fangs from. Some may see it as ritualistic whereas others may not. Some see it as self-acceptance or empowerment, to express their identity in a way.

When it comes to Father Sebastiaan, he was encouraging wearing fangs as a right of passage to being your true and authentic vampiric self. It was a transformation in ideology towards showing who you were as an identity, and by doing so you purchase his fangs. Obviously with respect to him there's various accusations of things going on, but he is a very prominent figure within the VC who is doing fang work, but there are others as well. I honestly might have to do a two-parter on this recommending specific fangsmith businesses, especially with respect to VC and non-VC fangsmiths. I think that might be an interesting follow-up.

Within the VC it's very subjective based off of how you feel about them. If you feel it's too cringey, you don't need to wear them. To be a part of the VC you don't need to dress vampy or wear fangs or do any of that. Seeing them as a process of self-transformation, if that's how you feel about it, 100% go right ahead. If it makes you feel more empowered in your identity, go ahead, that's perfectly fine. But I would note that not everything about getting fangs or anything vampy related has to be mystical or ritualistic. You can literally just do it because you think vampires are cool, it doesn't have to be anything more than that. Everybody has a sense of how

fangs make them feel, and that's ultimately what matters when the question of getting them comes up.

[LADY NOVA'S CAT ONCE AGAIN CRASHES THE VAMP DISCUSSION – CATPIRE, VAMPURR, ETC ETC]

I will go at night sometimes and try to wear them. If I'm going downtown and such, OH–

[LADY NOVA'S CAT AGAIN TRIES TO ASSASSINATE HER, ALSO WE GET AN EXAMPLE IN CHAT OF THE POTENTIAL LASTING CONSEQUENCES OF NOT BEING CAREFUL WITH FANGS]

So some people were saying that it felt more connected to vamp aesthetics, or goth aesthetics, or the vampire community, or even alter-human identities. Fangs are very subjective for everyone. We all view it differently, and honestly if it makes you happy, I would do it. I personally don't wear them for work or anything like that (I really don't know how that would work if I did).

[BACK AND FORTH ABOUT WEARING FANGS IN PUBLIC, OR EVEN AT WORK, AND HOW SOME PEOPLE USE THIS AS A MEANS TO SIGNAL TO ONE ANOTHER. ANOTHER DISCUSSION ABOUT VAMPIRE FLAGGING IS TEASED]

But yeah, I think fangs are fun. If you're willing to play into the shenanigans I think it's a good purpose. I mean, if you're gonna drop a lot of money on something you might as well wear it fairly often.

[LadyBlood says "It's fun to see the double takes. I go to Michaels and I am purchasing a fabric of sorts, and the poor clerk gets a flash of the smile. It's fun."]

Yeah some people are very scared and then others are genuinely intrigued. They're definitely put off by it 100%, but they're interested. They have questions, you can tell.

On the whole, I would say fangs have been used as a form of self-empowerment. I think that's the base thing that you could take away from this in terms of what it's done for the community. It's in part for the aesthetics but I think that for some it lets them tap into vampiric glamour. It might be about self-acceptance, or a transformative process. It's very different from person to person, and I think fangs have become such a popular topic lately that I'm happy with the timing of this discussion. I hope it gives some perspective for you to think about whether you want to buy them, or maybe about looking into cheaper alternatives before they commit to something like permanent fangs. I wonder sometimes if the people that jump right to permanents have looked into the things they could to make sure that they'd like that sort of thing.

You really should think about your life in a holistic way. Your work life, the environment in your mouth and how it might affect your teeth. Relationships and such. It shouldn't deter you from doing what makes you happy, but it's important to really consider everything beforehand,

especially when there are less costly and impactful options that can give you a taste of that and help you determine if you would like that sort of thing beforehand.

[AND, OF COURSE, THE DISCUSSION FINALLY DEVOLVES INTO SILLY DISCUSSION ABOUT TWILIGHT, FANGS, HISSING, GLITTERY VAMPIRES, AND ALL RELATED THINGS. MUCH LAUGHTER IS HAD AND WE NEVER QUITE GET BACK ON TRACK. TWILIGHT CONSUMES ALL]