FRANKENSTEIN REVIVED

FRANKENSTEIN REVIVED
By Morris Panych
Music by David Coulter
Based on Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Directed by Morris Panych
Movement Choreographed by Wendy Gorling
Dance Choreographed by Stephen Cota
World Première Adaptation

GRADE RECOMMENDATION
7+

CONTENT ADVISORY
Please see the show page for a detailed audience advisory.

SYNOPSIS
Mary Shelley was just 18 years old when she wrote Frankenstein, the novel that launched the horror genre and gifted the world one of its most memorable monsters: the nameless, all-too-human beast constructed from corpses in Doctor Victor Frankenstein’s laboratory. More than 200 years after its publication, Frankenstein remains the most celebrated horror story in world literature. At last count, the novel had been adapted into at least 80 film versions, an opera, almost a dozen graphic novel and comic adaptations, and several stage productions. Now Shelley’s creation is given a unique new form in Frankenstein Revived, an exuberant and passion-filled theatrical movement-based piece by Morris Panych.

Shelley’s novel argues that idealism and the quest for knowledge are just as likely drive us to create a monster as to gift the world a new invention. Her Victor Frankenstein is a brilliant young man with all the emerging powers of science at his command. He has also never fully recovered from his beloved mother’s early death, an event that makes him acutely sensitive to the poverty, disease and death he sees on the streets and at the hospital. Who in his place wouldn’t try to relieve humanity’s suffering by conquering death itself? But Victor’s medical experiments take him so beyond the boundaries of natural law that his discoveries destroy everyone he loves.

Panych’s take on the classic tale places Mary Shelley in the centre of her own creation, as the young author struggles, like the novel’s eponymous doctor, to bring her fragile work to life. Shelley wrote the novel—her first—at Lake Geneva in 1816, where she was staying with her husband, the celebrated Romantic poet, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and his illustrious friends, including fellow poet, Lord Byron. The rainy weather often forced the friends indoors, prompting Lord Byron to suggest that they all try their hand at a ghost story. The rest is literary history.

Frankenstein Revived dramatizes, in movement, dance, music and song, the themes at the heart of Shelley’s work. Will humanity’s drive for mastery over nature drive us to destruction? Are there secrets we weren’t meant to know? And what does it mean to be truly human? Mary Shelley delivered her answers that rainy summer in 1816. We’ve been pondering them ever since.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS
• Global Competencies:
  • Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Metacognition
• Grade 7-8
  • The Arts (Music, Drama, Dance, Visual Arts)
• Language
• Grade 9-12
  • The Arts (Music, Drama, Dance, Visual Arts)
  • English
• Grade 11-12
  • Social Sciences and Humanities

THEMES
• Alienation
• Ambition and Drive
• Appearances and Authenticity
• Compassion
• Creation
• Family and Belonging
• Fear
• Horror
• Human Nature
• Injustice
• Isolation and Secrecy
• Knowledge and Discovery
• Life and Death
• Movement
• Monsters and Monstrosity
• Nature
• Power and Responsibility
• Revenge
• Science
DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

• What do you already know about Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*? Have you read the book or seen any other film or stage adaptations before?
• Do you like scary movies? What do you think draws individuals into stories with elements of horror and fear?
• What does it mean to be human? What characteristics or attributes define humanity?
• What does it mean to be “a monster”? What makes actions monstrous? Who gets to decide whether something or someone is monstrous?
• What is the relationship between responsibility and creation? How does this apply to human and other caring relationships?

STUDY GUIDES

2023 Shorts and Study Guides and those from previous seasons are available free of charge online at https://www.stratfordfestival.ca/Learn/Teachers/ResourcesPD

BOOKING INFORMATION: TICKETS, WORKSHOPS & CHATS

STUDENT MATINEES

You may book any available date, but selected student matinée performances for this show are at 2 p.m. on the following dates:

- Friday, September 8th
- Thursday, September 14th
- Tuesday, September 19th
- Tuesday, September 26th
- Friday, September 29th
- Wednesday, October 4th
- Tuesday, October 10th
- Friday, October 20th
- Thursday, October 26th

WORKSHOPS & CHATS

Pre or Post-Show Workshops and Post-Show Chats (virtual, onsite or at your school/centre) can be booked by calling the Box Office at 1.800.567.1600.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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Tools for Teachers includes Prologues, Study Guides and Stratford Shorts.