



ST. MARTIN'S PLAYERS



present

FRANKENSTEIN

A Play by Tim Kelly,
based on the classic
thriller by Mary Shelley
Directed and Produced by
Steve Morley and Paul Rendle

Friday 27 September 2019, 7:30pm

Saturday 28 September, 2:30pm, 7:30pm

at the Huxtable Hall, St Martin's Church, Erith Road, Bexleyheath

PROGRAMME

50p

This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

THE DIRECTOR WELCOMES YOU

Welcome to the St Martin's Players' 86th production – a retelling of a classic tale. Having enjoyed directing other 'darker' productions such as *Jekyll & Hyde*, *The Ghost Train* and *Hound Of The Baskervilles*, this play seemed to be another natural move for me – to try new effects to create the best atmosphere, while working with our brilliant set builders and costumiers to make the stage feel as though you have been transported to the nineteenth century. Our retelling of the story has been prepared for stage by Tim Kelly, who was also responsible for the dramatization of our production of *Hound Of The Baskervilles* three years ago.

On this occasion, we welcome Kay to our group, as she makes her debut in this production, working alongside cast and crew members with a wide range of lengths of service to the group. With Mark and James making the perfect combination as the creature and his creator, and numerous cast members working without their scripts in our very first rehearsal, we were quickly assured that this would be a great show. Sadly, nothing runs perfectly smoothly as we unfortunately had to lose Daryl (our original 'Frau Frankenstein') from the cast, therefore we were most appreciative that Wendy agreed to step up and 'be Mother' just a few weeks ago, and also we would like to thank Lucie for taking over from Wendy as our prompt (we hope that you won't hear much of her!)

As always, we are very grateful to everyone involved, as there are many important roles that need to be played. We have an excellent set and some great light and sound effects, costumes and make-up to help the story come to life – with the production team all excited to get Involved before the play was even cast, we knew that this would be a memorable production.

We hope that you enjoy the show, and look forward to seeing you again for our 30th pantomime.



THE SMALL PRINT... Please note that smoking is not permitted anywhere in the building. As a courtesy to those on stage and in the audience, please turn off your mobile 'phone and refrain from using flash photography. Fire exits are located at either side of the stage and at the rear of the hall; in the unlikely event of an emergency, please leave the hall by the nearest safe exit and assemble in the car park. Thank you.

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT FLASHING LIGHT SEQUENCES
APPEAR DURING THIS PRODUCTION**

THE WRITER AND THE PLAY

Mary Shelley (1797-1851) is best known for writing 'The Modern Prometheus', more commonly known as 'Frankenstein'. In 1814, Mary and her family travelled to Geneva: while staying with poet Lord Byron, the wet summer provided time sitting around a log fire, telling German ghost stories. This prompted them to write their own ghost stories; she soon developed the theme of a scientist reanimating a corpse, then being horrified by his creation. The story was first published, anonymously, in 1818, with the 'popular' third edition first published in 1831.



"Victor Frankenstein, a brilliant young scientist, returns to his Swiss chateau to escape a terrible pursuer. No one can shake free the dark secret that terrifies him: not his mother, nor his fiancée, nor his best friend. Even the pleading of a gypsy girl accused of murdering Victor's younger brother falls on deaf ears, for Victor brought into being a creature made from pieces of the dead. The creature tracks Victor to his sanctuary to demand a bride to share his loneliness. Against his better judgement, Victor agrees and soon the household is invaded by murder, despair and terror!"

The action takes place in the study of Victor Frankenstein's chateau, overlooking Lake Geneva, and mostly shows Victor's reflections on how his life has been affected by the Creature over the previous weeks prior to the opening of the play.

The play comprises two acts of three scenes each; there will be a short interval at the end of Act 1. Refreshments will be available in the Small Hall during the interval.

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

- OUR 30TH PANTOMIME -

WRITTEN BY ALAN P FRAYNE

DIRECTED BY BARRY GAVIN AND SUE ADAMS

31 January & 1.7.8 February 2020

*Readings and auditions will take place
on Friday 4 October at 8:00pm in the Maxim Room
and Wednesday 9 October at 8:00pm in the Small Hall*



THE CAST

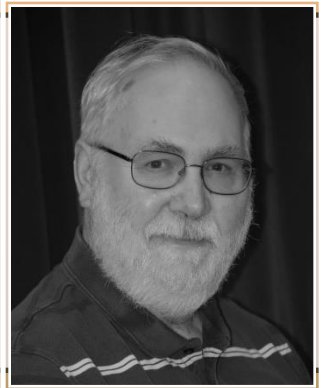


VICTORIA JAMIESON as Sophie

Victoria is now appearing on our stage for her 30th production with us, having first appeared in the youth chorus of *Treasure Island* in 2001. Over the years, she has played many maids – but this time, she is a house-keeper! Victoria also has a habit of getting injured on stage, having had to punch out window panes, and her own father breaking bottles over her head – hopefully we won't need the first aid kit this weekend.

RICHARD PERCIVAL as Inspector-General Ernst Hessler

Richard's first appearance was in *Pride And Joy* twenty years ago; since then, he has appeared in a large number of productions and directed six times. He is probably best known for playing panto dames and murdering more characters on stage than any other member of the group. He played Sergeant Towers in two of our productions of *See How They Run!*, and is now trying the continental uniform for size.



KAY VICKERS as Elizabeth

We welcome Kay to our group, as she makes her debut in this production, playing the role of Victor Frankenstein's fiancée. She has settled well into the group, and has shown at each rehearsal that she continually grows in confidence in delivering her lines and her presence on the stage. We look forwards to seeing Kay appearing in other productions in the near future.

JAMES BELSHAM as Victor Frankenstein

Like our director, James first became involved with the Players via the Scout Group next door. He first appeared in *Toad Of Toad Hall*, and is now appearing in his 15th production. His appearances have been limited over the last few years, but having recently graduated with a degree in History and Politics, he now has a bit more time – perfect for learning the 350 lines for this role.



THE CAST



DAVID BARNETT as Henry Clerval

Dave is our busiest member, having been with the group since its early days, debuting in our first production of *See How They Run!*. He is now appearing in his 40th play – add in more than twenty panto appearances, directing and set building, he has been a part of almost every production. Noteworthy roles include the Wizard Of Oz, Badger (*Toad Of Toad Hall*), King Henry VIII, King Rat and Abanazer (played three times!)

WENDY BARNETT as Frau Frankenstein

Having supported the group for many years, Wendy finally made her debut in *The End Of The Pier Show*. She has appeared in 25 productions and has directed on several occasions. Her last appearance was when she understudied for one performance of *Treasure Island*, and again, she is stepping in at short notice – Wendy is certainly a valued member of the group (and not just for the lovely biscuits she brings to rehearsals!)



MARK FOOLDS as The Creature

Having appeared on stage elsewhere, Mark first joined our group in 2017 to play 'Venture Man' in *I'll Get My Man*; he has also appeared in *It's Never Too Late*, and as the dame in *Rapunzel*. This time, he is playing our hideous creation, so is ready to spend as much time having make-up applied as when he played 'Hetty Hairspray'. Please do not be too frightened by his character – he's a nice chap, really!

RAE CALNAN as Justine

First appearing in *Play On!* in 1995, Rae has appeared regularly over the years – but blink and you'll miss her this time. She has directed three plays, and takes the reins again next May. Rae is best known in the group for being our make-up artist, creating many characters for pantomimes and musical plays, but isn't afraid to inflict the cold make-up sponge on herself, as Dick Whittington's cat, and as the Wicked Witch in *The Wizard Of Oz*.



THE CREW

Prompt	LOCIE BACHE
Wardrobe & Costume	MONICA CANE, JOLIE EXELL
Additional Costumes by	STAGE COSTUME, DARTFORD
Properties	MARION BIRAM
Make-Up	RAE CALNAN
Stage Crew	MARK BELSHAM, LINDSEY CLAYTON
Set Construction	DAVE BARNETT, DAVID BATCHELOR, MARK FOOLDS, BARRY GAVIN, CHRIS SUGGITT
Lighting & Sound	DAVID BATCHELOR, CHRIS SUGGITT
Box Office	RICHARD PERCIVAL
Front Of House	HAZEL BERGMAN, PAUL BERGMAN, MARION BIRAM, VAL COATES, DARYL O'SULLIVAN
Refreshments	ANN BATCHELOR
Poster & Programme	STEVE MORLEY

LIKE US, FOLLOW US, JOIN US!

Why not join us? We are always happy to welcome new members – whether you would like to appear on the stage, or try one of the many roles behind the scenes, we are sure you can find something to show your creative talents, as well as being part of a fun, friendly atmosphere. Why not come along to our next audition, or contact us to find out more?



Like us on
Facebook

VISIT US ONLINE
or find us on Facebook

www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR RAFFLE

As usual, we will hold a raffle for charity at each performance. Tickets will be on sale before the performance and during the interval; the draw will take place during final act, and the winning numbers will be announced at the end of the performance.

TOMMYCRUSH FOUNDATION

Tommy Crush was a popular teenager, keen on football, studying at a local grammar school. Sadly, Tommy took his own life in May 2018, aged 17 years, resulting from the numerous pressures he faced. The Foundation in his memory, working with existing organisations, hopes to support teenagers vulnerable to suicide, unfortunately a need that has significantly increased in the last decade.

www.tommycrushfoundation.org.uk

COMING SOON...

St Martin's Church **QUIZ NIGHT** Saturday 5 October

Huxtable Hall, St Martin's Church, Erith Road

Doors open 6:30pm, for a 7:00pm start

£5 per person Max. 8 players per table

Please bring your own drinks and nibbles; tea and coffee will be available

To book, contact: fundraising.stmartins@gmail.com



OUR PAST PRODUCTIONS



- 1991 Sleeping Beauty, See How They Run!
- 1992 Snow White And The Seven Dwarves, Virtue Triumphant
- 1993 Cinderella, Continental Quilt, Surprise Package
- 1994 Aladdin, Laugh! I Nearly Went To Miami, Post Horn Gallop
- 1995 Babes In The Wood, Keeping Down With The Joneses, Play On!
- 1996 Dick Whittington, When We Are Married, The Roses Of Eyam
- 1997 Jack And The Beanstalk, Pardon Me! Prime Minister, Murder In Company
- 1998 Puss In Boots, Pull The Other One, Blithe Spirit
- 1999 Mother Goose, Bedroom Farce, Pride And Joy, Last Tango In Barnehurst
- 2000 Peter Pan, See How They Run!, My Friend Miss Flint
- 2001 Treasure Island, Shock Tactics, Outside Edge
- 2002 Cinderella, The Murder Room, Running Riot
- 2003 King Arthur, Party Piece, No Time For Fig Leaves
- 2004 The Sleeping Beauty, Kindly Keep It Covered, The End Of The Pier Show
- 2005 Bluebeard, A Murder Is Announced
- 2006 Aladdin, How The Other Half Loves, Noah's Animals
- 2007 The Three Musketeers, Murder Weekend, Out Of Focus
- 2008 Little Red Riding Hood, Murder In Play, Toad Of Toad Hall
- 2009 Jack And The Beanstalk, The Day God Died, Barbecues 'R' Murder, Lady Lollipop, Jekyll And Hyde
- 2010 Dick Whittington, And Then There Were None, Over My Dead Body
- 2011 Snow White, Alice In Wonderland, Murder At The New Vicarage
- 2012 Cinderella, Panic Stations
- 2013 Robin Hood, Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals, The Ghost Train
- 2014 Mother Goose, Henry The Tudor Dude, Murder Backstage
- 2015 Sleeping Beauty, The Wizard Of Oz, See How They Run!
- 2016 Aladdin, Key For Two, Hound Of The Baskervilles
- 2017 Beauty And The Beast, I'll Get My Man, It's Never Too Late
- 2018 Rapunzel, Free And Easy, Love Begins At Fifty
- 2019 Treasure Island, Agatha Crusty And The Murder Mystery Diner