

Casting Notice for GEDS October production
Frankenstein
Nick Dear's adaption of Mary Shelley's novel
Directed by Christopher Bailey
October 2-6, 2018 at Théâtre Espérance in Eaux-Vives

Auditions will be from 7pm, Monday May 14th at the church hall of the Holy Trinity Church, 14b rue du Mont-Blanc (take the gated underground entrance next to the church).

You will not need to prepare anything for the audition. Come in clothing you are comfortable moving around in, and prepared to take risks and to have fun. For copies of the script or scheduling issues with the audition night please contact the director Christopher Bailey at christophertomlinbailey@hotmail.com. If you would like to participate in a backstage or support capacity, please contact Bailey at the above email.

As with Mr. Bailey's previous productions, rehearsals will be in two segments. The first will be in June: eight rehearsals, two nights a week, most likely Wednesday and Thursday. This first month will be an intensive workshop on the basics of ensemble acting technique using the script as the canvas, and required for the entire cast. July and the first weeks of August will be free of rehearsals but the cast is expected to use this time to memorize their parts completely. Rehearsals then resume the last two weeks of August through September three evenings a week, most likely Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

If you wish to audition for this production, please make the commitment up front to be available for rehearsals. If this becomes a problem, you may be recast.

We encourage people of all demographic backgrounds who are interested in the story and looking for an ensemble acting experience to audition. The director is not looking for any particular physical type, nationality or even necessarily gender. The goal is to assemble a troupe of artistic, creative and collaborative souls who have that unique subjective alchemy of contrasting against and harmonizing with each other.

The Director's interpretation of the story will include scenes of violence and horror, however, the focus will be on human (and inhuman) relationships and conflicts, not on shock theatrics. This production will remain faithful to the setting and themes of the original novel, but focus in on the highly charged relationships between the characters. Even the smallest parts will have deep back stories and motivations. The number of words each character has to say may vary, but the artistic experience for each actor will be challengingly high. Actors auditioning should make strong character choices, but avoid caricature and cliché. The horror of this piece will be about complex recognizably human souls put in extraordinary situations.

Cast of characters:

(May be double cast or vary demographics based on the souls who present themselves at the auditions)

The Creature: a nameless thing put together from human and animal corpses as an academic experiment who unexpectedly develops a soul. Essentially good, he finds himself abandoned by his creator, alone in the world, and finding mostly cruelty.

Victor Frankenstein: A narcissist. A searcher so consumed with his personal quest for knowledge and achievement that it overrides all considerations for anyone else including his loved ones.

Gretel: A prostitute. A lifetime of poverty results in her selling the only thing of value she thinks she has.

Gustav: A beggar. Fights for what little subsistence he can scrounge.

Klaus: Another beggar. He and Gustav have a friendship of convenience. They are less hungry with each other than without.

De Lacey: A blind man. A former professor and scholar, his university was ransacked in the revolution, his eyesight lost in the wake of an explosion. Left destitute in the mountains, he tries to preserve his own separate peace.

Felix: His son. Growing up in poverty but in the intellectually and emotionally nurturing environment of his father, it falls to him to make a living on the harsh mountainside.

Agatha: His daughter in law. A local peasant girl, devoted to her husband and family, she has not known any other life outside of the hard scrabble life of trying to farm the rocky slopes of the alps.

Female Creature: Created and plunged into a world where she is the object of fantasy and obsession by those around her. Her new born consciousness tries as quickly as possible to understand the frightening emotions around her.

Elizabeth Lavenza: Victor's fiancée and cousin. Deeply in love with Victor, supportive of his work and choices, but also sees through the destructive obsessiveness of it.

Clarice: Her maid. More than a servant, she has become part of the family, although may not fully comprehend the darkness around her.

William Frankenstein: Victor's brother. A young boy who enjoys being a boy, fun and inquisitive and trusting. His self-preservation instincts kick in a little too late.

Monsieur Frankenstein: Victor's father. A loving patriarch who tries to preserve the household. Is torn between supporting his son's ambitions which take him beyond the family, and his need to see those traditions taken care of.

Ewan: An Orkey Islander. Has been hungry enough in his day to not see any job as too dirty or distasteful.

Rab: His nephew. An apprentice body snatcher.

A constable: More interested in closing cases than seeing justice done.

Townpeople of Ingolstadt: Cheerful, industrious, hospitable, with an unfortunate tendency to turn into a blood thirsty mob.

Servants of the Frankenstein household: Loyal and cheerful and increasingly aware of the horrors that lurk in the shadows.