

HEADGATE THEATRE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

FRANKENSTEIN

A PLAY BY NICK DEAR BASED ON THE NOVEL BY MARY SHELLEY



16-19 Nov 2022 7.45pm
Sat Mat. 2.30pm

HEADGATE THEATRE

14 CHAPEL STREET NORTH COLCHESTER CO2 7AT

FRANKENSTEIN

DIRECTOR'S NOTES.

Welcome to tonight's performance of *Frankenstein*, and I hope you're prepared to be entertained! I saw this version live at the National Theatre, and, during the first lockdown, it was streamed for free and become one of the National's biggest hits. It was during lockdown that I began to feel I could direct the play, and make my own stamp on it. Having written my play *Jacky* especially for Harry Bowen, I wondered if he would be interested in playing The Creature? He said yes before I got to the end of the sentence! As for as I know, Harry is the first disabled actor to play the role. And this being The Headgate, and we don't have the National's budget, I had to adapt the production to the space, and the wonderful actors are going to tell you the story, aided by some incredible sound and music! I want to thank the team and the Headgate for everything, this has been a journey of discovery and joy! So, forget bolts though the neck and everything you THINK you know about *Frankenstein*, as we ask, "Who is the real Monster?"

Paul T. Davies.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Dr. Paul T. Davies - is a playwright, director, actor, academic, teacher and theatre reviewer! His plays include *Living with Luke*, (UK tour 2016), *Play Something*, (Edinburgh Festival Fringe/Drayton Arms Theatre, London 2018), *The Miner's Crow*, which won the inaugural Artist's Pick of the Fringe Award at the Colchester Fringe Festival 2021, and the sell out Fringe hit *Jacky*, (2022). At The Headgate he has directed *Two*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *A Matter of Life and Death*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and *The Accrington Pals*.

George Emberson - has been involved in designing and supporting the sound requirements in a number of productions at The Headgate in the 18 months that he has been volunteering there. His biggest challenge was working on *Mosquitoes* earlier in 2022 and the two Headgate Young Company productions.

Ben Wills - this is Ben's first HTC production and he is delighted to be a part of the production team for *Frankenstein*. Ben has worked in production lighting for over seventeen years, but working with Dr Paul T Davies has been the most 'enlightening' experience of them all.

Ben Moss - is a composer and sound editor from Sudbury currently studying Creative Music Technology at Bath Spa University. Having been a passionate theatre lover his whole life, performing and working with National Youth Theatre and National Youth Music Theatre, his love of sound turned his attention backstage, where he aims to aid the storytelling as best he can through his music.

Vicki Bailey - is a performance artist based in Essex. Her work explores the crossover between art, play and the body. Previous credits include *Three Step Endeavour* as part of Live Art Collective East, *26 Marathons in 26 Days* as part of the Edinburgh Festival and *Running Beyond Language* a durational performance in Kuopio, Finland.

FRANKENSTEIN

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CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

The Creature	Harry Bowen
Victor Frankenstein	George Deadman
Frankenstein (his father)	Michael Cook
William Frankenstein, his brother	Isabelle Casement
Elizabeth, his fiancée	Lily Vickers
DeLacey/Servant	Toby Roberts
Felix/Constable	George Ketley
Agatha/Female Creature/Servant	Ella Peartree
Gretel/Clarice	Sharon Carter
Ewan/Klaus/Servant	Tim Strugnell
Rab/Gustav/Servant	Ewen Beeson-Cocks

All other roles are played by members of the ensemble

CREATIVE AND TECHNICAL TEAM

Director	Dr Paul T Davies
Music/Sound Composition	Ben Moss
Movement Director	Vicki Bailey
Stage Manager and Props	Annastasia Ward
ASM	Margo Zawislak-Joannides
Lighting Design	Ben Wills
Lighting Operator	Dave 'Boggis' Ward
Sound Engineer	George Emberson
Sound Operator	Liz Fossey
Costume	Maggie Walton & Claire Jones, plus cast
Posters/Progs	Kevin Topple

Thanks to Harry Harris and Tom Lightbody for the loan of lighting equipment, Judith Peeling, Yvonne Cobbold and Manifest Theatre for loan of costume items, and the many front of house and backstage volunteers who help sustain this vibrant community theatre.

MEET THE CAST

Harry Bowen - is a disabled artist born and bred in Colchester. Having just finished his acclaimed run of **Jacky**, from the Colchester Fringe Festival; he now takes on the role of the Creature in **Frankenstein**, and offers you a new perspective towards the monster.

George Ketley - is grateful to have been part of such a fantastic play. It has been 10 years since he last performed, which was during his A-levels at college. He is delighted to have had this opportunity and he has Paul, Headgate Theatre and the whole cast to thank for this.

Lily Vickers - is an actor and assistant drama teacher with experience in Stage Combat and Immersive Theatre. She has also participated in both HYC shows. **Frankenstein** is brilliantly thought-provoking, with many strong yet vulnerable characters, played by an array of brilliant actors and backed by a fantastic team behind the scenes.

Tim Strugnell - returned to the stage 5 years ago after a 25-year absence and has played Manuel, a Spanish waiter, a pirate, a man with dementia, and a Welsh vicar. So, he feels the time is now right to try out his Scottish accent as Ewan, the crofter!

Toby Roberts - was born with a severe case of needing to perform, having a writer/director father and a mother who worked regularly in theatre. Toby studied drama at Colchester Institute whilst performing at the Mercury Theatre and with the Wivenhoe Players in the village where he made efforts to grow up.

Ella Peartree - is an A-level student, currently auditioning for drama school. She has been in previous Headgate productions such as **Mosquitoes** and **How To Disappear** and is thrilled to be a part of this thought provoking adaptation.

Sharon Carter - is in her first production in over 20 years, having graduated from Bretton Hall with a 1st Class degree in Devised Acting in 2001. A fan of the unconventional, Sharon has loved being part of this production of **Frankenstein**, and wants to take part in more productions locally.

Isabelle Casement - is studying drama, and she is absolutely loving playing the part of William. Apart from some small work for the Mercury Theatre in her youth, this is her first show with an all adult cast.

Ewen Beeson-Cocks - is in his first production at The Headgate. He is studying acting at University Centre Colchester, and is a keen member of Headgate Young Company. He loves the diverse nature of productions and workshops at The Headgate.

George Deadman - studied performing Arts at Suffolk New College graduating with a distinction and student of the year award. He has played Malcolm in **Macbeth** with Gallery Players, then Demetrius in Headgate Theatre Productions' **Titus Andronicus**, and at the Manifest Theatre. He has also performed at the National Theatre Dorfman, and more recently as part of Colchester Fringe.

Michael Cook - is pleased to be back at The Headgate after playing the title role in **Titus Andronicus** earlier this year. Other favourite productions he has appeared in at The Headgate include **The Crucible**, **Constellations**, and **A Streetcar Named Desire**. **Frankenstein** has been a joy to study and rehearse and he can't wait to bring this creature to life!



More from Headgate Theatre Productions

CINDERELLA

directed by Sarah Young

**Fri 2nd 7pm, Sat 3rd 2pm & 6pm, Sun 4th 2pm,
Wed 7th to Fri 9th 7pm, Sat 10th Dec 2pm & 6pm**

This best known and most magical pantomime will be a delight for young and old at the Headgate Theatre. What better Christmas gift could you give yourself and your family!

THE YORK REALIST

by Peter Gill – directed by Daniel Dunt

Wed 8th to Sat 11th Feb 2023 7.45pm, Sat Mat 2.30pm

For LGBTQ+ History Month we present Peter Gill's poignant exploration of gay romance, family responsibility and class conflict, set against a backdrop of 1960s rural Yorkshire. This play is London Critics' Circle Award-winning and will leave you contemplating what it really means to belong.

GOODNIGHT MISTER TOM

by David Wood (based on the novel by Michelle Margorian)

Wed 12th to Sat 15th April 2023 7.00pm Sat Mat 2.30pm

William Beech is evacuated to the countryside in early 1939, where he meets gruff and reclusive Tom Oakley. Tickets will soon be on sale for this delightful retelling of a favourite story!

AUDITIONS FOR HEADGATE THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

Goodnight Mr Tom – 27th and 29th November 2022

The Addams Family – 22nd and 26th March 2023

See our website for more information!!

Don't forget – you can support your local theatre and our work with community groups by becoming a Friend. More information on this is available at our box office.

Box Office: 01206 366000

tickets@headgatetheatre.co.uk Online @ www.headgatetheatre.co.uk

Box Office Opening Times: Thurs & Fri 1-4pm

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14 CHAPEL STREET NORTH COLCHESTER CO2 7AT