

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Debi Sciranka, PR Director
Prime Stage Theatre
Phone: 412.965.0563
Email: dsciranka@primestage.com

Frankenstein Comes Alive in World Premiere as the story comes alive With the Prime Stage Theatre Production

(Pittsburgh, PA – October 24, 2022) Prime Stage Theatre's new season of Suspense, Hope, and Wonder opens with a classic tale with a new twist. Written over two centuries ago by **Mary Shelley**, **Frankenstein** is considered by many as the first true science fiction novel. The story has since become the inspiration for countless film and stage adaptations.

Audiences will watch eighteen-year-old **Mary Shelley** conceive one of the most suspenseful stories ever written as they watch Dr. Frankenstein conceive his Creature. Prime Stage's innovative production of this timeless classic adapted by noted sci-fi author Lawrence C. Connolly takes the Frankenstein creature back to its roots in remarkable ways.

This world premiere production follows the epic chain of events that led to the creation of life and asks who really is the monster? **Frankenstein's** monster is one of horror's most beloved (and feared) creatures. A creature has frightened and fascinated audiences worldwide. **Frankenstein** still poses a myriad of critical ethical questions over 200 years later.

The story is adapted by Pittsburgh's own **Lawrence C. Connolly**, an acclaimed sci-fi/mystery author. This vivid imaginative science fiction story is perfect for Connolly whose stories have appeared in the magazines *Amazing Stories* and Rod Serling's *Twilight Zone*, some of which were reprinted in volumes of *Year's Best Horror Stories*, edited by Karl Edward Wagner.

"Mary Shelley's novel is about creation and how the fruits of our ambitions can take on lives of their own. **Frankenstein** is as much the story of a writer who met with unexpected success as it is about a scientist who experiences tragic failure. What sets the two apart is that **Mary Shelley** stood by her creation while Victor disowned his. The upshot: It's good to dream big, but we must be willing to own the results of those dreams once they take on lives of their own," said **Lawrence C. Connolly**.

Connolly also writes and performs the **Mystery Theatre** podcasts for Prime Stage Theatre. The new chapter podcasts will be released during the run of Frankenstein. Listeners become part of the story as they follow the clues providing feedback to the author to contribute to the story as it is created.

To enrich the experience for audiences, Ryan O'Shea of Pittsburgh Robotics will present a very special interactive display and post-show audience discussion on "Frankenstein comes alive with Artificial Intelligence" with the performance on Saturday November 12.

The production is directed by **Liam Macik**. Liam is a Pittsburgh native and graduate of Mount Lebanon High School. He received his B.A. in Theatre Arts from Catawba College in Salisbury, NC. Liam served as the founding Artistic Director of Throughline Theatre Company for seven years, where his directing credits include productions of *Judgement at Nuremberg*, *Oedipus Rex*, and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. In 2005 Liam received the Peterson Award for Emerging Playwrights for his play, *Bastards and Fools*, and in 2019 Liam wrote and directed a new adaptation of *The Scarlet Letter* for Prime Stage. Earlier this year, Liam directed Prime Stage's production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. In addition to playwriting and directing, Liam is an established stage actor, most recently appearing as Lenny in *Of Mice and Men* at Prime Stage, and previously as David Sarnoff in *The Farnsworth Invention* and Beverly Weston in *August: Osage County*, both at Throughline Theatre.

For those who know the literature this imaginative production, which is suitable for middle school through adult audiences, will bring to life those memorable moments. For those who know the movie, this production will breathe new life into the creature and Dr. Frankenstein. For those who have never encountered the Creature, this production will spark our season of Suspense, Hope and Wonder.

Frankenstein

Based on the novel by Mary Shelley

Adapted by Lawrence C. Connolly

Directed by Liam Macik

November 4 - 13, 2022

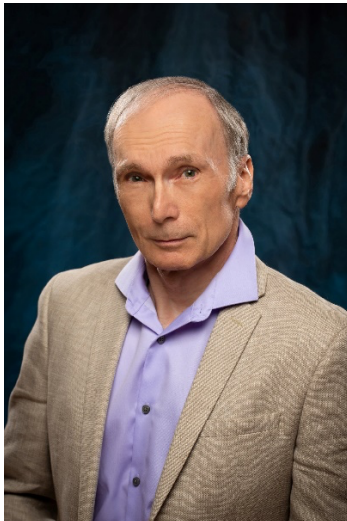
- Preview- Friday, November 4th
- Opening Night- Saturday, November 5th
- Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm / Sundays at 2:30 pm
- Sensory Inclusive performance is on Saturday, Nov 12 at 2:30.
- Audio Described and ASL Signed performance is on Sunday, Nov 13 at 2:30 PM
- Suitable for ages 13 through adult.

All Prime Stage performances are accessible to everyone. To ensure quality with our Sensory Inclusive performances, Prime Stage Theatre is the region's only theater company to attain Certified Sensory Inclusive status through KultureCity, a leading nonprofit recognized nationwide for using its resources to affect change for those with sensory needs. The Hazlett Theater, where Prime Stage Theatre presents its production, is ADA accessible.

All Prime Stage Theatre productions take place at the New Hazlett Theater on the Northside.



Photographer: Laura Sloveko
Actors:
Victor Frankenstein-Matt Zierden
Creature-Everett Lowe



Lawrence C. Connolly
Playwright

Actor Bios

Maddie Kocur

Will be portraying the roles of Claire Claremont and Justine Moritz.

Maddie is thrilled to be making her return to the stage with Prime Stage Theatre! She hails from Seton Hill University with a BFA in Musical Theatre ('20). Some of her college theatre credits include Roxie in *Chicago*, Joanne in *Company*, and *The Seagull*

in *The Seagull*. She has also performed as Wendy Jo (u/s Rusty) in *Footloose* at Keystone State MT and Time in *Everybody* at 12 Peers Theatre.

Andrew Lesnett

Will be portraying the roles of Felix Delancy the Young Sailor and Servant

Andrew is thrilled to be making his prime stage debut! He is a recent graduate of Point Park University with a BA in Theatre Arts: performance and practice.

Everett Lowe

Will be portraying the role of the Creature

Everett is thrilled to be working with Prime Stage once again—particularly on such an original adaptation of Shelley's enduring classic. Everett last appeared on their stage as Hawthorne in *The Scarlet Letter*, as Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, and previously in their productions of *The Great Gatsby*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *A Lesson Before Dying*. A performance theater graduate of Geneva College and Pittsburgh native, Everett has been privileged to work with several theater companies and festivals around the city, including PICT Classic Theatre, 12 Peers Theatre, No Name Players, Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre, Throughline Theatre, The Summer Company, Pittsburgh Fringe Festival, Little Lake, Cup-A-Jo Productions (where he also serves as Managing Director), and many more.

Michael McBurney

Will be portraying the roles of Lord Byron and Robert Walton

Michael is so excited to be performing with Prime Stage again, having appeared earlier this year in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He has performed previously with Bricolage in *Yinz'r Scrooged* and *Dodo*, and has worked with several other companies locally, including Throughline Theatre Company, Alarum Theatre, PICT, No Name Players, Carlow University Theatre Group, the Duquesne Red Masquers, and the Summer Company at Duquesne.

David Nackman

Will be portraying the roles of M. Delacey, the Constable, Liam, the Old Sailor and Servant

David was last seen at Prime Stage as multiple characters in *The White Rose*, and as Boris Karloff in the one-person show *Karloff*. Other local appearances include *Mamma Mia!* (Theatre Factory/Apple Hill Players), Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* (Theatre Factory), and Claudius in a forthcoming audio production of *Hamlet* (Food for Groundlings/Play On Words). Highlights from the previous four decades include regional and summer stock appearances, the first national tour of Neil Simon's *Biloxi Blues*, a stint on Broadway in Simon's *Broadway Bound* (with Joan Rivers), and 20 years as a director, improviser and ensemble member at NYC's Castillo Theatre.

Stacia Paglieri

Will be portraying the roles of Mary Godwin Shelley and Elizabeth Lavenza.

Stacia is delighted to be welcomed back to the Steel City with her debut at Prime Stage Theatre, after a four year stint in NYC. Recent theatre credits include *As You Like It* and *All's Well That Ends Well* at Longmont Theatre Company, and *The House of Bernarda Alba* at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. Stacia has also performed various roles in film and TV, both in Pittsburgh and NYC. She has a BFA in Acting from Point Park University, with additional training from Heidi Marshall Studios NYC, the Squirrel Comedy Theatre NYC, and more.

Lauren Scheller-Wolf

Will be portraying the roles of Safie and Servant

Lauren is thrilled to be performing in *Frankenstein!* Lauren is a recent University of Pittsburgh graduate, with a Bachelor of Philosophy in Theatre Arts and English Writing. Previous Prime Stage credits include *The Scarlet Letter* (Goodwife) and *You Belong to Me* (Allison). Other recent credits include *Emilia* (Susan Bertie/Flora) and *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms* (Lily/Lilith) with Pitt Stages, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Mistress Quickly) with Steel City Shakespeare Center, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks (Stage Manager). Lauren is also currently performing with Saltworks Theatre Company, bringing their educational touring shows to kids and teens in the greater Pittsburgh area.

Adam Seligson

Will be portraying the roles of John Polidori and Henry Clerval

Adam is elated to be performing with Prime Stage once again, especially with such a lovely ensemble of people and with such a unique and wonderful story being told with this production! Recent credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest* with Pittsburgh Savoyards, Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Festival in *Black & White*, *Arsenic and Old Lace* with Prime Stage, *Company* with Riverfront Theatre Company, and *Into the Woods* with The Theatre Factory.

Suzanne Ward

Will be portraying the roles of Ghost of Caroline Frankenstein and Anna

Having the opportunity to appear as the *Ghost of Caroline Frankenstein/Anna* in Larry Connor's original stage play has been an honor for her. She has previously appeared as Martha Brewster in Prime Stage's production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Pelican Players of Coraopolis in their rousing rendition of *The Drowsy Chaperone* as Mrs. Tottendale.

Matt Zierden

Will be portraying the roles of Percy Shelley and Victor Frankenstein

Matt graduated from Point Park University in 2021 with a BFA in acting. His previous credits include *Murder on the Orient Express* (Pittsburgh Public Theatre), *The Thanksgiving Play* (Arcade Comedy Theater), and *And Then There Were None* (Pinnacle

Productions), *Climbing the Good Walls* and *Stage Struck* (Pittsburgh Playhouse New Play Reading Series, and *The Secret Supposed Life of Nick Carroway* (Raymond Laine One Acts Festival), among many others.

###