



KARLOFF

The Man and The Monster



November 5 – 14, 2021

Streamed November 15th – 28th

Performed at the New Hazlett Center of Performing Arts



Dear Patrons,

We are excited to return to in-person performances at the New Hazlett Center for Performing Arts, and continuing our streaming with Prime Online as we celebrate our 25 years of bringing literature to life and making a difference.

Prime Stage touches the hearts and souls of the world with theater and literature in the Pittsburgh region and beyond. Our many outreach programs are thoughtful, enriching, and mindful of the times that we live in today. We are a special part of the arts and continue to seek new ways and ideas to bring literature to the forefront for you.

We broaden and enlighten those who participate in our many educational programs as well as those that attend our performances, whether live at the theater, online at home, or in the classroom.

We are more than just theater company, We have strong and mighty programs with excellent directors, actors and staff. Prime Stage is theater that makes a difference.

Thank you all for your support and enjoy this production of *KARLOFF The Man and The Monster*.

Sincerely,

Martha Trombold, President
Prime Stage Board of Directors

The mission of Prime Stage is to entertain, inspire and enrich through professional theatre by bringing literature to life.



Our vision is enriching lives through theatre and literacy with programs that delivers quantifiable results and benefits to the region.

Prime Stage Theatre

Presents

KARLOFF THE MAN AND THE MONSTER

By Randy Bowser

Authorized by Sara Karloff

Directed by
Art DeConciliis

Starring
David Nackman

Dialect Coach
Lisa Bansavage

Production Manager
Tina Cerny

Technical Director
Alex Barnhart

Scenic Designer
Johnmichael Bohach

Sound & Projections Engineer
Mark Whitehead

Lighting Designer
J.R. Shaw

Costume Designer
Kimberly Brown

Properties Designer
Carly Trimble- Long

Stage Manager
Deborah Heyl

"The Monster Mash" by Bobby Pickett and Leonard L. Capizzi
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Produced by Special Arrangements with Dinosaur Studio

KARLOFF The Man and The Monster is an original one-act production where the famous cinema favorite Boris Karloff comes to life. This multi-media one-act experience traces the origins of Karloff's career and carries the audience into his rise as one of the most renowned movie monster actors and stage actors of all time



THE SETTING: Studios and homes from throughout Karloff's life

RUN TIME: Approximately 90 minutes without Intermission

Starring David Nackman
as Boris Karloff

ARTISTIC AND DESIGN STAFF

DirectorArt DeConciliis
Dialect Coach..... Lisa Bansavage
Production Manager Tina Cerny
Assistant Production Manager..... Kate Pieratt-Webb
Technical Director Alex Barnhart
Scenic Designer Johnmichael Bohach
Sound & Projections Designer..... Randy Bowser
Sound & Projections Engineer.....Mark Whitehead
Lighting Designer J.R. Shaw
Costume Designer Kimberly Brown
Properties Designer..... Carly Trimble-Long
Carpenter & Scenic Painter Michael Boone
Master Electrician Madeline Barber
Stage Manager Deborah Heyl
Assistant Stage Manager.....Shamus Bonner
Audio Describer Nathan Ruggles
Signed Interpreters Heather Gray and Jennifer Flaggs
Box Office Manager.....Phoebe Orr
Photographer Laura Slovesko

The monster was the best friend I ever had.

Boris Karloff



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phone, beepers, and watches.

ACCESSIBILITY



AUDIO DESCRIPTION PERFORMANCE

We feature our Audio Description for those who are blind or visually impaired. During the performance, all action and physical appearances will be described by Nathan Ruggles of Audio Describe Pittsburgh www.AudioDescribePGH.org



INTERPRETED PERFORMANCES

We will provide communication access for the deaf, hard of hearing and hearing individuals through our interpreters, Heather Gray and Jennifer Flaggs



CLOSED CAPTION FOR STREAMING PERFORMANCE

Our closed captions are a text version of the spoken part of a of the production and is used to aid hearing-impaired people and is useful when audio cannot be heard



SENSORY INCLUSIVE PERFORMANCE

Our Sensory Inclusive Performance is a family experience. We provide a social story with pre-theater preparatory activities for the person with a sensory, social, or learning disability so the person begins to understand and anticipate what might happen at a performing arts experience

Prime Stage Theatre staff is certified for Sensory Inclusive with KultureCity



SPECIAL THANKS

Randy Bowser, Playwright for his script and design of soundtrack, and multimedia package

Sara Karloff, for her kindness with the staff as we learned more about her father

Stephen Jacobs, Author of Boris Karloff: More Than a Monster

Lawrence C. Connolly, the playwright of Frankenstein that will be seen next November and our podcast series

Beth Lawry, Shaler North Hills Library

CMU School of Drama

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Spotlight Costumes

Stage 62

New Hazlett Staff

He did the mash

According to IMDb, Karloff told a friend of Bobby Pickett — the man who sang "[The Monster Mash](#)" — that he enjoyed the song very much. Pickett says that someone who's played such legendary monsters liking his tune was the greatest compliment he's ever received.

Frankenstein's Monster wasn't his only green character

In the 1966 Christmas classic *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, Karloff voiced both the narrator and the grumpy Grinch.

BIOGRAPHIES



Randy Bowser (Playwright) Randy is delighted Prime Stage is presenting the premiere of the new one-act version of KARLOFF, his authorized one-person show about Boris “Frankenstein” Karloff. Besides writing the script, his abilities as a composer, recording engineer, graphic designer, set designer, and actor were all utilized when the play had its first production in 2014. His dramatic musical based on “The Picture of Dorian Gray” has been running in Moscow, Russia for eleven years. “Tainted” is his courtroom drama about the 1920s most infamous anti-interracial marriage lawsuit. He was presented the William Morris Agency award for his musical based on Dante’s “Inferno,” the Best Actor award for two years running at The University of Oregon, as well as other acting

accolades throughout his career. As an actor since the age of twelve and a director since his late-20s, theatre has provided the peak experiences of his life. His plays, music, and services are at <https://www.rbowproductions.com/>

Art DeConciliis (Director) Art is pleased to have worked on his second project for Prime Stage having appeared in the company’s recent production of *Twelfth Night*. Art has been acting and directing with a number of Pittsburgh theater companies, including Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theater, Duquesne University, Stage 62, The Theater Factory, Little Lake Theatre Co., and LHRT for more than 38 years. He was a long-standing Board member and former Artistic Committee Chair for Little Lake where he has been a part of over 160 productions and an instructor of that theater’s acting class program for 23 years. Art was a 2007 Post-Gazette Performer of the Year and is also an active voice-over artist in both the U.S. and Canada. Favorite directing projects include *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, *The History Boys*, *Proof*, *Doubt*, and *The Lion In Winter*. He most recently appeared in South Park Theater Company’s production of *A Couple of Blaguards*. Love and thanks to his wife and family for their never-ending patience and support.



Lisa Bansavage (Dialect Coach) Lisa is delighted to be working on her fourth production with Prime Stage Theatre. As an actor, her career spans Broadway, Off Broadway, regional theatre, film, television and national commercial credits including *Master Class*, *Sideman*, *Turn of the Screw*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Grace & Glorie*, *Mastergate*, *Red Scare on Sunset*, *The Changeling*, *The Country Wife*, *A View from the Bridge*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *The Sisters Rosenweig*, *Night of the Iguana*, *Mississippi Burning*, *Married to the Mob*, *Three Men and a Baby*, *The Fisher King*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Loman Family Picnic* and a third of the full Shakespearean canon as well as a role opposite Sir Anthony Quayle in the BBC-London production of *An Exchange of Gifts*. She is a graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University’s theatre conservatory and holds a Masters degree from The University of Pittsburgh where she was the Merrill Fellow. Her most recent New York performance was Elizabeth Jackson, Rebekah Baines Johnson and Virginia Clinton in *First Mothers: The Women Who Raised America’s Presidents*.



David Nackman (Boris Karloff and Voice-Overs) is thrilled to make his Prime Stage debut as Karloff. A three-year transplant from the Big Apple to the ‘burgh, his recent local appearances include *Mamma Mia!* (Theatre Factory/Apple Hill Players) and *Scrooge* in *A Christmas Carol* (Theatre Factory). 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. Big thanks to the awesome Prime Stage production team, to the amazing and consummate “actor’s director” Art, and to Olivia, my constant support and the love of my life.

BIOGRAPHIES

Johnmichael Bohach (Scenic Designer) Johnmichael is a freelance scenic designer and properties artisan based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 2006, he graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with degrees in Theatre Arts and Architectural Studies and has since gone on to design over 175 productions with a variety of theatre and opera companies, both locally and nationally. He is honored to have been a part of Prime Stage for over ten years while designing the sets for *Mockingbird*, *Twelfth Night*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *Perks of Being a Wallflower*, 1984, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Giver*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *The Crucible*, *The Mousetrap*, *The Devil's Arithmetic*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Turn of the Screw*, *Walk Two Moons*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *The Elephant Man*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *Antigone*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *Our Town*, *The Westing Game*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *Jack & Rochelle*. A portfolio of his work can be seen at www.johnmichaelbohach.com

Shamus Bonner (Assistant Stage Manager) is a 3rd year Theatre Arts major at the University of Pittsburgh and is very excited to be working on his first production with Prime Stage Theatre! His previous work includes UP Stages' productions of *Spark* (Stage Manager), *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Appropriate* (Assistant Stage Manager), and *Somewhere* (Sound Designer). He will be stage managing their production of *Emilia* in the spring.

Kimberly Brown (Costume Designer) holds Master of Fine Arts (magna cum laude) and Bachelor of Science degrees from Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. Kim has been designing for Prime Stage since 2014 and *Karloff* marks her 24th production with the company. She designed costumes last year for Prime Stage's "virtual" season and is happy for in person audiences! An award-winning costume designer and president of Spotlight Costumes LLC, she recently provided background wardrobe for the Billy Porter film *What If* and designed costumes for Pittsburgh Festival Opera's film *Lysistrata*. Upcoming work includes *Oscar & Walt* (Kinetic Theatre), Disney's *The Descendants* (LPPAC) and *The 39 Steps* (Middlesex School, Concord, MA). Kim has designed makeup for local television commercials and teaches costume design and theatrical makeup at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School.

Tina Marie Cerny (Managing Director/Interim Production Manager) Tina has had a long career in theatre throughout the east coast, from Florida to Philadelphia, and on tour with American Theatre Arts for Youth. She proudly served as a founding member of Throughline Theatre Company as their Production Manager for 6 seasons, as well as Coordinator of Special Events and Individual Giving for the past two years. Although she has lived here for over a decade, Tina is a transplant to Pittsburgh from North Carolina, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts at Catawba College. Tina spends much of her time introducing theatre to her children with her husband, Liam.

Jennifer Flaggs (Signed Interpreter) Jennifer has been an interpreter for twenty-five years and currently teaches for and coordinates the ASL-English Interpreting Program at the Community College of Allegheny County. She earned her Master's in Special Education from the University of Pittsburgh where she received her ASL training. She received her theater training at the Theater Development Fund's Interpreting for the Theater Program at Juilliard. She is very excited to be a part of live theater again and among the company of her beloved peers.

Heather Gray (Signed Interpreter) Heather is a certified ASL Interpreter, working with the Deaf community for nearly 25 years. She earned her BA from The University of Pittsburgh, where she was the 1997 Homecoming Queen, a Herald Trumpet, and studied ASL under the late Karen Walkney Mrdjénovich. She holds an MA from Duquesne University. Heather is an award-winning actor, published and award-winning writer, and her photography has been seen online and in printed publications.

Certainly, I was typed. But what is typing? It is a trademark, a means by which the public recognizes you. Actors work all their lives to achieve that. I got mine with just one picture. It was a blessing.

Author: Boris Karloff

BIOGRAPHIES

Deborah Heyl (Stage Manager) Debbie is working on her first show with Prime Stage Theatre. She is a graduate of Westminster College with two degrees; a B.A. in Theatre and a B.M. in Music Education with a concentration in flute. Some of Debbie's favorite shows she's stage managed include *Just the Ticket* (South Park Theatre), *Next to Normal* (Comtra Theatre), *Sweeney Todd* (Comtra Theatre), and *Eurydice* (Westminster College). She is also the stage manager for the Pine Richland High School Musicals. Debbie currently works as a substitute teacher at West Allegheny High School where she is the marching band flute instructor and the Drama Club sponsor. She has coached students for Speech and Debate events, the PHSSL Drama Competition, and the Pittsburgh Public Theater Shakespeare Contest.

Carly Trimble-Long (Properties Designer) Carly is a graduate of Point Park University with a BFA in Tech Design and Management. She is a Pittsburgh based freelance artist and her post graduate credits include Technical Director for the summer season at Footlight Players, Technical Director/ Scenic Designer of *Everybody at 12* Peers Theater and working as a Scenic Technician at Carnegie Mellon University. Her past credits as a student include Technical Director on *Cabaret* at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, Technical Director at Footlight Players, Fly Rail Supervisor for the Opening Gala at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, Scenic Carpenter Apprentice in the Scene Shop, and Staff Carpenter at Utah Shakespeare Festival. Her previous work and contact info can be found and viewed at carlyblongdesign.com

Nathan Ruggles (Audio Describer) Nathan has served as Audio Describer (AD) for blind and visually impaired patrons at Prime Stage since 2017. He has provided AD for production at numerous theater companies and venues, such as *Don Pasquale* for The Cincinnati Opera, *Nomad Hotel* at City Theater, and *The Lion King* and *Hamilton* for The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Broadway Series. In addition, working with groups such as Film Pittsburgh, the Andy Warhol Museum, Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, he has voiced, written, recorded, consulted, and given technical support in addition to live AD. He has trained through Audio Description Access, the Audio Description Coalition, VSA Pennsylvania, and the Kennedy Center Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD). He brings to this work a unique background of professional stage acting, voice over, broadcast radio, podcasting, arts administration, and years of experience in radio reading services for the blind and visually impaired.

J.R. Shaw (Lighting Designer) is excited to return to Prime Stage Theater. Starting in 2009 with *12 Angry Men*, he has designed many shows for the company with highlights including *The Perks of being a Wallflower*, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, and *Fahrenheit 451*. He has also designed for many local theaters - including City Theater, Opera Theater Pittsburgh, and Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater Co. Other professional credits include founding Phase 3 Productions, Technical Direction at The Oaks Theater, and Production Manager for the Pittsburgh New Works Festival. He recently began working for the Kelly Strayhorn Theater as Production Manager.

Mark Whitehead (Sound, Projections, Voice-Over Recording Engineer) is pleased to be working with Prime Stage once again. Mark is the founder of Saints & Poets Theater for which he produced and directed the world premiere of Christiane D's *Saffronia*, the Pittsburgh premieres of Sam Shepard's *The Late Henry Moss* and Donald Freed's *Secret Honor: The Last Testament of Richard M. Nixon*. He was a member of Timespace for which he produced *hamletmachine*, and directed *4-H Club* and *Insignificance*. Additional directing credits include *Comfort Zone* and *The Revenants* for Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater (PPTCO), along with *Cry Havoc*, *Taking Sides*, *True West* and *Fool for Love*. Mark is Resident Sound Designer for PPTCO a post he has also held for The Unseam'd Shakespeare Company and The Jewish Theater of Pittsburgh. He has designed for Short North Stage in Columbus, OH, The Ensemble Theatre in Houston, TX, The St. Louis Black Repertory, and numerous Pittsburgh theaters. Mark's sound was heard internationally in PPTCO's production of *Miss Julie: Clarissa and John* at the 2017 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Mark has won AACTA/Onyx awards for best sound design three years in a row for his work on PPTCO's annual August Wilson productions. He was named Best Sound Designer and listed among the best directors in Pittsburgh City Paper's 2001 theater roundup and was named Best Sound Designer of 2000 by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Mark is a founding producer of The Dark Night Cabaret performance series and has produced and directed music videos for several Pittsburgh bands. He looks forward to producing and designing the European premiere of August Wilson's *How I Learned What I Learned* at the 2022 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.



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SUGGESTED READING LIST IF YOU LIKED *KARLOFF THE MAN AND THE MONSTER*

If this play has piqued your interest, why not check out a book or movie and explore more? Your public libraries have many online resources you can access from home through online services Libby, Hoopla, or Flipster! Check your library's website for help in getting started or use this handy link: [Your Library From Home](#).



DVD Collections

The Boris Karloff Collection (DVD set)

Includes a selection of the horror master's most memorable classics: Night Key; Tower Of London; The Climax; The Strange Door; and The Black Castle. The Climax is in color, all the other movies are in black and white.

Boris Karloff Icons of Horror Collection (DVD set)

A 2-disc set of classic Boris Karloff movies. These include The Black Room; The Man They Could Not H Before I H and The Boogie Man Will Get You.

Penny Dreadful (TV Series)

The title refers to the penny dreadfuls, a type of 19th-century British fiction publication with lurid and sensational subject matter. The series draws upon many public domain characters from 19th-century Victorian Gothic fiction, including Dorian Gray from Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray; Mina Harker, Abraham Van Helsing, John Seward, Renfield, and Count Dracula from Bram Stoker's Dracula; Victor Frankenstein and his monster from Mary Shelley's Frankenstein; and Henry Jekyll from Robert Louis Stevenson's Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Justine from Justine, or The Misfortunes of Virtue by the Marquis de Sade also appears. (Wikipedia)

Books

Dear Boris : the Life of William Henry Pratt a.k.a. Boris Karloff by Cynthia Lindsay

He scares us witless, and he won our hearts. He was Frankenstein's monster, rising to stardom encased in sixty-five pounds of putty and padding. No matter how horrific the roles, he made them as vulnerable -- almost human -- as they were frightening, and softened our fear even as he sparked it. He was Boris Karloff: The epitome of horror, one of Hollywood's greatest and most productive stars. But Boris Karloff himself -- private, even secretive -- eluded his biographers and his fans. Now one of his closest friends has given us a book that finally reveals the fascinating and complex man behind the screen image, one whose nature was completely at odds with the roles that made him famous, and who was always 'dear Boris' to those who knew him best.

The Passage by Justin Cronin

Best-selling horror trilogy adapted into a TV series.

"Fans of vampire fiction who are bored by the endless hordes of sensitive, misunderstood Byronesque bloodsuckers will revel in Cronin's engrossingly horrific account of a post-apocalyptic America overrun by the gruesome reality behind the wish-fulfillment fantasies." (Publisher's Weekly Review)

Boris Karloff and His Films by Paul M. Jensen

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Dracula by Bram Stoker

Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlowe

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

For Young Adults

This Monstrous Thing by Mackenzi Lee

In 1818 Geneva, men built with clockwork parts live hidden away from society, cared for only by illegal mechanics called Shadow Boys. Two years ago, Shadow Boy Alasdair Finch's life shattered to bits. Heart-broken and desperate, Alasdair does the unthinkable: He brings Oliver back from the dead. (Goodreads)

What is the story of Dracula? by Michael Burga

Author Michael Burga explores Dracula's mysterious origins in the historical figures who might have shaped the character, as well as the films and actors that cemented Dracula's place in cinematic history.

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WE *DO*.**

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This year, Giving Tuesday falls on *Tuesday, Nov. 30*, and Prime Stage Theatre has a special Giving Tuesday page you can visit on that day and make an instant donation — **Please visit our** Giving Tuesday page on **Nov. 30** and help us get started on the next 25 years of Bringing Literature to Life. . .



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- We've presented more than 90 inspiring plays for audiences of all ages... plays that convey themes of empathy, hope and transformation.
- We've sponsored numerous outreach programs for students and teachers that show the power of theatre in stimulating new ways of thinking, learning and problem-solving.
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We've enjoyed serving you with relevant and dynamic theatre the last 25 years. Now we look forward to the next 25 years.



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Beyond the
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