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at the Egyptian... 229 S. Broadway, Coos Bay

# Center Stage

OBT Hotline  
**(541) 269-2501**

ON BROADWAY THESPIANS, INC. NEWSLETTER

October  
2007



ON BROADWAY THEATER PRESENTS:

## Frankenstein

Set in nineteenth - century Switzerland, this classic tale of horror and suspense details the ill-fated experiments of young Victor Frankenstein as he attempts to fathom the secrets of life and death. Purchasing cadavers from two unsavory grave robbers, Dr. Frankenstein gives life to a creature both hideous and touching – and so physically powerful and mentally twisted that he soon brings death and destruction to all who stand in his way. Adhering more closely to the original novel than did the famous motion picture versions, the play blends moments of brooding terror and sudden shock with questions of morality and the dangers of unrestrained scientific inquiry.

The show stars Tyler Schuldts as DR. VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN, Gail Reynolds as his bride-to-be ELIZABETH, Ben Carter as his father ALPHONSE, Steven Daily as the ill-fated BROTHER WILLIAM, and Joe Vos as his best friend HENRY CLERVAL. Rounding out the supporting cast are McKenna Spencer as nursemaid JUSTINE, Nolan Hofferber as CONSTABLE MUELLER, Elizabeth Spona as FRAU MUELLER, Joshua Carter and Christopher



Seldon as the unsavory graverobbers HANS & PETER, and Joe York as IGOR. Juliana Seldon and Pamela Unfried serve as understudies for FRAU MUELLER and JUSTINE respectively. The part of FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER was poignantly played by veteran Jeff Roberts with Gordon Freid as his one true friend, DELACEY. Special guest appearance by Whisper as the ill-fated pet, FRITZ.

FRANKENSTEIN runs Oct 5<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>. For ticket reservations call our online vendor hotline, Ticket Alternative at 1-877-725-8849 (be sure to specify that you want tickets for the *Egyptian Theatre*) or simply visit our OBT website.

Click on the green TA button there and it will take you to their website. Follow instructions and in minutes you will be given the option of receiving a confirmation number

OR printing out your tickets. Remember you can also purchase tickets directly at the door at the Egyptian Theatre, 229 S. Broadway, downtown Coos Bay.

Half of the ticket proceeds benefit the Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association so please show your support by coming to see a show!

On Broadway Thespians, Inc. present  
Mary Shelley's



# FRANKENSTEIN

Adapted by  
Victor Gialanella



Performances on Oct 5 - 21  
Fridays & Saturdays 8:00 pm  
Sunday Matinees 2:00 pm

Tickets at the Door or call (541) 269-2501

Directed by Leatha Lewison Gonzalez



On Broadway Thespians, Inc.  
229 South Broadway, Coos Bay  
(on stage at the Egyptian Theatre)

[www.onbroadwaytheater.com](http://www.onbroadwaytheater.com)

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# NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

I bet many of our readers don't realize the story of FRANKENSTEIN is actually rooted upon historical events, or that it was originally penned by a woman clear back in 1818. The author was a young socialite named **Mary Shelley**, wife of acclaimed poet, Percy Bysshe Shelley. Local historians believe that the legends told in the villages surrounding the castle were first transmitted in 1816 by Jacob Grimm to the translator of the Grimm's Fairy Tales, Mary Jane Clairmont (stepmother of Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin ~ aka Mary Shelley). By 1818, while visiting Lord Byron, the infamous poet challenged his visitors at Lake Geneva to write a most gruesome tale. Mary, inspired by the remembrance of a hilltop castle with a panoramic view of the Rhine Plain foretold by her stepmother, wrote Frankenstein.

Three miles south of Darmstadt, CASTLE FRANKENSTEIN is steeped in a blend of fact and legend. The castle's existence was first documented in 1252, and until 1662, the castle was owned by the von Frankenstein clan. Later, the castle served as a military prison and home for military invalids until it was deserted and forgotten after 1742. By the late eighteenth century, the castle had fallen into ruin, but remained a symbol among the Romantics. The great Goethe spent his youth near the Frankenstein Ruins and later read Faust in progress under the same linden trees surrounding the ruins to a circle of friends.

The castle's most notorious inhabitant was a man named **Johann Conrad Dippel**. The son of a shepard, Dippel was a German pietist theologian, alchemist, and physician. He published many theological works under the name CHRISTIANUS DEMOCRITUS, led a very adventurous life, and often got into trouble because of his disputed opinions and money. During his stay at Frankenstein Castle, he practiced alchemy and anatomy, creating an animal oil he called "*Dippel's Oil*" which was supposed to be the equivalent of the ELIXIR OF LIFE. In reality, it was nothing but a ghastly boiled down concoction of bones, blood, and other bodily fluids. Working with nitroglycerin, he reportedly destroyed a tower but at the same time discovered it's medicinal side. Rumors also abounded that Dippel often performed gruesome experiments with so called cadavers. When word of his activities reached the ears of his townspeople, as you can imagine he was thrown out. Shelly undoubtedly based her novel on Dippel's antics, since it is documented that she visited Castle Frankenstein when she eloped with Percy. The ruins of Castle Frankenstein can still be seen today.

The following Blog, excerpted from the internet, best sums it all up: "*... The Frankenstein monster is arguably, one of the most enduring images of Halloween, our most popular images of which come from James Whale's 1931 film and Boris Karloff's unforgettable portrayal. The story has even been squealed and retold in numerous movies, including some memorable Hammer films starring Peter Cushing and, of course, Mel Brooks' hilarious spoof, Young Frankenstein ... Are there any real-life man-made monsters? Not yet. But with our growing knowledge of the human genome, the means to manipulate DNA and our newly acquired ability to clone living creatures, who knows? ... Just recently it was announced that a company in Melbourne, Australia had succeeded in creating an embryo that is half human, half pig. Why they wanted to do such a thing was not revealed in the news story, but if such creations are now possible, who knows what real-life horrors await us in the near future.*"

— *Juanita Snyder, Editor*  
**The Center Stage**

## **2007 Play Schedule** **(on stage at the Egyptian Theatre!)**

**"Frankenstein,"** (directed by Leatha Lewison-Gonzalez)  
A Horror/Thriller Drama, Oct 5 - 21

**"Bah Humbug!"** (directed by Serge Vasquez)  
A Christmas Play, Nov 30 - Dec 16

### **(NEW physical address)**

On Broadway Thespians, Inc.  
**on stage at the Egyptian Theatre**  
229 S. Broadway  
Coos Bay OR 97420

**Egyptian Event Hotline: (541) 269-8650**  
[www.egyptian-theatre.com](http://www.egyptian-theatre.com)

### **(NEW mailing address)**

On Broadway Thespians, Inc.  
845 S. Broadway, #107  
Coos Bay OR 97420

**OBT Event Hotline: (541) 269-2501**  
email: [obthespian@yahoo.com](mailto:obthespian@yahoo.com)  
[www.onbroadwaytheater.com](http://www.onbroadwaytheater.com)

### **OBT Board of Directors**

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Juanita Snyder	-	Website & Nwsltr
Leatha L-Gonzalez	-	Dinner Theatre Coordinator

# Letters From Readers... Q&A

from Bil Burton, OSU Business Services:

"I have around 70 used theater seats (they are paired, padded, seats fold up, in good shape). Don't know if you'd be interested, but if not, perhaps you could pass this along to someone who is. I'd really like to see these go on to further use. I can be reached at 541-737-7347 or please send an email to: bil.burton@oregonstate.edu"

from Rebecca R:

"Thanks for doing the piece on the mysterious Orbs over at the Egyptian. A few months back when I had attended a performance of "Much Ado About Nothing," I believe it was one of the Egyptian staff that told me about some orbs in the building. He said that they've actually had people there who found over 50 at least. Kinda eery when you think about it, but still terribly interesting, at least for me. Thanks for sharing the pics online. I understand that the Egyptian is planning on doing a special midnight tour of the theatre on Halloween night, specifically for people wanting to experience the historic building in the dark. I for one plan to be there!"

*(Hi Rebecca. Thanks for noticing. For the rest of our dear Readers, if you're interested in viewing large clear photos of some Orbs recently caught on digital photography at the Egyptian theatre, simply surf on over to the "Virtual Tour" section on the OBT website [www.onbroadwaytheater.com/page10.html](http://www.onbroadwaytheater.com/page10.html) and click on "The Egyptian Theater." Scroll down towards the very bottom on that page. —The Editor)*

from Amy (Babbitz) Kostbade, Coal City, Illinois:

"Greetings! I just found your website, and I'm so touched by it all! I acted at OBT during the '80's in "A Christmas Carol", "Oliver Twist," and even "Heidi" (my mother was in that last one also), under the direction of Kitsann and Lawri Means. I have SUCH fond memories of every minute spent in that theatre, and seeing all the old photos on your site was just grand! Thank you for preserving this precious piece of my childhood...it truly was a special place. I'm equally glad to see that the spirit lives on across the street in another grand location! Play on!"

*(Thanks Amy, we aim to please! It's always a great pleasure to hear from our former alumni, especially those who literally "grew up" on our stage in front of our very eyes! So often they get married, move away, go off to college, and so forth. It's likewise such a treat when they decide to drop in for a quick visit when they are back in town. We love our actors, appreciate our directors, and so value our show sponsors, for it's clearly your combined efforts and love of theater that make the magic happen on stage! Thank you for allowing us to give back a little with the gallery portion of the OBT website. — The Editor)*

from Bob Davy, Jefferson Public Radio, Ashland OR:

"Thanks for your recent e-mail press kit. I see we've been missing out on some great productions. We did some really good stuff previously with ON BROADWAY over the years. Glad to be back in the loop and know your group is still alive and kicking!"

from Julie D.:

"I am directing "The White Rose" in a few months and so was delighted to run across the wonderful collage from your recent production online. It's such a good play and an important one that I hope it'll be well attended. I'm curious if yours was?"

*(You are absolutely correct, Julie. It really IS a good and important period piece. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. We had a great turnout ourselves, night after night. I bet you will too. Thanks for writing. —The Editor)*



## The Oregon Regency Society

Heads up for all Regency and Jane Austen fanatics! New group forming and as such, seeking artists, performers, etc., for membership. To learn more about the group, don your online wetsuits and surf on over to [www.oregonregencysociety.com](http://www.oregonregencysociety.com) -- or email Stephanie Johansen directly at: [orregency@msn.com](mailto:orregency@msn.com)

The group is reportedly having a big formal ball coming up in November; Regency Costumes required.



## YouthPlays.com

Now that school is back in session, YouthPlays.com recently announced a slew of brand new releases this Fall for young actors and audiences. They run the gamut, from casts of one to fifty; from 9 minute minies to 30 minute full blown productions; virtually every genre imaginable under the sun!

New titles arriving every day from monologues and ten-minute plays to one-acts ideal for short play festivals and Thespian competitions; full-length plays and musicals too! Need playwriting books? No problem, they have them too! So stop by one day this week and check out their library. You just may find that next oscar-winning production on a virtual shelf! <http://www.YouthPlays.com>



## Stage Agent.com

Here's a great free web service dedicated to the performers and producers of your life ~ musicals, operas, dramas...it doesn't matter! Here you'll find useful articles, forums, directories, plot summaries, even a search engine for browsing shows, or looking up that part that's just perfect

# First Cal

for you! <http://www.stageagent.com/>



## Coos OR Spot Directory

Australian-based Webko recently launched a brand new site touting itself as the "complete guide to Arts & Crafts in the Coos County area." This wonderful local directory happily sports a myriad of local business & entertainment venues familiar to the Bay Area, which OBT is now a part of. <http://www.coos-or-spot.com>



## Did You Know?

"Genre" is a French term from the Latin genus or generis, meaning "type," "sort," or "kind." It generally designates the literary form or type into which works are classified according to what they have in common, either in their formal structures or in their treatment of subject matter, or both.

On the simplest level, grouping works offers us a way to talk about an otherwise bewildering number of literary texts. For example, when we recognize the "genre" of a text, we then have a better idea of its intended overall structure and/or subject. "Genres" deepen our sense of value by allowing us to view it comparatively alongside other texts of similar type.

While the number of "genres" and their subdivisions has multiplied since classical times, the accepted division of literary domain into three major "genres" (*as decided upon by Plato, Aristotle, and later, Horace*), has managed to remain useful. These are the LYRIC, the DRAMA, and the EPIC, and are

distinguished by "manner of imitation," or by how the characters and the action are presented.



## Join the OBT family!

Reminder here that there's always a need for Tech crews, Stage Managers, Musicians/Choreographers, Vocal Coaches, Costumers, Makeup Assistants, Program/Poster designers, Set Construction, Painters/Graphic Artists, Directors & Assistants, and of course, Producers. If you have free time on your hands, or would like to break into theater this way, please email us at: [obthespian@yahoo.com](mailto:obthespian@yahoo.com) or come to one of our open auditions and talk with a Director. Experience IS NOT mandatory. We can happily teach you!



## Frankenstein

Don't forget to catch a show, now that Frankenstein is finally currently on stage! Another classic horror, this adaptation of Mary Shelley's novel by playwright Victor Gialanella, was one of the most successful Frankenstein versions ever staged, chronicling the Creature of Victor Frankenstein as he gradually grows into malignity due to the continual rejection and loneliness throughout his life, and the refusal of his creator to respond to his very basic human need.

8 pm curtain times on friday and saturday eves., with 2 pm matinees on sundays. This show wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our show sponsors, "COOS BAY TACO BELL," "THE OUTDOOR-IN," and "MARSHFIELD BARGAIN-HOUSE." Special thanks to COOS GRANGE SUPPLY for use of some special props.



# Theatre Ghosts

Ghost stories have always been popular fodder for sleepovers, campfires and even Halloween, but do they really have any validity to them or are they just a timeless form of entertainment? There are over 600,000 web sites alone devoted to the subject of ghosts and the paranormal, and the subject of ghosts seem to continue filling page after page of novels, television scripts, and even movie screens.

There is now, however, a rising interest in ghosts on a purely academic level. From the forming of research societies to actual paranormal courses offered at universities around the world, the popular existence of ghosts is being met head on by historic and scientific theories looking to explain the mystery of ghosts, namely the form in which they exist and what proof of their existence might entail.

Whatever one's explanation for ghosts, whether they are energy residues that have retained past images and sounds, or whether they are extra-dimensional or from an afterlife, it is commonly accepted among actors and those who work in theaters, that all theaters have ghosts. Most of the time, these ghosts are simply the easiest way to explain the myriad of complications and problems that can arise from staging a production. If a prop isn't in place, the ghost moved it. If part of the set comes loose and falls off, the ghost pried it loose. With so many people coming and going and so many working with the props, sets and costumes, it is very difficult to actually catch the culprits.

*"Many people think that theater ghosts are common because of the amount of energy expelled by actors, audience members and the various others who literally invest their emotional well-being in a production,"* writes Greg Norman. *"Still, others think that these ghosts are simply patrons and thespians who never wanted to leave their favorite haunt in life. Whatever the reasons and legends behind them, I've yet to work in a theater where there wasn't a ghost."*

Ghosts seem to favor theatres and opera houses as a place to hang out. Theatre ghosts often interact with patrons as good or bad omens for the theatre's current production. Different types of paranormal phenomena are reported when theatre ghosts are present. Interestingly enough, theaters that have stood for more than a few decades tend to have lots of associated ghost stories, more than other public buildings of similar age.

For her book *"HAUNTED THEATERS,"* storyteller Barbara Smith collected accounts from more than fifty theaters in North America and Great Britain. The spectral encounters she related took the form of cold winds, chilling laughs, noisy footsteps, and vanishing apparitions.

Some ghosts were theater lovers: actors, stagehands, and patrons who could not get enough drama in life, so they spend their afterlife in the theater. Others are embittered failed actors or abused employees, often suicides, whose malicious mischief thrives on terrifying their living counterparts who are more successful. Other ghosts are accidental occupants of the theater, unlucky souls who were struck dead in the street in front of the building, or whose previous haunts were demolished and replaced with new theaters.

Folklorist Simon Bronner accounts for the prevalence of ghosts in college theaters: *"The drama, mystery, and pathos enacted there lend to speculation about phantoms lurking in the darkness. Besides, theaters are notoriously intimidatingly cavernous, often filled with trap doors, mysterious basements, and multiple dank passageways."* Bronner notes that new students are acculturated to college life through ghost stories that accentuate the strangeness of their new surroundings while helping them participate in the history of the college. Although he is talking specifically about dorms and fraternity houses, how true also for those whose second home is the theater.

Even much of theater lore is rooted in the basis of placating or avoiding Ghosties. Walk onto the WISCONSIN UNION THEATER'S stage at night and you'll find a lone light left on to guide your way. Nestled in a squirrel cage on a stand, it is known as the *ghostlight*, there to both ensure that people don't crash into one another, and to ensure the theater's residential ghosts feel welcome. Otherwise, if the stage is dark, ghosties can run amok and wreak havoc with the set.

Mirrors on stage were also considered taboo for the longest time, as in ancient times it was feared they could open one's soul to marauding spirits or worse, the devil himself!

Popular folklore down through the ages is full of warnings against wishing your friends and fellow actors, good luck. To do so was thought to tempt evil spirits, ghosts, and demons. Better to outwit them by wishing your friend bad fortune, hence the term *"Break a Leg!"*

Another ghost-related superstition has been that a theater should always be closed one night a week to give ghosts a chance to perform their own plays. This is traditionally on Monday night, conveniently giving actors a day off after weekend performances.

One specific ghost, *THESPIS*, holds a place of privilege in theater lore. On what has been estimated to be November 23, 534 BCE, Thespis of ancient Athens (6th BCE) is thought to have been the first person to speak lines as an individual actor on stage (*hence the term "thespian" to refer to an individual actor*). Any unexplainable mischief that befalls a production is likely to be blamed on Thespis, especially if it happens to occur on or around November 23rd.

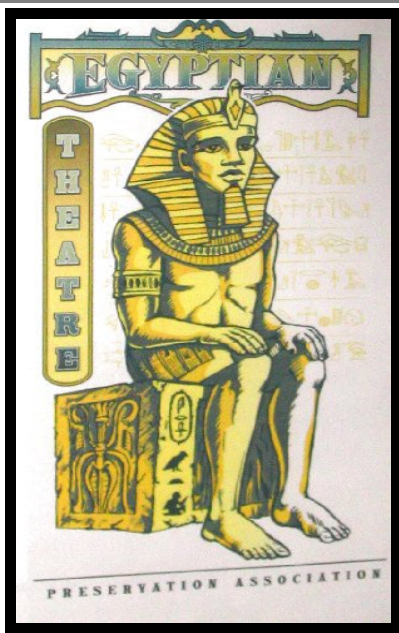


An "Orb" that mysteriously materialized during a photo shoot rehearsal of FRANKENSTEIN at the historic Egyptian Theatre. For more on this story, visit the OBT website: [www.onbroadwaytheater.com/page10.html](http://www.onbroadwaytheater.com/page10.html)

### GENERAL AUDITION INFO:

Auditions are generally held 2 months prior to a Play's opening (3 months for musicals). You will be asked to fill out an official Audition Form listing contact info, special skills, experience, and other pertinent info. Dress comfortably but appropriately, be punctual, and come prepared to read, dance, or sing (depending on the script). Generally seek enthusiastic people who look and feel comfortable on stage, listen well and follow directions easily, and are open-minded enough to try new & different roles than originally intended auditioning for. If you sing or can play an instrument, let your talent be known! We're always looking for House musicians & singers for our musicals!

Always a need for Light & Sound Techs, Stage Managers, Stagehands, Choreographers, Vocal Coaches, Costumers, Makeup Artists, Poster & Programs designers, Set Construction, Graphic Artists, Directors & Assistants, Producers. If you have free time or would like to break into theatre in this way, please call 269-2501 or email or come to one of our open auditions and talk with a Director.



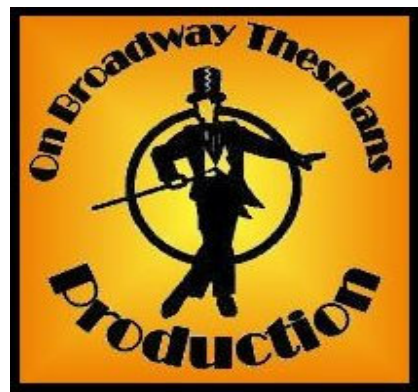
# Now Playing

**EGYPTIAN THEATRE**  
Preservation Association  
On Broadway Thespians, Inc. Presents  
MARY SHELLEY'S  
**FRANKENSTEIN**  
October 5th - 21st, 2007  
Friday and Saturday 8pm  
Sunday Matinee 2pm  
PG-13  
Some Adult Content  
Fri & Sat \$10  
Sun Matinee \$8  
Children 12 and Under \$7  
For Ticket Information Call 1-877-725-8849 c/o Egyptian Theater  
Or Visit Our Website [www.onbroadwaytheater.com](http://www.onbroadwaytheater.com)  
Tickets also available at the door  
Adaptation by Victor Gialenella Directed by Leatha Lewison Gonzalez  
**On Broadway Thespians, Inc.**  
229 South Broadway, Coos Bay  
(on stage at the Egyptian Theatre)  
[www.onbroadwaytheater.com](http://www.onbroadwaytheater.com)  
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# Auditions

Auditions for BAH HUMBUG were held in September with a scheduled play opening for Nov 30th.

Auditions for the next play of the 2008 season has not yet been announced. Stay tuned as additional info becomes available.



# Coming Soon

## BAH HUMBUG!

November 30 -  
December 16

## Ticket Info

Show times are Friday & Saturday eves at 8 pm, with Sunday matinees at 2 pm.

Tickets are available at the door one hour before curtain, or through online vendor,  
**Ticket Alternative: 1-877-725-8849**  
[www.ticketalternative.com/VenueDetail.aspx?FacilityKey=17](http://www.ticketalternative.com/VenueDetail.aspx?FacilityKey=17)

Credit Card orders must be made online. In addition to vendor service charges, phone orders are subject to additional \$1 surcharge.

Seniors/Adults/Students:  
**Friday & Saturday Nights - \$10**  
**Sunday Matinees - \$8**  
**Children (to age 12), all shows - \$7**

Gift Certificates & Buy the House options are available. Please inquire at the Egyptian Theatre lobby.

Tickets to one of our plays make excellent Birthday, Anniversary, Thank You, and Holiday gifts. What better way to reward your family, friends, staff, or employees than with a ticket to an OBT production on stage over at the Egyptian Theatre?!