

Kidoons & WYRD Productions in association
with The 20K Collective and Geordie Theatre



By **Craig Francis** and **Rick Miller** and
Paul Van Dyck

Adapted from the novel by Mary Shelley

Directed by Craig Francis and Rick Miller

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Grand
OnSTAGE

THE COMPANY

RICK MILLER*: The Creature / Others

DARRAGH MONDOUX*: Mary / Elizabeth / Others

ARUN VARMA*: Victor Frankenstein / Others

CRAIG FRANCIS*: Co-Writer / Co-Director / Co-Designer / Stage Manager

RICK MILLER*: Co-Writer / Co-Director / Co-Designer / Production Manager

PAUL VAN DYCK: Co-Writer

RICHARD FEREN: Sound Designer / Composer

IRINA LITVINENKO: Multimedia Co-Designer

ANDREA LUNDY: Lighting Designer

SABRINA MILLER: Costume / Props / Puppet Designer

MATHIEU RENÉ: Mask Designer

JULIAN SMITH: Assistant Sound Designer

JESSICA CAMPBELL-MARACLE: Assistant Lighting Designer

AIDAN WARE: Tour Technical Director

SHOPDOGS: Set piece construction

PRODUCTION TEAM

JEFF LORD: Executive Producer, Kidoons

JIMMY BLAIS: Artistic Director, Geordie Theatre

KATHRYN WESTOLL: Executive Director, Geordie Theatre

LOGOGRAPH: Graphic Design and Marketing

TOURING AGENT: Cheryle Hansen

OFFICIAL SITE:
frankenstein.ca

SOCIAL FB/TW/IG:
[@kidoons](https://www.instagram.com/kidoons)

Production History

Frankenstein is the third in Kidoons' "Connection Trilogy", following *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea* (2015), and *Jungle Book* (2018). These family shows address current issues through iconic books, combining immersive multimedia with classic theatrical techniques.

Frankenstein was written with assistance from an Ontario Arts Council Recommender Grant for Theatre Creators, in association with Factory Theatre, in 2018. It was workshopped in Toronto in December 2018. It was workshopped in Montreal, with assistance from a Canada Council for the Arts grant, for a pandemic streaming work-in-progress production in June 2021. A final workshop was produced by Geordie Theatre and Kidoons in Espace Geordie in May 2022, for its world premiere in October 2022 in the Segal Centre Studio in Montreal, QC.

The show is approximately 65 minutes, with no intermission.

**Geordie, Kidoons, and WYRD Productions engage professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.*

Creators

Craig Francis *(Co-Writer / Co-Director / Co-Designer / Stage Manager)*



Craig Francis (he/him) is a writer, director, illustrator, and multidisciplinary creator. His shows have toured Canada and the US, including Off-Broadway in 2016 and 2019. A founding member of The 20K Collective, Craig co-created *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea*, *Game of Clones*, and *Jungle Book* with Rick Miller; and *Frankenstein* with Miller and Paul Van Dyck. He's a producer, dramaturg, and stage manager for Miller's solo trilogy (*BOOM*, *BOOM X*, and *BOOM YZ*) in Canada, the US, France, and Taiwan. Craig co-directed a workshop of the musical *Blocked* (TheaterWorksUSA), and is a mentor of emerging artists, including co-authoring *Redwood Avenue* with Andrea Friesen. New projects include *CYNIC*, *HANS: My Life In Fairy Tales*, and *Rose Red*. Craig is a speaker on LGBTQA2S+ issues. He performed improv comedy with *Just For Laughs*, CBC, CTV and Showtime, and his animated videos with Kidoons and not-for-profits are installed in museums in six provinces. Craig lives in Montréal, has illustrated several books, and voiced animated series.

Creators

Rick Miller

*(Co-Writer / Co-Director
/ Co-Designer /
Production Manager)*



Rick Miller is a Dora and Gemini award-winning writer/director/actor/musician/educator who has performed in five languages on five continents, and who Entertainment Weekly called “one of the 100 most creative people alive today”. He has created and toured solo shows such as the BOOM Trilogy (BOOM, BOOM X, and BOOM YZ), MacHomer, Bigger Than Jesus and HARDELL; and family shows with Craig Francis and Kidoons, such as Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea, Jungle Book, and Frankenstein. With Robert Lepage, he has collaborated on Geometry of Miracles, Zulu Time, Lipsynch, and on the film Possible Worlds. Current projects in development include MONEY, HANS: My Life In Fairy Tales, and Rose Red - a new musical. Rick hosts an intergenerational podcast called Xing The Gap, and sometimes teaches an interdisciplinary class at the University of Toronto called The Architecture of Creativity. He lives in Toronto with his partner Stephanie Baptist and their two daughters. www.rickmiller.ca

Creators

Paul Van Dyck (Co-Writer)

Paul is thrilled to have teamed up with Rick and Craig to help create this exciting reimagining of Mary Shelley's classic tale of terror! A recent graduate of UBC's Masters in Creative Writing, Paul is a writer, director, performer and Artistic Director of Rabbit in a Hat Productions, a Montreal based theatre company with a mandate to produce new Canadian plays. Paul has received numerous awards including; The Tom Hendry Playwrights Guild of Canada Comedy Award; The Montreal English Critics Circle Revelation Award; The Montreal English Theatre Awards Outstanding Direction; The New York Frigid Festival, Atlantic Fringe Festival, and Montreal Fringe Festival Best Production Award. Paul is a past participant of the Neil Munro Intern Directors Project at the Shaw Festival, the Lincoln Center generated Directors Lab Mediterranean in Beirut, and a past National Forum Representative of Quebec for the Playwrights Guild of Canada. An intrepid world traveler, Paul has visited over eighty countries, traversing such routes as the Trans-Siberian Railway, the Ancient Silk Road Trail, and the Medieval Trans-Saharan Trade Route.



Rick Miller: The Creature / Others

(see CREATORS bio above)

Darragh Mondoux: Mary / Elizabeth / Others

Born and raised in Montreal, Mondoux is a prolific member of the city's arts and culture scene, especially in theatre. This is her first theatrical appearance in Ontario! META nominated as an outstanding emerging artist in 2020, Mondoux stayed active in the theatre scene throughout the turbulent years since, joining up with Repercussion Theatre, Tableau d'Hôte Theatre, Playwrights Workshop Montreal and Teesri Duniya Theatre. Mondoux is an alumnus of the Dome Theatre Program of Dawson College, holds an honours degree from the Liberal Arts College of Concordia as well as her second major in Irish Studies, a graduate diploma in communications studies, and is represented by Haus of Marc.



Arun Varma: Victor Frankenstein / Others

Arun's love of acting goes way back to when he would perform William Wallace narration pieces from Age of Empires II to amuse his family at parties. It took two decades and a detour into studying neuroscience at the University of Toronto before those little spores of performance mania truly took hold, but he now counts himself firmly in the clutches of the dramatic arts. He has had the enormous privilege of performing on historic Toronto stages like Theatre Passe Muraille and Alumnae Theatre, the gateway of indie Montreal theatre at the Mainline, the Conservatory, the Segal Centre, and most recently the Centaur Theatre. Over the past five years, he has diversified his performance media, gaining the opportunity to be a part of three TV shows (Future Man, The Bold Type, About Sex). Most recently, he has dived deep into the exciting world of voice performance in animation and video games, and he hopes that in the next five years he might have the opportunity to wade deeper into this rich and exciting field. Arun is very excited to be a part of this most brain-tingling and funny-bone-tickling production of "Frankenstein". He hopes you enjoy the show!



Creative Team

Sabrina Miller: Costume / Props / Puppets Designer

Sabrina is a set, costume and puppet designer originally from the west coast. Production designs in Montréal include *From the Stars in the Sky* to *the Fish in the Sea* and *Around the World in 80 Days* (Geordie Theatre) *Birthmark* (Teesri Duniya), *Bluenose* (Black Theatre Workshop) and *Animal Farm* (Kaleidoscope Theatre). Costume designs include *Frankenstein: A Living Comic Book* (Kidoons), *The Sages of Chelm* (Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre), *Pride and Prejudice* (Dawson College) and *Elle's Black Space Voyage: An Afrodiasporic Odyssey* (MAI). Sabrina recently won awards for Best Costume Design at YES! Let's Make a Movie Film Festival Canada for the short film *Wraith* (2023), and the META for Outstanding Costume Design (*From the Stars in the Sky* to *the Fish in the Sea*, 2022).



Irina Litvinenko: Multimedia Co-Designer

Irina is a creative artist, graphic designer for print and web, and video production artist. She has worked on multimedia campaigns for Performing Arts Centers across Canada and the U.S. and managed event marketing campaigns ranging from *The Joy of Dance Studio Toronto* to *TELUS Skins*. Irina has been a longstanding multimedia collaborator with Rick Miller and Craig Francis, including assisting on onscreen media projections for *MacHomer*, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea*, and *Game of Clones*. Recent work includes branding and projections / media design for *BOOM X* and *BOOM YZ*, for which she was nominated alongside Rick Miller and Nicolas Dostie for the Betty Mitchell Award for Outstanding Projection or Video Design. Irina is the multimedia designer for *Jungle Book*, *Frankenstein*, *HANS: My Life In Fairy Tales* and *Rose Red*. As a web and video production artist, Irina is the designer and production editor of the *Kidoons* animated series.



Creative Team

Richard Feren: Sound Designer / Composer

Richard has been creating music and soundscapes for theatre, dance & film since 1992. He has won seven Dora Awards, the 1999 Pauline McGibbon Award, and was the first sound designer ever shortlisted for the Siminovitch Prize, in 2012. For Kidoons: 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea (music & sound design), The Jungle Book (audio consultant). Other recent credits: A Midsummer Night's Dream, Public Enemy, As You Like It, Much Ado About Nothing, Measure For Measure (Canadian Stage); Hamlet (Stratford Festival); Controlled Damage, Grand Ghosts (The Grand Theatre) The Cold War (VideoCabaret); Every Brilliant Thing, Perfect Wedding, Miss Caledonia (Thousand Islands Playhouse); Going, Going (short film by Fiona Hight); Carmen (feature film score); The Flick (Outside the March/Crow's Theatre).



Andrea Lundy: Lighting Designer

Andrea Lundy is an award-winning Lighting Designer and Production Manager who has worked professionally across Canada and internationally for 37 years. She is the recipient of 9 Dora Mavor Moore Awards and 2 Montreal English Theatre Awards for Outstanding Lighting Design. She has worked extensively with the National Arts Centre, Shaw Festival, Tarragon Theatre, Souleppper Theatre, Canadian Stage, Necessary Angel Theatre, Centaur Theatre, George Theatre among others. Andrea has been the Director of the Production Design and Technical Arts Program at the National Theatre School of Canada for the last 12 years.



Creative Team

Richard Feren: Sound Designer / Composer

Mathieu René: Mask Designer



As a freelance, full-time designer & maker of Puppets and Masks, Mathieu René works with a wide range of tools and techniques, originating in countless disciplines and traditions, from Crafts to Fine Arts. As an instructor of custom creative workshops, he has a passion for encouraging people to discover their inner artistic & problem-solving potential. We're all artists-in-becoming! www.youtube.com/user/Creaturiste/playlists

Aidan Ware: Tour Technical Director

Aidan Ware hails from Calgary, Alberta, and is a graduate of the BFA Technical Theatre program at the University of Alberta. Upon completing an 18-month lighting practicum program at the Banff Centre, Aidan moved to Toronto where his creativity and passion for bringing new technologies to live performance have led him to work with various creative houses including Solotech, Moment Factory, TIFA, and TOLive. He has worn many hats including Assistant Technical Director at Canadian Stage and Director of Production for Fall for Dance North. He is currently helping to design a new state-of-the-art space for the BMO lab, focussing on emerging technologies and artificial intelligence in performance. He continues to freelance as a Technical Director and Lighting Designer in Toronto. Previous credits with Kidoons/WYRD Productions include BOOM YZ (TD/Lighting Design) & BOOM X (TD/Assoc. Lighting Design).



Jeff Lord: Executive Producer

Jeff has a lifelong passion and vision for combining art and technology to develop original works. His projects are inspired by a love of storytelling and innovation. Through Kidoons theatrical productions, and digital works on the Kidoons Network, Jeff's artist collaborators help organizations to tell their stories onstage and online. He works with Not-for-Profits and corporate clients across Canada and the United States with a vision to inspire and empower all generations. He dedicates his work on this play to his mother, Evelyn Lord.



Creators Notes



Believe me, Frankenstein, I was benevolent; my soul glowed with love and humanity; but am I not alone, miserably alone? – Mary Shelley, Frankenstein

This idea of feeling alone and lonely was one of three inspirations for me to adapt Frankenstein; and especially since the pandemic, it's universally relatable. All three stories in our Connection Trilogy ask the question "How can technology connect or disconnect us?" Captain Nemo disconnects from humanity to create his technological utopia; Mowgli is disconnected from humanity by animals, but from nature by humanity. The Creature in Frankenstein is not human at all: it's disconnected from everyone. My second inspiration was that I'm a cartoonist, and was excited to bring that graphic form to life. The third is that I'm a lifelong fan of Science Fiction and Horror, so I relished the opportunity to adapt Mary Shelley's novel – the original Sci-Fi Horror – and to design our own Creature. I hope you feel less alone as you connect with the audience in the blackness of a darkened theatre. Enjoy the monster we've created – this show!

– Craig Francis, Co-writer / Co-director

I remember reading Mary Shelley's Frankenstein around the same age she started writing it – 18. Besides being blown away by her skill and maturity (leagues beyond mine!), I was struck by how our popular culture has distorted her creation, in particular her "Creature". She imagined an eloquent, innocent victim, and we've turned it into a monster. It made me wonder about other monsters of our own making, particularly climate change – one of many existential threats hanging over us today. Shelley's novel is over 200 years old, and still sheds light on the human condition. How can we better care for one another? How can we take responsibility for our actions? How can we create without destroying? I hope these questions buzz in your heads, as you connect with the amazing work of our cast and creative team.

– Rick Miller, Co-writer / Co-director

Creators Notes

When we first started working on this adaptation, a friend and fan of the book told me “Knowledge is knowing that Frankenstein is not the monster. Wisdom is knowing that Frankenstein is the monster.” Our nameless creature has gotten a bad rap over the past 200 years. But it’s the creator of the creature that is as much to blame for all the trouble in this story. If we create out of ego and ambition it often has rotten results. But when we create out of love and altruism the results can ripple with positivity forever. Victor Frankenstein created a creature he did not love. Mary Shelley created a story she loved with a passion. We’ve chosen to follow Mary’s example in making this play. And as scary as her story might be, I hope it ripples with positivity for you forever.

– Paul Van Dyck, Co-writer

Acknowledgements

We thank the following for helping us to create this creature!

Jeff Lord	Menno Plukker and Isaïe Richard	Victoria Wickett and BOMB Fitness
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Kathryn Westoll	Jason Knight	as well as all our patient families and loved ones!
Zach Fraser and Infinithéâtre	Duncan Appleton	
Cheryle Hansen	Glendon Theatre at Glendon College, York University	
KATS: Kids And Then Some		

Thanks to the incredible Frankenstein team alumni: Vlad Alexis, Trevor Barrette, Birdie Gregor, Rachel Cairns, Richard Clarkin, Andrew Dollar, Mac Fyfe, James Kendal, Patrick Lavender, Jamie Mac, Kaitlin Morrow, Danny Pagett, Andrew Robinson, Katie Ross-Leckie, Eloi Archambaudoin, Rosie Callaghan, Thomas Giroux.

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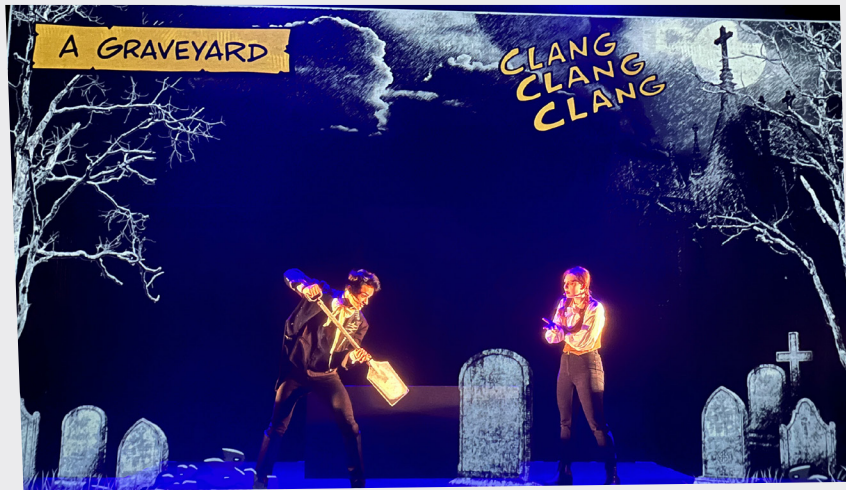
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Why Frankenstein? Why a living comic book?

“Frankenstein is the original Science Fiction novel, and we were amazed that it was created by a young woman of 18. It’s such an integral part of pop culture that it was irresistible to do our own take on it, through comics and cartoons, which were my own introduction to Sci-Fi and horror. The comic book effects bring it instantly up to date, stylize the horror, and make it a ton of spooky fun! Besides, the idea of “bringing something to life” is what theatre is best at.”

– Craig Francis



What do you hope the audience takes away from the show?

"We always try to create experiences that celebrate the presence of others, and heighten the present moment. It's about what we can do together, now, to build the world we want - and prevent the world we fear. We hope audiences walk out feeling like they've shared something they couldn't experience online... and feeling more alive for doing so!"



statement regarding the creative and production process.

“Our productions are known for pushing the boundaries of touring multimedia theatre, and we achieve this by surrounding ourselves with terrific creative artists. Beyond writing a play script, we develop our productions with a collaboration of sound, lighting, and multimedia artists working in concert. Theatre is a collaborative art, and the results always surprise and delight us beyond what any single person could have envisioned. That’s the lesson that Victor Frankenstein never learned... how to play well with others!”

—*Craig Francis and Rick Miller*

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Learn more about Grand OnStage at
KingstonGrand.ca.

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The City of Kingston acknowledges that we are on the traditional homeland
of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat, and thanks
these nations for their care and stewardship over this shared land.