

MEDIA RELEASE

THE
COURT
THEATRE

8 October 2021

For immediate release

[Frankenstein by Nick Dear](#)

Adapted from the novel by Mary Shelley

Directed by Holly Chappell

Show Partner: Ara Institute of Canterbury

Location: The Court Theatre, Addington, Christchurch

New Dates: 29 September – 16 October 2021

THE COURT THEATRE BRINGS THE THRILLING PRODUCTION OF FRANKENSTEIN BACK TO LIFE...



After weeks in limbo, The Court Theatre's previously interrupted season of *Frankenstein* has come back to life under Delta Alert Level 2.

Less than halfway through their four-week season, the show's cast and crew were forced to halt production due to the country moving into COVID-19 Alert Level 4. Since then, The Court Theatre has been working behind the scenes to ensure that the show was ready to go as soon as Alert Levels allowed.

With these preparations came a shift in the show's performance dates. However, extending the season did not come without its challenges, as Auckland based lead actor Wesley Dowdell was unable to return for the renewed season. He will be replaced by the show's Victor Frankenstein Understudy / Movement Director Tom Eason. To ensure audiences are still able to experience the magic that alternating the two lead roles has brought to the show to date, Eason even went to the effort of rehearsing the role of Creature whilst in lockdown, and he will play alternative roles alongside James Kupa each night.

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The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: bookings@courttheatre.org.nz

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“Although a resurgence was always in the back of our minds, I don’t think any of us actually saw this coming” said Eason. “But collectively we wanted to honour all the expectations of this show by getting back on stage with the same magic, if possible, under the current circumstances. The entire cast and crew have worked so hard to make this work and we’re all just thankful that we are able to finish the season.”

Whilst the show was originally scheduled to finish on 4 September, *Frankenstein’s* new extension will now run from September 29 - October 16 2021. With Delta Alert Level 2 restrictions still in place, current ticket holders have been the first to be rescheduled and further tickets are now on sale to the public, with seating arrangements allowing for social distancing as per the Government’s advice.

“Being able to resurrect *Frankenstein* was so important for us. Not only has it enabled our team to return to a level of normality, but it has given the cast and crew the opportunity to finish the season they’ve worked so hard to bring to life. We also take our commitment to our community very seriously and are thrilled to be able to bring back a show people have been so excited about” says The Court Theatre’s Chief Executive, Barbara George.

Show Partner Ara Institute of Canterbury are also thrilled that the show was able to be saved. Ara’s partnership with The Court Theatre is a multi-faceted collaboration which also sees 15 students from Ara’s National Academy of Singing and Dramatic Art (NASDA) feature in the cast.

In this Court Theatre interpretation of the classic novel, young scientist Victor Frankenstein brings to life a man-made creature, sewing together dead body parts with little thought to the consequences.

Abandoned by his maker and treated to the worst of humanity’s scorn, Creature becomes intent on finding *Frankenstein* and making him pay...

Originally written in 1818 by Mary Shelley and more recently adapted into the 2011 production by Nick Dear, the story of *Frankenstein* has been told in many ways throughout the years, but this thrilling version is unique in its incorporation of movement and costume in telling the story.

With lead actors James Kupa and now, Tom Eason, alternating between the roles of the scientist and his creation, this international hit explores the eternal themes of humanity, good vs evil and what happens when we blur the line between life and death.

Frankenstein returns to The Court Theatre from 29 September – 16 October 2021.

“A hell of a production” *The Times*

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Cast

Victor Frankenstein / Creature
Victor Frankenstein / Creature
Elizabeth / Agatha
De Lacey / Monsieur Frankenstein

NASDA

William
William
Gustav
Klaus
Elizabeth/Agatha (understudy)
Ensemble
Clarice
Female Creature
Female Creature
Ewan / Felix
Ensemble
Ensemble
Rab
Gretel

Creatives

Director
Movement Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Stage Manager

Show Times

- Monday & Thursday 6:30pm
- Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat 7:30pm
- Matinees 2pm Saturdays 9 and 16 October

Bookings: phone 03 963 0870 or visit www.courttheatre.org.nz

Images can be found at The Court Theatre's [Media Centre](#)

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:

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[James Kupa](#)

[Tom Eason](#)

[Elisabeth Marschall](#)

[Roy Snow](#)

Kyle Aitken

Tristan Valencia

Matthew Farnell

Nicole Wilson

Krystal O'Gorman

Georgia Carnegie

Abi McDonald

Nadia Hill

Asuka Kubo

Xavier Paul

Leo Munro

Jayshri Ratnam

Ben Jarrett

Katie Atkins

[Holly Chappell](#)

[Tom Eason](#)

[Harold Moot](#)

[Steven Junil Park](#)

[Sheena Baines](#)

[Matt Short](#)

[Jo Bunce](#)

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