

STAGE TWO DOWNHAM

OUR next production is 'Frankenstein' dramatised by Tim Kelly from the novel by Mary Shelley. This classical drama will be staged from 12th to 15th November in Downham Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Tickets [£5 Wednesday and £6 all other nights] can be purchased from Tourist Information [01200 423301 - new premises in Council Offices] - or contact Elizabeth Wrigley [01200 423005]. Fran Osborne is producing this play with a cast of 8, all players who have been on the Downham stage before. A thrilling classical drama not to be missed.

EW

STAGE TWO DOWNHAM

FROM the outset Stage Two Downham's latest production, 'Frankenstein', had the audience on the edge of their seats. Producer Fran Osborne once again presented an outstanding performance.

The stunning set brought audience applause each evening as the curtains opened – thanks to set-builders and properties.

The story begins on Victor Frankenstein's wedding night, quickly moving to a 'flash-back' story relating how he created his monster, or creature, leaving Victor troubled and depressed. Steve Cooke played the part of the disturbed and angry Frankenstein convincingly throughout the play – a big assignment with very little time off the stage.

Kim Croydon sympathetically portrayed Victor's neighbour and fellow scientist, Henry Clerval. Henry's initial concern for his friend turns to excited enthusiasm as they appease the creature's request for a bride. A severed hand makes an appearance on a couple of occasions whilst the scientists plot to piece together a second monster.

Liz Wrigley, as Victor's mother, manifests her concern for her troubled son with large helpings of indulgence. Frau Frankenstein dies of fright when her curiosity gets the better of her and she enters the laboratory, only to encounter 'the creature'.

Victor's fiancée, Elizabeth, is played elegantly by Suesi Windle. Her moment comes in the last scene, when the new bride is terrorised by her husband's creation. The build up of tension is cleverly achieved in this scene keeping the suspense that runs throughout the play alive to the last moments.

After several years away from the stage, James Masterman took on the role of 'the creature' with confidence and skill, delivering the pathos required to give a convincing edge to the story. The creature's misery and loneliness contrast with his darker emotions of revenge and violence towards his creator. James achieved the required range of emotions with brilliance.

Strong supporting character roles by Gerry Purchase [the policeman] and Lucy Scott [the maid] aptly held each scene together, whilst Geraldine Metcalf's character role of a gypsy girl exploded on to the stage, providing another interesting link in the story.

Make-up for 'the creature' was provided and applied by Mary Thomas, an experienced make-up artist associated with many Clitheroe productions. Stage Two raised over £100 for Children in Need, by quizzing each audience to guess how long it took to apply the creature's make-up.

The audiences, sadly, were sparse on some evenings. However, everyone who did see the play had nothing but praise for the performances, which is so encouraging for Stage Two.

Group thrilled by positive remarks

ON behalf of Stage Two Downham, I would like to thank you very much for printing Mr Tony Dee's letter about our recent play, Frankenstein, last week.

We were so thrilled and, as a small amateur dramatic group, we are always grateful for positive exposure.

FRAN OSBORNE,
Secretary,
Pimlico Road,
Clitheroe

Stage Two Downham Presents

FRANKENSTEIN

Dramatised by Tim Kelly
From the Classic by Mary Shelley

on
Wednesday November 12th to
Saturday November 15th

at
Downham Village Hall at 7.30pm

Tickets available from
Tourist Information
Or telephone: 01200 423301
Wednesday £5,
Thursday to Saturday £6
inc. refreshments

A dark tale of horror

GOTHIC horror at its best is about to appear at Stage Two Downham when the cast present a wonderful production of "Frankenstein", the classic by Mary Shelley and dramatised by Tim Kelly.

This is a dark tale of horror, revenge and sadness; a story to make you gasp, but also to evoke feelings of sympathy for a creature who only wants to be accepted and loved.

Within Downham Village Hall the atmosphere of fear, excitement and wonder will be created by the excellent cast of James Masterman as the Creature, Steve Cooke

as Frankenstein and Kim Croydon as Henry Clerval.

The brilliant supporting cast will once again put their heart and soul into their performances and urge you to go along and gasp at the high voltage spectacle.

Performances are each evening from next Wednesday to Saturday at 7-30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the Tourist Information or tel. 01200 423301.

Our picture shows James Masterman as the Creature, attacking Kim Croydon as Henry Clerval watched by Frankenstein played by Steve Cooke.

(T211008/1)



Blown away by a fantastic show!

I HAVE just been to see the Downham Stage Two production of "Frankenstein" and I had to write to say how much I was blown away.

I don't normally go to watch plays if I'm honest, but if they are all as good as this, I may buy a season ticket! From the moment the curtains opened to reveal a stunning set, I was completely spellbound.

The acting was absolutely superb throughout without there being a weak link in the cast. Although everybody was magnificent I must give special praise to James Masterman playing the monster.

If this young man is not treading the boards in the West End any time soon, then it is a travesty. Bravo Mr

Top marks to Downham again

FOR many years, Stage Two Downham has been producing a high standard of productions.

Although more known for its satires and comedies, this year saw a change of genre, in the shape of Tim Kelly's dramatised version of Mary Shelley's classic novel "Frankenstein" – a Gothic horror.

The story takes place on the shores of Lake Geneva in the late 1800s and finds Dr Frankenstein in a somewhat distressed state on the night of his wedding. He begins to confess his dark secrets to his new bride and it is not long before we see the reasons for his solace played out in front of us. What ensues from then on is a story of greed, fear and passion with morals still as prevalent today as they were when the book was first written in 1817.

With a strong supporting cast, Steve Cooke was able to deliver a

highly-commendable portrayal of the disconcerting Doctor, while James Masterman's Creature provided the perfect foil to his creator with a performance that was more Robert De Niro than Peter Boyle.

Director Fran Osborne's greatest challenge was making sure that a play filled with heavy dialogue did not become too static.

A challenge that was duly conquered, was complemented by the very effective set design that made for some truly spine-chilling moments.

An evening with Downham Stage Two never fails to delight, the only shame being that not more people witnessed the hard work on show.

I shall look forward to returning for another thoroughly enjoyable experience and, of course, for the tea and biscuits.

Gavin Makel