

## TOP MARKS TO DOWNHAM AGAIN

For many years, Stage Two Downham has been producing a high standard of production.

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 shore 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 this solace played out in front of us. What ensues from then on is a story of greed, fear and passion with morals still 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.

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Gavin Makel

## 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 Shelly 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 Kin 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 7.30pm. 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.

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