

Mary Shelley's FRANKENSTEIN



Beloved Lookingglass Subscriber,

We are ever grateful to be in a room with you and your imagination immersed in a great story. I am **David Catlin**, the creator of our latest story to unfold at Lookingglass: *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*.

Unending electrical storms batter Switzerland's majestic Mont Blanc. On a particularly angry night in June, a small group of young literary revolutionaries—*Romantics*—take refuge beneath the roof of the Villa Diodati on the swelling banks of Lake Geneva. As lightning flashes without, notorious British bad boy Lord Byron proposes a contest within—*Who can create the most ghastly ghost story?* From this harrowing night, *Frankenstein*—a dark tale of obsession, creation, abandonment, destruction, madness, and loss—is born from the mind of eighteen year-old Mary Shelley. Informed by her own experiences of love, rejection, and chronic bereavement, Mary Shelley stitches together a story that asks:

🌀 **What Do We Need To Be Human? ... What Corrupts Our Noblest Impulses? ... What Makes Us Monstrous?** 🌀

How did this dark tale emerge from the heart of this precocious young writer? What led Mary to create this unsettling and dread-filled story? What is the human impulse to create, whether art or science or community or family? Where do the creator and their creation intersect? What obligations do we creators owe our creations, or the world in which they exist?

Even now, five outstanding actors are workshoping with acclaimed choreographer/Artistic Associate **Sylvia Hernandez-DiStasi** and composer/Artistic Associate **Rick Sims** (in a Lookingglass collaboration with The Actors Gymnasium) to create some of the visual and physical storytelling elements for *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*. We are taking to the air to create swirling ghosts, falling angels, and even the ungodly creatures that come soaring to life from the hands of the obsessive Victor Frankenstein. Along with Hernandez-DiStasi and Sims, our award-winning design team of Ensemble Member **Daniel Ostling**, **William C. Kirkham**, **Sully Ratke**, and **Isaac Shoepf**, are imagining and inventing the lush and visceral gothic world of this enduring novel. They are working with the fabulous Lookingglass production department to bring the limbs and organs and blood and bones and guts of this story to life in your favorite castle on Michigan Avenue.

I am so excited to be in this creative process with these outstanding collaborators and can't wait for you to meet our Creation!

Best,

David Catlin
Ensemble Member
Lookingglass Theatre Company