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**Red Mask Players
Presents**

PLAYING WITH FIRE: AFTER FRANKENSTEIN

By Barbara Field

Adapted from Mary Shelley's novel

Directed by Jamey Coutant



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PLAYING WITH FIRE:
AFTER
FRANKENSTEIN

By Barbara Field
Adapted from Mary Shelley’s novel

— PLACE —

The North Pole, and various stops on a voyage of memory

— TIME —

The summer solstice: the last day or the first day.

There will be a 15 minute intermission.
PLEASE NOTE: There will be several gunshots
throughout the production

Produced by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service New York, NY

Financing Available!

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

*"Did I request thee, Maker, from my clay to mold me Man?
Did I solicit thee from darkness to promote me?"*

- Adam, from Milton's Paradise Lost

Anyone who knows me knows how much Red Mask Players means to me. My first love has always been Children's Theater, but when I read *Playing with Fire: After Frankenstein*, I knew it was time to venture into the unknown, directing a show with adults. I want to thank the Board of Directors for having the faith in me to entrust me with this beautiful story. When most people think of Frankenstein they have the scary green creature that we have become familiar with, but I didn't see that when I read this play. Instead, I saw a troubled human struggling with the question that we have all asked "Why was I created?". I know you will enjoy this beautifully written play, and the amazing cast who have brought the story to life on stage. As a director, I could not have asked for a more perfect cast, and I thank them for all of the hard work they have put in. And I have to say a special thank you to my stage manager, Amanda France and my producer, Donna Sant. Amanda thank you for taking over while I was gone and Donna for keeping all the wheels turning! I love you both so much! It takes many people to put together the shows you see on the Red Mask stage, and we have amazing folks who are willing to step up and do what it takes, that is what community theater is all about, being a family. As you enjoy the performance, I hope you will know how much Red Mask Players and this cast and crew appreciates our patrons. For without you, our theater family would not be able to go on.

Jamey Coutant, Director



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

"Do you dream?"

This phrase is stated several times in this beautiful rendition of the Frankenstein story. I find myself thinking back on my dreams every time those words are asked. I look back on choices that I have made that have either led me toward my dreams or away from them. This story is one of choices and dreams. It's about the paths we choose toward right and wrong. Should Frankenstein have created his creature? How could he know how his choices would affect the rest of his life? I challenge you to think of what you would have done as you listen to the words being uttered from the stage. Think about what path you would have chosen if you were trying to achieve what Frankenstein had by animating tissue to form his creature. Also in the same thoughts think about the creature, like a child being brought into the world, only to be rejected by his Maker. Both were misunderstood and both were done wrong by each other.

Thank you for once again joining us as patrons of the arts here with the Red Mask Players for our 85th Season. Without you, we could not follow our dreams of bringing live theatrical arts to the community.

Amanda France, President





BIOGRAPHIES

Richard Lee Bridgman (Frankenstein) A mason by trade with a deep appreciation for art in all forms, Lee is delighted to perform in his second show for Red Mask, with this being his most diverse role ever. He could not be happier to be playing Frankenstein. He has always had a deep appreciation for the rich moral tapestry Mary Shelley brought into this world, and believes that *Playing With Fire: After Frankenstein* adds to that in vivid strokes. Lee wants to thank all of those who helped put this show together, from the stage hands and actors to the director and the builders. He would like to thank everyone involved in the extra rehearsals to help him learn what does and does not work, and for memorizing obscene amounts of dialogue! Lee would like to say that everyone and everything has been entirely pleasant from start to finish. And of course, he would like to thank all of YOU who came to see the show!

Amanda Brown (Elizabeth) Amanda has been actively involved in community theater since getting her start with Red Mask Players Youth Theater seven years ago. Performing is her passion, so whether singing/dancing or acting, the stage is where she is most comfortable which is why she plans to pursue a career in theater. Amanda is also actively involved in many activities at BHRA High School, including national honor society, scholastic bowl, student council, key club, and dance team. She also dances at JDU and is a weekly volunteer at the Humane Society. She has enjoyed being a part of this show and is thankful for the opportunity.

Jamey Coutant (Director) Jamey has been involved in community theater for more years than she can say. Red Mask has always held a special place in her heart, as her parents were married in the building when it was a church, and it was the place she first appeared on stage. Jamey serves on the board of directors for Red Mask Players and serves as the Children's Representative. She is also on the DLO Musical Theater Board of Directors, serving as secretary. Jamey has done everything from being on stage, to working in just about every capacity backstage. Most recently, Jamey was seen on stage as Lady, in *Superior Donuts*, for which she won a Katy Award. Jamey would like to thank her family for all of their support, and thank you to the patrons who have continued to support community theater season after season.



BIOGRAPHIES

Isaiah Easton (Adam) As someone who has been involved in Red Mask for nearly 5 years, Isaiah is very happy to be a part of this show. This may be the hardest role he has taken on yet, but he is very glad he did. He would like to say thank you to everyone involved in making this happen, and to the audience: enjoy the show!

Amanda France (Stage Manager) Amanda has been involved with Red Mask for the majority of her life. She started performing on the stage in this wonderful old building when she was in children's theater, and now is proud to be a part of the Board of Directors. She has also directed, stage-managed, produced, and acted in several productions over the years with Red Mask and other theatrical groups in the area. She is excited to be able to share her love of Red Mask and theater with her husband Eric and 3 children Tayte, Emma, and Elliot. She would like to thank them for allowing her to take time away from the family to be involved in theater, and for tagging along to help build sets, program lights, and all the other stuff they do here. She would like to say thank you to the wonderful cast and crew of *Playing With Fire: After Frankenstein* for being amazing to work with!

Brandon Moore (Victor) Brandon has performed in several Red Masks shows at this point. Each one has been an amazing experience and this show is no different. This is a terrific show filled with very talented and wonderful people. He wants to thank the wonderful cast and crew and all the terrific people involved with this show. He wants to thank the wonderful director and stage manager for the opportunity to play this character. Thank you all for coming out to the show! Happy Halloween!

Donna Sant (Producer) Donna has been a part of this great theater group since 1982. After taking a long break, she jumped at the chance to work with Jamey and Amanda. She has served on the Board of Directors, worked backstage, directed (adults and kids), and has performed in several productions. Her theater dream came true when Red Mask produced *A Streetcar Named Desire*, which she had the joy of stage managing. Donna thought she'd end her run with her all time favorite play, but the theater came calling one again! (Thanks, PG!) She is proud to work on this production, and she hopes the audience will positively share in the final result of all the hard work of the cast and crew of our season opener.



BIOGRAPHIES

Edward Sant (Professor Krempe) This role sees Edward's return to the Red Mask stage after a few years' absence. Acting credits include: *Sly Fox*, *Rumors*, *The Gingerbread Lady*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He has also directed many productions for this organization, including: *The Elephant Man*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Lost in Yonkers*, and *Company of Wayward Saints*, just to name a few. Recently retired, he is thrilled to help bring this wonderful production to the Kathryn Randolph stage.

Justin Smith (Creature) He is humbled to be performing for such a distinguished institution as the Red Mask Players. He is a 1997 graduate of Bismarck-Henning High School, and a current resident of Danville, Illinois. Danville has been a part of his life for as long as he can remember, however acting is something altogether new to him. This will mark his first ever stage performance. Justin's appreciation goes out to the cast and crew who have made him feel incredibly welcome. He owes his inspiration to his son, Jameson. His son is a 4th grader at Schlarman Academy, and he had the pleasure to watch him perform in the recent Red Mask children's production of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. He hopes his talent and enthusiasm live up to the example Jameson has set in his first onstage role. He dedicates this performance to him.

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

"She Kills Monsters"

November 4-14
Parkland College

"A Christmas Carol"

November 11-13
Gregory's Academy of the Arts

2021 Festival of Trees

November 13-17
David S. Palmer Civic Center

"Elf The Musical"

November 19-21
DLO Musical Theater

Night of Lights Parade

December 3
Downtown Danville

*"The Holiday Channel Christmas
Movie Wonderthon"*

December 3-5
Red Mask Players

"A Swinging Christmas"

December 5
Danville Symphony Orchestra
Fischer Theater

Auditions for
"The Trouble with Cats"

December 6-7
Red Mask Players

The Beef House Christmas Show

December 10-19
www.beefhouserolls.com

Holiday Open House

December 13
Vermilion County Museum

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Director Jamey Coutant
 Stage Manager..... Amanda France
 Producer..... Donna Sant
 Stage CrewBreely Arford and Sydney Smith
 Set Design.....Amanda France and EZE Production House
 Set Creative Design Edward Sant
 Set Construction..... Amanda France, EZE Production House,
 Justin Smith, Isaiah Easton, Amanda Brown,
 Jenna Brown, Tayte Wolfe, Emma France, and Lee Bridgman
 Lighting DesignEZE Production House
 MakeupAmanda France and Breely Arford
 Props..... Cast and Crew
 Costumes..... Vermilion County Museum and cast
 Program Aubrey Falconio
 Program Printing..... Kelly Printing Co., Inc
 Publicity Aubrey Falconio and Jamey Coutant
 Box Office Staffed by Red Mask Board Members
 House..... Jenna Brown and Jamey Coutant
 Show Liason..... Debbie Prentice
 CastingJamey Coutant, Lisa Lovelace, Amanda France

SPECIAL THANKS

Red Mask Players thanks everyone who has made donations to keep us afloat over the past 15 months. We could not have survived without your support. We are not out of the woods yet, but hopefully, being able to perform again will begin to get us back on better financial footing. We especially appreciate those businesses and individuals who continued to advertise in our program.

A special thanks also goes to the following

BHDT • Sue Richter and the Vermilion County Museum
 DLO Musical Theatre • Vermilion Advantage • Lisa Lovelace



JEAN LEWIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Named after the founder of Red Mask Children’s Theater, the Jean Lewis Scholarship is an annual award of \$750 to a student planning a career in the theater, performing arts, or a directly related area such as speech or radio/television. Area high school students as well as university or community college students are eligible to apply. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate their ongoing interest in theater by their past participation in local theater opportunities. Performing artists will be asked to audition as part of their application. Guidelines and applications are available at our website www.redmaskplayers.com and from guidance counselors, speech teachers, or drama departments at area high schools and from the DACC Communication Department. For more information about application deadlines and auditions, please follow up on our website.

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