

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

In the Playhouse

ROMEO AND JULIET

by

William Shakespeare

*March 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 at 7.45;
March 9 at 2.30*

In the Studio

THE BEAU DEFEATED

by

Mary Pix

A Student Group Production

*March 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 at 7.45;
March 23 at 2.30*

In the Playhouse

THE EXORCISM

by

Don Taylor

*March 29, April 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 at 7.45;
March 30 at 2.30*

The Questors Limited. Registered Charity No. 207516

FRANKENSTEIN

Adapted from
Mary Shelley's Novel

by

Julia Bardsley



First Performance
Saturday 15 February
MCMXCVII

CAST

Mary Shelley Kate Davie

Mary's Creatures David Palmer
 Andy McCall
 David Hovatter

Directed and designed by
Tanya Leigh

Lighting designed by
Martin Sapsed
with Terry Mummery

Music composed and arranged by
Alistair Lark
assisted by Geraldine Hawkins

Props designed and made by
Stephanie Poon & Sarah Williams

Special effects by
Peter Ellis, Elke McAuley-Holland
& Ben Mars

CREW

Stage manager	Kate Smith
DSMs	Brin Parsonage Cécile Rodriguez
Sound operators	Julia Russell Andrés Flatt
Lighting operators	Julie Parker Jenny Cooknell
ASMs	Geraldine Hatton Karen Cherrington
	Roger Greening Steve Mallett
Set built by	Peter Collins
Wardrobe	Chris Greening Julia Cooke
Mary Shelley's dress by	Lindsay Udell
Photography	Chris Thomas

THANKS TO

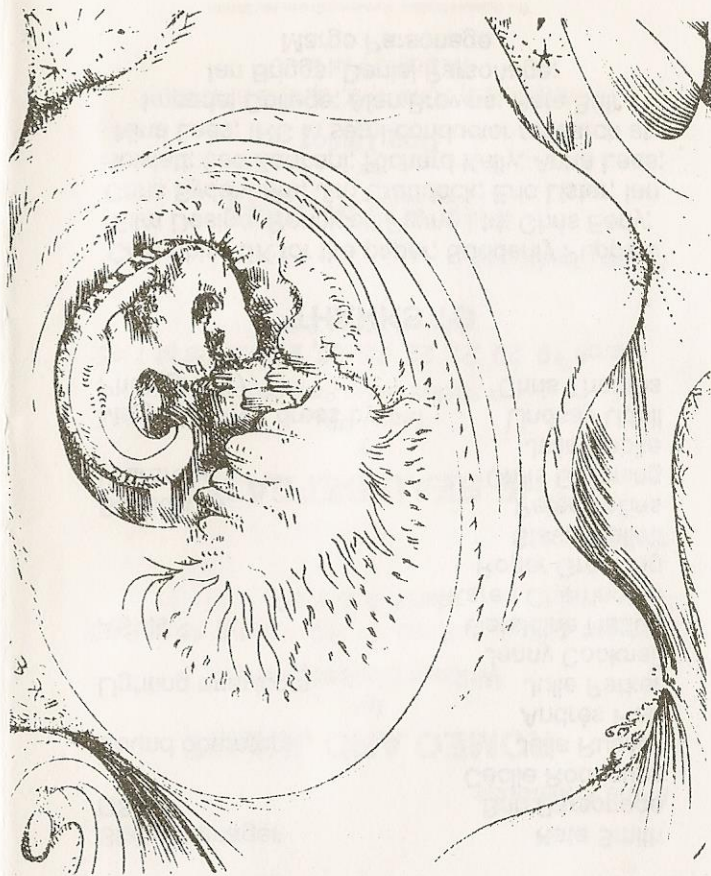
Colombier UK for the paper; Suddenly Puppets
Film Design; Pennicott Payne Ltd; Chris Eedy;
Chris Sydenham; Jim Craddock; Eric Lister; Ian
Howlett; Leo Zancani; Richard Kelly; Anna Lees;
Nina Lees; IRC in semi-conductor research at
Imperial College; Alan Browne; Pete Bull;
Ian Briggs; Daniel Parsonage;
Margo Parsonage

Mary Shelley wrote a book, about a polar explorer, who met a traveller, who made a creature, who had a story to tell...

Mary Shelley was born in London in 1797, daughter of William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft, both famous radical writers. Mary's mother died tragically ten days after the birth. When only 16 Mary met and fell in love with the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, young, unknown and already married. They courted in secret on her mother's tomb in St Pancras, and within months had eloped together. The subsequent scandal and the disapproval of their families led them to flee abroad.

Still unmarried, Mary became pregnant; the birth almost killed her, and the child, a daughter, died shortly afterwards. Her second child died as a result of the rigours of travel en route to Switzerland.

So when, in 1816, the young couple rented a house on the shores of Lake Geneva, only one child, her adored son William, had survived.



Detail from a drawing by André Masson

A DIVINE IMAGE

Cruelty has a human heart,
And jealousy a human face;
Terror the human form divine,
And secrecy the human dress.

The human dress is forged iron,
The human form a fiery forge,
The human face a furnace seal'd,
The human heart its hungry gorge.

William Blake 1794

They were joined by Lord Byron, and his pregnant mistress, Mary's younger half-sister Claire.

It rained incessantly. Byron took opium. Shelley preferred ether. Mary suffered recurring nightmares. They amused each other with seances and ghost stories. And one night all these experiences coalesced into one terrifying dream, from which Mary woke screaming. The result was *Frankenstein*, a novel stitched together from fragments of the past

The novel was an instant success. But within a few years most of those who were present on the night of its inspiration were dead. Shelley drowned when his boat capsized; his body burnt on a pyre on the shore where it was washed up. Byron died of a fever in Greece. His and Claire's daughter died in Italy. And William barely survived infancy. Mary returned to England with one surviving child, Percy Florence, and continued to live as a professional writer until her own death in 1851.