

Frankenstein Story Takes on New Role at Cripple Creek Theatre

The thrills and chills of the Frankenstein story took the stage of the Butte Theater Oct. 3 with plenty of blood, monster presence and humor.

Thin Air Theatre Company's (TATC) latest drama, written by Chris Sorensen and directed by Mel Moser, is a retelling of the Frankenstein story set in Cripple Creek's wild past. Doc Victor Frankenstein (JP Haynie), a mysterious figure with a secretive past, huddles up in his cabin in the hills above Cripple Creek trying to unlock the secrets of life and death. Helping him with his creepy experiments is Hard Knock Nell (Morgan Gengo), a rough and tumble mountain woman with a taste for whiskey and a scent that repels man and beast. The sets and props include a bloody cart of body parts, a pair of eyeballs that bounce on the floor and the doctor's bedside manner can send the audience into a few shivers. Don't be squeamish – it's only a show.

The story twists and turns around Doc's experiments and a love that develops between his blind niece Mary (Rebecca Myers) and a miner James Calder (Matthew Payne).

Evil Sheriff Bowers (Mickey Burdick) schemes to wrestle the doctor's gold-rich land out from under him. When Calder stands in his way, Bowers does him in. Horrified at his niece's lover's death, Frankenstein uses his lightning-harnessing equipment to bring his niece's love back to life, creating the monster that is the subject of the classic story. Or is the new creature really a monster?

With the help of a saloon owner (Ashley Casteen) and others the corrupt sheriff is sent packing and the surprise ending will reinforce your faith in humanity, or in monsters.

Frankenstein of Cripple Creek is a Halloween show filled with comedy and song, thrills and chills, action and romance. And to top it off the show ends with the popular Halloween Olio, a musical production featuring spoofs on popular songs.

Frankenstein of Cripple Creek runs through Saturday, Nov.1 at the Butte at 139 E. Bennett Ave. Show times are: Thursday 7 p.m.; Friday 7 p.m.; Saturday 1 & 7 p.m.; Sunday 1 p.m. Tickets are \$14.75 adults/\$12.75 seniors/\$9.75 children*
Group Rates Available.

Make reservations at 719-235-8944 or butteoperahouse.com.