

# Monster: Play's seven sets 'fantastic learning experience' for design

Continued from Page B1

Meanwhile, set design senior Albie Clementi was busy building the play's seven sets. It's the first "real scenic set design" he's done for a CWU play, he said.

"It's been a fantastic learning experience. I designed them all and worked really hard. This department is phenomenal. They're really skilled people."

Ohstrom, who plays The Creature, agreed. It was an honor for him to get the role during his first year in college and said he learned a few things during preparation for the play.

"Don't be late. Do as you're told. Contribute to the production," he said.

In high school plays, students were there because they had to be. Ohstrom said it's refreshing to experience college theater.

"It's good to be with people who have a passion for it."

Ohstrom said The Creature is a

## Tickets, please

- McConnell Auditorium
- "Frankenstein" is \$10 for students, \$12 for seniors and \$14 for everyone else. \$8 for the May 15 2 p.m. matinee.
- Show times are: May 12 and 19, 7 p.m., May 13, 14, 20 and 21, 8 p.m. and May 15, 2 p.m.
- The play is not appropriate for audiences under age 13.
- Online: Visit [www.cwu.edu/~theatre](http://www.cwu.edu/~theatre).

difficult and exciting role. Parts he's played in the past were more comedic, he said. This one challenged him.

"It's the first time I've gotten to play something like this."

To prepare for the role, Ohstrom had to reteach himself how to speak so that he would sound like a person who's never spoken before.

Changing the emphasis on syllables and listening to someone

with a speech impediment helped him prepare.

Andrew Kunellis, a junior who plays the role of DeLacey, said he too had to prepare and learn how to move as a blind person. He blindfolded himself and moved around the set to get an idea of how he would maneuver without sight. He also dons a pair of contact lenses for the show that will white out his eyes.

"I blindfolded myself on purpose to get the feeling of what I would be cautious of," he said.

To learn the movements of an old man, Kunellis studied the elderly and added a limp to his walk.

"It's going to be really good. Things are coming together."

Photo by David Dick/Daily Record

**Rob Rostad, playing Henry Clerval, and Shayne McNeill, playing Victor Frankenstein check the pulse of The Creature during a performance of "Frankenstein" Tuesday night.**



# Monster: 'Play has all the components of a Gothic

Continued from Page B1

"play has all the components of a Gothic novel. The play also adopts the Gothic motif in its ability to pass from reason and order to a region born of the supernatural." The Gothic-supernatural atmosphere is evidenced everywhere and in every possible way on stage. Thunder crackles loudly every time somebody wonders exactly what Victor (Shayne McNeill) is up to. Albie Clementi's ambitious set designs move the

story swiftly from foggy, windy graveyard, to the Frankenstein estate and laboratory, to a quaint cottage and back again. The sets may, in fact, be the real stars of the show.

The other interesting aspect of this production is the notion of who is truly the monstrous villain of the piece. Victor describes his despised Creation as a "thing deformed and perverse beyond imagining." Yet, in turning his own self-hatred outward towards his Creation, Victor is not the architect of his own destruction but, rather, the destruction of his family and friends.

Steve Nabors, Amy Hill, Amanda Rubeck, and Max Bellah portray a few unfortunate souls who suffer

## Tickets, please

"Frankenstein"  
• 7 p.m. May 19, 8 p.m. May 20-21  
• McConnell Auditorium, CWU  
• \$14 general admission, \$12 senior citizens, \$10 students  
• Available at Milo Smith Tower Theatre or McConnell Auditorium box offices or call 963-1774 or, for the hearing impaired, TDD 963-2143.

unjust and unnecessary fates. It is a huge irony that, in a play overflowing with one-dimensional cardboard depictions, the allegedly deformed and perverse "Creation" portrayed by Thomas

Ohrstrom is the most well-rounded, most human character. Consequently, Ohrstrom gives the best performance because he is the only one who emerges unscathed; with his intelligent head firmly above the dire, murky and overwrought plot.

The play is absolute murder on other equally talented cast members. McNeill is obliged to scream and behave perpetually paranoid throughout. Both he and Rob Rostad (as Victor's best friend Henry, who must be somewhat culpable since he is the one who flips the switches in the lab) have previously displayed their considerably versatile talents in such diverse productions as "Pinocchio" and "West Side Story," respectively. Here they are forced to utter such lines as "Oh, God! What have we done?" with conviction.

Whenever script attention, it goes amusingly. The quiet much better precious f. Still, after histrionic sentiment between (Andrew K kindly, bl a welcome

Still, I a could Oh ation" be the Bible man? Per bright he He certain life, death quickly e up for th show-do the lab u hell-ben

Taken ever, the neither p or violer grim.

# Play: Frankenstein opens today

◀ *continued from 8*

"I have to play my character from child to adult in one act, it's really challenging," Ohrstrom said. "I like playing opposite so many experienced actors."

The play is a little under two hours

long with a 15 minute intermission. Other shows will be at 7 p.m. on May 19 and at 8 p.m. on May 13, 14, 20 and 21. Ticket prices for students are \$10, seniors \$12 and general admission \$14. There will also be a matinee show at 2 p.m. on May 15 for which all tickets are \$8. To purchase tickets call the box office at 963-1774.



*Patri*

Top: Elizabeth Lav  
by Amy Hill, conte  
interactions of the  
during *Frankenste*

Left: Mueller fores  
to come by talkin  
*Frankenstein* and  
about *Frankenste*  
what he has been

# 'Frankenstein' a murky tale

Theater-goers who attend Central Theatre Ensemble's production of "Frankenstein" should leave all preconceived notions at the door.

Forget Colin Clive's crazed Dr. Frankenstein and Boris Karloff's grunting, mute Monster from the 1931 camp classic.

It's even easier to forget about Robert De Niro's more verbal and vengeful Monster from the intolerable 1994 film interpretation.

What we have here is an earnest, albeit ultimately unmoving and detached, take on Mary Shelley's original novel.

Shelley wrote a cerebral morality tale. That's fine from an intellectual standpoint, but it doesn't

## On the Aisle

necessarily translate into compelling dramatic

action on stage. The fault firmly lies with playwright Victor

Gialanella's mediocre and pedestrian adaptation, which was a notorious Broadway bomb that lost \$2 million, a then-record amount for a dramatic play. In a letter to me, director Michael Smith acknowledged that "it has been a great challenge to work with this script," to which he has made a number of



Dewey Mee

changes, alteration and deletions.

I admire Smith, along with the cast and production design crew, for trying their creative juices to flow despite serious limitations within the production, which features very little dialogue, ominous shadowings and dramatic moments, but action that erupts in quick, sharp bursts. There are a few astonishing lapses in logic and contrivances that must either be accepted or rejected outright. The best, however, is to reject everything and instead watch the production involved put the best possible spin on everything.

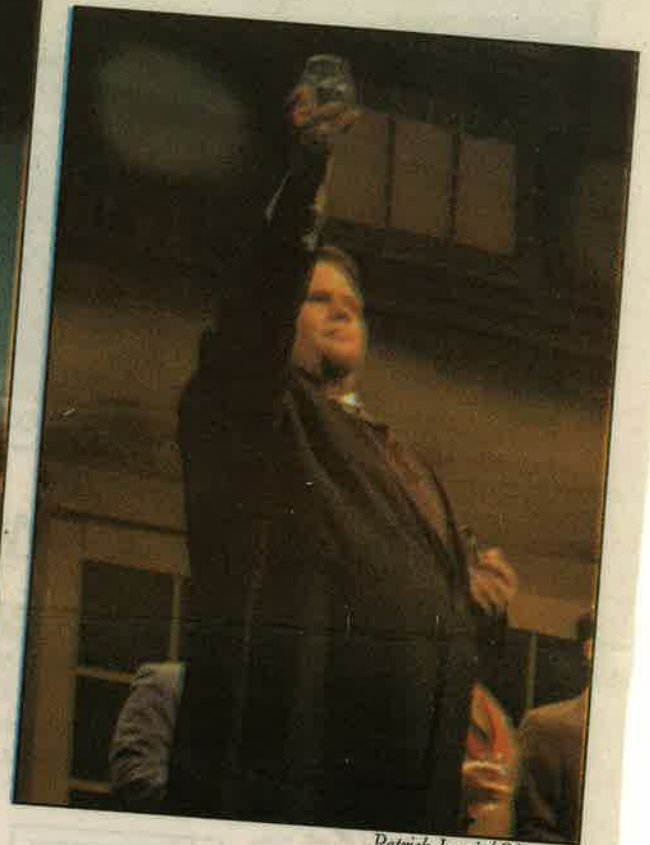
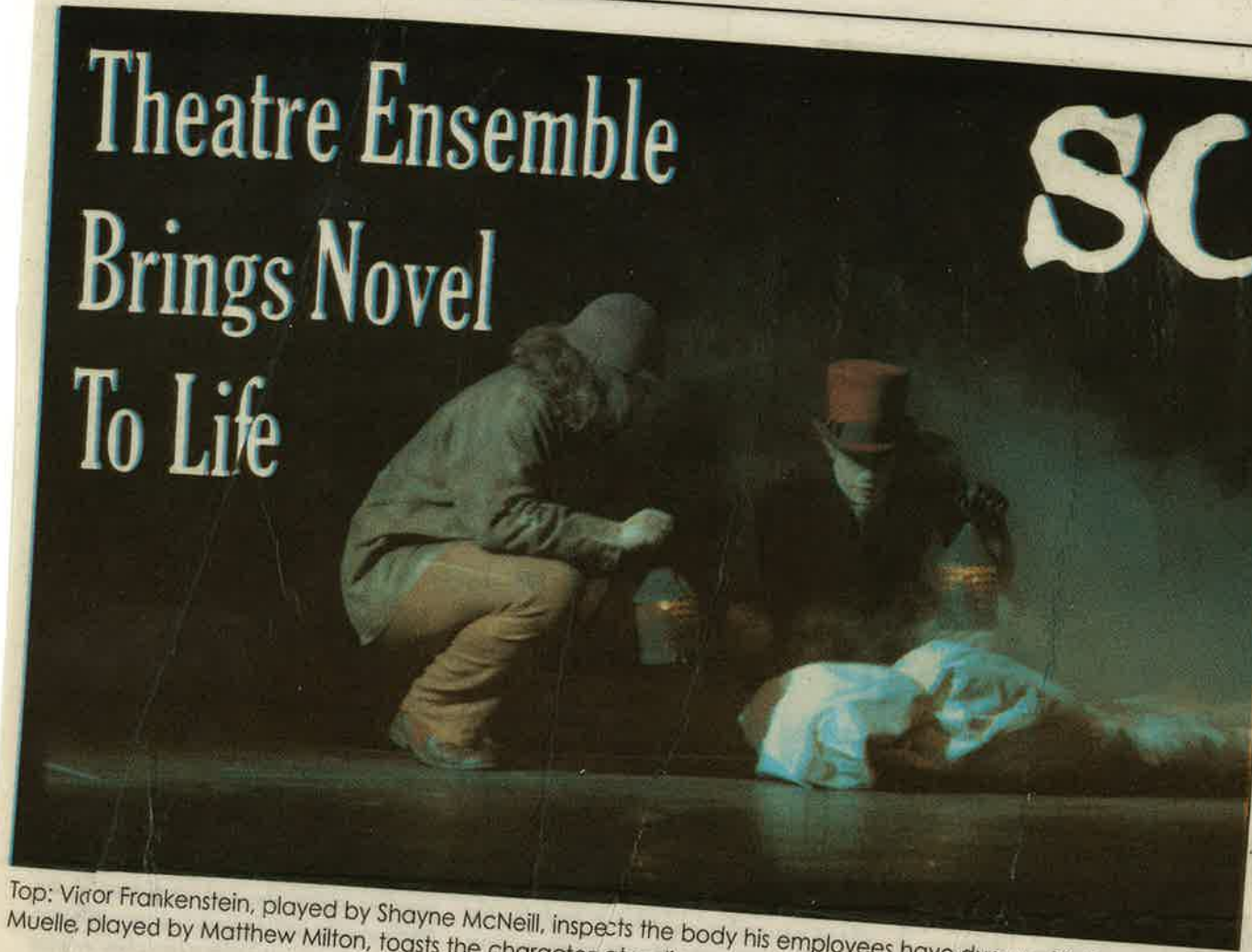
Smith writes that

See *Monster*, p. 10



# Theatre Ensemble Brings Novel To Life

# SCENE



Top: Victor Frankenstein, played by Shayne McNeill, inspects the body his employees have dug up. Right: Lionel Muelle, played by Matthew Milton, toasts the character at a dinner party celebrating the Frankensteins

## FRANKENSTEIN GETS A MAKEOVER

by Sarah Maubl  
Staff reporter

The actors practiced their battle scenes onstage, swinging weapons at each other in perfectly choreographed moves. They wore bits and pieces of their costumes. Some were adorned with fake scars and bloody wounds created by costume designer and makeup artist, Paul... bond. Members of the crew worked frantically on setting the stage for the big night when they will bring Mary Shelley's novel "Frankenstein" to life. Opening at 7 p.m., May 12 in McConnell Auditorium, the Central Theatre Ensemble will present an adaptation of "Frankenstein" by Victor Gialanella.

"It's a popular, well known story," said Leslee Caul, director of marketing and development for the Department of Theatre Arts. "We have kept [the story] very close to Mary Shelley's book."

While many people know the story of "Frankenstein," most people think of the green monster with bolts coming out of his neck. The original story told by Mary Shelley is quite different.

"It is so different from what students are expecting," said Amy Hill, senior theatre arts major. "It's really interesting and not just a

horror story. It has comedic moments and lots of action as well."

There are over 30 people involved in the play, both cast and crew. Planning for this production began last spring with the design team. Audience members can expect to see a lot of special effects during the show.

In 2003, McConnell Auditorium received a \$2.1 million renovation. Part of the update included the installation of a fly system above the stage. It is a system of wires and pulleys that allows multiple stage settings to be used. When one backdrop is no longer in use, it is quickly pulled up by the wires above the stage until it is needed again. "Frankenstein" is the first production to use this new system.

An unexpected addition to this play is Tess, a dog owned and trained by Ralph and Debbie Bullock. Tess plays the role of the dog, Fritz, whose life comes to a tragic end during the show.

Shayne McNeill, senior theatre arts major recommends no young children attend this play. Due to the violence and death that occurs, he feels the play is best suited for junior high ages and up. McNeill has been in about seven productions at Central. In this show he plays the lead role of Dr. Frankenstein.

"I like to bring the story to life," McNeill said. "It's fun to entertain people. I'm kind of a ham. I've never really played the dark guy before."

Due to all of the action scenes in this play, a combat choreographer, George Bellah, worked with the actors to make the fighting look as real as possible without anyone actually getting hurt.

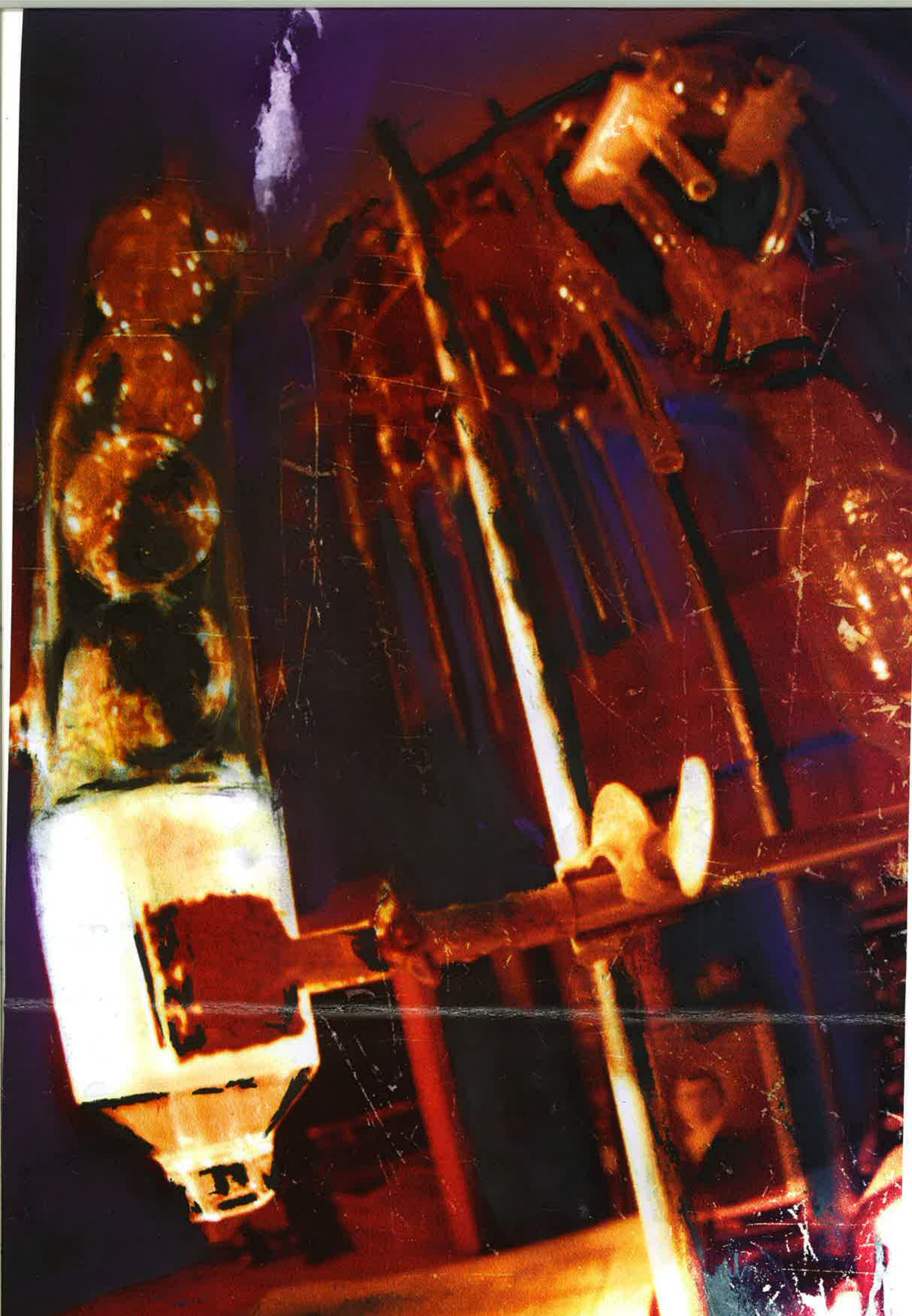
Casting for the play began in January. The actors have been working on the production since the beginning of the quarter. Hill, who has acted in dozens of plays at Central since her freshman year, plays the role of Elizabeth, Dr. Frankenstein's fiancée.

"I really like the character of Elizabeth," Hill said. "She's so unlike the typical damsel in distress. She's the antithesis of Dr. Frankenstein."

Tom Ohrstrom, freshman Theatre Arts major plays the role of the creature. This is his first main stage play at Central, although he has acted in plays since his junior year in high school. Ohrstrom said he really enjoys playing this character.

see PLAY, page 11 ▶





CENTRAL THEATRE ENSEMBLE PRESENTS

# FRANKENSTEIN

BY VICTOR GIALANELLA

Adapted from the novel by MARY SHELLY

May 12 and 19 at 7 p.m.

May 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 8 p.m.

Discount Sunday Matinee

May 15 at 2 p.m. All seats \$8

TICKETS: \$10 Students, \$12 Seniors, \$14 General Admission



2005



CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

*Your future is Central.*

McConnell Auditorium

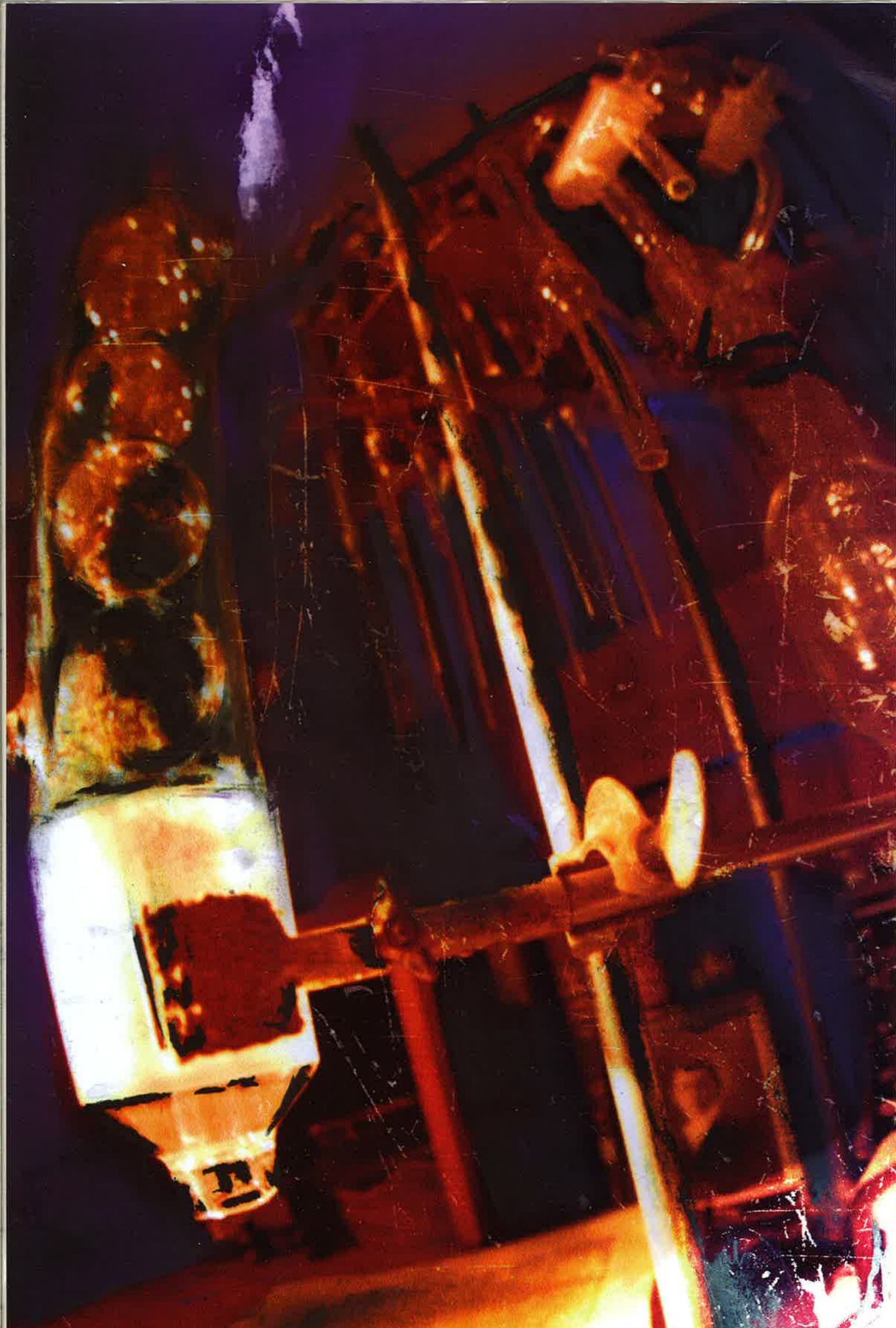
**BOX OFFICE: (509) 963-1774**

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Persons of disability may make arrangements for reasonable accommodation and printed materials in alternative format by calling (509) 963-1760 or by leaving a message on TDD (509) 963-2143

[www.cwu.edu/~theatre](http://www.cwu.edu/~theatre)





CENTRAL THEATRE ENSEMBLE PRESENTS

# FRANKENSTEIN

BY VICTOR GIALANELLA

Adapted from the novel by MARY SHELLY

May 12 and 19 at 7 p.m.

May 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 8 p.m.

Discount Sunday Matinee

May 15 at 2 p.m. All seats \$8

TICKETS: \$10 Students, \$12 Seniors, \$14 General Admission



McConnell Auditorium

**BOX OFFICE: (509) 963-1774**

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Persons of disability may make arrangements for reasonable accommodations and printed materials.

[www.cwu.edu/~theatre](http://www.cwu.edu/~theatre)





# FRANKENSTEIN

BY VICTOR GIALANELLA

Adapted from the novel by MARY SHELLY

May 12 and 19 at 7 p.m.

May 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 8 p.m.

Discount Sunday Matinee

May 15 at 2 p.m. All seats \$8

TICKETS: \$10 Students, \$12 Seniors,