

FRANKENSTEIN

by Nick Dear, based on the novel by Mary Shelley



AUDITION NOTICE

Key dates and venues

- **Workshop** | Wednesday 24 May 2017 7pm
- **Auditions** | Wednesday 31 May and Saturday 3 June 2017
- **Recalls** | Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 June 2017
- **First rehearsal** | Sunday 23 July 2017
- **Performances** | 17-21 October 2017
- **Workshop, audition, recall and rehearsal venue** | 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, London EC2V 5DX
- **Performance venue** | Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, London EC4Y 8EQ

To book an audition, please read the full audition notice, then sign up at

<https://membership.sedos.co.uk/signup/>

ABOUT THE SHOW

“Slowly I learnt the ways of humans: how to ruin, how to hate, how to debase, how to humiliate. And at the feet of my master I learnt the highest of human skills, the skill no other creature owns: I finally learnt how to lie.”

Childlike in his innocence but grotesque in form, Frankenstein's bewildered creature is cast out into a hostile universe by his horror-struck maker. Meeting with cruelty wherever he goes, the friendless creature, increasingly desperate and vengeful, determines to track down his creator and strike a terrifying deal.

Urgent concerns of scientific responsibility, parental neglect, cognitive development and the nature of good and evil are embedded within this thrilling and deeply disturbing classic gothic tale.

Frankenstein (by Nick Dear, based on the novel by Mary Shelley) was first presented at the National Theatre in February 2011, directed by Danny Boyle. Benedict Cumberbatch and Johnny Lee Miller alternated in the roles of Victor Frankenstein and the Creature. (Note, given that the run is only a week, we do not intend to alternate the parts).



VISION OF THE SHOW

Although a Gothic-novel, *Frankenstein* is at its heart about the relationship between a child who craves parental love and a parent who cannot provide that love. It is about how someone grows up and has to learn and deal with the trials and tribulations of life — and find their own moral compass, without being guided by a parent's hand.

Frankenstein is both of its time and of all time. Our production will have a traditional period look from a costume point of view to firmly root the story in its own time (the early 1800's), but will have a very modern sensibility particularly with the lighting and sound-score to create a timeless production.

THE CAST

We are looking for a cast of 12. As well as Frankenstein and the Creature, there are great parts for actors of all ages. These include De Lacey, the kindly blind man who educates the Creature; Elizabeth, Frankenstein's beautiful fiancée and M Frankenstein — Frankenstein's father. We are looking for a boy (or young-looking adult) to play the part of William, Frankenstein's younger brother.

We are also looking for a fabulous female dancer to play the role of the Female Creature who is the object of the Creature's fantasy.

Most of the cast will also feature in the ensemble which will be utilised at various points in the action. The detailed cast breakdown is set out at the end of the audition notice.

NUDITY

We will not be expecting complete nudity from the Creature or the Female Creature. We will use loin-cloths / bandages or similar. However the actors playing these parts will nevertheless need to feel comfortable being relatively exposed for extended periods of time. We will be asking auditionees for these parts to confirm their comfort with this during the audition process.

ABOUT THE TEAM

Director | Matt Gould

For Sedos, Matt has directed *Hapgood*, *Arcadia*, *House/Garden*, *A Man of No Importance*, *Into the Woods*, *Noises Off* and *London Road*. His Sedos musical direction credits include: *Grand Hotel*, *Rent*, *Parade* and *Victor/Victoria*. Elsewhere, he has musical directed most of Stephen Sondheim's shows. Matt is secretary of the Sedos committee.

Producer | Pippa Kyle

For Sedos, Pippa has produced *Taking Steps*, *A Little Night Music*, *A Man of No Importance*, *Noises Off* and co-produced *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Her other roles include stage managing *Into the Woods* and the *Garden* portion of *House/Garden*. She is a former Sedos committee member and currently chair of the Sedos marketing group.

AUDITION FORMAT

Workshop

Date | 24 May, 7pm

Where | 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, London EC2V 5DX

Sign up | email Pippa on frankenstein@sedos.co.uk to give us an idea of numbers

The workshop is a chance to get to know the team and the show, as well as to ask questions. It is entirely optional, no preparation is needed and attendance will not affect your chances of being cast.

Auditions

Dates and times:

Wednesday 31 May | sessions at 7-8.30pm and 8.30-10pm

Saturday 3 June | sessions at 10-11.30am, 11.30am-1pm, 2-3.30pm and 3.30-5pm

Where | 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, London EC2V 5DX

Sign up | <https://membership.sedos.co.uk/signup/>

Within each 90-minute session auditionees will be seen individually on a first-come, first served basis. You will be sent a scene-scenes to prepare when you sign up for an audition slot. If you are interested in more than one part, please concentrate on preparing your preferred part as we may only have time to hear you read for one role, although we will still consider you for others.

Recalls

Date | Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 June

Where | 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, London EC2V 5DX

More information on the recalls and what to prepare, if anything, will be provided to those who are recalled. We do not foresee holding workshop-style recalls, but you may be asked to work in a pair or small group with other auditionees.

Auditions for the Creature and the Female Creature

As one part of the audition for the Creature, we will ask the auditionee to perform a prepared movement extract to show the development of the Creature. Details will be provided in the audition materials. Auditionees for the Female Creature will be required to demonstrate their dancing ability. Details will be provided when auditionees sign up.

REHEARSALS

The first rehearsal will be a read-through on Sunday 23 July.

Thereafter, rehearsals will be on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and the following weekend days: Sunday 6 August Saturday 12 August, Sunday 20 August, Sunday 3 September, Saturday 9 September, Sunday 17 September, Saturday 23 September, Saturday 30 September and Sunday 1 October (note, Saturday AND Sunday rehearsals this weekend), Sunday 8 October, Saturday 14 September.

All rehearsals will be at 1 Brewers' Hall Garden or if they move, they will be at another central London venue.

The show gets into the Bridewell Theatre (Bride Lane, EC4Y 8EQ) on Sunday 15 October and the technical rehearsal is that evening. The dress rehearsal is on the evening of Monday 16 October. Performances are every evening 17-21 October, plus there will be a Saturday matinee.

CASTING RESTRICTIONS

Because of overlapping rehearsal periods, it will not be possible to be in *Frankenstein* and any of these Sedos shows: *The Rivals*, *The Nether*, *Ordinary Days* and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*. We are aware that we are auditioning at the same time as *The Rivals* and you are welcome to audition for both shows, although you can only be cast in one — the production teams will discuss casting if they both want to shortlist/cast the same person. Auditionee preferences will be taken into account.

A NOTE ON THE CASTING OF WILLIAM

We would be delighted to see both young-looking adults and children auditioning for the part of William. For licensing purposes, children are classified as such until the last Friday in June in the school year in which they have their 16th birthday. To comply with licensing requirements, children must be accompanied by a parent at all times at auditions, rehearsals and performances, so parents must only allow children to audition if they are willing to take this on if their child is cast. The part of William will be played by the same actor at every performance.

SEDOS | MEMBERSHIP, AUDITION AND PARTICIPATION FEES

Sedos is one of London's pre-eminent amateur theatre societies, with the aim of producing quality amateur shows to the best artistic standards possible. Please note that performers are not paid — not even expenses. To perform in *Frankenstein* you must be a member of Sedos (membership is currently £30 per year if paid by direct debit; £35 if paid as a one-off) and pay a participation fee of £30. There is a £5 non-refundable audition fee for non-Sedos members, which will be payable online at the time of confirming an audition slot.

Read more about Sedos at sedos.co.uk

BACKSTAGE HELP

If you are not interested in auditioning, but would like to help out backstage, in any capacity (from operating lights, to building scenery to sewing costumes to providing front of house assistance) then please let us know by e-mailing frankenstein@sedos.co.uk. We would be delighted to hear from you!

ANY QUESTIONS?

Please email Pippa on frankenstein@sedos.co.uk if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you at the workshop and auditions.

Matt and Pippa

CASTING BREAKDOWN

Victor Frankenstein

A scientist. A brilliant but troubled man.
Playing age 25-40

The Creature

The creation of Frankenstein. Although a creation, he is nevertheless made from the finest body-parts. Larger than life. Immensely powerful and strong. A menacing presence due to his unworldliness and the manner of his creation. The actor must be able to demonstrate the ability during a performance to grow from a baby to a fully-formed human being.

Playing age 25-40

De Lacey

De Lacey is a kindly older man who was blinded in war. He teaches the Creature to read and is the epitome of kindness in the play.
Doubles **Ewan**: an Orkney Island Crofter called into service by Frankenstein when creating the Female Creature — needs a strong Scottish accent.
Playing age 40-70

Elizabeth Lavenza

Victor's fiancée. A beautiful woman.
Playing age 18-30

William Frankenstein

Victor's younger brother. An ideal unspoiled child. We will consider slightly older but young looking!
Playing age 12-16

Monsieur Frankenstein

Victor's father. A wealthy man who has to deal with the destruction of his family caused by Victor's experiments.
Playing age 45-55

Gustav

A beggar.
Doubles **Rab**, Ewan's nephew. An Orkney Island Crofter. Rugged, fit. Needs a strong Scottish accent.
Playing age 20-25

Klaus

A beggar.
Doubles **Constable**.
Playing age any age.

Felix

De Lacey's son. A decent awe-inspired poor farmer.
Playing age 20-25

Agatha

Felix's wife — a wide-eyed innocent.
Playing age 20-25

Gretel

A prostitute.
Doubles **Clarice**, Elizabeth's maid.
Playing age 18-50

Female Creature

The beautiful creation of the Creature's mind. Playing age 18-30