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# Frankenstein

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by Fiona Russell (/reviewer/Fiona+Russell) on 8th August 2016

As one of the most commonly adapted works in the English canon, *Frankenstein* often leaves one unmoved when he or she leaves the auditorium. However, this version of the tale brings both the monster and his maker to life in a way not seen before, maintaining the integrity and passion of the book whilst bringing something new and engaging to the table. It possesses all the grotesque grittiness of the original, in addition to being well-paced and humorous, it even has the power to move one to tears as we follow the tragic tale of the abandoned pathos-filled brainchild of Dr Frankenstein, and his increasingly inhumane creator. As the play unfolds, one is led to wonder: which is the monster and which the man?



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The gothic scenery includes clever use of technology and lighting to create a compelling atmosphere. Furthermore, the sincerity of the performers, in addition to the well-adapted and fast-flowing script, help bring this tale of doom to life in a way that is unique and somehow entirely what one would hope for in a live performance, bringing to life the true voice of Mary Shelley. Thematically, it brings to light plot points and themes only hinted at in the novel, and the strong character development and growth is notable throughout.

The entire production is immaculately crafted, well-cast and acted with feeling and a strong sense of unity among the cast. The performance would be as enjoyable for those encountering the story for the first time as for someone devoted to the novel; *Frankenstein*, in addition to being an absorbing tale, also bears particular relevance to the modern world, where science, technology and ethics are constantly in conflict. The intertwining of Edinburgh's own gory history with the story also does not go amiss, and has the audience laughing whole-heartedly. For a performance pertinent to the modern world and, in this adaption, to Edinburgh, *Frankenstein* is an excellent choice, immersing both the senses and the mind.

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