



THE MEL BROOKS MUSICAL

# YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN



This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Autersbureau ALMO byba on behalf of Music Theatre Inernational Europe

8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018 | 19:30 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 | 14:30









#### An Introduction from the British Ambassador



After the amazing production of *Scrooge!* last year I wondered with anticipation what Pirate Productions would stage next. And I have to say I am excited by the prospect of *Young Frankenstein!* 

Given how famous the film of Young Frankenstein is, it may come as a surprise to some that I am not sure that I have ever seen it. I am more familiar with *The Producers* and *Blazing Saddles* both, like *Young Frankenstein*, directed by Mel Brooks and starring Gene Wilder. I have certainly seen some of the most famous scenes from the film. But I am sure I have never seen it in its entirety.

Nor have I seen it as a musical. But knowing something of the story I am intrigued to see how it is done. One thing I am sure of is that it will be fabulous entertainment!

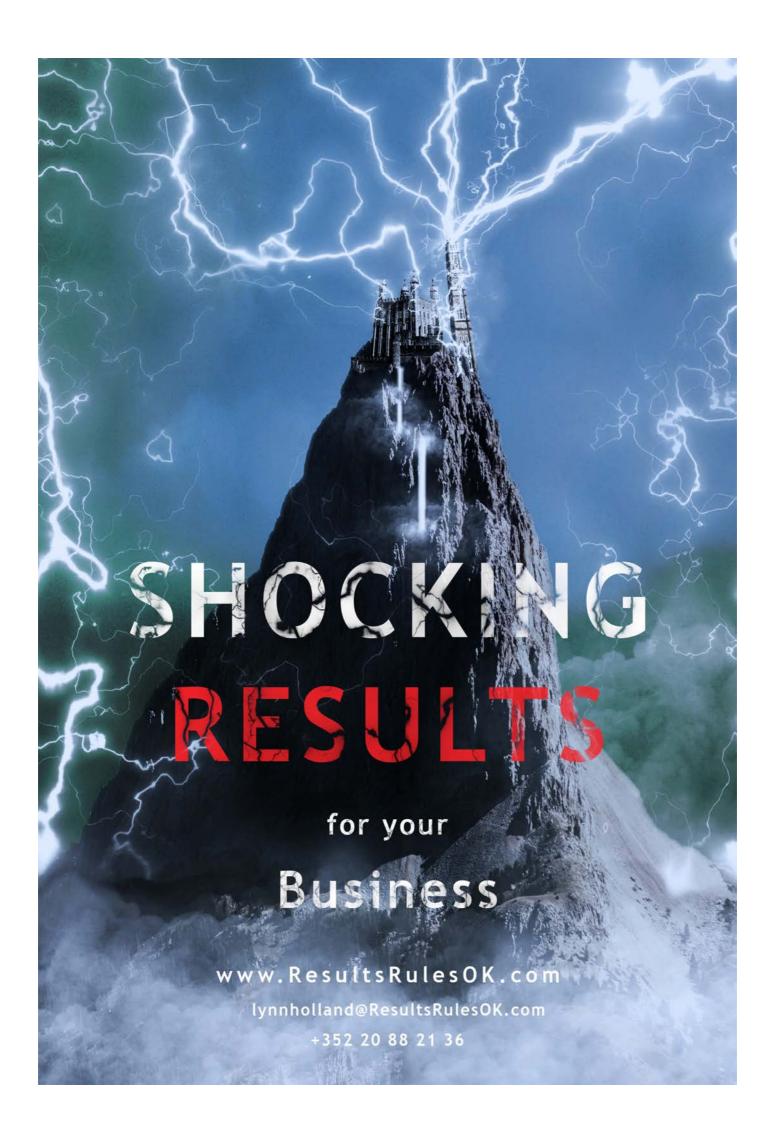
Musicals have a wonderful ability to bring an audience together. Whether you are familiar with the story or not, it is never long before you're drawn in by the collective responses of a captivated audience.

And late autumn, as winter approaches and the evenings draw in, seems a particularly good time to be settling down to watch absorbing theatre with an appreciative crowd.

I am, as I am sure you all are, thoroughly looking forward to being sucked into the twisted world of the infamous Dr. Frankenstein for an evening of great entertainment.

A big thank you to the Pirate Productions staff, cast, musicians and crew for their creative energy, boundless talent and irrepressible desire to entertain us.

John Marshall British Ambassador to Luxembourg



#### A word from the Co-Chairs of Pirate Productions





We are delighted to bring Young Frankenstein to the stage in Luxembourg, especially as it seemed unlikely we would get the performing rights because it was still running in the West End in London when we applied. But, as luck would have it, we did get the rights and what we have is a delightful show full of great songs and a very talented cast.

Young Frankenstein, like Scrooge! the Musical and Oliver!, is a co-production with Kinneksbond Centre Culturel Mamer and it is wonderful to be working with the Kinneksbond team again who are very supportive both on the technical and organisational side. Thank you Jerome Konen, Sam Wiesenfeld and Lucie del Salle – your patience and help is very much appreciated by us all.

Neil Johnson, who directed Oliver! (2016), Nunsense (2012) and Calamity Jane (2010) is once again in the Director's seat – squeezing every ounce of comedy out of the script and songs for your delectation! Philip has slipped back into his role as Musical Director ensuring that all the singers and musicians know what they should be singing/playing and Eric Gherardi, as our Assistant Musical Director, is helping Philip put the orchestra together. We'd like to add a special thanks to Liz Turner who kindly agreed to be rehearsal pianist and without whom the singing rehearsals would have been much more challenging! We are also delighted to have Dominic Vitali back as Choreographer supported by his able dance captains, Marina Tomasic and Maiken Thamdrup. Valerie has challenged the normal rules by being Stage Manager but will also be on stage as a chorus member. As she can't be in two places at once, unlike Hermione Granger and her time-turner, Seth Ruef has agreed to take over the running of the show when we are in Kinneksbond. And in the Producer's chair is Bernadette Alexander ably assisted by Beverley Atkinson and Erin Boggs.

As you can tell, there is as much going on behind the scenes as there is on stage and we are always looking for people to join us as actors, singers, dancers, sound/lighting technicians, set-builders, prop makers, costume people, programme sellers, bar staff – the list is endless. Please visit our website: www.pirates.lu for more information.

As we all know, despite Luxembourg being a relatively small country it is highly international and the same is also true of Pirate Productions. Although our shows are always in English, the cast and crew in Young Frankenstein come from 15 countries and the younger members come from many different schools.

However, back to tonight's show...anyone who is a fan of Mel Brooks will love Young Frankenstein as it pokes fun at the popular Boris Karloff films made during the 1930's. So, even if you are not a fan of Mel Brooks but enjoy a comedy then you will not be disappointed as we take you on a journey to Transylvania!

We invite you to forget your daily cares, sit back and enjoy the show!

Valerie Scott & Philip Dutton



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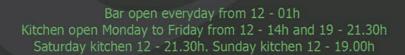
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#### A word from the Director

I remember the very first time I saw the movie Young Frankenstein I was about 14 years old and staying with my aunt & uncle for the weekend as my parents were away somewhere. My aunt and I had plans to go out that Saturday afternoon but the British weather intervened and it poured with rain. Nothing much to do except watch TV with tea and biscuits. Back then, Saturday afternoon TV was very sport dominated but my aunt scanned the newspaper and squealed with delight when she saw Young Frankenstein was being shown on BBC2. "I think you're going to like this"



she said. Not knowing the movie at all (and thinking it a bit odd that a horror movie would be shown that early in the day) the film started (in black & white – oh crap!) and I resigned myself to watching some re-run of a 1930's Boris Karloff flic. However, within 5 minutes I was chuckling away and for the next 90 minutes, my aunt and I laughed our socks off. That was my introduction to Mel Brooks' movies and over the coming years I watched them all.

So, it's all down to my Aunt Lynne!

There's something about Mel Brooks movies that lends itself very well to musical adaptation. Who can forget Lily von Shtupp's rendition of *I'm Tired* in *Blazing Saddles*? or *Springtime for Hitler* in *The Producers*? Brooks himself is a talented pianist, drummer and composer and his love of Broadway musical has no doubt inspired him to adapt his film work for the stage.

I first came across The Mel Brooks musical – Young Frankenstein about 5 years ago. I was immediately impressed by how well the songs fitted the original movie, both musically and lyrically, and how faithfully the stage version captures the spirit of it. It can be very tricky to adapt a movie for the stage (and vice-versa) but Brooks has managed it with aplomb.

Of course, it's not possible to discuss any Brooks movie without acknowledging the superb cast he assembled. Comic geniuses such as Gene Wilder, Madelaine Kahn and Marty Feldman contributed hugely to the success of *Young Frankenstein*.

So I was slightly daunted at the prospect of auditioning actors for such iconic roles as Frau Blücher, Igor the hunchback and Inspector Kemp of the Transylvania Heights Constabulary. I had no need to worry. I've been extremely lucky to have been able to cast an enormously talented bunch of people. I didn't want impersonations of the original movie's main actors but the cast of this production have really made the roles their own. Surprisingly, some of them are actually quite amusing in real life! We've had a huge amount of fun rehearsing *Young Frankenstein* and I'm sure it will shine through in every performance. The chorus cast members have also been a joy to work with. They've worked extremely hard to create a wonderful sound for the sometimes tricky musical numbers and a number of them have suffered sore feet and limbs from extremely intense dance rehearsals. Kudos to you all.

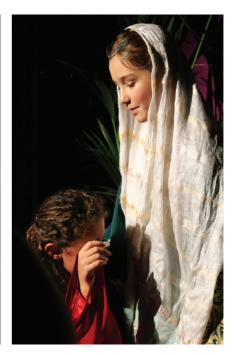
A special thanks too, to Dom Vitali whose brilliant choreography has contributed so much to the show. All that remains if for me to thank the other members of the production team and crew. Without you, this show would not have been possible. You've put up with my crazy ideas, kept your spirits up when I've changed things last minute and, most importantly, haven't killed anyone - to my knowledge at least.

I salute you all!

Neil Johnson







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#### **Philip Dutton (Musical Director)**

When Neil asked if I would be MD for Young Frankenstein I immediately said 'Yes'. Not because I knew anything about the show but because it is a Pirate's show and I like working with Neil. Of course, I was familiar with the 1974 movie and it's classic performance of Irving Berlin's *Puttin'* on the *Ritz* but I had no idea what the musical version of the story would be like.



Well, what surprise! Mel Brooks turns out to be quite a tunesmith. The songs are as ingenious as they are delightful. Is there no end to this man's talent?

Of course, he did have a bit of help from his brilliant orchestrator Doug Besterman (Sister Act, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Damn Yankees, Guys and Dolls, The Producers and many more), so this is a show that really works musically.

Much of the score is challenging for singers, musicians and conductor alike. There is a huge amount of underscoring that must fit in with dialogue, action, sound/lighting effects as well as with projections.

However, despite the challenges, working on this show has been a complete delight and I would like to thank the principals, chorus, and orchestra for their dedication in learning the music. Particular thanks go to Liz Turner who, as rehearsal pianist "bashed notes" to help with the harmony parts and Eric Gherardi who, as assistant musical director, took some rehearsals, helped find musicians and also re-wrote some orchestral parts to suit the players we had available.

I hope it is not unlucky to report that this is to be my 13th Pirates show as musical director and really hope that you all enjoy the show.

#### Dominique Vitali (Choreographer)

A Luxembourger of Italian descent, I started dancing at the age of nine after seeing a World Championship on TV. 2018 marks my 45th year "in the business". Today I admit that had there been a stage school anywhere in or around Luxembourg, that's probably the path I would have chosen. There wasn't, so dancing it would be! The bullying and name calling did nothing to change that, the passion was stronger and at the age of 19 (decades before *Billy Elliott*), I turned professional and opened my own dance school in Metz. At 34, after becoming French Professional Champion in



Latin-American Show Dance and European finalist I decided to call it a day, grateful that I was able to fulfill my childhood dream. Today I have a "normal" day job but continue to dance and make others dance on weeknights and sometimes week-ends too and I still train competition couples.

Oh yes, and then there are the shows...musicals are, and remain, my "guilty pleasure". Hard work combined with fun (and the occasional tantrum) is a much more fitting description for this particular hoofer. My mantra: "Take the job seriously and yourself less seriously...". I have danced both as an Amateur and a Professional with a focus on Ballroom and Latin-American dancing. Having also trained in ballet, historical dances, tap dance and flamenco, I have the kind of "general knowledge" that comes in handy when staging choreography for musicals playing in various periods of history and with casts of mixed dancing skills.

I like a challenge and love nothing more than to see a show come together...in the end! And because they always do, after shows such as Stepping Out, Showtime, La Cage aux Folles, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Nunsense, Scrooge! the Musical so Young Frankenstein becomes my seventh production with Pirate Productions as choreographer.





Destruction de Données



Archivage



#### **CAST LIST**

#### **PRINCIPALS**

Victor Bonanno Frederick Fronkensteen Simon Taylor-Kielty Igor Jennie Kenton Inga Ciara Barker Frau Blucher Elizabeth Benning Catriona Gillham The Monster Florin Purice Inspector Kemp Mike West The Hermit Brian Parker Ziggy Jasper Frank

#### **ENSEMBLE**

Alex Teligadas
Art Viogiatzis
Aymeric d'Herouel
Beverley Atkinson
Charlotte Whitehouse
Clare Bayley
Dani Pardinas

Ida Kuresevic
Jeanne Letsch
Katya Yerofyeyva
Matya Yerofyeyva
Marina Tomasic
Michael Watson
Patrick Taylor-Kielty

Rachel Lloyd Steve Wilkie Tanja Duhr Valeria Zaza Valerie Scott Vital Pourprix

#### **ENSEMBLE TAP DANCERS**

Clare Bayley Marina Tomasic
Ida Kuresevic Patrick Taylor-Kielty
Mailan Thomasurus Parkel Head

Maiken Thamdrup Rachel Lloyd

Steve Wilkie Valeria Zaza Valerie Scott

#### **ELIZABETH'S ENTOURAGE**

Masha (Nails)
Sasha (Make-up)
Tanja Duhr
Tasha (Hair)
Valeria Zaza
Basha (Wardrobe)
Maiken Thamdrup
Bob (Astrologer)
Aymeric d'Herouel

#### **BARBERSHOP QUARTET**

Brian Parker (Bass) Maiken Thamdrup (Alto) Steve Wilkie (Baritone) Valerie Scott (Tenor)

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# Principals (in order of appearance)

#### Mike West (Inspector Kemp)

It isn't every day that you get the opportunity to be in one of your favourite films! I've loved *Young Frankenstein* since it first came out and I am really delighted to get to play the part of Inspector Kemp. I have been a regular member of Pirates since 1995, popping up in shows for Pirate Productions and NWTC, singing, dancing, knitting, being a soldier, being a dame (there is nothing like a dame) and being



a misunderstood police torturer. I have even scaled the dizzy heights of being a stage hand. I tap danced once but all the video evidence is safely locked away in a damp corner of the garage. I am glad to be back on the boards again, working with old friends from many shows and having a fine old time.



#### Jasper Frank (Ziggy)

Previously with Pirates I played Noah Claypole in the production of Oliver!. I enjoy acting and singing on stage because it's fun and working with the Pirates team is particularly good because they are very professional and friendly. After Oliver!, I did my GCSE in Drama and acted in several plays including an abridged version of War of the Worlds. I wanted to audition for Young Frankenstein because I really like

working with Neil and I like the comedic theme of the play because it has intelligent, adult humour .... that raises your IQ. I got smarter anyhow!

#### Victor Bonanno (Frederick Fronkensteen)

A translator by profession and a theatre enthusiast in my spare time, I started performing at the age of 17 in my home country of Malta. There I performed in various musicals (including Seussical the Musical and Spring Awakening) and pantomimes (Hercules and Jack and the Beanstalk). In Luxembourg I have performed with NWTC (Ten Minute Play Festival and Oh! What a Lovely War) and this is my fifth



performance with Pirate Productions (previous productions include *The Jazz Club*, *Starting Here Starting Now*, *Oliver!* and *Scrooge! the Musical*). I am very excited to be taking on the role of Frederick Frankenstein. It has been a challenging experience but also a rewarding one. I wish you all a pleasant evening and I hope you enjoy the show!



#### Catriona Gillham (Elizabeth Benning)

A translator by day, I've been a member of Pirates since 2015, when I first moved to Luxembourg. I appeared in *Oliver!*, *Showtime* and *Lost in the Stars*, but Elizabeth will be my first 'principal' role. Though I only caught the theatre bug fairly recently, I've been singing for a while now: having sung in a few choirs since university, I am now working towards the deuxième prix exam in singing at the Conservatoire,

where I am also studying advanced solfège and orchestral percussion. When I'm not on stage, the excellent (and highly patient) lighting director Anthony McCarthy sometimes lets me join him backstage: we worked together on the lighting for *Harlem Hotel* and *Scrooge!* the *Musical*, and then he guided me in planning, designing, setting up and running the lights for NWTC's *Bertie's War* more independently. He hasn't yet pulled all his hair out, which is a good sign.

## Principals (in order of appearance)

#### Simon Taylor-Kielty (Igor)

I'm a Mancunian, who's lived all over the place! I've been a care assistant, a nurse and a retail assistant. And for a season I was Clown number 2 in a professional panto at Manchester's Library Theatre! But mostly I've worked as an illustrator on books and greeting cards. I spent 10 years treading the boards with an amateur dramatic group in Cirencester. I was a psychopathic serial killer,



a useless crook and several doctors! Pirates have given me the chance to really scare myself to death. Amateur acting is easy compared to acting, singing and dancing - all at THE SAME TIME! Last year I played Tom Jenkins in *Scrooge! the Musical*. This year I'm the weird, hunched, creepy, foot-dragging spawn of a castle dungeon that is Igor (pronounced Eyegore!). My wife says I was born to play this part. How I laughed. Actually, she's right! I'm loving every minute of it, Igor and I, together again for the first time!



#### Jennie Kenton (Inga)

I was born in St.Asaph, Wales and ever since I was a little girl I've known that singing, dancing and acting were a part of who I am. I was the lead singer in the pop/rock band Jeneli & The Barely Legals for 4 years, but am currently working on my own solo project as Jeneli. When I was younger I took part in many plays and school productions and then after a long break of I3 years I finally found my

way to Pirate Productions when I was cast as Helen in last year's production of *Scrooge! the Musical*. I was delighted to be cast as Inga in *Young Frankenstein* which is such a fun role. I am also honoured to be able to work with a fantastic director and an amazing cast! I hope you enjoy the show as much as I've enjoyed being a part of it!

#### Ciara Barker (Frau Blücher)

To my shock and horror I realise that I have been a member of Pirates for exactly 30 years. During that time I have been lucky enough to be part of some great shows and made some wonderful friends. Each show is an adventure and a roller-coaster ride (some more bumpy than others) and each time I'm reminded how fun it is to be a member of this theatre group. It has truly been a joy to be part of



this production from start to finish. We have sniggered, laughed, hooted and guffawed our way through rehearsals and I'm delighted that I have yet again added to my circle of fabulous friends (or luvvies as my husband likes to call us). I hope you get as much fun out of watching the show as we did putting it together.



#### Florin Purice (The Monster)

I was 20 when I discovered my passion for theatre. After some performing in some classical theatre pieces such as Molière and Charles Bertin, I had to give up theatre in order to concentrate on my studies. However, I treasured the wonderful memories of my experience on stage. Years later after I was married had my little boy, and had moved to Luxembourg, I met some theatre enthusiasts and all the good memories came flooding back and I decided to take the plunge and have another go at

being on stage. In 2016, I auditioned for *Harlem Hotel* which was an improvised show and so much fun. I was the not-very-handy handyman! I was delighted to find that there was not just one person to open the door into Pirates but a warm and smiling family! Now, in *Young Frankenstein* I have been cast as the Monster and I'm having a ball!

#### **Brian Parker (The Hermit, Barbershop Quartet)**

Since I started performing theatre in 1995 in the chorus of Pirate Productions' Fiddler on the Roof, I have been involved in many productions over the years, mainly with Pirates and New World Theatre Club, playing characters ranging from Ali Hakim in Oklahoma! to Albert Einstein in Picasso at the Lapin Agile. I also direct shows and have The Grand Old Duke of York the pantomime, Company, Man of La



Mancha and 12 Angry Men on my theatrical CV. I've been lucky enough to play great parts such as Fagin in Oliver! and more recently Scrooge in the musical version of A Christmas Carol, Scrooge! the Musical. In an attempt at getting some peace and quiet, I play a lonely Hermit hiding from the mad science of Young Frankenstein. What could possibly go wrong?



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# **Synopsis**

#### Act I

Deep in the heart of Transylvania, the inhabitants of the small village of Transylvania Heights attend the funeral of the infamous Baron Victor von Frankenstein, maker of monsters! Inspector Kemp of the Transylvania Constabulary warns the locals that one descendent of the fearsome baron remains alive, a grandson Frederick, a respected scientist living in America.

Meanwhile, at the Johns, Myriam and Anthony Hopkins School of Medicine in New York, Frederick (who now pronounces his family name, Fronkensteen) is preparing to give a lecture to his students on the human nervous system when an urgent telegram arrives.

Fearing he may lose his inheritance from his grandfather, Frederick leaves his adoring, mad-cap fiancée Elisabeth bereft on the quayside and sets sail for Europe. Elisabeth does not stay bereft for very long.

On arriving at Transylvania Heights train station, Frederick is greeted by Igor (who works at Castle Frankenstein) who in turn introduces him to the lovely Inga who will work as his laboratory assistant. Frederick has no intention of repeating his grandfather's discredited experiments and they set off for the castle on a haycart through the moonlit forest.

Once at the castle, Frederick & Inga are welcomed by the intimidating housekeeper, Frau Blücher. However, upon retiring to their rooms, Frederick and Inga discover a hidden passageway that leads to Victor's secret library containing his reference books and notes. Gradually, Frederick realises that it may be possible to reanimate dead tissue and that his grandfather may not have been as gaga as he had always believed.

Frederick soon begins to recreate his grandfather's experiments with the help of servants Igor, Inga and the fearsome Frau Blücher. He succeeds in creating his very own creature from the corpse of a recently hanged criminal and the brain of the late Hans Delbruck, a scholar and a saint. Or so he thinks .....

Kemp and the rest of the villagers are becoming increasingly suspicious of the new Dr. Fronkensteen and the goings-on at the castle and arrive there to demand some explanations. Unfortunately, the creature breaks loose, attacking everyone, and escapes in to the night.

#### Act II

The villagers arm themselves and search the surrounding woods for the creature.

Back at the castle, Inga comforts a distraught Frederick in a way that only a young, glamorous assistant knows how. By yodelling ..... obviously.

Unfortunately, her vocal acrobatics are interrupted by the arrival of none other than Elisabeth and her entourage.

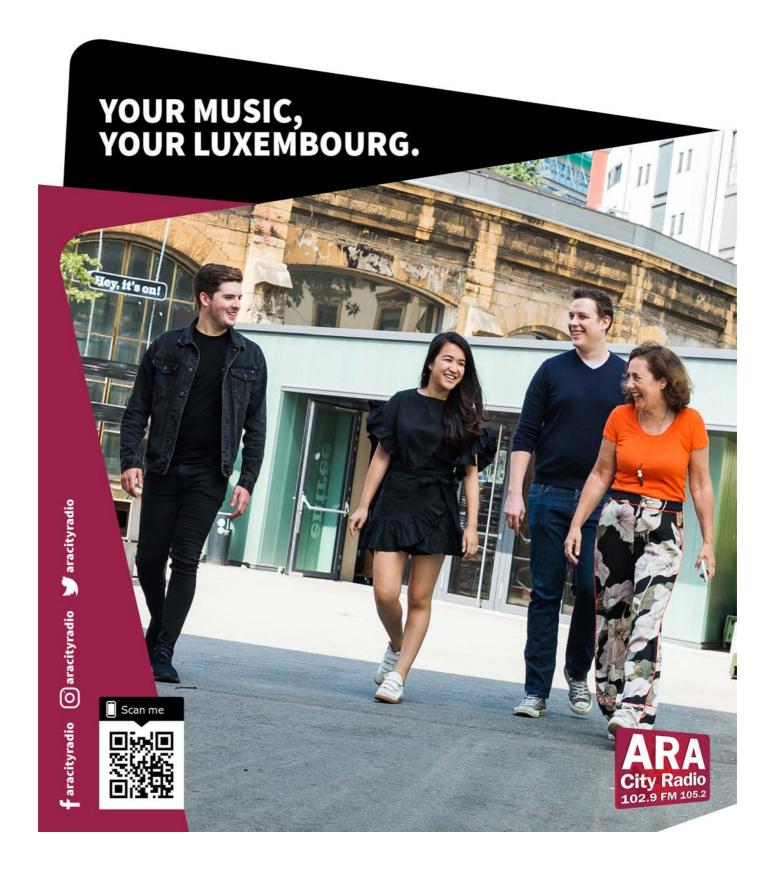
Deep in the forest, the monster comes across a hermit's wooden cabin. Being blind, said hermit does not realise that his dinner guest is actually the creature. Hot soup, wine and cigars are enjoyed by the unlikely couple .... Well, by the hermit at least.

Frederick, Igor and Inga manage to recapture the creature and bring him back to the castle. Frederick is convinced he can tame his creation and begins a re-education programme. The result of his labours is to present the monster as a sophisticated "man-about-town" to the sceptical villagers.

Yet, more havoc ensues when the creature kidnaps Elisabeth. Desperate to save his creation, Frederick proposes a highly risky brain transference procedure with somewhat surprising results.

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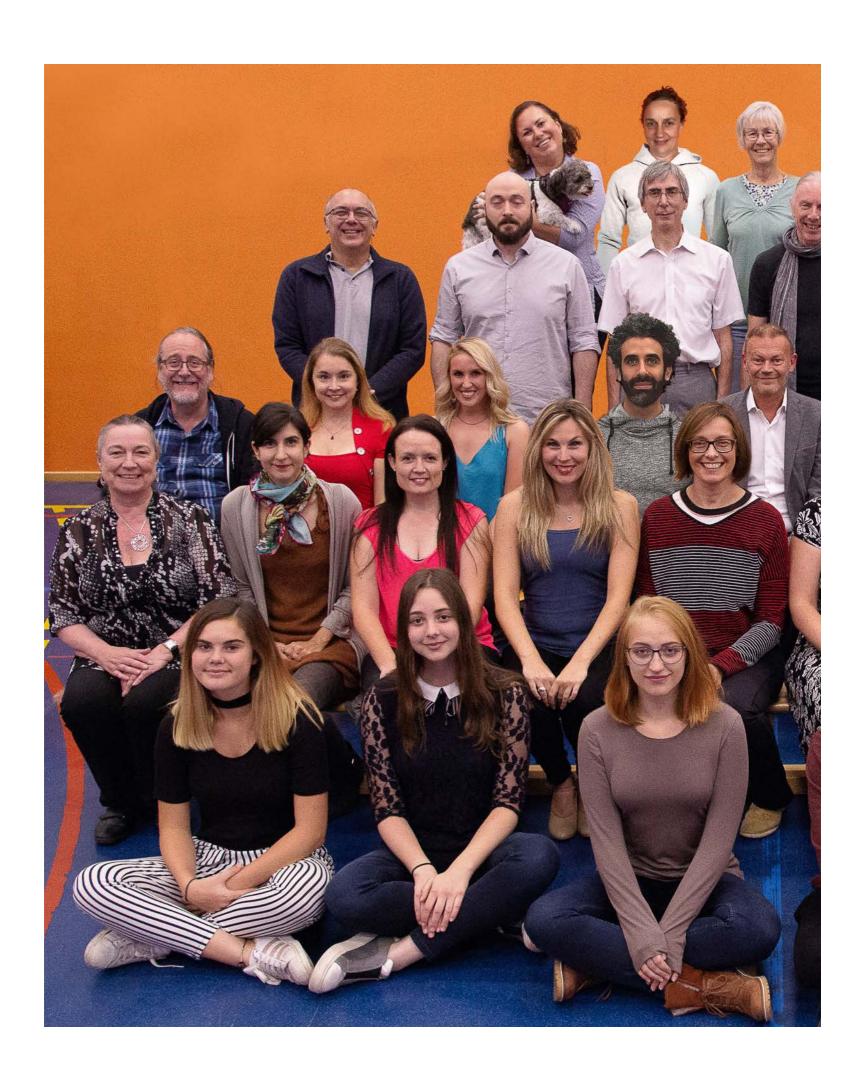
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# **Running Order**

# ACT I

| Scene I  | Village Square, Iransylvania. Dr. Victor Frankenstein's funeral  |
|----------|--|
| Scene 2  | Johns, Miriam and Anthony Hopkins School of Medicine, New York. Young Frankenstein gives a lecture   |
| Scene 3  | Hudson River Pier, New York. Young Frankenstein sails for Europe after being seen off by his fiancée, Elizabeth  |
| Scene 4  | Train station, Transylvania. Young Frankenstein meets Igor   |
| Scene 5  | Journey from train station to Frankenstein Castle. Young Frankenstein meets Inga   |
| Scene 6  | Arriving at Frankenstein Castle, Transylvania. Young Frankenstein meets Frau Blücher   |
| Scene 7  | Main hall at Frankenstein Castle. Young Frankenstein studies the books   |
| Scene 8  | Secret library at Frankenstein Castle. Young Frankenstein and Inga discover the secret library   |
| Scene 9  | Village Square, Transylvania. The villagers are becoming suspicious  |
| Scene 10 | Laboratory, Frankenstein Castle. The monster awakens   |
| Scene II | Castle courtyard, Frankenstein Castle. The monster breaks loose  |
|          | ACT 2  |
| Scene I  | Forest, Transylvania. The villagers are hunting for the monster  |
| Scene 2  | Laboratory, Frankenstein Castle. Young Frankenstein and Inga get to know each other better. Elizabeth, Young Frankenstein's fiancée, arrives as a surprise |
| Scene 3  | Hermit's House, Transylvania. The monster meets the hermit   |
| Scene 4  | A dungeon, Frankenstein Castle. Young Frankenstein boosts the monster's morale   |
| Scene 5  | Theatre, Loew's Transylvania Heights. Young Frankenstein introduces the monster to the villagers   |
| Scene 6  | Forest, Transylvania. The villagers search for the monster. The monster kidnaps Elizabeth  |
| Scene 7  | Laboratory, Frankenstein Castle. Young Frankenstein transfers some his intelligence to the monster   |
| Scene 8  | Village Square, Transylvania. The hanging of Young Frankenstein. The monster saves Young Frankenstein  |





#### Alex Teligadas (Passenger)

I initially joined Pirates in 1997 for Oklahoma! and enjoyed it so much that I stayed on to participate in many more productions as a director, actor, singer, musician and backstage helper. In this show I'm mainly a wing singer but also appear briefly on stage for "Please Don't Touch Me". As always, it's great fun to be part of the show – especially as there are so many talented people both on and off stage.





#### Art Vogiatzis (Butcher, Passenger)

My first public performance with a theatre group was back in 2001, in Greece. After quite a long break, I found myself participating in an English production in Luxembourg in 2014. This is my third participation in a Pirates show. My previous Pirates shows were *Harlem Hotel* and *Scrooge! the Musical*. As part of the chorus for *Young Frankenstein*, I have the opportunity to collaborate with many amazing

actors in a very fun show. Welcome to Transylvania!!

#### Aymeric d'Herouel (Grave Digger, Purser)

On stage with varying frequency since school plays in the eighties, this is only my second time in a musical production after some West Side Story-ing during my second to last year as a teenager. This makes Young Frankenstein for me both challenging and exciting, scary, yet rewarding. So here I am, back in a show, after what feels like a thousand years, devoted to be the grooviest gravedigger, the anodyne



lab assistant, the least villainous villager, the most steaming steward, the somewhat hoarse horse (do not worry: the other one's fine), and the very sagacious Bob. What does all this nonsense mean? If you do not know by now, enjoy our production to find out!



#### Beverley Atkinson (Innkeeper, Passenger)

I came to Luxembourg 35 years ago but didn't join Pirates until 2003 when I auditioned for a part in Stepping Out. I didn't get a part in the final cast but did get to enjoy 5 months of tap dancing classes in the meantime, so was really pleased to find that there is a big tap number in this show. I have been in several productions since and really enjoy the process of going from the initial proposal to putting the

show on the stage. Having been producer for two shows I have seen just how much is involved and how much work it is. Each and every time it is a massive and rewarding journey and along the way you get to work with some amazing people.

#### Charlotte Whitehouse (Shop girl, Medical student, Passenger)

I am French and American and I am I4. I've been doing theater since I was five. I been in multiple plays and theater classes (Grease, Bertie's War...). I always like to do my best so that I can look back and be proud, I know that by choosing to be an actor I haven't chosen the easiest path but this is something that makes me happy and I've always liked to make the people around me laugh. When I get older I



would like to study at cours Florent in Paris where lots of French actors went. This could really help me in the future. I love to try new activities, and new challenges.



#### Clare Bayley (Seamstress, Passenger, Tap dancer)

Singing and dancing makes me happy! I frequently go to the West End theatres in London to catch a show, with musicals at the top of my list. I also have a love of pop music and cheerful tunes. From a very young age, I regularly performed in stage shows and dancing competitions (and won some too!). At university, I participated in several light-hearted performances to raise money for charity. I moved

to Luxembourg from the UK in September 2017, and after a gap of quite a few years, I have rediscovered the joys of performing since joining the Pirates in June 2018. Pirates is full of lovely, friendly, talented and dedicated people, and I have very much enjoyed being part of the cast and crew. A lot of hard work behind the scenes goes into making the production a success, and I hope you enjoy the show!

#### Daniela Pardinas (Villager, Passenger)

I'm from Slovakia and I am 18 years old. I don't have a lot of theatre experience but I did do a few things when I was younger. I went to a German school in Bratislava and when I was about 7, we did a performance of *The Magic Flute*, where I played Papageno. Then, a year before I moved to Luxembourg, I joined another theatre group where we put on a show and shot a short horror film — which was



great! I arrived in Luxembourg five years ago and in 2016 I was lucky to be cast in BGT's production of A Christmas Carol as Isabelle, Belle's daughter. I found out about Young Frankenstein quite by luck on Facebook only five days before the auditions! I decided to give it a try because I've always wanted to be in a musical and now I'm singing and dancing and having a lot of fun!



#### Ida Zoe Kurešević (Butcher's daughter, Medical student, Passenger, Tap dancer)

I've known about Pirate Productions for as long as I can remember and have seen a lot of their musicals. After the wonderful experience I had last year while participating in my first musical, Scrooge —The Musical, I didn't need much reflection time until I decided to try out the next auditions too. This time around, I also had the chance to learn a couple of basic tap dance steps which brought me a lot

of joy as I am genuinely amazed by tap dancers. Once more it has been lots of fun to work on and I hope everyone enjoys the show as much as I have.

#### Jeanne Letsch (Farmer's Wife, Passenger)

I heard about Pirate Production from Catriona Gillham, a talented young woman whom I know from the choir I sing in. She encouraged me to make my wish come true - to sing and dance on stage. Before, being part of a choir, I participated in numerous concerts. I created theater plays with my pupils when I was a teacher in primary school. I've also conducted a choir of children aged from 6 to



12, where Peter and the Wolf was our greatest show. I like dancing and singing. Nevertheless, it remains a big challenge and hard work for me combining these two abilities. It's amazing the way languages and cultures meet together in such a project. Choreographer, musical director and director are making the impossible come true by putting on this amazing musical!



#### Katya Verofyeyeva (Flower girl, Medical student)

I'm 17 and come from the Ukraine. My first acting experience was as a wall in a Luxembourgish school, aged 4, in a little Christmas-themed play. After having participated in two school plays, *Once Upon A Teen* and *A Human Write* (the latter being performed at this years F.E.S.T.), I decided that I'd really like to keep developing in the performing arts. I've mostly been taught less on a theatrical, but

more on a musical basis, with singing and piano and have also been performing in these areas. So, a musical seemed like a very enriching and versatile experience to acquire. And it was! I learned a lot during rehearsals and met many interesting people. The team is friendly and always ready to help, as well as very understanding. I am grateful for being able to participate in this show.

Maiken Thamdrup Christensen (Farmer's wife, Passenger, Barbershop quartet, Basha, Tap dancer)

Ever since my early teenage years I have been involved in musical theatre. I have done serious plays and dramas such as Ibsen and Chekhov as well, but I seem to constantly return to musical theatre. Probably drawn by this seductive combination of acting, singing and dancing. Among the different shows I have been in are My Fair Lady (as chorus, as maid and as Eliza Doolittle), Guys and Dolls, Side



by Side by Sondheim, Starting Here – Starting Now, Sound of Music, The King and I etc etc... After my first appearance in a Pirate's production, Stepping Out, I5 years ago, I once again get a chance to tap away on stage in Young Frankenstein with other wonderful Pirates. It is very exciting and fun – yet exhausting no mistake! Let's get this fun and crazy show on the road!



#### Marina Tomašic (Butcher's wife, Cruise director, Tap dancer)

In my youth I did a lot of dancing. In 2004, just when I'd decided that my dancing days were over, I discovered Pirates and changed my mind. My dancing days won't be over for a long while yet, I just changed the dancing style and added in some singing and acting. In the meantime, I have been in ten productions, large and small, and I have always had fun and keep on coming back for more. I love the

songs in Young Frankenstein and I am amazed that Mel Brooks also managed to squeeze some tap dance into the story. As much as I love performing, I also enjoy the process of rehearsing for a musical and spending time with old and new talented Pirates. As a special treat in this show, I also get to hop around the stage with my daughter (Ida Kurešević).

#### Michael Watson (Herald, Lab assistant, Passenger)

My first appearance with Pirates was in 2016 when I was a vicar in Oliver!. Subsequent shows include Showtime - The Best of Broadway Parts I and 2, and Scrooge! the Musical last year in November 2017. At the beginning of January this year, I got the glorious chance to direct one of my own plays, at an NWTC Café Villon evening, and I hope that next year I will be directing another one. Not having heard



of Young Frankenstein before, I was ambitious enough to audition for it, and am so glad that I did. Young Frankenstein will be my fifth show with Pirates, and my third appearance at the Kinneksbond in Mamer. Over the past few years, I have played characters that die at the end of the show, so this is a step up for me, as my character has to be knocked down before the interval! I wish everyone a lovely evening in Transylvania.



#### Patrick Taylor-Kielty (Telegraph boy, Shoeshine boy, Shadow dancer, Tap dancer)

I have been doing acting since I was very young, around about 5yrs old. I have been in plays like Arabian Nights and Cinderella, at school, which I enjoyed very much. I've only been in one Pirate's production which was Scrooge! the Musical last year where I played the role of Young Ebenezer and that was the first time I had ever done a musical, it was a fun and a thrilling experience. Young Frankenstein is

amazing to be in, as well as being a villager I play the roles of the Telegram boy and the Shoeshine boy. It's a challenging production, but great fun! Pirates has helped me a lot, especially our choreographer, Dom, who has taught me many different forms of dancing which include jive, polka and tap. Also, our director, Neil and our musical director, Philip have taught me how to prepare myself for a musical performance.

#### Rachel Lloyd (Village tart, Medical student, Passenger, Masha, Tap dancer)

I grew up in choirs and was involved in my church Christmas plays. It wasn't until I moved to Luxembourg that I really got involved in singing. I started private voice lessons at 16 and have been singing classically ever since. I've been involved with Pirates since Oliver! and have been in Harlem Hotel, Showtime, Lost in the Stars and various choirs around Luxembourg. It has been a great experience working on Young Frankenstein and getting familiar with Mel Brooks music and book. I'm so excited to see what Pirates and process music and book.



Frankenstein and getting familiar with Mel Brooks music and book. I'm so excited to see what Pirates will do next. For me, I'm hoping to get my Bachelors of Musical Theatre at Trinity Laban starting in 2019 or 2020.



#### Steve Wilkie (School master, Mr. Hilltop, Passenger, Barbershop quartet, Tap dancer)

Every Pirates show brings a new set of challenges for all concerned, and some of us are more challenged than others. I've played various characters in chorus and support roles in a range of shows: sailor, eunuch, prisoner, solicitor, dog, dwarf, evil vizier, laundryman, ghost; just stood onstage and sung; just stood backstage and sung; hoofed it up in church halls and real theatres. No two shows are ever the

same, but one thing remains constant: every time we do a show on this scale, new, talented people come in and raise the bar (and often prop it up); which is actually just as well, given how long some of us have been around. And it means that, after nearly 40 years, Pirate Productions continues to thrive and to entertain.

#### Tanja Dühr (Market seller, Medical student, Passenger, Sasha)

A passionate dancer, I've been in many dance shows, but also acted in theatre pieces (I played an old man predicting the weather from his lighthouse in my first role) and performed in musicals (playing a pigeon, a pig and a sheep in *Animal Farm*) during my time at school and later with Pirates (*Jazz Club* and *Lost in the Stars*). I'm a big fan of Michael Jackson's singing and dancing and I love dancing to Hip Hop,



and have also done Show dance for years. During my studies I was part of a musical dance group. Young Frankenstein is funny and energetic with lots of awesome dance numbers. Working with people like Neil, Philip and Dom is amazing. The whole cast is great and very talented. I hope you enjoy the show and have a good laugh! The rehearsals were hot, but the show will be hotter;).



#### Valeria Zaza (Farmer's daughter, Passenger, Tasha, Tap dancer)

Originally from Rome in Italy, I started dancing when I was a child. At the age of 5, I began with ballet and then I continued with modern, jazz, lyrical and many other dance styles. I became a professional dancer at the age of 17, taking part in several Italian theatre and television productions, advertising and in fashion shows as a model and artistic director. I moved to Luxembourg in 2014 for a new job opportunity, but I never abandoned my passion for dancing. Since then I have choreographed and

danced in various projects and performances, such as at Casino 2000 in Mondorf and at the Abbaye de Neumunster. This year I discovered Pirate Productions. As a newcomer, I slowly became part of the team and now I feel like a member of my very own artistic family. I really can't wait to share the stage with all of them!

#### Valerie Scott (Farmer's wife, Passenger, Barbershop quartet, Tap dancer)

Looking back on my childhood, I realise that I have always enjoyed being on stage both in primary and secondary school. In my teens, I recall playing a soldier in a school play and had to yell 'Silence!' and had the pleasure of making 500 students jump out of their skin – very satisfying! After leaving school, I appeared in a number of shows but a few years later I gave up drama for a feller! My interest was



rekindled when my son, then aged 10, wanted to audition for *The Grand Old Duke of York* with Pirates. I was persuaded to audition and landed the role of the evil witch which I relished! That was over 20 years ago, and the rest, they say, is history! I am delighted to be in *Young Frankenstein* where I have the pleasure of singing in the barbershop quartet and dancing in the tap dancing number.



#### Vitali Pourprix (Farmer, Medical student, French sailor, the Horse)

After thirty years of choir singing, I had just taken part in too many classical-music-only projects in a row, and wanted to get back to singing more modern pieces of music. I got tricked into joining a Pirates rehearsal one Sunday afternoon, and eventually ended-up on stage, completely new to the dancing and acting bits which turn musicals into a serious physical activity. When neither playing music, nor running

deafening machines in the workshop, nor chanting loudly healing mantras to computers (secret engineering trick), I'm usually chopping, whipping, slapping, grating food in the kitchen to celebrate noisily the glory of French Cuisine.



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#### **Production Team**

Director

Musical Director

Choreographer

Neil Johnson

Philip Dutton

Dominique Vitali

Stage Manager Valerie Scott

Producer Bernadette Alexander

Props - Lead Katie Bull

Costumes - Lead Hilary Brown

Hair - Lead Tekla Skowronski

Make-up - Lead Carrie Milne

Make-up - Special effects Tadeja Severkar

Lighting Ant Mc Carthy

Projections Dominique Zelter-Russell

Video Consultant Mark Russell

Sound Sam Wiesenfeld

Sound Effects Mike Loshchinin

Stage Manager - Kinneksbond Seth Ruef

Assistant Musical Director Eric Gherardi

Props Jeremy Bull, Hilary Brown, Stuart Brown, Peter Brown

Set Philip Dutton, Jeremy Bull, Katie Bull, Neil Johnson,

Valerie Scott

Make-up Anne Poos, Helena O'Hare

Backstage crew Jeremy Bull, Claire Haigh, Stuart Brown, Leah Mc Cabe,

Kim Hermans

Microphones Zeta Field, Vicky Ball

Tap dancing coach Solveig Ras

Dance captains Marina Tomasic, Maiken Thamdrup

Rehearsal pianist Liz Turner

Poster design Zeta Field, Philip Dutton
Programme Phil Taylor, Valerie Scott

Advertising Co-ordinator Erin Boggs

Publicity Valerie Scott, Suzanne Larsen, Patrick Taylor-Kielty

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Cast Party Beverley Atkinson



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#### **Valerie Scott (Stage Manager)**

I have always enjoyed being involved in theatre projects. At school I mostly acted, then after that I acted, did sound now and again where the sound effects were on a magnetic tape and you had to put in bits of paper in the tape where the next cue was to start – boy, has it changed since then! I gave up theatre for 25 years due to other weekly commitments which included playing hockey, squash, shooting (.22 rifle), fencing, sailing and also a serious boyfriend came on the scene (pardon the



pun!). No, I didn't marry him but I did sail off to Australia and travelled for a while ending up in Singapore before coming back to Europe.

I became involved with Pirates over 20 years ago, quite by accident (isn't that often the case?), and since then I have been on stage, off stage doing lighting, props, running the bar, supporting the bar (which is an important role for an audience member - I'll have you know!), organising cast parties and the like. You meet a very diverse group of people coming from hugely different backgrounds but all share the common interest of theatre!

I think it fair to say that I find all aspects of theatre fascinating – not only the acting, but the set, props, costumes, hair, makeup, lighting and sound all of which bring a show to life. I am involved in these aspects working with Neil, as Director, and the person who is responsible for each area. We seek to fulfil Neil's vision, identifying problems and finding ways to resolve them which, so far, has included Philip building a scale model of the theatre space at Kinneksbond along with scale size pieces of set to see how we can manipulate them on and off stage efficiently! In one case, we suddenly realised how much floor space the castle entrance was going to take and had to change it because there wouldn't be have been enough space for the full cast to dance – problem identified – problem solved!

Through all this we still find time to laugh which is absolutely vital to keep our sanity – well, most of the time!

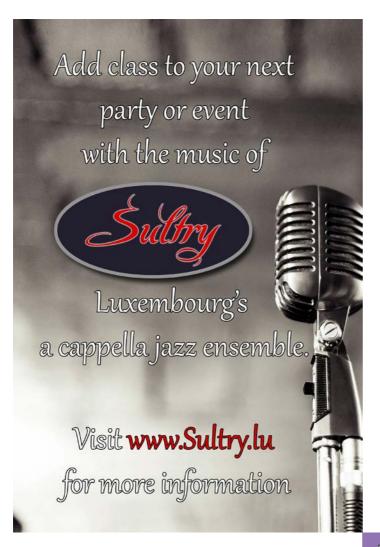
#### **Bernadette Alexander (Producer)**

Being a member of Pirates, I suppose that I shouldn't be surprised to find myself in the role of producer of *Young Frankenstein*. You may wonder how I got here. So do I. Images of countless bottles of wine and a dark alley spring to mind. A blow to the head and then ... a blank. Did someone say impressment? Now that I am on board again, I can safely say that there is a fantastic crew doing far more than their fair share and without them I'd be floundering. So, to all those on the production team: a massive thank-you with a special mention for Beverley, Erin, Phil (Taylor) and Valerie. The show would not go on without them.



My other adventures as a hearty pirate have seen me as a Flapper in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* in 2009. Then two years later, I was a saloon girl in *Calamity Jane*, (thus fulfilling a lifelong ambition to do the cancan on stage). In TMM, I also got the chance to play opposite our sadly missed Pirate, Steve Preston, as his grumpy wife. That is maybe what got me the role of Mrs. Sowerberry in *Oliver!*, alongside Victor Bonanno, who played my toyboy husband. Finally, together with Beverley Atkinson, I was part of a do-gooding-duo in the 2017 production of *Scrooge! The Musical*. Me? A do-gooder? Well I may have been miscast, but at least I'm not typecast.

As always, I am delighted to be even a small part of another great Pirates' production and to be joining in the general hilarity on and off stage with an eclectic crew of talented, party-spirited Pirates.



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in association with the Mierscher Kulturhaus

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#### Katie Bull (Props - Lead)

How did I get into props? I moved to Luxembourg in 2012. I was encouraged (thanks Rose Flammant!) to enter the world of theatre in Luxembourg - I had free time and was keen to meet people and 'get involved'. Having always had an interest in theatre and also in working with my hands, props seemed an obvious area for me to explore. Props is about understanding the vision the Director has and using props to facilitate and enhance that. I enjoy the challenge of researching and sourcing items, but my favourite approach is getting creative; thinking laterally and up-cycling. I often embark on each project not quite knowing how I'm going to achieve what I have in my imagination. And sometimes it even works!



Young Frankenstein offered huge scope. The 'skulls on a shelf' prop was something I looked forward to. And here's how it developed - in pictures:



Bog-standard plastic Halloween prop just asking to be covered in Vaseline and plaster of Paris.



Hilary and I work really well together - bouncing ideas around until we find a practical solution. Hilary's nursing background came in handy...!



I carefully cut just the plaster skull in half, removed it from the plastic skull and added another layer of plaster-of-Paris to hold it back together.



Director Neil thought a dangling eyeball would add to the appearance - always happy to oblige...



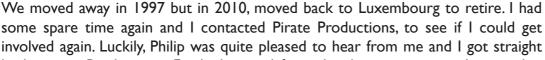
Then it was a question of experimenting with colour.



Keeping in mind that this skull will need to be seen from the back of the theatre I have used strong contrast in colours and I have to admit I'm quite pleased with the final chap!

#### Hilary Brown (Costume - Lead)

I became involved in theatre costumes for plays and musical productions around about 1990 as I had a bit more time to spare as our children became older. I originally assisted on productions with a lovely lady called Fay Wolstencroft, who was a proper seamstress and I learned a lot from her.





back into it. By this time Fay had retired from the theatre scene, so I assisted some other ladies before becoming a Co-ordinator by default!

For the past 5 years, I have been involved in nearly every Pirate and New World production as well. I always enjoy them as I get to sew, as well as sort out logistics for costume hire company, if we are using one. These days more costumes are hired than made, since it can be logistically difficult to make the number of costumes necessary and to find enough volunteers to take on the responsibility of helping out on this.

Pirate Productions and New World Theatre Club share a costume store and with Valerie Scott I have been cataloguing, photographing over 1000 costumes and generally ensuring that the stock is ready to be deployed when needed.

This time I have been able to help Katie, the Props Lady, with stage props which has been a lot of fun and quite mind bending at times! As usual, the preparation has been challenging at times but a lot of laughs have been had along the way. The end result, when I see everyone on stage in all their finery in character, is fantastic.

### Production Team (in order of first name)

#### **Ant McCarthy (Lighting)**

I have been the lighting guy for a great many Pirate Productions' shows since 1998 and have enjoyed every minute of every show. I have had way too much fun creating spaces for characters to inhabit. A surreal bedroom or a 1930's Jazz Club, and imagined beach or a London Underground train. I hope you will enjoy Young Frankenstein as much as I have. You don't have to be on-stage to get that showbiz buzz!



#### Carrie Milne (Make-up Lead)

I have been involved in quite a few Pirates' shows over the years, both on and off stage, starting with their production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Ruddigore* in 1987 – which is over 30 years ago! I have enjoyed being part of the make-up team for several shows since then including *Scrooge!* the Musical, Oliver!, Aladdin, Calamity Jane and Thoroughly Modern Millie to name but a few!

#### **Dominique Zeltzer Russell (Projections)**

After studying fine arts at The Sorbonne, I earned my living through illustration & painting and also produced musical happenings as part of the Parisian underground scene. When economic realities became unavoidable, I became a graphic designer and then an artistic director. Subsequently, when my partner was offered a contract here in Luxembourg I followed him to work for the same television company. Since, then I have established myself in Luxembourg as a multi-media artist under the name of Ozz. I discovered Vjing at a party and was so impressed that I decided that's I really wanted to do. I started with projections in clubs and festivals and later with the Theatre National du Luxembourg on L'Homme qui ne retrouvait plus son Pays in 2011 and on Prometheus in 2013. I have also done the projections for Pirates productions of The Jazz Club and Oliver!.





#### Mike Loshchinin (Sound Effects)

I started getting involved with Pirates in 2016 when I volunteered to video *Harlem Hotel*, where I was dazzled by the unique and very human theater atmosphere, and I've happily provided technical/audio/video assistance ever since.

Lots of fun, awesome people, good mood and lots of positivity each time we rehearse or we perform, it doesn't matter if it's in front of 30 or 300 spectators.

#### **Seth Ruef (Stage Manager in Kinneksbond)**

My interest in theatrical production probably started when I began teaching Film in the mid 90s and helped students to create sets for their productions. This requires a measure of improvisation and resourcefulness as well as a good deal of suspension of disbelief. I also built a home in Luxembourg and had to do much of the handy work myself, with the help of talented friends. All of these experiences came together when I began working as backstage crew for *Oliver!*. The production needed stagehands and I decided to give it a try. I enjoyed the work and the people and was asked to help out with NWTC's production of *Pillowman*. My third production was *Scrooge!* the *Musical* and by then I was hooked. I very much enjoy this work and I am always in awe of the talent and creativity surrounding these productions.



### Production Team (in order of first name)



#### Tadeja Severkar (Make-up Special Effects)

I joined the Pirates in 2009 and since, have been happy to rehearse and perform for many years and shows. Once you put the theatre make-up on, you never go back and you remain loving the theatre until the end. For the past years and shows I swapped the dancing shoes for a makeup brush and created monsters that you enjoy watching!

#### Tekla Skowronski (Hair - Lead)

I joined Pirate Productions upon my arrival in Luxembourg some 30 years ago and my first musical was *Oedipus Tyrannus* (1992) when I had to wear pink scrubs and a full pig's head mask and added jangling earrings to add a touch of class! What an introduction to the club! We even took that show to Prague and the proceeds went towards buying a washing machine for a school. I trod the boards again in *Fiddler on the Roof* (1996) and in the *Music Hall* (1996). As a hair stylist by trade, but consider myself to be a creative entrepreneur, I started helping backstage with doing hair for *The Mikado* (1996), *Stepping Out* (2003), *Oliver!* (2016) and now *Young Frankenstein*. It's fun and challenging to do hair for Pirates as there is such a variety of coiffs to produce!





Happy days spent rehearsing, building set, rehearsing with set and trying out make-up













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#### Eric Gherhardi - Assistant Musical Director

After I started playing music at the age of 8, it became clear very soon that music would be a very important part of my life. Indeed, after finishing school, I went abroad to study orchestral percussion and music teaching in Maastricht (NL). I started playing as a drummer for Pirate Productions when I was still studying percussion in the Netherlands. It was the show called *The Jazz Club* that brought me to the Pirate's family and I have been working together with these wonderful people ever since. I have done a few more shows as a drummer, percussionist, AMD or Musical Director for the productions of *Oliver!*, *Harlem Hotel* and *Scrooge!* the *Musical*.



This year I have been appointed principal conductor of the Harmonie Municipale in Schifflange which is also the orchestra I grew up with and have had many great musical experiences with. I teach music and percussion in Luxembourg and I enjoy playing in orchestras, conducting, and living out my addiction to musical theatre in my free time, mainly with all my lovely friends from Pirate Productions.

Working with Pirates is always means good times! When I saw the show Young Frankenstein in London's Garrick Theatre last year, I immediately thought of how fabulous and joyful the preparation of our version was going to be. Being involved as the assistant musical director and being able to play the drums during the performances of the show means that I can re-enjoy all of the fantastic moments I had when I first saw the show many times and I hope that our audience will have just as much fun as I do.

# Musicians (in order of first name)

Alan Carlisle Horn leff Schmit Clarinet / Bass Clarinet Violin Liz Turner Keyboard 2 Barbara Juniewiez Martine Marx Best Kwant Clarinet / Alto Sax Soprano and Tenor Sax Bob Rumé Percussion Mick Swithinbank Keyboard I Daniela Kryouger Bass Paul Barker Trumpet David Hall Tamya Saransig Flute / Alto Flute Trumpet Eric Gherardi **Drums** Tina Giannessi Flute / Piccolo Gilles Heritier **Trombone** 

# Wing Singers (in order of first name)

Barbara Hall Beatriz Garcia Calvo Daniela Badea Tadeja Severkar Tiziana Pierri

"Puttin' on the Ritz"

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Wishing the crew and cast a shockingly good show.

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### THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their help with this production. Help ranges from providing rehearsal space to lending us a set of stairs to sourcing hay!

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Alan Carlisle

Ara City Radio

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Bernard Massard

Bex Stapleton

British Embassy

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Indigo Rangé

Ida Kurešević

John Brigg

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We'd also like to thank partners and offspring who have had to put up with all this!



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- for children up to 12 yrs old -

- Fun in the garden, picnics, forest walks, excursions
- Special time for story telling & poetry
- Experience a beautiful Montessori environment
- Arts and crafts, baking, activities
- Sport activities and Yoga
- Educational experiences in early literacy and maths







# **OUR BUSINESS IS PEOPLE**

We understand the importance of people, and that people really DO matter.

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