

Classic Halloween Story Brings Chills and Thrills to Cripple Creek

Frankenstein of Cripple Creek will take the stage of the Butte Theater starting Oct. 3.

The drama, written by Chris Sorensen, is a retelling of the Frankenstein story set in Cripple Creek's wild past. Doc Frankenstein is a mysterious figure with a secretive past. He huddles up in his cabin in the hills trying to unlock the secrets of life and death. Helping him with his creepy experiments is Hard Knock Nell, a rough and tumble mountain woman with a taste for whiskey.

Just as Doc's experiments are coming to fruition, his blind niece Mary stumbles back into his life, having searched and searched for him. Mary also stumbles into the arms of James Calder, a man she grew up with as a child. But their romance is not to be.

Upon learning that Doc's cabin sits atop a rich gold vein, the evil Sheriff Bowers determines to wrestle the land out from under the doctor. When James stands in his way, Bowers does him in.

Horrified at James's death, Doc Frankenstein uses his equipment to bring his niece's love back to life. But, at what price?

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.

The story comes from Sorensen's childhood memories of his favorite holiday.

"My love of Halloween comes from my childhood when I used to sneak out in the middle of the night to watch scary movies on TV. I've always had an affection for things that go bump in the night, and I've tried to put in plenty in *Frankenstein of Cripple Creek*" said the playwright, author of several favorites presented at the Butte in recent years.

"After looking into a coffin and finding *The Vampire of Cripple Creek*, after mixing together a potion to create *Dr. Jekyll's Medecine Show*, I wanted to tackle one of the other 'biggies' of the Halloween season: Frankenstein," he said.

"It's always a balancing act with writing Halloween shows for the Butte as I want to make sure that fans of ghosts and ghouls get everything they want out of the evening but also that nothing is too scary for audience members with kids. The Butte is a place for families to have fun. In writing this show, I made sure that it was something that even my youngest nephew would enjoy."

Sure, there are some spooky bits (it is Halloween!) but the focus of *Frankenstein of Cripple Creek* is really the romance between Blind Mary and the love of her life, James Calder (the man who will become the Frankenstein Monster).

"I can see New York City from my kitchen window. That's how far away from Colorado I live. But half of my heart is, and always will be, in Cripple Creek. Sitting in the audience opening night with the Mackin family watching *Angel of the Christmas Mine* was probably one of my favorite memories of all time," said Sorensen. "I love writing these shows. And I hope that the audiences will love them, too. One of the great things about writing for the Cripple Creek stage is the opportunity to work with Thin Air Theatre crew. They are wildly creative folks who strive to

make each show better than the last. Their main goal is always to give audiences a great time. That's why I keep coming back again and again.”

The Cripple Creek retelling of the classic horror novel, *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley runs Friday, Oct. 3 - 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.