February 7–9, 14–16, 2020
Loft Stage at East Ridge High School

Directed By
Tom Reed

MERRILL ARTS CENTER

a WCT production of

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

Directed By
Tom Reed

February 7–9, 14–16, 2020
Loft Stage at East Ridge High School
BUYING AND SELLING CAN FEEL LIKE A MONSTER TASK

Even if the house isn’t in Transylvania, Chuck will electrify your journey and make sure you find “the happiest town” for you!

See what a 14-time Super Real Estate Agent can do for you!

604 Bielenberg Drive, Woodbury, MN 55125
651-246-6639 • chuck@chuckeckberg.com
www.chuckeckberg.com

WCT Production Staff

Director: Tom Reed
Music Director: Jessie Rolfe
Production Manager: Leah Madsen
Stage Manager: MJ Luna
Sound Designer: Evangeline Lee
Props Designer: Sarah Herman
Scenic Designer: Craig Steineck
Costume Designer: Bailey Remmers
Lighting Designer: Jacob Berg
Choreographer: Megan Torbert

MAC Administrative Staff

Executive Director: Barbe Marshall Hansen
Managing Director: Kajsa Jones
SOS Director: Kristin Fox
Administrator: Hannah Amidon
Accountant: Irina Yaritz
Graphic Designer: Galen Higgins
Group Sales Director: Alicia Wiesneth
Publicists: JAMU Enterprises
Director of Development: Lori Nelson
Digital Strategist: Cromie Creative Consultants
Box Office Managers: Erika James, Jeriann Jones, Lisa Winston
The Mission of Merrill Arts Center is to champion the arts.

WANTED
EMPLOYEE ENDORSEMENTS!

Do you work for one of these companies?
Wells Fargo • Andersen Corporation • Otto Bremer Trust • Bremer Bank
McKnight Foundation • 3M • General Mills • Best Buy • Ecolab

If yes, please let us know!

These companies, and many like them, have grant programs available to arts organizations like Merrill but we need an employee endorsement to apply. If you work for one of these companies, or another company with a foundation, please contact barbe@merrillartscenter.org to let her know.

We are submitting grant applications for the 2020-21 season now!

~ House Elf Thursday ~
Volunteers Welcome! Join us every first Thursday of the month from 10am - 2pm to help with various tasks around the Arts Center!
Free refreshments and fun provided!

Connect with MAC!
Please email admin@merrillartscenter.org if you’d like to help out!

~  House  Elf  Thursday  ~
Woodbury Community Theatre (WCT) was launched in 1975 by a small group of Woodbury theater lovers. At that time, Woodbury was mostly farmland, the group rehearsed and performed in church basements, and stored equipment and costumes in barns and basements. WCT existed as an independent organization until 2012, when the organization dissolved and was picked up as a program by Merrill. This was a win/win situation because it allowed WCT members to go back and focus on the art, without worrying about filing taxes, raising money, or dealing with the myriad of administrative challenges that can come with running a nonprofit organization. As an additional bonus, WCT got to grow from producing a few shows per year to producing 6-8 shows per year in the brand new Merrill Black Box Theater and on the 900-seat proscenium Loft Stage. Merrill benefited from the new arrangement as well by gaining a membership boost from the community, and a new program that was already established, accepted, and loved.

I often wish I could go back in time and tell that tiny group of WCT founding dreamers what a success their little project was to become. In the past 45 years since their humble beginnings, an entire generation of East Metro theater lovers were born, exposed to theatre by WCT, fell in love with theatre because of this exposure, went off to universities and conservatories to get theatre degrees, and have returned to their community to launch professional theater careers on stage and behind the scenes. Many more kids who didn’t choose theater as their profession have returned as adults to volunteer with WCT, become regular audience members and donors, and send their children to the theater education programming here.

I know about these folks because many have dropped into my office over the past year to tell me of their hopes and dreams for the next 40 years of WCT. The vision of this community is exciting and varied, but we have found out that the visions fell into 4 main categories, and you may have noticed some new branding that we hope to expand to fulfill these wishes:

**WCT** – This beloved brand as explained to me by decades-long participants, offers community members the opportunity to create theater on stage and behind the scene. Some shows are big, blockbuster musicals, while others are smaller in scope, but the appeal is wide. The audience is primarily adults, so some language and adult themes are okay. This season, WCT is presenting two shows: *Young Frankenstein* and *Cyrano de Bergerac*. *Young Frankenstein* is a musical based on the hysterical Mel Brooks film of the same name. The romantic comedy classic *Cyrano de Bergerac* is directed by returning WCT director Drew Smith in the intimate Merrill Black Box Theater.

**WCT Family** – This new brand expansion came from multiple requests from community members for more shows that offer language and themes appropriate for the entire family. Good, high-quality entertainment with wide-appeal that is non-controversial. This season, WCT Family presents two productions from beloved children’s books: the classic story of *Madeline’s Christmas* (Rated G); and the hit musical based on Roald Dahl’s popular *Matilda* (Rated PG).

**WCT Kids** – This new brand expansion came from requests for more productions by kids, for kids. This year’s selection is the sequel to the sold-out hit show from 2017, *Junie B. Jones: The Musical*. *Junie B. Jones is NOT a Crook* was presented in the Merrill Black Box and led by WCT returning director Jack Lambert.

**WCT After Dark** – This new brand expansion was requested by the next generation of theater artists in our community – many emerging professionals. These young adults requested a more experimental format – one where the artists were free to present work that challenged artists and audience alike. Work with a smaller budget – and a smaller financial risk – that had “anything goes” philosophy, could include content that might offend the core WCT audience. The first WCT After Dark production was *Santaland Diaries* by David Sedaris, a tongue-in-cheek account of Mr. Sedaris tenure as a NYC Macy’s Elf. This play followed in the tradition of last *Tony ‘n’ Tina’s Wedding* by making use of the big rehearsal hall on at the Dorothy K. Merrill Fine Arts Center on Rivertown Drive, and claiming it as a performance space. The show spans a range from heart-warming to profane, and we are very proud to offer a new home to every bit of this exciting new artistic energy. MAC is now accepting proposals for WCT After Dark productions, and seeking steering committee members who would like to help plan this new program. Send me an email at the address below if you want more information or would like to help out.

**Summer Stock** – According to Wikipedia: In American theater, summer stock theatre is a theatre that presents stage productions only in the summer, and runs multiple shows at the same time. The name combines the season with the tradition of staging shows by a resident company, reusing stock scenery and costumes. Summer stock theatres frequently take advantage of seasonal weather by having their productions outdoors or under tents set up temporarily for their use. Summer stock provides a training ground for actors and inexpensive entertainment for vacationing visitors. Traditionally, established summer stock programs hire well-known professionals for leads and students or emerging professionals fill out the cast and help build costumes and set. Students often take classes in acting, stagecraft, makeup, and voice. For many, summer stock is their first professional theater experience. In 2018 MAC partnered with South Washington School District on a pilot program to launch summer stock with local theater students aged 16-23 with the sold out hit *Elf* at the Merrill Black Box. This was combined with the Music Theatre Intensive for High School students. Last season, Summer Stock presented *Midsummer Night’s Dream*, coordinated again with Music Theatre Intensive taught by college professors and professional theater artists. The goal is to slowly build this program to eventually include multiple productions on a variety of stages in partnership with the South Washington County School District. Early talks with Parks and Rec have begun. Outdoor theater is in the early planning stages...

Currently, the Board and Staff have begun embarking on a new Strategic Planning process that includes visioning for the Arts Center and all of its brands, including season planning for the theater, programming for education, and a vision that prioritizes ways to include and support more genres of arts, artists, and community members, ranging from preschoolers to seasoned professionals. If you would be willing to serve on a focus group to aid in planning, please email me at the address below. If you haven’t already, go to MerrillArtsCenter.org and sign up for mailing lists so you are included in the invitations. We value your opinion, and want your voice to be heard.

Thank you for coming out to *Young Frankenstein*! Enjoy the experience.

Barbe Marshall Hansen  
**Executive Director, Merrill Arts Center**  
barbe@merrillartscenter.org

**The Mission of Merrill Arts Center** is to champion the arts.

**VISION:**

Merrill is recognized as a leader and cornerstone for the arts in the region  
All arts and artists have greater opportunity  
Arts education for all ages and abilities flourishes

**VALUES:**

Artistry, Education, Fiscal Responsibility,  
Inclusivity, Integrity, Collaboration

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.
DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Thanks for coming to MAC to see Mel Brooks’ musical version of the classic Young Frankenstein!

If you’re not already familiar with this story, wind your watch back to the monster movies of the 1930s - Dracula, The Mummy and, of course, the original Frankenstein. They inspired Mel Brooks’ iconic and critically acclaimed 1974 parody - Young Frankenstein, the film.

In 2007, Mel Brooks added songs and adapted the movie into a big, bawdy Broadway musical. I think it’s safe to say that Mel Brooks isn’t known for his subtlety, so over-the-top song and dance numbers feel very at home in Young Frankenstein. This fabulous cast brings 2020 energy and panache to these unforgettable characters and toe-tapping showstoppers.

Now, this is the part where I might say something like “this show teaches us to look past our differences and find peace, love and harmony.” Yes, you can find those, and other hopeful messages in this show. You can also find a song where the word “tits” appears ELEVEN times in four bars of music. Yes, this is for mature audiences. But it’s also for immature audiences.

Mel Brooks had fun with this. You should too.

So, open your heart to a profoundly transformational experience - and to being deeply entertained. What better way to find common ground than turning off Netflix for the night and sharing big laughs and big feels in a big room with big strangers. Strangers of any size, really. Because when it comes down to it - there’s a monster in all of us, regardless of size.

Enjoy the show, we’re so glad you’re here. Tits.

Tom Reed
Director

CAST

Frederick Frankenstein................................. Ben Habegger
The Monster ............................................. Luke Fowler
Igor / Victor von Frankenstein....................... Timothy Kelly
Inga ........................................................ Kimberly Crabb
Elizabeth ..................................................... Erin Gassner
Frau Blucher ............................................... Anna Werner
Inspector Kemp / Hermit.......................... Ryan Jacob Pierce

Ensemble:
Tony Laundrie, Shelby Anderson, Rachel Hinderaker,
Kathryn Jade Jarvie, Melissa Trentacoste,
Logan Miller Halliday, Nicolas “Sullie” Sullivan,
Josh Savrin, Devon M. Johnson, Megan Torbert

SUMMER THEATER CAMPS
FOR GRADERS 1-12

MerrillArtsCenter.org
ACT I

Scene 1: Transylvania Heights .............................................. The Happiest Town in Town
Scene 2: Hopkins Medical School..........................(There Is Nothing Like) The Brain
Scene 3: Hudson River Pier................................................ Please Don’t Touch Me
Scene 4: Train Station ................................................ Together Again For The First Time
                                        Together Again (Encore)
Scene 5: Woodland Clearing ........................................ Roll In The Hay
Scene 6: Outside Frankenstein’s Castle
Scene 7: The Castle’s Grand Hall
Scene 8: Hidden Passageway .................................... He Vas My Boyfriend
                                        Laboratory ..................................................... The Brain (Reprise)
Scene 9: Town Hall .............................................................. The Law
Scene 10: The Laboratory ................................................... Life, Life
                                         He Vas My Boyfriend Reprise
Scene 11: Frankenstein’s Castle......................................... Welcome to Transylvania
                                        Transylvania Mania

ACT II

Scene 1: The Forest ................................................................. He’s Loose
Scene 2: The Laboratory .................................................... Listen To Your Heart
                                        Surprise
Scene 3: Hermit’s Cottage .............................................. Please Send Me Someone
Scene 4: The Dungeon ................................................... Man About Town
Scene 5: Loew’s Transylvania Heights Theatre .............. Puttin’ On the Ritz
Scene 6: The Cave ........................................................... Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life
                                        Deep Love
Scene 7: The Laboratory ................................................... Hang the Doctor
Scene 8: Transylvania Village Square ......................... Fredrick’s Soliloquy
                                        Deep Love Reprise
                                        Together Again (Finale Ultimo)

House Managers:  Addison Grant, Brittny Hollenbeck,
                   Leah Madsen, Teresa Nelson, Sarah Smith

Set Construction: John Berger, Scott Emery, Rachel Flynn,
                  Dave Klun, Tim Martin, Stacey Mittag,
                  Teresa Nelson, Todd Nelson, Chris Sheprow,
                  Craig Steinek, Dave Winston

SPECIAL THANKS to...

East Ridge High School, Jimmy Stocco III, Katie Carlson, Set Crew,
All of the wonderful volunteers who made this production possible
**CAST BIOGRAPHIES**

**Ben Habegger** (Frederick Frankenstein) Credits: Merrill Arts Center: 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Seussical; Eagan Community Theatre: Big Fish, Beauty and the Beast; Concordia College Theatre: Dracula, The Importance of Being Earnest, Songs For a New World; Training: BA Mass Communication/Theatre Arts, Concordia College

**Luke Fowler** (The Monster) Merrill Arts Center debut. Credits: St. Olaf College: Jesus Christ Superstar, A Streetcar Named Desire, Mother Courage and Her Children, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Cabaret, Elephant’s Graveyard, The Cherry Orchard; Training: BA Theater/Film Studies, St. Olaf College

**Timothy Kelly** (Igor) Merrill Arts Center debut. Credits: Gremlin Theatre: Journey’s End; Classical Actors Ensemble: Much Ado About Nothing, Arden of Faversham, The Merry Wives of Windsor; Melancholics Anonymous: 10 Minutes Between 1:50 and 2AM; St. Olaf College: The Mousetrap, Jesus Christ Superstar, Red Noses, Mother Courage and Her Children, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Cabaret; Training: BA Chemistry/Theater, St. Olaf College

**Kimberly Crabb** (Inga) Merrill Arts Center debut. Credits: Valley Fair: Vocal Coasters Review, Benchwarmerz Dancer; Linda Talcott Choreography: Assistant Musical Choreographer; Training: BA Dance, University of Minnesota


**Anna Werner** (Frau Blucher) Merrill Arts Center: Little Women; Cross Community Players: Mary Poppins; Lakeshore Players: Elephant & Piggie’s We Are In A Play; Rosetown Playhouse: State Fair; Kirkwood Theatre Guild: 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Enchanted April

**Ryan Jacob Pierce** (Inspector Kemp / Hermit) Credits: Merrill Arts Center: Madeline’s Christmas; MCT Inc: Aladdin, The Secret Garden, The Pied Piper; Empire Theater: You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown, The Sound of Music; Festival Theater: Clue The Musical, Miracle on 34th Street; Training: BA Theater, Luther College


**Shelby Anderson** (Ensemble) Merrill Arts Center debut. Credits: WFHS: Summer Arts, Concordia College: Les Miserable, Importance of Being Earnest; Training: BA Theatre/Visual Arts, Concordia College & MA Arts in Education, University of Minnesota

**Rachel Hinderaker** (Ensemble) Merrill Arts Center debut. Credits: Fridley Community Theatre: Urinetown, Sister Act; Cross Community Players: State Fair, Godspell, Beauty and the Beast; Lakeshore Players: The Happy Elf, Seussical; Northwest College: Children of Eden, Subject Was Roses, Working, Trifles, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, Bus Stop; Training: BA Theater, University of Northwestern
CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Kathryn Jade Jarvie (Ensemble) Merrill Arts Center debut. Credits: Waldorf University’s Smith Theater: Steel Magnolias; Dassel-Cokato Community Theater: Les Miserables, Oliver!, The Sound of Music; Hutchinson Community Theater: Singing in the Rain; Training: Musical Theater/Vocal Performance, Waldorf University


Logan Miller Halliday (Ensemble) Merrill Arts Center debut. Credits: Twin Cities Gay Men’s Chorus, Stage and Spotlight Community Theater: Hairspray, High School Musical; Eagan Community Theater: Cinderella, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat; Training: University of Minnesota Duluth

Nicolas “Sullie” Sullivan (Ensemble) Merrill Arts Center debut. Credits: Park Square Theater: Flying Foot Forum’s Heaven; Sabes Jewish Comm. Center: Philly; Old Log Theater: Guys & Dolls, Snow White & the 7 Vikings; Screen Credits: Scare Package, There is no Sun, but the Scene is Lit, Blood Harvest; Training: BFA Musical Theater Acting, University of Minnesota Duluth; Upcoming Projects: Teeth: Short Film, Aperture: Short Film

Josh Savrin (Ensemble) Merrill Arts Center: Little Women; Cross Community Players: Mary Poppins; Flagstaff Light Opera: Guys and Dolls, Sweeney Todd, Miss Saigon; Theatrikos Theater: Laughing Stock, Comedy of Errors

Devin M. Johnson (Ensemble) Merrill Arts Center debut. Credits: Missoula Children’s Theatre: Gulliver’s Travels in Space, Peter and Wendy; Albert Taylor Theatre: Julius Caesar; The Dulce Theatre: Evita, Spamalot; Training: BFA Acting, Millikin University

Megan Torbert (Ensemble/Choreographer) Merrill Arts Center debut. Credits: Creighton University: Legally Blonde, The Nutcracker, A Nightmare’s Holiday, Cabaret; The Rose Theatre: Peter Pan; Choreography: Gross Catholic High School: Little Mermaid, Honk!; The Rose Theatre: Spamalot, Honk!, Xanadu, Seussical, Grease; Training: Minor in Dance, Creighton University; Upcoming Projects: SPA: Dear Edwina

Jacob Berg (Lighting Designer) has done over 40+ shows as a tech member. Whether it’s sound, lights, set, or anything in between, Jake loves it all! Most recently, he worked as the set designer, builder, and light designer for Ashland’s 2019 ACT! Program, Press Start! as well as the set, sound, and lighting designer, set builder and sound engineer for Stillwater Middle School’s production of School House Rock. Jake started working in theatre as a freshman at Tartan High School and is now working at many theatres around the Twin Cities doing what he loves.

Leah Madsen (Production Manager/Photographer) is thrilled to be working as a Production Manager for Merrill Arts Center. Leah graduated from St. Olaf College this past May with a BA in Theatre Arts and Media Studies. She has previously managed Junie B. Jones (Merrill Arts Center), directed at St. Olaf College (MN) and the St. Croix ArtBarn (WI), appeared in several St. Olaf productions both onstage and offstage, and has been a freelance publicist for theatre organizations around the Twin Cities. When she isn’t doing theatre, Leah works as a full-time publicist for the world’s largest publisher of body, mind, and spirit books, Llewellyn Worldwide.
STAFF HEADSHOTS

Tom Reed
Director

MJ Luna
Stage Manager

Jessie Rolfe
Music Director

Sarah Herman
Props Designer

Bailey Remmers
Costume Designer

Jacob Berg
Light Designer

Craig Steineck
Scenic Designer

Leah Madsen
Production Manager

Megan Torbert
Choreographer
Cromie
CREATIVE CONSULTANTS

Website Builds for Busy Business Owners
(fist bumps included)

Whether it's a small business website or a custom build, our team makes the process fast and easy so you can sleep better at night.

www.cromiecreativeconsultants.com

THANK YOU TO ALL DONORS FOR BEING A CHAMPION OF THE ARTS!

$25,000 - $49,999
Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
Minnesota State Arts Board

$15,000 - $24,999
Fred C. & Katherine B. Andersen Foundation

$10,000 - $14,999
Anonymous
Chuck Eckberg Real Estate Group, RE/MAX Results
The Hardenbergh Foundation
Lisa Boe, Homes with a Boe

$1000 - $1499
Becky Amble
Big Frog
Holly Brugger
Marshall Gravdahl

$500 - $999
Anonymous

$250 - $449
Elisa Cross and Steve Addington
Loring & Lucy McAllister
In honor of: Anna Reimann
Jim & Cheri Dixon
Mary Keefer
The Ringsdore Family

$100 - $249
James & Linda Knox
Tony Laundrie
Linda Laveridere
Tim & Patte Martin
Kori Nelson
Michelle Nikolai
Carolyn Norby
Gloria Schaller

$1500 - $2499
Debra Aamodt & Craig Steineck
John & Carol Berger
John & Susie Keiholz
Lake Elmo Bank
Loffler
Nothing Bundt Cakes
The Urgency Room

$25 - $99
Anonymous

$10,000 - $14,999
Anonymous

$2500 - $9999
Anonymous

$15,000 - $24,999
Fred C. & Katherine B. Andersen Foundation

$25,000 - $49,999
Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
Minnesota State Arts Board

*List as of January 25, 2020. Please contact kajsa@merrillartscenter.org if you are not listed or are listed incorrectly
Our adventurous team is constantly seeking new and innovative technology solutions to help your organization succeed. Let our industry experts refresh your path. Don’t be COMPLACENT. We aren’t.

LOFFLER
COPIERS & PRINTERS • MANAGED SERVICES • IT SOLUTIONS
loffler.com • 952.925.6800

EXPLORE
the possibilities.

Our adventurous team is constantly seeking new and innovative technology solutions to help your organization succeed. Let our industry experts refresh your path. Don’t be COMPLACENT. We aren’t.

LOFFLER
COPIERS & PRINTERS • MANAGED SERVICES • IT SOLUTIONS
loffler.com • 952.925.6800

CREATE YOUR NEXT
Favorite SHIRT!

24 HOUR TURNAROUND -
FREE DESIGN SERVICES
NO MINIMUMS

24 HOUR TURNAROUND -
FREE DESIGN SERVICES
NO MINIMUMS

Great For:
BUSINESSES
SCHOOLS
CHURCHES
SPECIAL EVENTS
CLUBS
Or just for fun!

- on in-stock items
DTG only

LOFFLER
COPIERS & PRINTERS • MANAGED SERVICES • IT SOLUTIONS
loffler.com • 952.925.6800

EXPERIENCE THE POSSIBILITIES!

LOFFLER
COPIERS & PRINTERS • MANAGED SERVICES • IT SOLUTIONS
loffler.com • 952.925.6800

EXPLORE
the possibilities.

Our adventurous team is constantly seeking new and innovative technology solutions to help your organization succeed. Let our industry experts refresh your path. Don’t be COMPLACENT. We aren’t.

LOFFLER
COPIERS & PRINTERS • MANAGED SERVICES • IT SOLUTIONS
loffler.com • 952.925.6800

EXPLORE
the possibilities.

Our adventurous team is constantly seeking new and innovative technology solutions to help your organization succeed. Let our industry experts refresh your path. Don’t be COMPLACENT. We aren’t.

LOFFLER
COPIERS & PRINTERS • MANAGED SERVICES • IT SOLUTIONS
loffler.com • 952.925.6800

EXPLORE
the possibilities.

Our adventurous team is constantly seeking new and innovative technology solutions to help your organization succeed. Let our industry experts refresh your path. Don’t be COMPLACENT. We aren’t.

LOFFLER
COPIERS & PRINTERS • MANAGED SERVICES • IT SOLUTIONS
loffler.com • 952.925.6800

EXPLORE
the possibilities.
Consider a gift of Stock!

to donate, please contact
barbe@merrillartscenter.org

RENTAL SPACE AVAILABLE!

Looking to rent a place to practice, rehearse, or perform?
Merrill Community Arts Center rents practice rooms, rehearsal halls and state-of-the-art performance spaces!

Nonprofit and artist rates available.
Contact barbe@merrillartscenter.org for more information.

Banking for all ages!

651.777.8365
Your Community Bank Since 1911
Member FDIC
lakeelmobank.com
Stillwater • Lake Elmo • Oakdale
KNOWLEDGE
My team has the expertise and experience to lead you through the many challenges of buying and selling your home.

PEOPLE
My team works together to always do right for our clients. Nothing is as important as the people we work with and the lasting relationships we create.

SERVICE
You, the client, are at the heart of my business. I am not in this to do a transaction, I am working to be your Realtor for life.

Wrap up your real estate dreams with a Boe!
HomesWithABoe.com • HomesWithABoe@comcast.net • 651.769.5009