

The
Spooktacular
Mystery
at
Dr. Frankenstein's
Laboratory



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BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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P.O. Box 1401
Rapid City, SD 57709

The Spooktacular Mystery at Dr. Frankenstein's Laboratory

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The Spooktacular Mystery at Dr. Frankenstein's Laboratory was first performed at Live Theatre Workshop in Tucson, AZ in October 2015: Samantha Cormier, director; Tristan Kissel, stage manager.

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Richard Gremel

IGOR: Michael Martinez

WOLF GIRL: Amanda Gremel

INVISIBLE MAN: Kristian Kissel, David Ragland

ESMERELDA: Debbie Runge

The Spooktacular Mystery at Dr. Frankenstein's Laboratory

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*To Stephanie, Nathan and Matthew.
And Jbid, Spencer and Arden.*

The Spooktacular Mystery at Dr. Frankenstein's Laboratory

INTERACTIVE FARCE/MYSTERY. There are plenty of laughs and claps of thunder in this screamingly funny madcap mystery. With the “monster incident” behind him, Dr. Frankenstein has given up creating monsters with dead body parts and has his sights set on his newest creation—a giant plant that he hopes will win first place at the Transylvania County Fair Green Thumb Gardening Contest. But before Dr. Frankenstein can unveil his prized plant, it spooktacularly disappears from his laboratory. Suspects include the Invisible Man, a werewolf pizza delivery girl, a witch disguised as a detective, and even Dr. Frankenstein’s assistant Igor. In a series of flashback reenactments acted out by the suspects, the audience can get in on the fun by trying to guess the identity of the thief. Suitable for audiences of all ages and perfect for Halloween!

Performance Time: Approximately 45 minutes.

Characters

(2 M, 2 F, 1 flexible)

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: With the “monster incident” behind him, he is now obsessed with horticulture and winning the Transylvania County Fair Green Thumb Gardening Contest; wears a laboratory coat; male.

IGOR: Dr. Frankenstein’s laboratory assistant, sidekick, and second BFF; male.

WOLF GIRL: Delivers pizzas for her parents’ pizza restaurant, Wolfman’s Killer Pizza; a frequent visitor to Dr. Frankenstein’s mansion since he loves pizza; wears a baseball cap with “Wolfman’s Killer Pizza” on it; female.

ESMERELDA: A witch who lives down the road from Dr. Frankenstein; disguises herself as a detective investigating the theft of his plant; dressed as a witch complete with a wig, large nose, mole, etc; wears detective garb over her witch costume; female.

INVISIBLE MAN/WOMAN: Since he’s invisible, you just never know where he’s going to be; voiceover; flexible. (Note: If female, change the script accordingly.)

Setting

Dr. Frankenstein's laboratory.

Set

Dr. Frankenstein's laboratory. Unkempt, messy laboratory with all sorts of science equipment, spooky stuff, and takeout food containers scattered about. There are several pizza boxes with one or more pizza boxes shaped like a pyramid. There is a large table CS and a small swivel chair.

Props

Assorted science equipment
Plastic skeleton
Cell phone
Assorted pizza boxes
Pizza box in shape of a pyramid
Sheet
Large potted philodendron plant
Wallet
\$20 bill (can be play money)
Hot pepper packets
Parmesan cheese packets
Bag of frozen peas

Sound Effects

Heavy rain
Wind
Wolf howl
Clap of thunder
Silent film music
Sound of electricity surging
Crash

“I can't be creepy
and bring things to life
on an empty stomach!”

—Dr. Frankenstein

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Dr. Frankenstein's Laboratory. It's an unkempt room, with all sorts of science equipment scattered about, and a pizza box – one shaped like a pyramid – or two. A large table sits CS with a sheet covering it. There is something under the sheet, but exactly what, we can't tell. Sounds of a storm: heavy rain, wind, and thunder. In the distance, a wolf howl is heard. At this, Igor, who has been heavily snoring in a small swivel chair, awakens.)

IGOR: *(Startled.)* What?! *(Falls off his chair, quickly gets up, and looks around. Frightened.)* Who said that?! *(Runs behind a skeleton and hides. Realizing what he's hiding behind, he screams, and jumps out. He walks very slowly backward downstage until he reaches the edge of the stage. He stops, takes a deep breath, and exhales. He is relieved. He turns, sees the audience, and screams.)* Ahhhhhhhh! *(To audience.)* Who are you?! *(Clap of thunder. Screams.)* Aaahhhh! *(Audience seems friendly enough. To audience.)* Sorry. My name's Igor. What's yours? *(Audience responds.)* Great to meet...all of you. I've just woken up from a terrible nightmare. I dreamt that I was in a dark and scary laboratory. *(Realizes where he is and begins to turn in a circle, scanning the room, during the following.)* And there were all sorts of science equipment laying around, and a human skeleton, and in the background I heard a wolf howl, and there was a group of people watching me... *(Note: He is facing the audience at this point. Smiles at audience.)* Oh. *(Embarrassed.)* This isn't a nightmare? Just great! Then I'm still in Dr. Frankenstein's laboratory. Don't get me wrong, he's nice and all, but he gets these ideas for crazy inventions, and I'm the one who has to clean them up once they explode, or combust, or run off into the night and terrorize the villagers. And then I have to chase down the villagers and beg them to extinguish their fires and put down their pitchforks and— *(Cuts himself off.)* Sorry, that's a different story, about a different time, about a different invention.

His greatest! *(Stage whisper.)* The Monster We Do Not Speak Of. *(Realizes.)* Wait. I shouldn't speak of him. He gets moody when I start talking about— *(Turns and sees Dr. Frankenstein.)*

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: What?

IGOR: Huh?

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Talking about what?

IGOR: I'm not talking about what!

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Who?

IGOR: Me?! I'm not talking about anything.

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: But you just said—

IGOR: What?

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: No, I said, "What?" ...asking you what you were talking about.

(Long pause.)

IGOR: What?

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Oh, never mind! Igor?

IGOR: Yes, Master?

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Have you prepared the equipment?

IGOR: Yes, Master!

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Are all the buttons pushed?

IGOR: Yes, Master!

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: The knobs turned?

IGOR: Yes, Master!

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Levers pulled?

IGOR: Yes, Master!

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: The pizza ordered?

IGOR: Yes, Mast— *(Realizes.)* Wait, you wanted me to order a pizza?

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Yes, Igor! I can't be creepy and bring things to life on an empty stomach!

(Pause. Igor pulls out his cell phone and dials. Dr. Frankenstein begins to prepare for the big reveal.)

IGOR: *(Into phone.)* Hello. I'd like to order a large cheese pizza—

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: *Two* large pizzas.

IGOR: *(Into phone.)* Make that *two* large pizzas.

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: With anchovies.

IGOR: With anchovies?

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Yes, anchovies!

IGOR: Gross. *(Into phone.)* No, not you. The anchovies. They're the foulest, nastiest, smelliest food on the planet—

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: And we'll take extra!

IGOR: *(Into phone.)* And we'll take extra...Yes...No...Maybe.

Hang on, I'll ask. *(To Dr. Frankenstein.)* Breadsticks and a two-liter of soda?

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: No, no, no!

IGOR: *(Into phone.)* No, no, no...Yes, bring it to Frankenstein's mansion. *(Clap of thunder.)* No, Dr. Frankenstein, not the big monster who— *(Dr. Frankenstein gives Igor a hard look.)* We Do Not Speak Of. Nope, not his house. This is Dr. Frankenstein's house. *(Pause. Dr. Frankenstein goes back to his work.)* Oh, never mind. It's a big dark scary house with real, live gargoyles in the front yard...Yes, they bite! Goodbye! *(Hangs up.)* It'll be here in 30 minutes or less.

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Thirty minutes?!

IGOR: Or less.

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: But I can't wait 30 minutes!

IGOR: Or less.

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Igor, we will have to begin...*now!* *(They wait for a clap of thunder, but it doesn't come. Annoyed.)* Where is the clap of thunder that happens when I say things dramatically like *this!*

(Pause. No clap of thunder. Igor crosses to the window and looks out.)

IGOR: Oh, wow! It's cleared up, Master. Not a cloud in the sky.

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: What?! The weatherman said there was going to be a 10-percent chance of heavy precipitation tonight. With those kinds of odds, it's a guarantee!

IGOR: Precipitation?

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Yes. *(Sits, defeated.)* And I was really counting on that 10 percent, too. *(Puts his head in his hands.)*

IGOR: *(To audience, stage whisper.)* Hey, what does "precipitation" mean? *(Waits for audience to answer.)* Oh. Why doesn't he just say "rain"?

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Well, this is the last time I listen to [Al Roker]. *(Scoffs.)* America's weatherman! Yeah, right! Don't try and tell me what's happening in my neck of the woods. *(Loud clap of thunder. Excited.)* Precipitation! I will never doubt you again, [Al Roker]! *(Calls.)* Igor?! *[Or insert the name of another meteorologist.]*

IGOR: Yes, Master.

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Ready the machines!

IGOR: Yes, Master!

(Music begins. Choreographed in the style of a silent film, they clumsily hurry around the stage, moving this way and that and ducking and dodging each other.)

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: *(Melodramatically.)* Pull...the...lever! *(Igor pulls the lever. The sound of electricity surging through the room is heard. With a flourish, Dr. Frankenstein throws the sheet off the table, revealing a giant philodendron plant laying on its side. Dr. Frankenstein positions the plant upright. Shouts.)* It's, it's, it's....alive!

IGOR: *(Shouts.)* Yes, Master! It's, it's— *(Unsure what it is.)* What is it?

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: *(Shouts.)* It's...it's...my philodendron!

IGOR: A plant?

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Yes, but not just any plant, Igor. The plant that will help me bring home this year's Transylvania

County Fair Annual Green Thumb Gardening Contest first-place ribbon!

IGOR: Oh, not again.

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: What was that, Igor?

IGOR: It's just— *(Stops himself.)* Never mind, Master.

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Igor, is something bothering you? *(Crosses to Igor and puts his arm around his shoulder.)* You know you can always talk to me. I am your rock...your shoulder...your BFF.

IGOR: Really?

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Yes, of course. Well, no, I guess the Creature from the Black Lagoon is my first BFF, but you're easily my second... *(Thinks.)* ...or third.

IGOR: It's just every time the Transylvania County Fair has their Annual Green Thumb Gardening Contest you seem to forget about me. All you think about is your plant.

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: I'm sorry, Igor. This year I will take the time to remember what's most important in my life. And that is... *(Clap of thunder.)* ...my philodendron! Igor?!

IGOR: *(Reluctantly.)* Yes, Master.

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Bring me the H₂O!

IGOR: Yes, Master! The H₂O! *(Lest out his best evil laugh.)* I will retrieve the H₂O! Yes, I can't wait to retrieve the H₂O! Retrieving it now, Master! The wonderful H₂O!

(Igor lets out a loud evil laugh and stops and the doorbell rings.)

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: *(Excited.)* Ooooooh! The pizza's here! *(Runs off to answer the door.)*

IGOR: *(To audience.)* So, real quick before he comes back. Do any of you know what "H₂O" means? *(Waits for the audience to answer.)* Oh, that makes sense. But why doesn't he just say "water"?

(Dr. Frankenstein enters.)

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: Igor!

IGOR: Going to get the water. *(Winks at the audience.)* Right now, Master.

DR. FRANKENSTEIN: No need for that right now. *(Excited.)* Pizza's here!

(Wolf Girl enters behind Dr. Frankenstein. She waves at Igor. Igor waves back.)

[END OF FREEVIEW]