**Frankenstein**

**M.S.U. Theatre Department**

**Lesson Plan Ideas for Teachers**

**Pre- performance questions**

* Ask which of your students have been involved in some type of theatre activities in or out of school. They could help lead the discussion.
* Give students background information about the play and about Mary Shelley

Ask students to make predictions:

* What will the monster look like?
* What will the set look like?
* What will the costumes look like? (Artistic students could sketch costumes)
* What will the language sound like?

Share parts or all of this student guide to give them some background information before they see the play: <https://act1az.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Frankenstein-Show-Guide.pdf>

**Post-performance**

* Discussion questions:
* Look at the predictions you made before seeing the performance. How many of your predictions were accurate?
* What surprised you about the performance?
* How did the set, lighting and acting help to convey the themes of the play?
* What makes live theatre different from the experience of watching a movie or reading a book?
* Keeping in mind that the actors are M.S.U. students, and they are in the process of learning, what feedback would you give them?
* If students have read Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein:
  + When you read the novel, did you sympathize more with the monster or with Victor? Did that change for you as you watched the play?
  + Did you picture Victor as “crazed” as he was in the play? Why do you suppose the actor portrayed Victor as he did?
  + How is the portrayal of Elizabeth different from her character in the novel?
  + What is the impact of the fact that the monster in the play is female? Does it change the meaning and/or themes of the play?
  + What is the effect of the chorus in the play?

**Possible activities**

* Before viewing the performance, students read theatre reviews from newspapers and magazines to get an idea of what theatre reviewers write about. (set, lighting, acting, character development, etc.) They could take notes during the play, and then write reviews after the performance.
* Students write feedback they would give to the actors and director, listing what they liked about the performance and what might be improved.
* Ask students to read the interview with Quinn Mattfield, the author of the adaption, on the website below. <http://phxstages.blogspot.com/2018/10/its-aliveagain-conversation-with-quinn.html> Ask students to write create their own questions. If they could interview Quinn Mattfield, what would they ask him?
* The play is packed with ideas and themes. Ask students to list some of them. For example: Family, Society, Isolation, Revenge, Prejudice, Secrecy, Ambition vs. Fallibility. Divide students into 5 groups, giving each group one of these ideas, and have them come up with examples of these ideas within the play.