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Aggie Players piece together an unusual 'Frankenstein'

THE BATTALION

By Traci Travis

THE BATTALIO

Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" Adapted by Tim Kelly Starring James C. Leary, Stephany D. Tramel Alvarado, Al Alvarado, Gracie De Hoyos and Kevin **Scott Forman** Directed by Amy Rebecca Jimenez

For all you first-daters, this is not your typical "girl-screams-boy-comforts-her" thriller.

Rudder Forum, 845-1234

Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" provokes the mind to question the realms of science experimentation and may, in the meantime, enter-

Strangely enough, the Aggie Players have managed to produce a version of "Frankenstein" that doesn't frighten the audience. This play will challenge you to think about the consequences of humans experimenting with life. It is up to the individual to decipher right from wrong. Victor Frankenstein is a stu-

dent of science who takes his enjoyment of experimentation a bit too far. After working for months behind the locked doors of his laboratory, Frankenstein's creation is complete. The result is a creature so revolting that he is destined to be loved by no one.

Using scraps of human carcasses, Frankenstein pulls off the ultimate in school science projects. The consequences that follow, however, are worth less than a failing grade. Soon after his completion, the creature escapes the



James C. Leary and Stephany D. Tramel Alvarado star as Victor Frankenstein and Elizabeth in the Aggie Players' production of Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein."

confines of the chateau, unaware back his original demand and or-

of his unsightly appearance. Gasps and screams of horror from onlookers in town are enough to make the creature realize his fate: a life alone.

Filled with anger and hate for his creator, the creature hunts down his maker begging him to destroy what he has created.

The creature pleads with Frankenstein to end his meaningless life, and with much hesitation, he agrees.

After witnessing the love that Frankenstein has for his future wife Elizabeth, the creature takes

ders Frankenstein to create a bride for him instead.

What follows is a play filled with murder and deceit; a perfect combination for the typical horror

Craig Brashears, the play's set designer, should be praised for his realistic construction of the chateau. The set may never find its equal

If only the acting were as incredible as the set.

With no intention of doing so, the set design completely overwhelms the rest of the play. In

Because of its young cast, this play lacks, for the most part, strong acting performances. The result is scenes filled with nervous hands and stiff stances that only

Thursday, March 3, 1994

take away from the plot. The weaker performances from the inexperienced actors only serve to point out the few strong

performances of the experienced. Frau Frankenstein (Gracie De Hoyos) plays a convincing concerned mother who has particular

expertise in matchmaking. The faithful wife of Frankenstein, Elizabeth (Stephany D Tramel Alvarado), is a whirlwind of energy. The stage lights up with her every appearance; adding to the haunting atmos-

Victor Frankenstein (James C Leary) is a mysterious, eerie crea-His twisted facial expressions and sinister outbursts are hard to overlook, but not necessarily in the frightening way one

would expect. Kristi Cobern, costume designer, pieces together beautiful gowns that flatter and give the actresses a romantic flair.

The stereotypical green-faced creature does not make an appearance this time around. No doubt he is grotesque to look at, but it takes a while to realize who

Chances are, you'll be surprised by this interpretation of 'Frankenstein" if you've grown up with the traditional wicked tale.

So surprised, you may confuse evil "Frankenstein" with Casper the Friendly Ghost.

The Texas A&M University Student Publications Board is accepting applications for

Editor 1995 AGGIELAND

The editor of the 1995 Aggieland yearbook will serve from August 1994 through August 1995.

Qualifications for the position are:

Be a Texas A&M student with a minimum 2.0 overall and major GPR at the time of appointment and during the term of office

Have at least one year experience in a responsible position on the Aggleland or comparable college yearbook

Have demonstrated ability in writing through university coursework or

Have completed or be registered in JOUR 210 (Graphics) or equivalent.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to the Student Publications Manager's office, room 230 Reed McDonald Building. Deadline for submitting application: 5 p.m. Monday, March 21, 1994. Applicants will be interviewed during the Student Publications Board Meeting beginning at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, 1994.

'8 Seconds' of plot; 2 hours of bull riding

By Claudia Zavaleta

THE BATTALION

Mitchell

"8 Seconds" Starring Luke Perry, Stephen Baldwin, Cynthia Geary, James Rebhorn and Red

Directed by John G. Avildsen Rated PG-13 Playing at Hollywood USA

Far away from his "Beverly Hills 90210" fame, Luke Perry plays Lane Frost, a champion bull rider, whose life was cut short in a tragic accident in the

Based on the real-life rodeo hero's struggle adjusting to fame and marriage, "8 Seconds" is a bland depiction of Frost's rough and dangerous life. Given the inherently exciting nature of the sport of bull riding, Academy Award-winning director John G. Avildsen could have done much, much more.

The story begins in Oklahoma as a young Frost learns the ways of the rodeo from his father Clyde (James Rebhorn), himself a bareback champion.

Finally, when Lane is old enough to start touring the rodeo circuit with his friends Tuff Hedeman (Stephen Baldwin) and Cody Lambert (Red Mitchell), his own talent as a bull rider emerges. Along with fame at the rodeo, Frost also finds romance when he falls in love with a championship horse

rider, Kellie Kyle (Cynthia

Perry convincingly plays the part of the goody-goody cowboy who, unlike his rodeo buddies, takes the time to talk to young fans and declines free drinks. He also shows Frost's emotional and sensitive side when his father repeatedly dampens his success with criticism, not praise

The story takes a corny turn when the Kyle-Frost relationship solidifies. The gentle, down-to-earth country boy lassos the more sophisticated Kellie's heart with his down-home charm and his bull-riding phi-

After his marriage to Kyle, Frost's career reaches the pinnacle and there is no where else to go but down.

The film, in an attempt to de pict Lane as an overwhelmed celebrity slowly loosening his grip on what is valuable to him, fails to make the transition a believable one. The drastic change from nice guy to beer-drinking womanizer is badly developed. Two scenes are just not enough to firmly establish his fall from

His friends, Tuff and Cody, loyally stand by their man's side and support him through his good and bad times. Baldwin, playing the part of Tuff Hedeman, who starts out as Lane's rival, is tough, but selfless enough to push Lane out of his rut and



Luke Perry stars as champion bull rider Lane Frost in the real-life rodeo film "8 Seconds."

back into the ring.

Eventually, Frost regains his relationship and his career, as expected.

The high points of the film are the bull riding scenes. Perry, who performed many of the riding stunts himself, spent countless hours training with the real Hedeman and other former bull riding champions.

Capturing the spirit and the athleticism that is needed to stay on top of a 2,000- pound bull for eight seconds while

holding on with only one hand, "8 Seconds" does give the viewer a glance at the rodeo lifestyle. Although Frost's story is full of the stuff heroes are made of, the movie fails to recreate the feel-

The plot seems rushed in crucial places to fit more bull riding scenes. For a film based solely on rodeos and riding, this would be fine, but "8 Seconds" is also a love story and a drama about the death of one of bull riding's greatest heroes, Lane

The Texas A&M University Student Publications Board is accepting applications for

Editor, The Battalion

Fall 1994

The fall '94 editor will serve from August 15, 1994, through December 9. 1994.

Qualifications for editor of The Battalion are:

Be a Texas A&M student with a minimum 2.0 overall and major GPR at the time of appointment and during the term of office;

Have at least one year experience in a responsible editorial position on The Battalion or comparable student newspaper,

Have at least one year editorial experience on a commercial newspaper,

Have completed at least 12 hours journalism, including JOUR 203 and 303 (Media Writing I and II), JOUR 301 (Mass Comm Law) and JOUR 304 (Editing for the Mass Media), or equivalent.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to the Student Publications Manager's office, room 230 Reed McDonald Bldg. Deadline for submitting application: 5 p.m. Monday, March 21 Applicants will be interviewed during the Student Publications Board Meeting beginning at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, 1994.

is accepting applications for

Editor, The Battalion

The Texas A&M University

Student Publications Board

Summer 1994

The summer '94 editor will serve from May 23, 1994, through August 5, 1994.

Qualifications for editor of The Battalion are:

Be a Texas A&M student with a minimum 2.0 overall and major GPR at the time of appointment and during the term of office;

Have at least one year experience in a responsible editorial position on The Battalion or comparable student newspaper,

Have at least one year editorial experience on a commercial newspaper,

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