



Subscribe Jobs WPD Crime Reports Coupons Brent's Pizza Athlete of the Week School Board Candidate Q & A

WILLIAMSTON TODAY.com

The Latest News And Events In Williamston Michigan

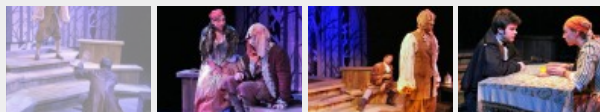


**WILLIAMSTON
SPORTSPINE**
CHIROPRACTIC | MASSAGE | NUTRITION
425 W GRAND RIVER AVE WILLIAMSTON MI 517.655.2468



Williamston Theatre Opening Night The Gravedigger

Log In



October 4, 2014

By Liz Ball | Williamstontoday.com

Williamston Theatre's Opening Night of The Gravedigger, A Frankenstein Story delivered a haunting tale full of fun, fright and the power of relationships. The story explores the period in

Kellie's Consignments



"Expect the Unexpected"
4800 Okemos Rd. Okemos, MI
Mon - Fri 9:00am - 8:00pm
Sat 10:00am - 6:00pm
Sun 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Six String Place
sixstringplace.com

Your local agent insures your

Farm Bureau INSURANCE
Bill Kingsley 517-694-8124

WOW!
It's that kind of experience.
wowway.com
© 2014 WideOpenWest Finance, L.L.C.

Click here for our ad!
Free Shipping To our store
139 Putnam Williamston
517-655-1622

BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER
SINCLAIR GELI
To go: (517) 521-0000
345 W. Grand River Webberville
MSU Dairy Ice Cream Catering

Automotive Andrews
Sales & Service • Mason, MI
711 N. Cedar St.
(517) 676-1011

5829 Zimmer Road
Williamston
Crosaires
An "Aging In Community" Residence
517-898-1715

the novel when the monster has killed Dr. Frankenstein's family and disappears; where did he go and what did he experience? The tale is told through the relationship of four characters: the monster, a gravedigger, a gypsy and Dr. Frankenstein. For the first time, the monster is not rejected for being himself. The tale is more than just a spooky monster story; you care about how these characters connect, what they learn from each other and how the experience changes their lives.

The Gravedigger by Michigan playwright, Joseph Zettlemaier, is appearing as joint world premiere in Williamston and Chicago. The Williamston Theatre and First Folio Theatre adaptations are very different though Zettlemaier does not share too many details between the theatres; he loves them both according to Williamston Theatre's Executive Director, John Leopard. "First Folio is going for the more frightening aspect of the story and we are going for the relationships that develop out of what happens", John Leopard explains. World premieres allow the opportunity for the cast, director and playwright to collaborate, make changes and develop the story together. Leopard shares the most rewarding part of directing this production "Seeing it come off the page and these guys breathing life into it. Watching what can happen to a script that is in someone's imagination then comes all the way around to a full production with everybody's input."

The cast brings both familiar faces and new talent to the Williamston Theatre. Joe Seibert is playing Victor Frankenstein and Alysia Kolaszc is playing Nadia, the gypsy. Both worked with John Leopard previously when starring in Ebenezer at the Williamston Theatre two years ago.

Leopard ran into a challenge when John Manfredi who was originally cast as Kurt, the gravedigger, had to suddenly back out when he was made the new Executive Director of the Performance Network in Ann Arbor. Mark Colson, an Assistant Professor from MSU was recast in the role. Alex Leydenfrost who last appeared in Panache at the Williamston Theatre plays the monster, Anton, and is 6'5". Leopard states "I was physically looking for shorter people, 5'6" to 5'10, to make the monster look bigger and Mark is only a couple inches shorter than Alex so I did not think of him originally." Leopard had Mark read despite this and the fit was perfect. "The playwright even changed a couple lines due to the size difference", Leopard recalls.


The cast speaks of the script with great enthusiasm and their performances illustrate this passion. Alex Leydenfrost (monster) shares "I was drawn to the journey of this boy who wants to find love from his father or any love. He's not really a monster, he turns out to be a human being."

The connection between the characters, the experiences and actions are fundamental to their souls and how they live going forward. Alysia Kolaszc (gypsy) states "Being resistant to that connection with another person, sometimes you don't have a choice in it and you do connect. As difficult as it is, that connection is what makes life worth living. It changes each character for the better."

The story illustrates repercussions for one's mistakes, how demonstrating awful actions in the past does not necessarily represent your future or your soul. There is a journey to go through and it is full of emotion, pain and is never easy. Joe Seibert (Dr. Frankenstein) summarizes "Redemption has to be worked for and actually sought out. The first step to seeking redemption is to find it within yourself. That is something the creature goes through and something my character could achieve but kind of turns away from in the end."

Mark Colson (gravedigger) shares how his favorite thing about the production echoes the theme of the play itself "The team of people I'm working with. They make it easy for people who have never performed in this theatre. They treat people like family."

Williamston Theatre's set is simplistic, bare bones and without much variance between the three locations in the play. The space is intimate and the characters bring the story to life. Joe



Solutions
517.861.6567
110 W Grand River
Webberville MI



Elect SANDERS
For Williamston Board of Education
Our Community, Our Schools
Vote November 4th
www.sanderswilliamstonschools.com

Advertise Here



The Ingham County Fair Foundation



Kitmiller
877-876-9799
1211 N Cedar Road
Mason, MI 48854



AIKIN EXTERIORS, INC.
Doors
Call Gregg Aikin
517-202-4453



100
Making Friends Since 1914



WILLIAMSTON SPORT AND SPINE
517.655.2468

What's New

Public Notice from Williamston Police Department; No Signs Allowed In Right Of Way





Notice from City of Williamston; Hydrant Flushing and Leaf Pick up Coordination

MSU Students Present Red Cedar River Design Concepts in Williamston

Hornets Varsity Soccer Team Lose 4-1 in East Lansing

Look who is hiring in Williamston this week; Williamston Bucket, Deer Creek Sales, SpartanNash, and more!



			
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
0%	0%	0%	0%
Clear	Clear	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
High 62° Low 39°	High 59° Low 34°	High 57° Low 35°	High 56° Low 37°

Upcoming Events

Seibert says it well "The set is bare, it is completely human based. There is nothing distracting you from the character interactions and what each of these people's souls are." That is not to say there were no obstacles with a simplistic approach. John Lepard shared the challenge of presenting a hole in the ground, a grave, without actually digging into the theatre floor. I saw for myself how the raised platforms of the set design came to the rescue and really brings the grave to life.

Opening night, the theatre was packed, excitement was in the air and the performances delivered. I really enjoyed seeing the show, the mystery of the monster and the development of the relationships as the story unfolds. As John Lepard states "People are going to enjoy the freakiness of it. Scary monsters are fun. But the relationships are what make you care about it." I couldn't agree more.

Check out the show by ordering your tickets [here](#)

Donate Costumes Now for Williamston Food Bank's "Halloween Costume Give A-Way Day"
Oct 8 14 All Day

Ingham County Animal Shelter is full; Dogtober Deals start today!
Oct 8 14 All Day

Sign up today for the 5th Annual 5K Run/Walk at St. Mary School
Oct 8 14 All Day

Now Showing at the Sun Theater; The Maze Runner
Oct 8 14 7:00 pm - 8:45 pm

WHS JV & Varsity CAAC Cup Soccer Tournament
Oct 9 14 12:00 am

[Click here for all events](#)

0 Comments

Williamston Today

Login

Sort by Best

Share Favorite



Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

ALSO ON WILLIAMSTON TODAY

WHAT'S THIS?

Williamston High School Boys Soccer in Crosstown Clash – ...

1 comment • 3 months ago

Larry Ward — Looking forward to the WCS Boys Soccer this fall - should be a great season! Thanks for ...

Record Crowd at Williamston's 5th National Night Out

1 comment • 2 months ago

Amanda Harris Musser — You can find more pictures on Manda Panda Snapshots facebook page.

Class of 1998 Williamston Grad Stars in Movie

1 comment • 17 days ago

The Microwave — Nice article. Does he have any future projects in the works?

Fire Destroys Webberville Home

1 comment • a month ago

Susan M Schrader — What stores would be the best place to give them gift cards to?

Subscribe Add Disqus to your site Privacy

DISQUS

[← WilliamstonToday.com home](#)

