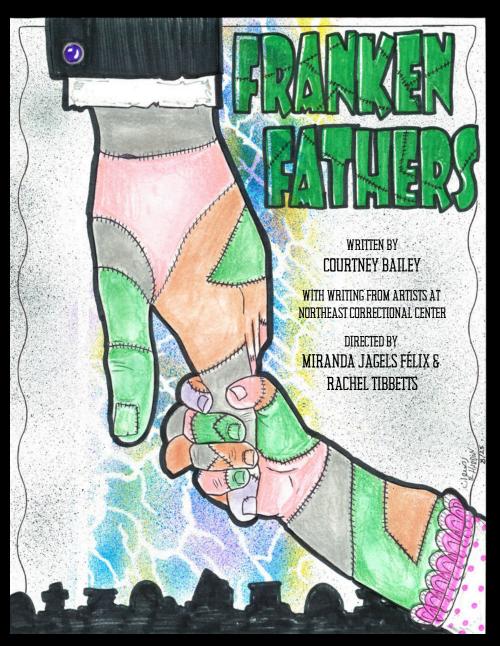
## **PRISON PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS**



Performing ARTS

October 7 - 9, 2025 Northeast Correctional Center

## SPECIAL THANKS

#### MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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#### THANK YOU

Debbie Flores

Meg Geiger Dorothy LaBounty Murray Phillips

SATE



Prison Performing Arts involves system-involved youth and adults in the performing arts to inspire intellectual curiosity and personal development. We nurture the discipline, teamwork and communication skills necessary for successful re-entry into society. We encourage members of the larger community to connect personally with program participants, and we offer continuing programs for participants who have been released.

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#### FrankenFathers

written by Courtney Bailey

with writing from artists at Northeast Correctional Center Denver Blackwell, Timothy Foust, Kenneth "Ridhwan" Hardin, Jaren "Yodee" Hooten, Quinnion Hoskins, Anthony Jackson, Lonnie A. Johnson, Brandon Payne, Jeff A. Zimmerman,

> And Mary Shelley

#### ACTING ENGEMBLE

ACTING ENSEMBLE		
FRANKENBOB	Lonnie A. Johnson	
FRANKENGREG	Timothy Foust	
FRANKENSTEVE	Samuel Stevens	
FRANKENPIERRE	Quinnion Hoskins	
FRANKENCHARLES	Anthony Jackson	
FRANKENKITTY	Dale Poirrier	
IGOR	Dale "Bookman" Ginn	
PROM DATE	Cortevia Smith	
TOWNSPEOPLE	Eric Beishline, Keith Brown, Lucas Dunn,	
	Azaiah Forester, James Lindquist, Brandon Payne,	
	Bernard Ward, Michael Whitfield, Jeff Zimmerman	
	*And a special guest*	

#### SPOKEN WORD

PERFORMERS	. Kenneth "Ridhwan" Hardin, LaJuan Hayes,
	Jaren "Yodee" Hooten, Ryan C. Simpson

TEACHING ARTIST	Courtney Bailey
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#### PRODUCTION ENSEMBLE

Miranda Jagels Felix and Rachel Tibbetts
Paul Torretti
Denver Blackwell
Cortevia Smith
RAPHYTyler White
Bess Moynihan
Gabriel Delossantos, Charlie Vance
Kenneth "Ridhwan" Hardin
Jeremiah Devaliti
Andrew Bostic
Nan Rochberg
GNBrian Dooley

#### **Setting:**

We are in the workshop of FRANKENFATHERS, the best quilt-making shop in Transylvania Heights. The workshop is full of quilts, all of them wonderful.

The FRANKENFATHERS were once made in the workshops of mad scientists like Victor Frankenstein. Now they have their own workshop.

### FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

In Prison Performing Arts' newest play, *FrankenFathers*, we tell the story of a group of patchwork men, stitched together by mad scientists and left to fend for themselves in Transylvania Heights. In their exile, they've found community in each other and their shared trade: patchwork men just so happen to be experts on making patchwork quilts (just like the talented artisans in NECC's own workshop), and the FrankenFathers are the best quiltmakers in Transylvania Heights. In our play, these FrankenFathers decide that they long for something more, though. What would it be like to become real fathers? With the help of a magical machine, they create a human child. And, of course, they get quite a surprise.

In creating this original play, our artists examined what it's like to have "patchwork histories," backgrounds with both highs and lows. What does it feel like to look in the mirror when you must confront the best and worst parts of yourself? This is one of the trials that the creature in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* must face, as well. In Shelley's novel, the creature sees his reflection in a pool of water and understands, with incredible frustration, that the world will likely always view him with animosity because of his appearance, even though the quality of his soul longs for goodness, truth, and beauty. The same is true of our FrankenFathers. Their young ward wants to look in a mirror, but the FrankenFathers have to confront their own fears about their reflections before they can teach their child to face the mirror with self-respect and a healthy self-image.

We hope that our homage to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* reminds you that we are all patchwork humans, and our initial prejudices against others prevent us from being wonderfully surprised by joy.

## **ABOUT MARY SHELLEY**



Mary Shelley (1797–1851) was an English novelist, essayist, and editor, remembered above all for creating *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* (1818). Her work fused Gothic horror with questions of science, responsibility, and human ambition, and that is now regarded as a foundational text of both science fiction and modern literature. She was the daughter of political philosopher William Godwin and pioneering feminist writer Mary Wollstonecraft, who died shortly after Mary's

birth. Growing up in a household steeped in radical thought and literature, Mary developed a strong sense of independence and creativity from a young age.

At 16, she began a relationship with the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, eloping with him to Europe despite social scandal. Their years together were marked by both intense artistic collaboration and personal hardship, including financial struggles and the deaths of several of their children. During the famous summer of 1816 at Lake Geneva, in the company of Percy Shelley, Lord Byron, and John Polidori, Mary conceived the story that became *Frankenstein*. Published anonymously when she was just 20 years old, the novel brought her immediate fame and lasting influence.

Mary Shelley's literary career extended well beyond *Frankenstein*. She wrote historical novels such as *Valperga*, the apocalyptic science-fiction novel *The Last Man*, and later works like *Lodore* and *Falkner*. She also produced biographies, short fiction, travel writing, and numerous reviews, making her a versatile and respected figure in the literary world. After Percy Shelley's untimely death by drowning in 1822, she devoted herself to preserving and publishing his poetry, ensuring his place in the canon.

Despite enduring loss, ill health, and the limitations placed on women writers of her time, Mary Shelley carved out a career that was both resilient and influential. She is celebrated today as a trailblazer: a woman who navigated grief, intellectual isolation, and social constraints to leave behind a body of work that still challenges and inspires. Her creation of Frankenstein's creature endures as a cultural icon, a symbol of both human ingenuity and its unintended consequences.

**Eric Beishline (Townsperson/Understudy)** I am 64 years old, and this is my first experience with any theater. I am new to this camp, and after 32 years of incarceration, I thought PPA would be one way I could meet new people. PPA also challenged me to get out of my box. I have enjoyed the entire process and hope to be a part of PPA in the future.

**Denver Blackwell (Music Director/Keyboard)** I am a proud father of two and grandfather of one. Family is what I value most. This is my first year in PPA and Spoken Word, which has been an awesome experience. Thank you for this opportunity.

**Andrew Bostic (Artistic Consultant)** I was born in Barbados and grew up in New York City. I studied English literature and acquired an interest in theater. I was an operatic tenor and had the opportunity to work in off-Broadway and Broadway theater. More recently, I have worked as an HR functional SME and founded a boutique consulting firm in 2000. I am currently an artistic consultant.

**Keith Brown (Townsperson/Understudy)** As was foretold by the prophecy, I emerged from the blossom of a cactus in the desert of El Paso in 1987. The rest is history. Thank you for this opportunity.

**Jeremiah Devaliti (Makeup artist)** My name is Jeremiah. I'm 29 years old. I have a passion for art, and I love sharing that with others.

**Lucas Dunn (Townsperson)** I am 32 years old. I was born in Springfield, MO. This is my first time performing in a play, and it has been pretty fun.

**Timothy Foust (FrankenGreg)** This is my second play with PPA. I have enjoyed all aspects of the class - writing, blocking, and acting. Rachel and Courtney do an amazing job. They care about their work and also care about us. I will be forever grateful for them. They make a difference in our lives. So I want to say "Thank You!"

**Dale "Bookman" Ginn (Igor)** After the fun and challenge of *12 Angry Men*, I saw this play and character as a chance to show my diversity and skills.

**Kenneth "Ridhwan" Hardin (Spoken Word/Artwork)** is a 36-year-old native of North St. Louis. He is a gifted multimedia artist who creates wonderful 3-D works of art with whatever material is at his disposal. He even created the

FrankenFathers cover art. He is also a skilled poet with a knack for altercations that are often causes for laughter accompanied by deep contemplation. He has recently enrolled in Ashland University with the goal of obtaining his Bachelor's Arts degree in Communications. He is a Muslim American who strives to incite hope, joy, and inspiration in others. He has strong convictions of "making no more victims" and strives to display behaviors that mirror his beliefs, morals, and values.

**LaJuan M. Hayes (Spoken Word)** I am 45 years old. Been writing poems for a little over 10 years and I am looking forward to more creative writing when I'm released in 2027. Working with others and continuing to share my art has me excited for the future. I'm also a member of our NAACP Prison Branch, Building Futures Foundation (BFF), and a graduate of two Vo-Tech Classes (CDL and Automotive Technician), working on a third in Building Trades (Carpentry).

**Quinnion Hoskins (FrankenPierre)** Hello, my name is Qunnion Hoskin AKA "Q." I am a 42-year-old visionary. I love all forms of art. With this being my first time with PPA, I hope to add value to this experience. It has been a blessing to work with this whole cast. I give thanks to all who contributed, and to you guys who will witness our magic.

**Jaren "Yodee" Hooten (Spoken Word)** is a magician, poet, recovering carnival worker, and cross-country traveller. He is very enthusiastic about Norse religion and spirituality and is currently studying Icelandic. This is Yodee's first project with PPA, but not the last!!

Anthony Jackson (FrankenCharles) is a native of Kansas City and an original member of the four-time Stellar Award-winning group 'Bridgeboyle Woods Featuring Whew! Singers Meet.' His introduction into the art of theatrical expression began at the age of six with Joyce Todd Productions, a local theater troupe. Subsequently, at the age of eighteen, Anthony received the privilege of joining employment as a pit singer for the Kansas City, Missouri run of the stage play *Skepticals*, produced by David E. Talbert, at the historic Midland Theater. Over the past five months, under the inspirational guidance of Courtney Bailey and Rachel Tibbetts, Anthony has grown to reimagine what the next chapter of artistic expression will look like in his life and how he could impact the world around him.

**Lonnie A. Johnson (FrankenBob)** Getting this opportunity to experience this ride with so many talented people has been one of the most rewarding adventures of my life. Even behind the walls of the most darkest places, you can find the most tremendous lights.

**James Lindquist (Townsperson/Understudy)** I am 51 years old. I am from St. Louis, MO. This is my first play with PPA. I have really enjoyed the process of seeing a play come together. I hope PPA will have me back so I can be part of more plays while I am here at NECC. A big thank you to Rachel and Miranda for making this a fun and creative environment.

**Brandon "G.P. Brando" Payne (Townsperson/Jingle Writer)** is a Christian hip hop artist/songwriter from St. Louis, MO. He has music on various platforms like YouTube, Apple Music, and Spotify. This is his first playwriting placement in *FrankenFathers* through PPA. Brando is also currently in college pursuing a B.S. in Organizational Leadership. He has plans to attend law school upon graduation to pursue a J.D. His vision is to use his talents as a vehicle to serve the community. PPA changed my life and perspective on art.

**Dale Poirrier (FrankenKitty)** I am 44 years young. This is my first time in PPA or doing anything like this... So for me, I'm stepping out of my box. I want to see people laugh and have fun. I look forward to all the enjoyment.

**Ryan C. Simpson (Spoken Word)** I am 39 years old, and have been a part of PPA for 2 years. I've found a true love for poetry and creative writing since becoming a Spoken Word artist. In my free time, I like to write, draw, and read anything I can get ahold of. I would like to say thank you to my mother, for without her, I would not be. And to my kids, I love you all.

**Samuel Stevens (FrankenSteve)** This is my second play with PPA. I was the assistant stage manager for 12 *Angry Men* and I play FrankenSteve. I've enjoyed my time with PPA and the bond we create as a cast.

**Paul Torretti (Stage Manager)** I am 42 years old. I was born and raised in St. Louis, MO. I have participated in 2 plays in high school as part of a "Stagecrafts" class, and I really enjoyed the process of watching a play come

together. This is my second play as a member of PPA, and while I am not acting in it, I have enjoyed watching my fellow members perfect their individual parts. I look forward to my continued participation in PPA while I am incarcerated at NECC.

**Bernard Ward (Townsperson)** From Chicago, where I attended grade school, finished high school, and worked at an early age at an insurance company. I became a father at nineteen and got married. I also worked in my community, started writing, and won poetry contests. I received an Associate Degree in Political Science and English Literature. Today, I remain a freelance writer, journalist, reporter, and activist. Let's not forget, there have been some dark areas of my life, such as my addiction to alcohol. Even today, I continue to struggle, though I pray every day. The more I continue PPA, it gives me more and more skills, which drives my purpose. In the last three years, I have also participated in *The Caverns of Wingwood* and *12 Angry Men*. I now acknowledge all things good and bad within a clearer focus.

**Michael Whitfield (Townsperson)** This is my first year in PPA. A friend of mine, Jeffery Dave Pollard, encouraged me to be part of the performance just to see if I would like it. I am glad I took that opportunity. It's only a small part, but it is my start. Thank you!

Jeff A. Zimmermann (Townsperson/Understudy) This is Jeff's second performance participating in an authentic theatre production. Jeff is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia, with a dual major in Biology & Clinical Nutrition. He is a Mizzou Tiger and has made Columbia his home since 1992. He is a proud, devoted father of twin boys, who are 14. His career path over the past thirty years includes grocer, retail management, and hospital administration. Jeff enjoys the outdoors, hiking, biking, reading, writing, and spending time with his family - especially his boys. The PPA experience is outside of his comfort zone, but extremely pleased that he took on the challenge again to learn more and partake in such a rewarding program. Participating and supporting the arts on all levels is an important focus for balance in our communities.

## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Courtney Bailey, Ph.D., (Playwright) is a St. Louis-based playwright who teaches among the incarcerated and system-impacted communities of Eastern Missouri. The Riverfront Times named her the 2023 Best St. Louis Playwright, and her play *Brontë Sister House Party* earned the 2022 St. Louis Theatre Circle Award for Best New Play. As a playwright and teacher, she prioritizes creating art with incarcerated artists and returning citizens. She's been privileged to work with the support of organizations such as the Folger Shakespeare Library (2024 Artistic Research Fellow), St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, The Bechdel Project, the Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis, Prison Performing Arts, Slightly Askew Theatre Ensemble (SATE), and Equally Represented Arts (ERA). She has written and collaborated on several plays with PPA, including *The Golden Record*, *The Society of Dream Interpreters*, *The Caverns of Wingwood*, *Britches! A Play for Lady Romeos*, *Gatsby of a Thousand Faces*, *Little Women Town*, and *The Lost Boys Family Reunion*. www.courtney-bailey.com

**Miranda Jagels Félix (Assistant Director)** is a proud St. Louis theater artist, originally from Madrid, Spain. She recently received her Master's in theater and performance studies from Washington University. Miranda was first introduced to Prison Performing Arts during her undergraduate studies at Saint Louis University. Since then, she has performed as Patricia in *A Memory of Two Mondays*, as Mollie the horse in *Animal Farm*, and as Miranda in *Hag-Seed*. Miranda is thrilled to be back and grateful to have another great opportunity to collaborate with PPA.

Bess Moynihan (Technical Director) has been a versatile Theatre Artist in the St. Louis region for over 15 years. In 2018 she had the privilege to collaborate with Prison Performing Arts and SATE as an actor/designer for the St. Louis production of *Run-On Sentence*. Throughout the region, Bess has held the title of Managing Director (HotCity Theatre), Executive Director (Mustard Seed Theatre), and Production Manager (Ozark Actors Theatre, Washington University). She has designed scenery and lighting, as well as acted and directed for a variety of regional professional theatres. She has received 8 nominations from the St. Louis Theatre Circle Awards for a variety of roles and designs. Along with her work for PPA, Bess has been a proud Resident Artist at SATE for the past 8 years. Currently, she is the Operations Manager for Edison Theatre at Washington University. Thank you for coming to support the hard-working artists of PPA!

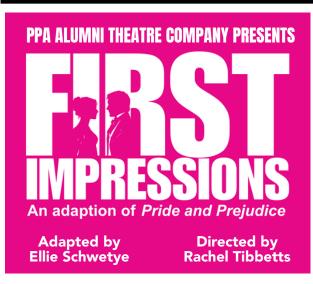
## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Rachel Tibbetts (Co-Director/Artistic Director) is celebrating 20 years with PPA in 2025. Prior to PPA, she worked at the Delaware Theatre Company and Young Audiences of St. Louis. Most recently for PPA she directed *Little Women Town* at WERDCC. Rachel received her B.A. in Theatre from Oklahoma State University and is a graduate of the CAT Institute at the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission. Rachel is co-producer of SATE and works in the community as an actor, director, and intimacy choreographer. In 2023, Rachel received the Saint Louis Visionary Award for Community Impact Artist. For Rose, my greatest creation, who was born on Mary Shelley's birthday.

Tyler White (Costume & Props Coordinator/Choreography) is a native of St. Louis. Tyler White, is an artist who's been seen onstage with COCA, Metro Theater Company, The Black Rep, Mustard Seed Theatre, Washington University, Bread and Roses, and the St. Louis Shakespeare Festival. She's also worked behind the scenes with Union Avenue Opera, COCA, and The Black Rep. She teaches numerous theater and dance classes all around the St. Louis area with companies such as Metro Theater Company, COCA, The Black Rep, and Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. She now serves as Program Coordinator and Teaching Artist at Prison Performing Arts. She graduated from Southeast Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science in Human Environmental Science. Tyler is grateful to God for his many blessings in her life.

## **COMING SOON**

THURSDAY-SUNDAY





The Chapel 6238 Alexander Dr St. Louis, MO 63105

During the production process for *FrankenFathers*, the Spoken Word class composed poems inspired by the themes of the play. The following pieces explore topics such as rejection, prejudice, the story of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, harsh judgment from one's community, and the feeling of being a patch work of a man.

#### "Just Something I Stitched Together"

by Kenneth "Ridhwan" Hardin

What?! Wait! Let me guess, you hate me cuz I'm a patch work?

Wait! What! You hate me cuz I'm a patch work?

Don't surmise from what you behold with your eyes.

You'll be surprised by what resides inside. You see, my heart was patched first.

To whom are my patches adverse? What's your malfunction?

How could you gorge on a grudge towards a glorified cadaver?

You gasp, as I galumph from my gory grave with a grimace, grim grace, and a gangly

grandeur. Gabbing jumbled gurgles, grunts.

They display grueling gestures devoid of gesundheit.

I can't just sit tight. As I gravel, Good Lord!

The town's guys and gals galore! Draped in garbs of judge, jury, executioner gripping gigantic gavels. Gleefully gadding towards glittery gallows.

Gulp! Great! I'm a genetic gumbo of gristle, grays, grit, gumption.

Quite the assumption to think that I could bare such

gaudy, god-awful glances and glares. You stop and you stare and you gawk as if you're

gazing at an

ungodly guild of ghost, goblins, ghouls -Gross- The point remains the same and

this is germane— Staring is rude.

The gist; My grotesque, gorgeous glamour glistens, growls, glows through every glitch and stitch.

It's good to be gallant. Moxie by the gallons... I get it!

I now know what my patch worth.

What? Wait! Let me guess, you love me cuz I'm patch work?

Wait! What?! You love me cuz I'm a Patch Work?

#### "Patch Work"

by Jaren "Yodee" Hooten

The lives of these men are no more than a patch work, & just like them, these squares are a resemblance of their quirks. These squares were hand-picked with a piece here, & a piece there.

Just like the FrankenFathers were hand-picked with a piece here, & a piece there. What appears to be separated can be put back together once more. All it takes is a little patience & for someone not to cower.

When things look like they cannot be fixed, look no further. Because nothing is as it seems. Just take a peek at their seams.



Artwork by Ridhwan

#### "the man & His Creation"

by Ryan C. Simpson

slipping through the graveyard on a moonlit winter's night want to make a son have to make him right

a piece here a piece there so many graves to pick a stitch there a stitch here sew him up quick

the storm is on flip the switch watch him start to twitch

he moans and groans what have i done a monster to his eyes

I start to rise.
the man, he stares, then turns to flee what have I done
what did I do
He's left me here
this isn't fair
why am I here
why can't I find my tears

#### "Who Created Me"

by LaJuan Hayes

Was it the genius, whose name is famously known, who put my parts together, or the same God that gives life to men? Crawling creatures, animals that fly, aren't called monsters. The lightning bolt that awakened me also came from above. like the angels in Heaven. Can you see your soul? Who's to say I have not one? Judge my appearance, but you too shall be judged. Fear me not. as I abuse my own thoughts, repeatedly asking, why, why, if I can't die? Figuring out this trivia could take eternity with no religious guide. The mystery lays dormant on my mind and others. No prophesying of my coming, yet here I am questioning when seeing now that I too can reproduce, beginning a new, promising culture, mixing evolution and spirituality, once again on earth. So does it really matter Who Created Me?

## SPECIAL THANKS

Prison Performing Arts thanks the individuals, businesses, and organizations who have given generously of their time, talents, resources, and services in support of our mission.































COMMISSION OF ST. LOUIS











#### And thank you to all our 2024 donors. We couldn't do this without your support.

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# BUILDING SECOND ACTS THROUGH THE ARTS

#### PRISON PERFORMING ARTS

Prison Performing Arts is a multi-discipline, literacy, and performing arts program that serves system-impacted adults & youth and returning citizens at Hogan Street Regional Youth Center, Missouri Eastern Correctional Center, Northeast Correctional Center, St. Louis City Juvenile Detention Center, St. Louis County Juvenile Detention Center, Southeast Correctional Center, Transition Center St. Louis, Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center, and the Division of Probation & Parole - District 17.

#### SUPPORT PPA

If you enjoyed today's performance, please consider making a donation on our website to support artistic opportunities for justice-involved adults & youth and returning citizens in Missouri. We are grateful for your support. https://www.prisonperformingarts.org/support-us

Prison Performing Arts 3333 Washington Avenue, Suite 203-B St. Louis, MO 63103 www.prisonperformingarts.org