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KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Dr. Frederick Frankenstein (Nathan Porris, left) and his assistant Igor (Randy Fields) prepare for a risky brain procedure in a scene from the musical "Young Frankenstein," which will be presented by the Lewis and Clark Theatre Company in Yankton beginning July 30.

The LCTC Is PUTTIN' ON A HIT (Musical)

'Young Frankenstein' Stomps Onto The Dakota Theatre Stage Next Week

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In keeping with the aim of performing edgier material, the Lewis & Clark Theatre Company will present the musical "Young Frankenstein" starting July 30 at the Dakota Theatre in Yankton. It will run through Aug. 2 to Aug. 6-9.

"I applaud the playhouse for picking more mature shows," said play director Keith Goeden. "I know that can offend people but it also attracts people that might not usually go see a play."

Goeden has been directing stage productions since 1990 and estimates this to be his 70th show. He most recently directed last fall's "The Rocky Horror Show" and a one-act play for the Yankton High School.

The musical is based on filmmaker Mel Brooks' 1974 film, which was a comedic retelling of the first three "Frankenstein" movies made by Universal Studios in the 1930s. The movie is widely popular and considered by many to be a classic. The musical stage version was created by Brooks in 2007 and has been performed around the country since then.

"It's a very popular, hilarious show," said Tara Gill, the theatre's executive director. "I've seen the rehearsals, and the cast is doing great."

However, she cautions against bringing young children to the show as it is rated PG-13.

With the play also being a musical, this brings some unique obstacles that Goeden is willing to take on.

"There's a wide variety of things to be done in musicals" he said. "People have to be taught how to sing, dance and act, and putting those elements together is a challenge."

Having a good cast can make this challenge easier to bear, which Goeden fortunately has.

"Yankton is very blessed with a big bucket of talent and we get to display that in a variety of ways," said Goeden. "On the first night of auditions, I could cast the show. That never happens."

"Nathan Porris (who plays the title role) has played supporting roles before and it was nice to see him step up to a lead role. Jason Pasco (who plays the monster) has been on stage for quite a while and has a great voice. We have a pretty seasoned group."

Getting the right people for the right performances is among the most important aspects of any play, one that Goeden takes seriously.

"Part of my job is to know what I can or cannot get out of someone. I push them to the best of their abilities," Goeden explained. "The whole reason I've been doing this for as long as I have is that I enjoy the people I work with. I feel like this particular group has a family-like feel to it. They're nice to each other and take care of each other."

Fans of the musical's film version could still find ways to be surprised by what the play has to offer.

"There's a safety vacuum when you see a movie or a TV show on screen. You feel like you're in a cocoon," said Goeden. "We don't want to offend anybody, but they should also be aware of what they're getting into."

For people with a higher threshold for



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Dr. Frankenstein (Nathan Porris, left) and The Monster (Jason Pasco) huff it up in the musical number "Puttin' on the Ritz" in a scene from the Lewis and Clark Theatre Company musical "Young Frankenstein." The musical, which debuted on Broadway in 2007, is based on the classic 1974 Mel Brooks movie of the same name.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
LEFT: Dr. Frankenstein (Nick Porris) attempts to reassure Inga (Emily Vortherms, center) and Frau Blucher (Vicki Geiser) in a scene from the LCTC production of "Young Frankenstein." ABOVE: Elizabeth (Christine Pietz) revels in newfound love. "Young Frankenstein" opens July 30 at Yankton's Dakota Theatre.