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Civic's 89th Season Opens with Mel Brooks' Young Frankenstein

Opening the Kalamazoo Civic's 89th Season on September 22nd, the Civic Auditorium will come alive with the wickedly inspired re-imagining of the classic Frankenstein story. The New Mel Brooks' Musical *Young Frankenstein* is a hilariously funny way to kick off a new season.

Director Art Nemitz explained that Mel Brooks' comedic style is bawdy, wild, and wacky! This style of comic farce is not easy, especially since *Young Frankenstein* is also a satiric take-off of 1930's Hollywood horror films. Nemitz says, "The cast for this Civic production is certainly up to the challenge. Rehearsals have been a joy. We occasionally have to pause to get over our laughter and on with the rehearsal!"

Based on the 1974 film of the same name, Mel Brooks' New Musical *Young Frankenstein* is a re-imagining of the classic, and tells the story of Frederick Frankenstein, grandson of the infamous monster-creator Victor Frankenstein. Frederick travels to Transylvania upon inheriting his family estate and finally succeeds in creating a monster to rival his grandfather's, but with some hilarious complications along the way. With the help of side-kick Igor ("it's pronounced Eye-gor"), Inga, the buxom lab assistant, and his fiancée Elizabeth, Frederick works to finish what his grandfather started in Transylvania long ago.

Fans of the movie will have high expectations for this production, but the Civic cast is up to the challenge of meeting them. Troy A. Thrash, who plays Dr. Frederick Frankenstein, thinks fans will be thrilled with how the musical remains true and deeply rooted in the original movie plot. According to Thrash, "You will be happily surprised each time you hear in the musical, one of those classic movie lines like "Walk...this way" and "Nice knockers." You will also feel right-at-home with seeing the characters, sets, and storylines with which you are so familiar come to life so beautifully on the Civic stage."

And in true musical comedy fashion, the 20-plus musical numbers add depth to the story and characters as well as entertain. And the last word from Director Nemitz? "Leave the little kiddies at home. Brooks' bawdy situations and dialogue could lead to questions parents might not be prepared to answer quite yet! Bring them to the Civic production of Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, opening November 17th!"

Mel Brooks *Young Frankenstein* plays in the Civic Auditorium September 22, 23, 29 30, October 6 and 7 at 7:30pm and on Sundays September 24, October 1 and 8 at 2:00 pm. Ticket prices range from \$15 - \$25. For more information call 269-343-1313 or visit the Civic's website at www.kazoocivic.com.