



Performance Report:

`Frankenstein` - Love & Madness. Theatr Hafren, Newtown

This was a dull, lack-lustre presentation of a heavy going script by 9 predominantly reserved actors. The Victorian language used was stilted and unnatural and there was a lack of conviction and emotion throughout. Several of the actors spoke too quickly and much of their diction was unclear.

The action was interspersed with each of the actors in turn narrating significant scientific experiments in history, right up to the present day. This was quite interesting and useful stuff and included the development of early defibrillators and 'Dolly' the sheep.

Reedeeming features were:

- the simple yet effective set used to create various scenes
- some suitably sinister lighting
- an amazing crack of lightning (even though it had been pre-warned, it was one heck of a shock when it happened)
- bringing the monster to life.

BUT - unforgiveably, they used a very modern looking guitar in Victorian scenes. It really grated and was totally out of sync. For me it symbolised the fact that enough attention hadn't been given to the detail and as a result it didn't ring true.

The audience seemed to stick with it though, particularly some younger children, which quite surprised me. Perhaps they had more staying power than me and could forgive the somewhat amateur presentation by some of the actors plus a heavily stilted script.

Julie Turner