



# AMP

## The Electrifying Story of Mary Shelley

Written and Performed by **Jody Christopherson**

with additional text from the writings of **Mary Shelley, Percy Shelly, Lord Byron, William Godwin, Mary Wollstonecraft and Luigi Galvani**

Directed/ Lighting Design by **Isaac Byrne**

Assistant Directed/ Sound Design by **Kodi Lynn Milburn**

Movement Director: **Natalie Deryn Johnson**

Dialect Coach: **Chloe Dirksen**

with Voice Overs by **Adam Belvo, J. Stephen Brantley, Jody Christopherson, Nico Grelli, Chloe Dirksen, KT Thomas, and Jonathan West**

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**AMP** has been developed at: New York Society Library, (as the recipient of a New York Society Library Grant underwritten by Alexander Sanger) and All For One Theater's So-Co Lab at The Bushwick Starr. AMP has been developed with Stacey Boggs (Innovative Theatre Award for Outstanding Lighting Design for the HERE Arts Center Production), Martha Goode, Amy Marin (Innovative Theatre Award for Outstanding Stage Management for the HERE Arts Center Production) and Kristine Schlachter. AMP was a nominee for the 2017 Innovative Theater Award for Outstanding Performance Art Production. It received its Canadian premiere presented by Workshop West Playwright's Theatre in Canoe, part of the CHINOOK Festival in Edmonton, Alberta Feb 2018.



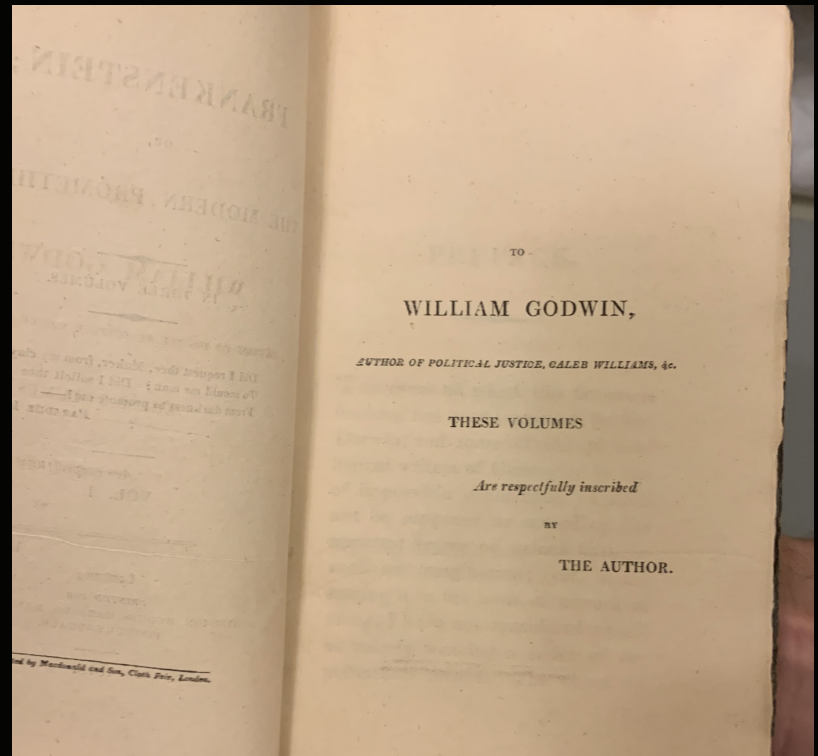
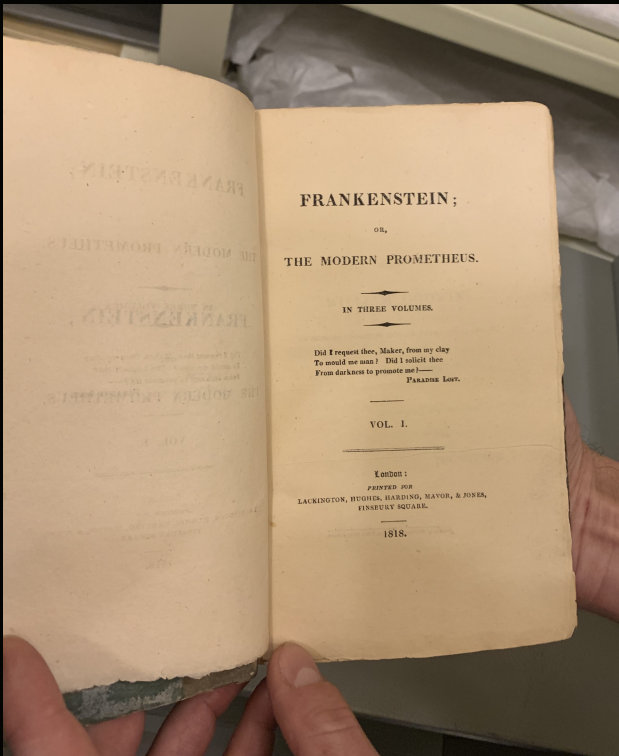


## A NOTE FROM THE CREATOR

It is a little known fact that the first edition of Frankenstein was published in 1818 under no author's name. Mary Shelley would have become lost to history, critics crediting her father, Philosopher, Willam Godwin, or her husband Poet Percy Shelley with its authorship had it not been for a second printing in 1831.

When Mary Shelley's name was recorded as the author of this famed story, the creator of a new genre, (Science Fiction) many critics wondered how a young woman could create such a thing. AMP is that story, a story that continues to require telling today, 202 years after Frankenstein's original publication.

Photos above from a visit to the archives of Minneapolis' Bakkan Museum, Oct 2019. Pictured: one of 500 first editions of Frankenstein, handled by an archivist without gloves as the museum found that gloves increase the danger of tearing pages.





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## 2019–20 SEASON

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### Welcome!

Thank you for coming to *AMP: The Electrifying Story of Mary Shelley*, a SubletSeries@HERE: Co-Op presentation. This program provides artists with discounted space and equipment, as well as technical support.

HERE also supports the work of artists at all stages in their careers through our HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP), which develops and produces the work of our 10-13 resident artists, and Visiting Artist presentations for adult and family audiences. Please check out our other performances and events at [HERE.org](http://HERE.org).

Like all the work at HERE, this SubletSeries: Co-Op presentation was curated based on the strength and uniqueness of the artist's vision.

We hope to see you HERE again soon.

Best,



**KRISTIN MARTING**  
Founding Artistic Director

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#### HERE SUPPORT

HERE is extremely grateful for the support and encouragement of an important group of Foundations, Corporations, Government Agencies, Elected Officials, and dedicated individuals. We would not be HERE without them.

#### GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

HERE'S programming is made possible with Public Funds from: National Endowment for the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, Office of the Mayor of New York, and Speaker Corey Johnson; The Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer; and New York State Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick. We are extremely grateful for the support and advocacy of all of our dedicated elected officials: Senator Charles E. Schumer, Senator Kirsten R. Gillibrand, Representative Jerrold L. Nadler, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and the Cultural Affairs Committee of the City Council, and State Senator Brad M. Hoylman.

#### PRIVATE AND CORPORATE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

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HERE, in partnership with Resident Playwright Taylor Mac, is a participant in the Mellon Foundation's National Playwright Residency Program administered in partnership with HowRound. HERE is a proud member of the Hudson Sq Connection & Lower Manhattan Arts League & The National Opera America Center & TCG.



## AMP CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

**ISAAC BYRNE (Director/ Lighting Designer)** Isaac has been awarded the New York Innovative Theatre Award for Outstanding Direction twice and productions he has directed have been nominated for a Drama Desk Award, an Off Broadway Alliance award, 25 NYIT awards, and 11 Planet Connection Awards. NYC. He spent 13 years in New York City directing in Off Broadway venues including: HERE Arts Center, Joe's Pub@The Public Theater, DR2, 59E59, and the Cherry Lane Theater. He has taught acting at the University of the Arts, the New York Film Academy, Texas State University, and the Tony nominated Matthew Corozine Studio in NYC. He studied acting with a variety of wonderful teachers including master acting teacher Fred Kareman, Larry Silverberg, Terry Martin, and Matthew Corozine. He also performs regularly with the Ad Hoc Economy theatre company in the award winning show Butcher Holler Here We Come. Productions he has directed have toured all over the world including in the UK (London, Edinburgh) Hong Kong, Germany, Estonia, Canada, and Italy. Directing Credits include: The Other Mozart, In Vestments, St. Kilda, AMP, Tar Baby, I Used to Write on Walls, and Rusalka. Regional Credits include: True West, We Are Proud to Present..., and Mr. Burns. MFA in Directing from Texas State University.

**JODY CHRISTOPHERSON (Writer/ Performer)** has been called "a visionary in the theater world and legendary story-teller" (The Theater Times) "a talent to watch, not to mention a pleasure to hear" (Time Out NY) "the ANTITHESIS of the manic pixie dream girl" (Zouch Magazine) and a "Rock Monster" (Brooklyn Rail). Her work has been performed in 28 cities in 6 countries, including Canada, Detroit MI, New Orleans, Key West FL, Miami, Amsterdam, Germany, Lithuania, Australia, New York and has been compared to Margaret Atwood's writing and Laurie Anderson's music. Her productions have been nominated for 7 Innovative Theater Awards. She is the Artistic Director of New York's so-fi festival. Works include; St Kilda ( a one-woman Scottish horror excursion with supernatural foley looping), AMP, Greedcard Wedding (a multidisciplinary indie-rock musical with Skype films about immigration) and Necessary Exposure: The Female Playwright Project, a portrait and sound installation in galleries and on iTunes.

<https://jodychristopherson.wixsite.com/jodychristopherson>

**NATALIE DERYN JOHNSON ( Movement Director)** is an improvisational movement artist, poet, photographer based in New York City. In 2018 she was chosen to partake in the Once Upon Water Residency in Toronto and was in residence at the Atlantic Center for the Arts for her solo work. Patient History, a story exploring chronic illness and elevation, premiered at Mister Rogers as her first movement memoir. She has worked with famed dance photographer Lois Greenfield and spent two seasons as a member of Christina Noel and the Creature, an operatic physical theater company. Her work with Albert A. Garcia premiered at BAM, Dixon Place and Bowery Poetry Club. She holds a Scholastic National Gold Key in Photography and received her BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from UC Irvine. She dances in the rain and can be found collaborating with a variety of artists in a variety of contexts, from galleries to basements, from stage to film. [www.nataliederynjohnson.com](http://www.nataliederynjohnson.com)

**CHLOE DIRKSEN (Dialect Coach/ Voice of Mary Wollstonecraft)** After receiving her BA in Literature and Linguistics from the University of Toronto, Chloë completed Circle in the Square Theatre School's 2 year actors' program. In addition to "AMP", she has had the great pleasure of working with Jody Christopherson as dialect coach on "GreenCard Wedding" and "St. Kilda". She is currently directing a production of "The Mousetrap" in Nairobi, Kenya. US credits include: The John Drew Theatre at Guild Hall: Dialect Coach on "The Night Alive", dir. Stephen Hamilton; co-producer and star of "This Wide Night" staged readings and workshops of several new works with the JDTLab. At Bay Street Theater she appeared as Hester Prynne on "The Scarlet Letter", "Death of a Salesman", "To Kill a Mockingbird", "Diary of Anne Frank", "The Crucible" and understudied for Sarah Paulson in "Conviction", dir. Scott Schwartz. Selected Canadian acting credits include: "Mary's Wedding", "Blithe Spirit", "Noises Off", "Come Blow your Horn", "Romeo and Juliet", original Workshop cast of "Evil Dead: The Musical" among others. Chloë works as a private dialect coach, in person and via Skype. [www.chloedirksen.com](http://www.chloedirksen.com)

**KODI LYNN MILBURN (Assistant Director/ Sound Designer)** indigenous american performer, writer, and theatre artist from Nebraska, based in Brooklyn. New York Film Academy Musical Theater '16. Cross discipline credits include: The Other Mozart (US, Hong Kong, Canada), Chess (American Theater for Actors), Uta Hagen Centennial Salon (Lincoln Center Library), Sparkle Spa (BMI World Trade Center), I am the utterance of my name (Baryshnikov Arts Center), Obsessions (Brooklyn Arts Council), AMP (Twin Cities Horror Festival), Ewalt & Walker (54 Below), Mary & Max, Voyage en Chanson (National Sawdust), Till Soon, Anne, Of Trains and Heroes (NYU Casa Italiano), L'autre Mozart (Fringe North, Halifax Fringe), Joni, Je L'aime a Mourir (Dir. Patrick Karambizi), The Resurrection of (Plains Theater), Midnight Ramblings & Morning Revelations now available on Spotify & iTunes. [www.kodilynnmilburn.com](http://www.kodilynnmilburn.com)

**ADAM BELVO ( Voice of Critic 1)** Recent New York work includes Edwin Booth in THE BRUTES (NYIT 2019 Outstanding Lead Actor Nominee,) John Polidori in MARY'S LITTLE MONSTER, Caravaggio in MOTH+FLAME, Father Nathan Shourd in the NYIT Award winning IN VESTMENTS, Danny in DANNY AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA, K.Bus in BUTCHER HOLLER HERE WE COME, Georges in HAZARD A LITTLE DEATH (Planet Connections Festival: Best Actor Award Winner), and Vanya in UNCLE VANYA. Regionally, Adam has performed around the country in BUTCHER HOLLER HERE WE COME. He is Executive Producer of the Brooklyn based theater company spit&vigor ([www.spit-nvigor.com](http://www.spit-nvigor.com)) and a member of Ad Hoc Economy.

**J. STEPHEN BRANTLEY ( Voice of William Godwin)** Regional: The Legend Of Georgia McBride (ETC Santa Barbara) Of Mice and Men (Bay Street Theater, North Coast Rep), The Night Alive (Guild Hall), Romeo And Juliet, R & J & Z, Shakespeare In Love (OHA, Stonington ME). Off-Broadway: Mope (Ensemble Studio Theatre), Murder in the First (The Directors Co.), Pirira (Theatre 167). TV/-Film: "Gotham" (FOX), "The Blacklist" (NBC), "Difficult People" (Hulu), "Single Parents" (ABC), and Eliza Hitt's "Beach Rats." Brantley has worked with Big Dance, Blessed Unrest, Jewish Plays Project, Metropolitan Playhouse, and TOSOS. He is a recipient of the Micheál MacLiammóir Award at the Dublin International Gay Theatre Festival, and the Doric Wilson Independent Playwright Award

**NICO GRELLI (Voice of Percy Shelley)** (they/them) is an actor, writer, director, and musician. Acting credits include: Saturn Nights (Incubator Arts), Magic Trick (NYC Fringe), Superior Donuts (Dorset Theatre Festival), Honey Brown Eyes (SF Playhouse—West Coast Premiere), The Rose Tattoo (Shattered Globe Chicago—Jeff Award Nomination), Animals Commit Suicide (Terranova Collective), You Are Now The Owner Of This Suitcase (Theatre 167) and The Jamb (Horse Trade/Hard Sparks—NYIT Award Best Lead Actor). Film: "It Had To Be You" by Sasha Gordon. Nico's solo show Pier Valentino's: Show Without End! (The Final Broadcast), has been performed and developed at The Grange Hall Cultural Center in Vermont, The So-fi Festival at Torn Page, and at The Tank. Nico is a teaching artist with Epic Theatre Ensemble, a frequent guest artist at The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and The 52nd St Project, and a proud member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA. More info at [www.nicgrelli.com](http://www.nicgrelli.com).

**KT THOMAS (Voice of Critic 2)** is an NYC Based Actress and Choreographer. Originally from the UK, KT has an extensive background in theatre, film and dance. KT trained at Italia Conti Academy Theatre Arts in London, London Studio Centre and the New York Film Academy. KT has performed in shows like Calamity Jane, Spring Awakening, A Chorus Line, Oliver!, Annie, Once Upon A Mattress to name a few. KT also for two years played Elphaba at The Gershwin Theater in the Passport to Broadway's "For Good" Performance Workshops inspiring young women through the arts. Keen on the ever changing scene of both dance and film KT created under the direction of Chad Larabee her Tap Documentary "In Rhythm" which has gone on to win awards at film festivals across the US and UK. Coming from a theatrical family background KT has performed, directed and choreographed both in the US and in Europe where she always encourages up and coming artists to develop their craft through her master classes and workshops. Recently KT directed and choreographed the 45th Anniversary Gala "Legacy" which involved West End Artists, Community artists and young performers in her family's UK Theatre school celebration involving over 150 performers. KT has a particular passion for new works and bringing them to life on stage and screen and loves what a new rehearsal process always creates. A true artist who is never afraid to turn her hand to anything as KT always believes in her motto on life "There is no such word as Can't in the dictionary - only I CAN and I WILL!". [www.k80ktt.com](http://www.k80ktt.com) // @k80ktt

**JONATHAN WEST (Voice of Lord Byron)** Regional: Avalon (OHA, Stonington, ME), Dauphin Island (Detroit Rep, Detroit, MI), The Whipping Man (Endstation, Lynchburg, VA), Rumors (Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, Hampton, NJ), Yellowman (Performance Network, Ann Arbor, MI), and Wolves (Ringwald, Ferndale, MI). Off-Off-Broadway: Rats in the Walls (Kraine), Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead (Gene Frankel), Autobahn (Tank), and Suicide!?! (Interart). TV/Film: "Killision Course" (OXY), Bart Freundlich's "Wolves," and the Russo Brothers' "Cherry."

**MARY SHELLEY** was born on August 30, 1797, in London, England to philosophers Mary Wollstonecraft and Willam Godwin. She married poet Percy Bysshe Shelley in 1816. Two years later, she published her most famous novel, Frankenstein. She wrote several other books, including Valperga (1823), The Last Man (1826), the autobiographical Lodore (1835) and the posthumously published Mathilde. Shelley died of brain cancer on February 1, 1851, in London, England.



**Many thanks to The Strand for their support  
and supplying of books for this production**



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