

fringe

PRESS RELEASE

**Artists Collective Theatre  
(Calgary, Alberta, Canada)**

**Genesis:**

**The Mary Shelley Play**

**by Mary Humphrey Baldrige**



**When Mary Shelley wrote *Frankenstein*, she wanted to write a book that ‘quickens the beating of the heart.’ Artists Theatre Collective bring a production to the Fringe that promises to do the same.**

It is early in the summer of 1816, and a group of friends are staying at their villas on Lake Geneva. Between the living room of Byron’s Diodati and the bedroom of Mary and Percy Shelley’s Maison Chapuis, nights of intrigue and titillation unfold. Byron, the Shelleys, Dr Pollidori and Claire Clairmont come together to tell ghost stories that inspire young Mary to produce one of literature’s most loved works of horror, *Frankenstein*.

After a successful run in Calgary that was named a Top Ten Theatre Moment in 2017 (*The Calgary Herald*), **Genesis: The Mary Shelley Play** comes to Edinburgh with a cast of Canadian and British actors. With a dark intensity that builds up to a hair-raising finale, the audience discovers exactly how the first science fiction novel patches together in Shelley’s mind.

**Artists’ Collective Theatre** have been producing shows since 2012, with the aim of creating new shows and interpretations, as well as mentoring new artists and developing them within ensemble pieces. **DIY Theatre** are another Calgary-based theatre company that aim to involve communities in the creative process and break down barriers for people to participate in their performances. Together, ACT and DIY have chosen to partner on the upcoming 201st anniversary of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*.

“We chose the intimate setting of performing in the round at C Cubed to allow the audience to be submerged into the world - to be part of the reality, dream and nightmare” says **Shelby Reinitz**, co-producer.

Watch as Mary Shelley, entranced by ghost tales, devises mystery and terror that affects them all.

**‘A mesmerizing experience, and one I didn’t want to end’**  
*The Calgary Herald*

**‘Perhaps Genesis’ strongest virtue is in showing that social stigmas can maintain a chokehold over human desires, even among the wanton leisure class’** *Peter Filichia, Theater Week*

**‘I am so very glad I made it... it was as if I suddenly remembered why I had always palled around with artistic folk’** *The Calgary Sun*

**Listings Information**

Venue	C cubed, Brodie’s Close, Lawnmarket, EH1 2PS, venue 50
Dates	1-26 Aug
Time	17:05 (1hr10)
Ticket prices	£10.50-£12.50 / concessions £8.50-£10.50 / under 18s £6.50-£8.50
C venues box office	0131 581 5555 / <a href="http://www.CtheFestival.com/2019/genesis-the-mary-shelley-play">www.CtheFestival.com/2019/genesis-the-mary-shelley-play</a>
Fringe box office	0131 226 0000 / <a href="http://www.edfringe.com">www.edfringe.com</a>

For further information, images and interview availability please contact Amy Johnson at Artists Collective Theatre on 07914 638343 / [amy@amymeadows.co](mailto:amy@amymeadows.co)

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