**Frankenstein one-acts open today**

DramaTech performs local playwrights’ works in newest production Me, Thy Creature

By Jessica Luna  
Contributing Writer

DramaTech’s current stage production was created to coincide with the traveling exhibit entitled Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature, which will be coming to the Georgia Tech Library in early March. Me, Thy Creature consists of three one-act plays penned by local Atlanta playwrights who were inspired by Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein. Penetrating, Unlocked examines the relationship between Mary Shelley and her famous feminist mother, Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin. Within the two scenes, Godwin dies just days after giving birth to her daughter, and eighteen years later Mary Shelley gives birth to her famous character, Frankenstein, after a confrontation with the ghost of her encouraging mother.

The scene explores the bitter grudge Mary feels toward her dead mother as well as the components of Mary’s miserable marriage to the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. Cleverly written by Marki Shalloe, it features the talent of Jill Adams, Alexander Salazar, and Martha Jaworski. While Penetrating, Unlocked is dark and alluring, the next one-act play, Dark Heart, by Robin Seidman, is relatively light. This comedy revolves around two sisters, Erika and Lacey, who run a love clinic for pre-marital couples counseling.

The only problem is that Erika has a horrible habit of killing her own husbands (she is currently at number five) and freezing them in the basement. When they begin to counsel a new couple on the important meaning of truth and honesty, Erika must face her own frozen demons in the basement and be honest with herself.

The scene deals with the concept of trying to regenerate and recreate the lives of the dead bodies, much like how Frankenstein was created and given life by his inventor. Full of hilarious one-liners and interesting characters, this play stands out above the rest and features Kelly Leffler, Aubrie Lee, Jessica Berglund, Andrew O’Brien and Adam Johnson, scantily clad in black lingerie.

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The truth is that stellastarr* sounds more like an impressive karaoke medley of all these bands. But its female bassist makes me think: cover band. The karaoke trope is self-inflicted, however, by the band’s new and poetically pretentious video for “My Coco.” It probably has something to do with reality television. A series of excessively excited lip-synchers are intercut with one of those always provocative and audienceless performances.

The production of Tim O’Heir (Seabod, Dinouzar Jr., Hedwig and the Angry Inch) is characteristically approaching flawless but fails to subdue the painfully forced vocal inflections of frontman Shawn Christensen. Hesitant when not trying to sound like a frontman of their obvious influences. The annoying composition and redundant verbal abstractions of “Jenny” burst into an impressively taut crescendo, but disappointment nonetheless. The abstract lyric booklet is reminiscent of (and almost as frustrating as) the album’s and song structure of the full-length debut. The self-designed booklet reduces the album’s lyric to one large paragraph of dismembered words and phrases, suggesting some poetic layer that we are otherwise incapable of receiving. The members of stellastarr*

See Stella, page 21

**Punk 80’s throwback band stellastarr* debuts first video**

By Justin O’Neal Miller  
Contributing Writer

Granted, it becomes harder with time to write music that is not defined by comparisons to other and older musical legends, but any mention of stellastarr* is always cross-referenced to the Cure, The Pixies, The Talking Heads and Devo more times than they have years between them.

I am thinking of black holes and The Darkness. Here come the ’80s. Or back to the future. Or something.

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See Stella, page 21

**You, yes Y-O-U**

By Andrew Sakari  
STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

If you are looking for a local rock band to track, check out Y-O-U. Their poppy rock sound is palatable to most people. Under the Couch featured them entertaining an eager audience last Friday.

**Lions and tigers and bears—oh my**

Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus is set to arrive in town, with shows beginning Thursday, Feb. 12, and running through Feb. 22. Times vary, but usually take place late morning and 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from $12 to $90, for those with deep pockets and a desire to whip elephant excretions. Like last year, the event will be held at Phillips Arena. Pay parking abounds, but Centennial Place has free on-street parking.

**Get Rock tickets while still available**

Speaking of comedy, Chris Rock will be in Atlanta again Friday, March 12, for a performance at the Atlanta Civic Center. Purchase tickets early for any chance of seeing the man himself, as shows frequently sell out. The show is at 7 p.m., and tickets can be bought through Tickemaster, Civic Center Box Office.

**Annual film fest showing at Emory**

The fourth annual Atlanta Jewish Film Festival is underway now through Feb. 8. The event includes numerous movies. Check out www.atlantajewishfilm.org for show times and locations. Most movies are a user-friendly $7-$8. Emory is wrapping up its French/Francophone film festival this Friday with two selections, one at 6 p.m. and another at 8 p.m. Admission is only $2 or free with a donation. More info at www.emory.edu/french/festival.htm.

**Landmark playing unique Triples**

Landmark Theaters is showing The Triples of Belleville, a French animation about Champoon, a boy who enters the Tour de France but is kidnapped, later to be rescued by three famous female singers. This eccentric journey is supplemented by a special treat. Tacked on to the end of the movie is the never-before-seen collaboration between Walt Disney and Salvador Dalí. The six-minute feature is entitled “Desti- no,” and is set to a Spanish song, though devoid of dialogue.
Q.E.D. Original Comic Strip

WELL, THE ONLY BEER I HAVE IS NO TASTE LITE.

ARE YOU KIDDING? N-T-L IS JUST MY LEFT OVER CHEAP PARTY BEER.

WHEN YOU ARE A FRATERNITY PLANT, CHEAP PARTY BEER IS THE GOOD STUFF!

by Brian Lewis (gtg043f@mail.gatech.edu)
Second *Barbershop* trims away at boring sequel stereotype

By Fenton Gardner  
Contributing Writer

“That was funnier than the first!” “I couldn’t stop laughing!” “I have got to go see that movie again!” All comments that could be heard from the crowd exiting the theater after the advanced screening of *Barbershop 2: Back in Business*, and to say the least, I agree totally.

As I sat waiting for the lights to dim, I had the dreaded fear that this movie would fall under the usual “curse of the sequels,” where a great movie would have a sequel that wasn’t nearly as good or as funny or as suspenseful as the first (see *Speed 2*, *Batman Returns* or ANY Disney sequel, for that matter).

And I don’t particularly think my premonitions were without good reason, considering the quality of *Next Friday* in comparison to *Friday*, the first of the Ice Cube-produced movies to have more than one installment. *Barbershop 2*, however, far outstripped all my expectations and was considerably funnier than the first movie.

In *Barbershop 2*, Ice Cube (*Friday after Next, Torque*) reprises his role as Calvin Palmer, owner of a barbershop on the infamous south side of Chicago. In a similar fashion to the first movie, we get to see both professional and personal trials that Palmer faces in running a legendary neighborhood barbershop left to him by his father.

With the return of Eddie (Cedric the Entertainer) and the rest of the barbers in the shop (characters played by Eve, Michael Ealy, Troy Garity, Leonard Earl Howze), the film gives you non-stop laughter and has the same dynamic as *Barbershop*. The film explores the interaction of the barbers with one another, as well as customers and other guests to the shop, with jokes and witty remarks that have no end.

In contrast to the first film, however, the major conflict is the arrival of competition from a big franchise barbershop that intends to open up shop across the street. Now a father himself, Palmer has to decide what’s best for his family and is once again presented an offer to “sell out,” but not in the same manner as in the first movie.

Directed by Kevin Rodney Sullivan and produced by Ice Cube himself, *Barbershop 2* temporarily picks up before *Barbershop* began chronologically. In a series of flashbacks from the ‘60s that run throughout the entire movie, the audience is shown the history of Eddie and how he came to know Palmer’s father and start working as a barber in the shop. The flashbacks were done extremely well and were also used to express the continued theme of the importance of heritage, or as my parents would say, “knowing where you come from.”

Cedric the Entertainer was brilliant as both the present-day Eddie and the younger Eddie shown in the flashbacks, with antics that kept my stomach hurting from laughing so much.

A guest appearance by Queen Latifah, who played a hairdresser in the neighboring beauty salon, only added to the hilarity of this film. Scenes within the salon were a tease to the upcoming filming starring Latifah entitled *Beauty Shop*, which was the lone preview before the movie.

Aside from the wisecracks about hair, style, race and poverty, there are a few subtle messages that were written into the script intended to make you think a little bit. Through a surprising love interest that developed between two characters in the film, the topic of dating on the job and its complications was explored. Also the topics of big franchises overseeing small businesses, corrupt politics and the necessity of community leadership were hinted at through the plot.

 Appropriately rated PG-13 due to profanity and a few sexual innuendos, this is definitely a film for more mature audiences. Although I was fortunate enough to see the movie for free, I’d pay to go see it again. From the opening credits with snapshots of famous African-American athletes and entertainers to Eddie’s jokes about the less than reputable actions of current black athletes and entertainers as of late, this was an enjoyable film through and through.
Drama

The Darkness

by Thomas P. Remy

Drama Tech Theatre

Tonight, the three-one-act plays are entertaining to watch and serve as a great preview of what is to come to the Georgia Tech Library. Me, Thy Creature opens this Friday, Feb. 6, and additional performances are Feb. 7, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

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All shows begin at 8 p.m. at the Drama Tech Theatre. Tickets cost $5 for students, $8 for faculty/staff, and $10 for general admission. For reservations, call 404-894-2745 or reserve your tickets online at www.dramatech.org.

Punk meets hippy meets good eating at Little Five

By Brendan Ward

Contributing Writer

Hipsters and punks rejoice! You have a home, and it is Little Five Points. Nestled in between Inman Park and Virginia Highland, Little Five Points is the Greenwich Village of Atlanta and a very happening place.

For years, Little Five Points has been a refuge for the cool and seductive, but it is this year’s gim-mick. We will all be as embarrassed of it next year as we were of the ’80s. The Darkness without exception, he does not wish to cooperate and reveal the vaccines that could stop the unnecessary dy-ing. Karla Jennings’s creative play incorporates the virus as a vital char-acter, the monster created by the scientist, and the audience is able to see the interactions between the two characters onstage.

The Vector is captivating and it is easy for one to identify with the anguish felt by the scientist. The cast consists of James Lentini, Anita Natarajan, Chelsea Cooper, Erin Schwartz and Alexandros Salazar.

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And let’s not forget the head shops, which I’m convinced make up at least half of Little Five’s total earn-ings. Paraphernalia of all types, shapes and colors can be bought, and rolling papers are available in every fla-vor under the sun. These, of course, are all used for tobacco (apparently Little Five Points is the Mecca for tobacco enthusiasts around the world).

Little Five Points food is as eclectic as its shops. Patrons can dine on Indian food, the best pizza in Atlanta at Little Five Pizza, or enter The Vortex, a bar and grille with a 15-foot laughing skull fixed on the outside of the building adjacent to the entrance. Whether you want a culi-nary masterpiece from the Far East or just a burger, Little Five will fill you up.

If you’re looking for live entertain-ment, and watching hippies play hucky-sack just don’t do it for you, check out some of the local venues. Indie-music is definitely in at Little Five, and the bands that play there reflect that.

Many of the ban book local bands that perform regularly. Just down the road the intimate atmosphere of the Variety Playhouse hosts a wide range of even legitimate the-a-ter to jam bands such as Moe and the Yonder Mountain String Band. And if you want to leave music out of it, some shops feature regular spoken word performances. Whether you’re in search of culture, entertainment, paraphernalia or the best damn pizza in Atlanta, Little Five Points has got it.
Theme Crossword: Jeeps Creepers

By Robert Zimmerman
United Features

ACROSS
1. Indonesia native
6. Hundred lbs.
9. Wound’s reminder
13. Rewarding sight
19. Dote on
20. Top bond rating
21. Twine
22. Madame in Madrid
23. Tom’s naps?
26. Acid for leather treatment
27. Help out
28. Attack suddenly
29. Tints
30. Like beer
31. Landlord’s need
34. Tip off
35. Nova -
38. Tribe of the Iroquois
League
39. Richard’s anxieties?
41. “Star Wars” inits.
44. Beginning
45. Bleated
46. Grimm character
47. Beard’s anchor
48. Loch of legend
49. Curlicue
50. Has second thoughts
51. Cheer the home team
52. Bonnie’s appointments?
56. Chop finely
57. Praties
58. Scott her
59. Milita’s best lines?
60. Food fishes
61. Paid attention to
62. Philadelphia neighbor
63. Surplus
64. Clock numeral
65. China, Japan, et al.
66. ”Streets of...”: 1996 film
67. Ice and cedar
70. Prepares a museum display
71. Filling
72. Cary’s jeans?
74. Throat-cleaning
75. Supplicate
76. Bowed, to violinists
77. Lens characteristics
81. Heads or tails decider
82. Bowling alley
83. John - Garner
85. City on the Ocmulgee
86. In on
87. Hudson’s hosiery?
89. Extras
90. Upper crust groups
92. Burden
94. See 68 Down
95. Aye
96. Homes in Hidalgo
97. Havanese
98. Scott her
99. Curlicue
100. Deceives, to Shakespeare
101. View from the Uffizi
102. Country address
103. Cookie source: abbr.
104. Guy’s companion

DOWN
1. Coconut cookie
2. Actress Barbeau
3. Rock-concert characteristic
4. ”Exodus” character
5. Aye
6. Homes in Hidalgo
7. Stringer
8. Light brown
9. Scrubbed
10. Decives, to Shakespeare
11. Mars
12. Rts.
13. Boston time
14. Leavening agents
15. Ho-hum feeling
16. Peter’s wheels?
17. “Battle Cry” author
18. Flimsy, in a way
24. Pser Found
25. ORD, to travelers
32. Men’s wear
33. Timetable abbr.
34. Smith’s “The - of Nations”
35. Made a smooth transition
36. Is concerned
37. Miner’s quest
39. Canter, perhaps
40. Strong suit
42. Bishop’s domain
43. Purposes
44. Western capital
45. “Wagner of soul”
46. War theater of the 1850s
47. Semi load
52. Primed
53. Natural in Vegas
54. Voltaire, e.g.
55. Enteries
56. Chagall, et al.
57. Bishop’s domain
58. Speed limit
59. Miner’s quest
60. Food fishes
62. Poem division
65. Sell bar stuff
68. “With ‘94 Across, ”the Wagner of soul”
69. Chastises
72. dinners may say it
73. Electric phenomena
74. More affluent
75. Story framework
76. Nine-sided figure
77. Werther
78. Irish “liberator”
79. Use wisely
80. OK for hunting
83. Nine-aided figure
84. Very perceptive
85. 1600, literally
87. More affluent
88. Near in Nice
89. “My Way” lyricist
90. Toot holder
91. Expirie
92. Islamic leader
93. Home of Bollywood
94. Musical Ioners
95. Musical Ioners
96. Actor Jamie
97. Book no.
98. Near in Nice
99. 1600, literally
101. Toot holder
102. Country address
103. Cookie source: abbr.
104. Guy’s companion

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See Solutions, page 29
Lonely, loving Two Bits Man seeks woman, any woman

Fact: I don’t have a girlfriend. Fact: I want a girlfriend. Fact: I go to Georgia Tech. And Fact: I’m screwed.

You know, one day you’re a young, lustrous man about town with the world on a string, confident in the idea that college will be the 24 hour love-in that you’ve come to expect from, well let’s face it, “Animal House.” Then you get to Georgia Tech and some time passes. You start waking up every morning praying, praying that you’ll talk to a girl, any girl before the day’s out. More time passes. “Talk to” becomes “see.” “See” becomes “hear out.”

I suppose, all things considered, it’s good that we have plenty of pure, unadulterated man. The way I see it, my efficacy is in another castle. I hate myself.

I’ve heard stories about other dorms where students share a chihuahua. You’re civil, even friendly with some. People in my dorm, however, tend to have the social postures of some particularly feral breed of wild animal, like a tiger or very angry chihuahua. You’re lucky if you knock on a stranger’s door and all you get is a dirty look. Knowing this, I approached the situation with great care, for all the good that did me. The new news is that the swelling has finally started to go down, and the doctors tell me that, if worse comes to worse, there’s really nothing medically wrong with having only one testicle. So I have that going for me. That’ll teach me to say “hi” to people in the elevator.

**Plan of Action: Seeing as how**

**Attempt 1—Class**

Plan of Action: Strike up a conversation with some sweet, young thing in one of my classes, then woo her with an overwhelming onslaught of pure, unadulterated man.

Result: I’m a CS major. There are no girls in my classes. In other words, “Sorry, Mario, but our princess is in another castle.” I hate myself.

**Attempt 2—Dorms**

Plan of Action: Seeing as how living in a co-ed dorm allows me extremely unfiltered access to members of the faster sex on a daily basis, surely I could manage to hit it off with just one of the girls in my building. Seriously, what could happen? The worst that could happen? I’ve heard stories about other dorms where students share civil, even friendly relationships with their fellow residents. People in my dorm, however, tend to have the social postures of some particularly feral breed of wild animal, like a tiger or very angry chihuahua. You’re lucky if you knock on a stranger’s position on Blood Gulch.

**Ben Folds, plus Ben, plus another Ben record** *Bens*

By Sid Parmar Contributing Writer

What happens when you put together the lead vocalist of Ben Folds Five, a former leader of the punk group Noise Addict and a member of Radish? Obviously you get a new band, but one with a sound that turns out to be rather incoherent.

In the band’s new self-titled CD *The Bens* EP, Ben Folds, Ben Lee and Ben Kweller come together to give the world a glimpse of their collective sound.

The Bens started out as a promotion for an Australian tour but became a record.

For fans of vocals, the ballads of "Bruised" should suffice. In the middle are the tracks "Xfire," a new wave song, and "Stop!" with a sometimes high-paced sometimes slow-paced nature. One of the drawbacks of an EP is the very short list of songs. The four song collection of The Bens will leave fans wanting more, but the reactions of the average listener remains to be seen.

The future of the trio is uncertain because The Bens represents a special type of recording. The record was meant to be a one time, spontaneous and fun project.

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