

Casting announced for the world première of **Gods and Monsters**



Ian Gelder as James Whale and Will Austin as Clayton Boone - Photo Annabel Vere

Ian Gelder - Kevan Lannister in the epic TV drama series *Game of Thrones* - is to play *Frankenstein* director James Whale and **Will Austin** is gardener Clayton Boone, who becomes the object of Whale's obsession, in the world première of **Gods and Monsters** at Southwark Playhouse. The full cast is announced today.

Gods and Monsters, directed by **Russell Labey**, produced by **Danielle Tarento**, will receive its world première in a five-week season from Thursday February 5 - Saturday 7 March. Press night is Tuesday 10 February at 7.30pm.

Frankenstein director James Whale, long forgotten by the studios and in reclusive Hollywood retirement has fallen victim to a series of strokes. The only demons he fights now are in his head. Handsome new gardener, Clayton Boone, becomes an unlikely friend and unwitting player in Whale's grand finale. Not so much a Hollywood history as a glorious imagining, exploring the sometimes divine, sometimes monstrous landscape of obsession and desire.

Gods and Monsters is based on the novel *Father of Frankenstein* by Christopher Bram - the same source material as for the 1998 Oscar-winning movie, *Gods And Monsters*.

English film director, theatre director and actor, **James Whale** was openly gay throughout his career, something that was very unusual in the 1920s and 1930s. He is best remembered for four classic horror films: *Frankenstein* (1931), *The Old Dark House* (1932), *The Invisible Man* (1933) and *Bride of Frankenstein* (1935).

Ian Gelder's distinguished stage career includes playing Marcus Andronicus in Lucy Bailey's acclaimed, ultra-gory production of *Titus Andronicus* at Shakespeare's Globe, Jack Bryant in *Roots* at the Donmar Warehouse, Kent in Michael Attenborough's *King Lear* at the Almeida, *The Low Road* at the Royal Court, and Larry in *Company* at Sheffield Crucible. On TV he has featured in *Mr Selfridge*, *Endeavour*, and *Psychoville*.

Will Austin has just finished filming *Mission Impossible 5* with Tom Cruise. He was in *24: Die Another Day* alongside Kiefer Sutherland and Danny Boyle's *Babylon*. **Gods and Monsters** marks his professional London stage debut.

The rest of the cast are:

Lachele Carl. Her TV roles include playing Tip Hagen, US Secretary of State, in *The Honourable Woman* and series regular Trinity Wells in *Dr Who*, *Torchwood* and *The Sarah Jane Adventures*. On stage she has just appeared in the acclaimed production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Gillian Anderson at the Young Vic.

Will Rastall was Serius in *Game of Thrones*. At Theatre 503 in London he recently appeared in both *Mock Tudor* and *Daddy Took My Debt Away*.

Joey Phillips has just graduated from Guildhall School of Music and Drama. **Gods and Monsters** marks his professional London stage debut.

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Russell Labey (Writer & Director) is a playwright and director. He was Script Editor for the motion picture, *Milk*, which won two Oscars - Best Original Screenplay and Best Actor (Sean Penn). He wrote and directed the original stage adaptation of *Whistle Down The Wind* (TMA Award for Best Musical). In the West End, his play *New Boy* at Trafalgar Studios starred Nicholas Hoult (Whatsonstage Award nominee, Best New Comedy) and he directed the UK tour as well as a season Off-Broadway and in Cape Town. Also in the West End at the Trafalgar Studios, *Third Floor* and *Wolfboy*; at the Garrick Theatre, *Caroline O'Connor: The Showgirl Within*; at the Queens Theatre, *Bugsy Malone*; at the Linbury Studio, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, the première productions of two musicals by Charles Hart and Howard Goodall - *The Kissing Dance* and *The Dreaming*; at the King's Head, *Days of Hope*. He tour directed *Sunset Boulevard* for the Really Useful Group and was the Resident Director of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* at The London Palladium. Other recent credits include *The Sound of Music* in Kuala Lumpur; *Guys and Dolls* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at Cadogan Hall. He directs & devises the annual Whatsonstage Awards and spent the first 15 years of his career as a presenter for the BBC and Channel 4.

Danielle Tarento (Producer and Casting Director) was named Best Producer at the 2012 Off West End Awards and recently won Best Off West End Production at the 2014 Whatsonstage Awards and Best Musical Production at the 2014 Off West End Awards for *Titanic* at Southwark Playhouse. She has also produced *Dogfight* (Evening Standard Awards shortlisted Best Musical), *Victor/Victoria*, *Mack & Mabel*, *Parade*, *Company* and *Three Sisters* at Southwark Playhouse; *Taboo* (Brixton Clubhouse); *The Pitchfork Disney* (Arcola); *Burlesque*, *Drowning on Dry Land* (Jermyn Street); *Noël and Gertie* (Cockpit). She is co-founder of the Menier Chocolate Factory and co-produced all in-house shows 2004 - 2006, including *Sunday In The Park With George*, which received a West End transfer and five Olivier awards.



LISTINGS INFO

Danielle Tarento in association with **Jason Haigh-Ellery** presents

Gods and Monsters

By Russell Labey

Based on the novel *Father of Frankenstein* by Christopher Bram

Director Russell Labey

Set & Costume Designer Jason Denvir

Lighting Designer Mike Robertson

Sound Designer John Chambers

Projection Designer Louise Rhoades-Brown

Producer and Casting Director Danielle Tarento

Southwark Playhouse

The Large

77-85 Newington Causeway

London SE1 6BD

Box Office: 020 7407 0234

www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

Thursday 5 February - Saturday 7 March

Press night: Tuesday 10 February at 7.30pm

Times: Monday - Saturday at 7.30pm

Saturday matinee at 3.00pm

Ticket prices:

£18.00/£16.00 concessions

all previews £10.00 (5-9 February)

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