

# The Impies and their amusing monsters



**ERIK SEGALL**

**Review**

Beneath a full moon last night, within the playhouse at the old Orthodox synagogue on Main Street, the Impossible Players performed the hauntingly hilarious “Twisted Tales of Terror.” Before a crowd of nearly 100, the kid-friendly, Halloween-themed play is geared for the entire family.

Set in a graveyard enhanced by the Gothic architecture of the century-old religious building, director Brandi Garner’s delightfully entertaining production is a great success.

With a cacophony of characters performed by 21 actors from the ages of 7 to 50-something, the stage is filled continuously with slapstick pratfalls, biting satire and ribbing roasts.

Two masterful narrators, Trina Stimmel and Johnny Lucero — respectively portraying Claudia and Igor — guide the audience through several retellings of well-known horror stories, each with a slightly altered ending. Most of the stories go horribly wrong, with Dracula surviving an attack by Van Helsing, the Bride of Frankenstein with her misplaced affection and hungry werewolves chasing the narrators off-stage. While constantly breaking the fourth wall which serves to include the audience in the ensuing chaos, the actors’ obvious fun is utterly contagious.

The polyamorous Dracula, played by Brandon Aguilar, with his multiple brides presents a contrast to the Judeo-Christian view of marriage, perhaps offering the real reason why the Prince of Darkness is viewed as an evil literary character.

Scene-stealing Logan

Stimmel, as the Palace Guard, makes an adorable appearance, and the crowd laughed the loudest for the two Mummies, Jordan Stuart and Michael Archuleta, as they staggered through time in search of lost love.

A few of the talented actors had the daunting task of playing several different characters, such as Aidan Jarret’s portrayal of both Frankenstein’s Monster as well as Dr. Jekyll.

The bewitching good witch Raisin, played by the stunning Debra Fowler, corrects the stereotypical image of evil witches by helping the narrators remedy the disastrous situation.

For the finale, like in the upcoming election, a woman arrives on stage and fixes all the problems.

Come join in on the heart-warming laughter: The show runs for the next three weeks at the Impossible Playhouse, 1201 N. Main. For ticket and showtime information, go to [impossiblePlayers.org](http://impossiblePlayers.org).