

"Young Frankenstein" puts on the Ritz at Rivertown Theatre

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newwave@tulane.edu

It's alive! Gary Rucker, a senior professor of practice in the Tulane University [Department of Theatre and Dance](#), stars as Dr. Frankenstein in a rollicking performance of Mel Brooks' monstrous musical comedy *Young Frankenstein*.



Professor of practice Gary Rucker, left, stars as Dr. Frankenstein alongside Elise Harvey and Mason Wood in *Young Frankenstein*. (Photo from the Rivertown Theatres for the Performing Arts)

The show runs May 9-24 at [Rivertown Theatres for the Performing Arts](#) in nearby Kenner, La.

Director Ricky Graham and co-artistic director Rucker aim to spur avid fans of Brooks' film and newcomers alike into singing along to the show's classic tune "Puttin' on the Ritz" and tapping their feet to "The Transylvania Mania."

Rucker and Kelli Fouchi of Rivertown Theatres for the Performing Arts won Entertainers of the Year at the 2014 Big Easy Theater Awards. Rucker, who teaches acting, has been a long-time member of the Shakespeare Festival at Tulane. Graham is an accomplished local director and actor who has appeared on many local stages including Summer Lyric Theatre at Tulane.

“This will be a wildly entertaining event,” says Rucker. “It is a smart comedy filled with tongue-in-cheek, double entendre moments, and our renovated Rivertown Theatre is the perfect home for this hilarious rendition of *Young Frankenstein*.”

A preview performance on Thursday (May 8) is a fundraiser benefiting the Kenner Business Association and the Kenner North Kiwanis Club.

“Proceeds will be used to promote the advancement of local businesses in Kenner,” says Judy LaBella, treasurer for the Kenner Business Association, which provides its members with a community network to foster economic growth and commercial success.

Tickets can be purchased [online](#) or by calling 504-461-9475.