

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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## Professor enjoying assistant deanship

By Joel Strauch  
Senior Reporter

Kevin Hofeditz, associate professor of theater arts at UNL, has been named the assistant dean in the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

Hofeditz said, "I think it's great. Administration is something that I've grown into over the last few years."

"I feel fortunate to be able to do the work of this position."

Hofeditz took over some of the duties of the assistant dean on Aug. 15, and the University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved his appointment at its September meeting.

"I am enjoying the experience a great deal."

"I enjoy working with Dean Lusk, the staff of the college, the faculty and the students," he said. "We all work well together. That's what makes it positive."

"As a small department, one of our strengths is that the faculty members work very hard and very well together. I want to continue to be a part of that."

Hofeditz said he still planned to teach as well as perform his new duties.

"I will continue to teach one course a semester and very much plan to remain heavily involved in the activities of the department of theater and dance."

Prior to his career in academics, Hofeditz acted professionally in off-Broadway productions, in regional theater and in dinner theater, and he has been an equity guest artist.

"An equity guest artist is a guest actor at a college or university theater production," he said.

"It is a very positive experience for both the actor and the students."

"Working with university theater programs in that capacity gave me the idea to enter academics as a profession myself," Hofeditz said.

Hofeditz said he started by teaching part time at the community college level.

"I felt that I wanted to continue to act, but academics was a field that I wanted to get involved in."

"I wasn't sure if I would like teaching or



Travis Heying/DN

Kevin Hofeditz, an associate professor of theater arts, became assistant dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts Aug. 15.

if I would be good at it," he said.

"I was fortunate enough to get a teaching job here. My experience at UNL has been very positive."

Hofeditz said he knew not every actor could teach acting.

"The knowledge base is the same, but teaching is a very challenging thing," he said. "I've been very pleased with the result and hope that the students have too."

Hofeditz said the University of Nebraska-

Lincoln had provided him with many opportunities to get involved with the university.

"After a few years, I was head of the actor training department, and I have been involved with several committees involving curriculum."

"This made me look at the university in a broader view and also broadened my interest in administration," he said.

Hofeditz hopes his new responsibilities

and the assistant deanship won't take away from his involvement with the theater department and its productions.

"I don't think that it will. Continuing to perform both here at the U and elsewhere is what I do to stay active in my field," he said.

Hofeditz has remained involved with university theater and recently began practicing for his upcoming role as Charles Dickens in the university production of "A Christmas Carol."

## Top-notch acting, great sets electrify 'Frankenstein'

By Gerry Beltz  
Staff Reporter

One of the most highly anticipated films of the holiday season, "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein" is here.

After Francis Ford Coppola's

latest success as producer-director of "Bram Stoker's Dracula," he was asked to give life to another monster project, "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein."

However, "Dracula" was draining for Coppola, so he stepped

away from the director's chair to serve solely as producer for "Frankenstein," and Kenneth Branagh stepped in.

Is it a surprise to anyone that Emma Thompson (Mrs. Branagh, to anyone who lives in a cave)

STILL manages to show up in the film?

Robert DeNiro, one of Hollywood's busiest actors, turns in an incredible performance as Victor's misshapen, misunderstood creation. The makeup process to turn Bobby from man to monstrosity took up to 12 hours each time, covered DeNiro from head to toe and still allowed full facial and speech capabilities for his performance.

Victor Frankenstein (Branagh), who lost his mother during childbirth, becomes obsessed with cheating death.

While attending medical school, he meets the sinister Professor Waldman (John Cleese), thus taking Victor closer to his goal in life. ("John Cleese" and "sinister" in the same sentence? What's next: "issues" and "campaigning"?)

Anyway, Victor decides he should try to create life from death, despite Waldman's objections, and lacking a Northwest Fabrics store to get the right pattern, he uses the body of a recently hanged criminal (guess who?).

Branagh took "Frankenstein" down a dramatic path with only touches of horror. Frankenstein's creation was not an animal that was born to destroy but one that

### Quik Facts

Movie: "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein"

Rated: R

Stars: Robert DeNiro, Kenneth Branagh, Helena Bonham Carter

Director: Kenneth Branagh

Grade: B+

Five Words: dramatic tale of love, life



Courtesy of TriStar Pictures

The obsessive desire of Victor Frankenstein (Kenneth Branagh) to create life leads to tragedy for almost everyone in "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein," a TriStar Pictures release.

was misunderstood by anyone who met him.

Although Branagh is great as always, it is DeNiro that steals the film. As "aesthetically incorrect" as he may be, the audience always feels sorry for him, no matter what he does. He has been created and then abandoned by his creator.

An incredible amount of unrelenting detail given to the medical and creative processes — plus a healthy chunk of nudity — add up to a film where THE KIDS SHOULD STAY HOME.

Incredible sets, a great score and top-notch performances from everyone combine to make "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein" a great flick for adults to see.