

THE DECATUR COMMUNITY HIGH AUDITORIUM was spookily lit Saturday night for the all-school production

of farce, "Dr. Evil and the Basket of Kittens." The sets, lighting and sound were all done by students, and students

also starred in the play. It was directed by Deedre Frasier.

Good vs. evil takes a furry turn



DELIGHTFULLY SCAMPERING off and on stage, the "were-hyenas" were a playful problem for Dr. Evil at every turn. Unna Were (Gannon Henningson) led the mischief, here with Annie Were (Brittany Urban).

In a land where "terrible" is "good" and blood is a regular part of baking, a basket of kittens can turn everything upside-down.

And that's exactly what happened in this comedy of errors put on by the thespians of Decatur Community High School and directed by Deedre Frasier. That basket of fuzzy innocence just kept getting in the way of Dr. Evil's plan to destroy Decatur County.

Let's back up: In the story, Dr. Evil (played by Caleb Koerperich) has invented a kind of "thermal ray" that he is eager to show off to the Council of Evil by destroying all of the county in the blink of an eye. His friends, family and neighbors all live within his fantastically evil neighborhood, and include his vampire mother, Inferna (Miki Dorshorst); Shirley, his hunch-backed assistant (played by Morgan Jansonius, who almost stole the show), and of course, the hilarious Mary Shelly (Elizabeth Nedland) and Dr. Frankenstein (Regent Erickson), both neighbors of Dr. Evil's and the narrators of the play.

Everything hinges on Dr. Evil getting the financial backing from the council for his thermal ray, but with that awful basket of kittens turning up everywhere (along with an identical basket of blood bread and a third full of dynamite), he must destroy the kittens at all costs.

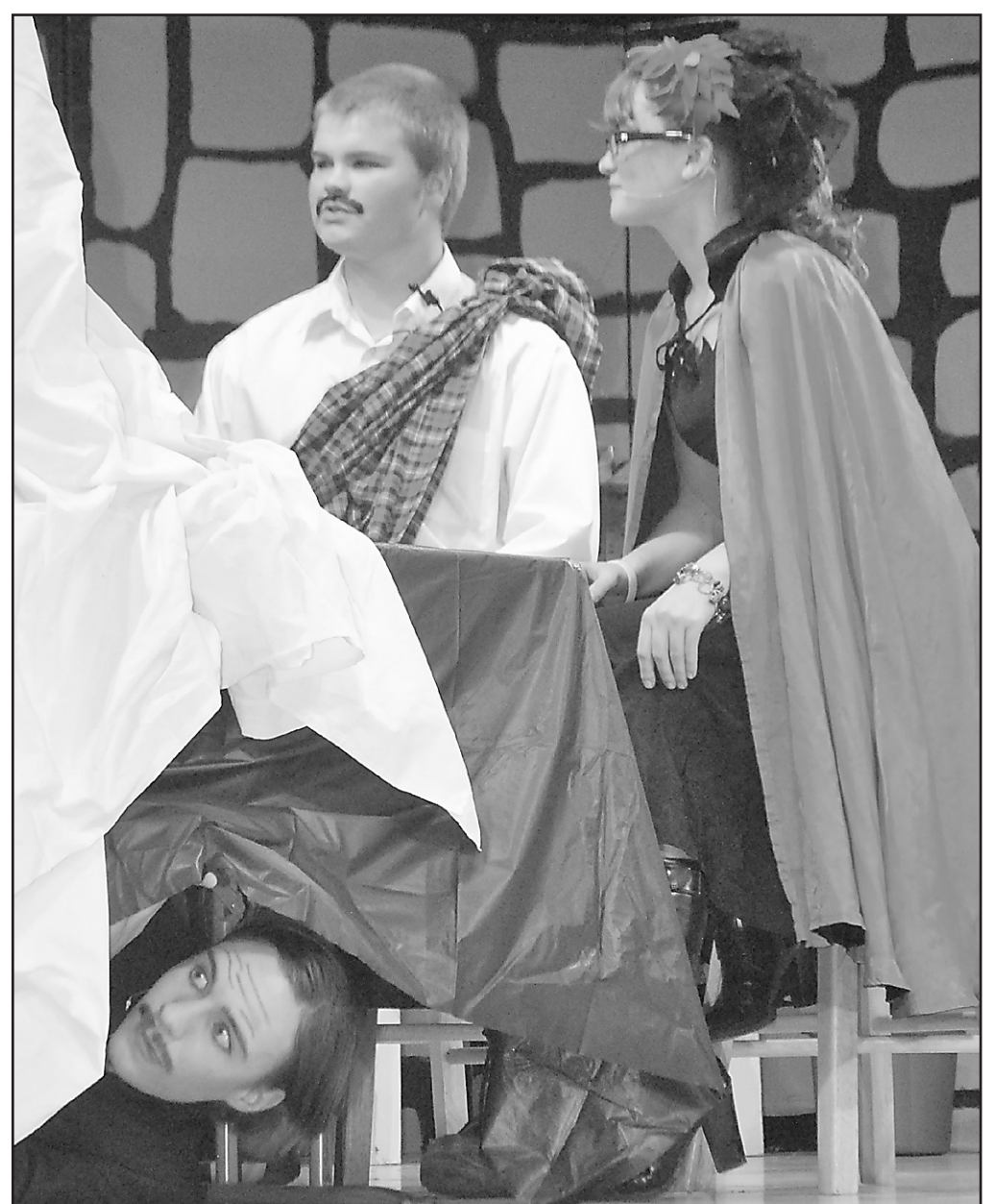
This is compounded by his assistant, who's got a thing for ringing bells and generally causing mischief,

as well as Frankenstein's monster (Konner Witt); Margo, his sarcastic niece (played by Molly Jansonius); and the ultimate pranksters – Unna, Sylva and Annie Were – all cackling "were-hyenas" that just can't get enough of causing trouble for the Evils. Between them and Countess Gothma (Ara Marine), the council member who wishes to steal the blueprints for the ray and plants the dynamite to destroy Dr. Evil's plans along with her butler, Pierce (Austin Hendrickson), the kittens just might get away...

The 90-minute play bounces quickly between kitten-loving mummy-mommies (Sara Macki) and all those who wish to destroy the precious fur balls. And of course, the mighty council members themselves: Lord Warhammer of Scotland (Garrett Scott), Archduchess Arsenica (Alexandra Waterman) and the charming and handsome Prince Vladi (Zach Macki).

When the worried mother and child the kittens belong to (played by Ana Marine and Daniel Lerew, who also plays a weatherman), along with the matriarch and patriarch of the werehyena (by KeAnn Jacobs and Jude Walinder), get into the thick of things, it all starts to culminate. With a ticking time bomb in the background, the kittens make it to safety.

The play also uses the talents of Adam Macki, who did a voiceover of the activated bomb; Ben Glading, who did the lights; and Austin Kyte, who did sound.



SNEAKING A PEAK FROM under a blanket covering his thermal ray, Dr. Evil (Caleb Koerperich) was a basket-case while repeatedly trying to keep the three identical baskets – all of which he thought were the same one, full of kittens – from the Council of Evil, two members of which were Lord Warhammer (played by Garrett Scott) and Archduchess Arsenica (played by Alexandra Waterman).



ONE OF THE BEST performances was from Morgan Jansonius, who played the hunch-backed assistant to Dr. Evil, who had a queer penchant for ringing bells. Here, she doing it to the disdain of Dr. Frankenstein, one of the narrators and a nemesis of Dr. Evil.

Photos and story by Stephanie DeCamp