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## Dangerously Human Voices Found Rep Brings The Elephant Man to the Underground

**[MILWAUKEE, Wis., Feb 2--]** Voices Found Repertory closes their fourth season with the true story of a popular 19th century sideshow attraction who longs for nothing more than to be viewed as a normal man. THE ELEPHANT MAN by Bernard Pomerance runs March 5th through 15th at the Underground Collaborative.

“Now Exhibiting The Greatest Phenomenon Ever Seen in This Part of the Country: The Elephant Man! Half-a-Man and Half-an-Elephant!”

Crowds travel from across London to see the human spectacle that is the Elephant Man—John Merrick, a man severely disfigured by an unknown skin and bone disorder. But when public opinion of freak shows sours, Merrick is abandoned by his manager and attacked by the mobs who once flocked to gape at him. The highly-renowned physician Frederick Treves takes interest in him, and grants him asylum in the London Hospital. With the assistance of Treves, Merrick is discovered by the exclusive world of the London aristocracy and becomes admired for his kindness and wit. Merrick has found a home, but his happiness is limited: despite the accolades, his disorder prevents him from enjoying the freedoms of the normal man. Based on the true story of Joseph Carey Merrick, THE ELEPHANT MAN explores the humanity of outcasts and our innate desire to connect with our fellow man. Tickets and more information available at [voicesfoundrep.com](http://voicesfoundrep.com).

Directed by Brandon C. Haut, this production features a cast of eight actors; VFR alums Thorin Ketelsen, Mary Buchel, Haley Ebinal, Andrew Kelly, and Brittany Haut, plus newcomers Zach Ursem, Samuel J. Olson, and Michael Chobanoff. Michael Cienfuegos Baca, a Footlights finalists for Best Set Design (*Macbeth*), returns as the Set Designer for THE ELEPHANT MAN, along with the talents of Hannah Kubiak as Assistant Director, Clarie Tidwell as Costume Designer, Logan Bydalek as Lighting Designer, and The Twilight with an original sound design.

The Underground Collaborative is an artistic hub right in the heart of downtown Milwaukee. The theatre space includes a cozy bar, offering local Wisconsin brews, wine and mixed drinks.

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Voices Found Repertory began in 2016 as an idea between four friends, and closes its fourth season as one of the premiere Shakespeare companies in Milwaukee. VFR strives to create theatre that unifies its audience; to develop a common artistic vocabulary and allow artists to work, learn and play together; and to establish an inclusive safe space for exploration, communication and empathy. For more information, visit [voicesfoundrep.com](http://voicesfoundrep.com) or their social media pages on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.