

Short Review: “The Bride of Frankenstein” (1935) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Bride of Frankenstein, The (1935). Universal, b/w, 80 min. Director: James Whale. Producer: Carl Laemmle. Screenwriters: John Balderston and Willim Hurlbut. Cast: Boris Karloff, Colin Clive, Elsa Lanchester, Ernest Thesiger, Valerie Hobson, and Dwight Frye.

The first of many Universal sequels following Whale’s classic, this was one of the few sequels that was actually superior to the original. After a brief prologue that pays homage to Mary and Percy Shelley, Lord Byron and their writing competition that inspired Frankenstein, the film picks up right where the original ended, with the monster (Karloff) dying in fire. But the monster did not die, and is soon out terrorizing the locals again. Dr. Praetorius (Thesiger) and his demented assistant Karl (Frye) pay Frankenstein (Clive) a visit, and soon the three are at work on a new creature (Lanchester). Not long after his “bride” is brought to life, the monster drops in to claim her, but she only has eyes for Frankenstein. Angered, the monster blows up the laboratory, and the usual conflagration consumes them all. “Bride” was clearly the most stylishly mounted production of the 1930's, and represents a high-water mark of the Golden Age of the American Horror Film. But it should be noted that the film title is really a misnomer and has contributed much to the confusion of the mad doctor's name with the monster. The title

should have been "The Bride of the Monster of Frankenstein." Oh, well. Followed four years later by "Son of Frankenstein."

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