

Short Review: "Assignment: Terror" (1971) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Assignment: Terror (aka *Dracula Versus Frankenstein*) (1971). Italian/International Jaguar, 89min. Director: Tulio Demichelli. Producer: Jami Prades. Writer: Jacinto Molina. Cast: Michael Rennie, Karin Dor, Craig Hill, Paul Naschy, Patty Sherpherd, Angelo del Rozo, Ella Gessler, Peter Damon, and Gene Reyes.

Michael Rennie leads the vanguard of alien invaders from a dying world to Earth with one of Ed Wood's leftover plans from "Plan 9 from Outer Space." By reviving the famous monsters of filmland, including Dracula, the Wolfman, the Mummy, the Gill Man, and Frankenstein's monster, they hope to terrorize the world into submission. But sibling rivalries emerge between the various monsters, and soon they are fighting with each other. The advertised confrontation between Dracula and Frankenstein never occurs (leaving this critic to question the alternate English-language title). The script is weak, the direction is poor, and the special effects are far below the credibility level. Rennie, who was never able to shake the typecasting of his Klaatu role from "The Day the Earth Stood Still," is embarrassingly stiff in a part that should have been most familiar to him. With all of their intelligence, you'd think these aliens would come up with a better plan to conquer Earth. Sexy James Bond-girl Karin Dor makes a first viewing palatable.

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