

Short Review: “The Invisible Ray” (1936) by Dr. John L. Flynn



The Invisible Ray (1936). Universal, b/w, 82 min. Director: Lambert Hillyer. Producer: Edmund Grainger. Screenwriter: John Colton. Cast: Boris Karloff, Bela Lugosi, Frances Drake, Frank Lawton, Walter Kingsford, and Beulah Bondi.

World-renowned scientist Janos Rukh (Karloff) convinces a group of mad scientists to mount an expedition to Africa to find an ancient meteorite of great significance. When Rukh becomes contaminated by the highly toxic radiation of the meteorite, he discovers that everything he touches dies. Back in London, Dr. Benet (Lugosi) works to find an antidote and possibly a way to use the radium to restore eyesight to the blind. But Prof. Rukh’s paranoid rages lead him to seek revenge against the members of his expedition, who he accuses of stealing his discovery for their own glory. At long last, the two great masters of horror are together in a film, and this one is a humdinger, with Karloff assuming the role of the mad doctor and Lugosi as his loyal and trusted friend. A pity the rest of the cast doesn’t rise to the occasion. Catch this one before it disappears.

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