

Short Review: “The Revenge of Frankenstein” (1958) by Dr. John L. Flynn



The Revenge of Frankenstein (1958). Hammer Films/Great Britain, 89 min. Director: Terence Fisher. Producer: Anthony Hinds. Screenwriters: Jimmy Sangster and H. Hurford Janes. Based on the novel by Mary Shelley. Cast: Peter Cushing, Michael Gwynn, Francis Matthews, Eunice Gayson, John Welch, George Woodbridge, Lionell Jeffries, Oscar Quitak, Richard Wordsworth, and Michael Ripper.

This first sequel to “The Curse of Frankenstein” (1957) cleverly rescues the Baron (Cushing) from the guillotine and puts him to work creating not one but two new monsters in a hospital for the poor in Carlsbruck. Still obsessed with the re-animation of dead tissue, the mad doctor has an abundant supply of body parts and organs from his patients, and assembles a new creation with the brain of his crippled assistant Karl (Gwynn). Predictably, the new Creature is driven to kill, and the killings lead back to Frankenstein. Fatally beaten by his own charity patients, the Baron convinces his young colleague Hans (Matthews) to transplant Frankenstein's brain into a new, synthetic body, which he has made, setting up the next movie, “The Evil of Frankenstein” (1964). In terms of suspense and production values, this is one of the few sequels that is actually better than the original. Look for future Bond-girl Eunice Gayson in a sexy-turn as one of Frankenstein’s victims.

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