

## Short Review: “Son of Frankenstein” (1939) by Dr. John L. Flynn



**Son of Frankenstein** (1939). Universal, b/w, 95 min. Director and Producer: Rowland V. Lee. Screenwriter: Willis Cooper. Cast: Boris Karloff, Bela Lugosi, Basil Rathbone, Lionel Atwill, Josephine Hutchinson, and Lionel Belmore.

A further digression in the Universal Frankenstein series, this second sequel found Wolfgang Frankenstein (Rathbone) following in his father’s footsteps. Apparently, the monster (Karloff) did not die in the previous conflagration, but was rescued by a kindly shepherd Ygor (Lugosi) who is, in fact, an escaped murderer. When Ygor shows up with the comatose monster, Frankenstein revives him, and then all hell breaks loose. Lionel Atwill, wearing a wooden, prosthetic arm, is particularly good as Police Inspector Krogh in a role that would be spoofed by Kenneth Mars in the Mel Brooks comedy. This was also Boris Karloff’s last appearance as the monster, and it is great to see him with Lugosi and Rathbone. But the film is largely forgettable, and not up to the original and its first sequel. Three years later, “The Ghost of Frankenstein” followed.

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