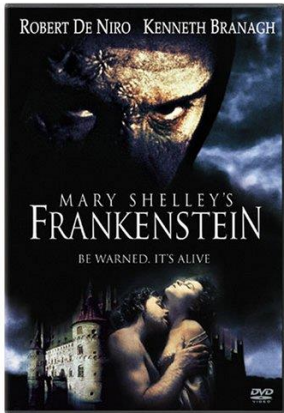


Short Review: “Frankenstein” (1994) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Frankenstein (aka Mary Shelley's Frankenstein) (1994). TriStar Pictures, UK, color, 123 min. Director: Kenneth Branagh. Writers: Mary Shelley (novel) and Steph Lady. Producers: Francis Ford Coppola, James V. Hart, and John Veitch. Cast: Robert De Niro, Kenneth Branagh, Tom Hulce and Helena Bonham Carter.

Victor Frankenstein (Branagh), the idealistic son of a doctor, re-animates the dead flesh of a stitched together human being with electric current, thus creating a monster that comes between he and his beloved Elizabeth (Carter). The angry monster (De Niro makes him quite human, too) will have his revenge, and Dr. Frankenstein will have his sorrows. This film is extremely close to the original novel, which makes it worthy of attention. If it had been done with less money and more focus, it would have been the best filmed version of the novel. At one point, after the monster is seen without his shirt, Branagh also goes shirtless. Sigh. Now, if only Helena Bonham Carter, who is best known for her weirdness in Tim Burton movies, had pulled her shirt off, then we might have had a work of real genius.

Copyright 2014 by John L. Flynn, Ph.D.