

Short Review: “Frankenstein 1970” (1958) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Frankenstein 1970 (1958). Allied Artists, 83 min. Director: Howard Koch. Producer: Aubrey Schenck. Screenwriters: Richard Landau and George W. Yates. Cast: Boris Karloff, Tom Duggan, Jana Lund, Charlotte Austin, Red Barry, and Mike Lane.

In a very unusual casting coup, Boris Karloff who played the monster in James Whale’s original classic takes over the role of Baron Victor von Frankenstein. To finance his latest attempt to animate the dead, the apparently poor and destitute mad doctor is forced to rent out his castle to filmmakers who want to make a horror movie. The plot becomes unraveled when Frankenstein (a victim of Nazi torture during the war) must inexplicably kill off members of the cast and crew to acquire new body parts for his monster. Directed by the great scenarist Howard Koch, the film is noteworthy on two counts. First, it features Karloff, for the first time, in the role of the mad doctor. And second, it introduces atomic power as the means for resurrecting man-made monsters. Otherwise, this entry into the series is easily forgotten.

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