

Short Review: “Frankenstein Conquers the World” (1965) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Frankenstein Conquers the World (1965). Toho/Japan, 95 min. Director: Inoshiro Honda.

Producer: Tomoyuki Tanaka. Screenwriter: Kaoru Mabuchi. Starring: Tadao Takashima, Nick Adams, Kumi Mizuno, Yoshio Tsuchiya, and Takashi Shimura.

The first of two films about a young Japanese boy who becomes a thirty-foot tall monster borrowed very freely from the “Frankenstein” legend. Apparently, near the end of World War II, as the Allies closed on Berlin, Hitler and his Nazi thugs arranged to have the heart of Frankenstein's monster smuggled into Japan. It arrives in Hiroshima mere moments before the atomic bomb is dropped. When a young boy consumes the irradiated heart, he subsequently grows into a gigantic creature. But the Creature is no mindless primitive. He has an innocent heart, and the desire to protect his people from the attacks of a Godzilla-like lizard. The movie plays out like a live-action anime film, particularly when the stunt men in rubber monster suits duke it out. Look for Nick Adams as the token American. The sequel, “Frankenstein and the War of the Gargantuas,” followed one year later.

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