

Short Review: “Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man” (1943) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man (1943). Universal, b/w, 74 min. Director: Roy William Neill. Producer: George Waggner. Screenwriter: Curt Siodmak. Cast: Lon Chaney Jr., Bela Lugosi, Lionel Atwill, Ilona Massey, Patric Knowles, Maria Ouspenskaya, and Dwight Frye. The first of the monster team-ups, this one followed the efforts of Lawrence Talbot (Chaney Jr.), better known as the Wolf Man, to find a release from the curse of the werewolf. No attempt is made to explain how he survived his demise in “The Wolf Man” 1941, but then, that was never one of the reasons to watch Universal’s monster movies. Ultimately, he finds his way to Dr. Frankenstein’s little village of Vasari, and after a brief run-in with the local villagers, he stumbles upon the ruins of the mad doctor’s laboratory and finds the monster (Lugosi) entombed in a block of ice. (No kidding!) Talbot thaws the ice and, together with his new friend, seeks out the help of the local mad scientist (Knowles) and the Baroness Elsa Frankenstein (Massey). Atwill as the cracked mayor of the village whips the villagers into a frenzy, and sends them out to dynamite the dam and drown the monsters. If we’d been residents of that village, we would have probably moved after the first reel! Lacking any originality or imagination, the film was a huge success at the box office, and inspired other monster team-ups, including “House of Frankenstein” (1944), “House of Dracula” (1945), and “Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein” (1949).

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