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## Frankenstein 80

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## DVD review

Frankenstein 80 is, fittingly, kind of a hodge-podgy piece of work. It's kind of a clusterfuck story-progression-wise. Not that it's not linear but it's kind of staggy making it down the path. It's also silly as hell. Its silliness, sloppy gore and gratuitous nudity rescue it from being cumbersome and dull. It's got the atmosphere of a movie that should be cumbersome and dull. But it ain't. Somehow.

The out-of-whack dialogue and the dubbed over hyperacting also keep the entertainment energy above the kill-me-now levels. Really, there are just a lot of dingy camp factors that save this. They don't save it from being a bad movie but they save it from being an unentertaining bad movie.

Dr. Frankenstein, in this particular take on Mary Shelley's vintage philosophical gothic novel, resets the concept to modern times (this was made in 1972 - don't ask me where they got the title from unless it's supposed to suggest just a teensy bit of in-the-future nonsense, which nothing in the movie itself actually suggests). In this case, ol' Doc Frankenstein is working in a hospital or clinic or whatever (under the friggin' name FRANKENSTEIN - I'd totally use a different moniker, what with the bad joojoo associated with that name), where he's got a secret lab which he can access by way of a secret-door-behind-the-bookshelf setup. In a hospital. How the hell did he get THAT arranged?

At any rate, a fellow doctor has concocted a serum that combats the rejection of transplanted organs, which has been a problem with Mosaico. That's his monster, you see, played by a bald dude with some random scarring make-up done on his face and body. Mosaic-o. Get it? Sheesh.

So Doc Frank steals the serum to use on Mosaico. Not that the constant surgery Doc Frank has to perform on his subject (including a TESTICLE TRANSPLANT!!!) stops the monster from slipping out - complete with hat and trenchcoat - and offing people. You really have to wonder if Frankenstein (the doc, not the monster) overlooked some kind of hormonal thing cuz Mosaico seems to have some puberty issues. By which I mean he's obsessed with boobies. By which I mean he digs killing women and then baring their breasts. Really, the breast-baring might be more fun BEFORE they died - assuming, of course, that the women were willing, which generally isn't the case here.

He also kills off the occasional man, as well, particularly in an eleventh-hour killing spree after his flare-up with his creator (kind of a staple of the Frankenstein genre, you know?). Said killing spree turns the movie for a moment into a hyper-condensed rack-up-the-bodies flick since it's a random series of victims that get offed before the final battle with the beast and the hero. (One of the victims is a stripper who performs what must be the most lethargic strip tease ever!)

You have to give the dumb galoot props for (a) understanding the need for some kind of anonymity (trenchcoat and hat, which unfortunately ends up being all he ever wears outside the lab so the cops know what to look for), and (b) creativity in choice of killing methods. Though, really, that kind of boils down to what he has at hand. Big bloody bone nearby to kill someone in a butcher shop? Check. Machete handy? Check. Nothing available? Got hands? Check. Strangle 'em. Nice wall to smash 'em against? Check.

I'm also not sure if any other Frankenstein monster movies boast the monster actually getting it on! No, really. His next encounter with a nekkid woman after his testicle surgery is a hooker, whom he rapes. No kidding. So, yeah, I think I've said enough to let you know if this is your cup of gruel.



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Upchuck Undergrind listens to a little bit of a lot of things - just note the eclecticism of his reviews. He also reads voraciously and loves movies. He is a very open-minded Episcopalian (and student of Buddhism and Hinduism) who thinks Slayer is one of the greatest metal bands. Ever. In addition to his work with Corazine - for which he has written since its inception (he is a Fishcomcollective veteran) - he also writes for DJFix.com.

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