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FRANKENSTEIN

USA, 1931, 70 minutes

Director: James Whale **Production Company:**
 Universal Pictures **Screenplay:** Garret Fort,
 Francis Edwar Faragoh, from the novel by Mary
 Shelley **Cinematographer:** Arthur Edeson
Leading Players: Colin Clive, Mae Clarke, John
 Boles, Boris Karloff, Dwight Frye **Print Source:**
 Universal Pictures **Distributor:** Universal Pictures

A true story: a poor British actor named William Pratt, about to call it quits trying to make a thespian career in British Columbia, miraculously ran into his English brother at the Vancouver Hotel in 1910. His brother gave him some money, so Bill Pratt plodded on. Finally, he wandered to Hollywood, where he changed his name and became . . . Boris Karloff!! For a couple of years he played hard, mean gangsters. Then Karloff struck immortality coming to life in James Whale's spooky, eerie *Frankenstein*. Forevermore, Karloff, after 3 1/2 hours of Jack Pierce makeup, would define the look and feel of Mary Shelley's fierce monster with a (somewhat) tender heart. Wrote critic Tom Milne: "Karloff gives one of the great performances of all time as the monster whose mutation from candour to chill savagery is mirrored only through his limpid eyes. The film's great imaginative coup is to show the monster 'growing up' in all-too-human terms. . . . (The film) has a weird fairy-tale beauty not matched until Cocteau made *La Belle et la Bête*."

Gerald Peary