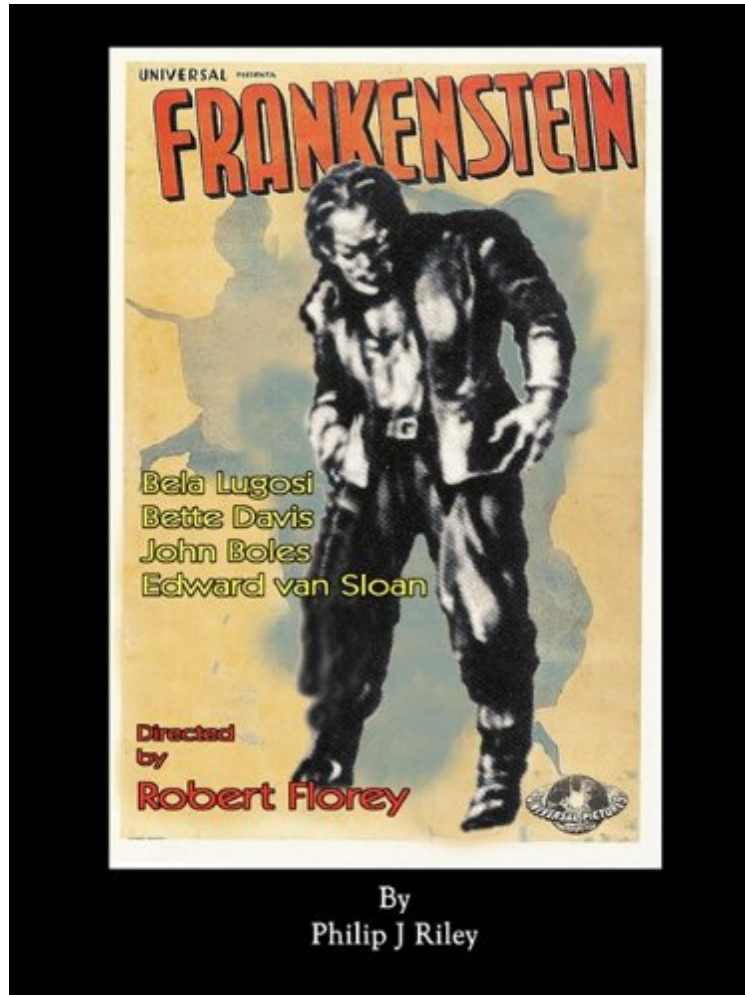


(Download) Robert Florey's Frankenstein Starring Bela Lugosi

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Philip J. Riley

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Philip J. Riley : Robert Florey's Frankenstein Starring Bela Lugosi before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Robert Florey's Frankenstein Starring Bela Lugosi:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Buy it. Now.By T. CaseyI have all of the other (now valuable) Philip Riley scripts from the Universal Classics (Frankenstein, Dracula, etc) and have loved them all. When this current series popped up on , I was, to say the least, intrigued.For "Robert Florey's Frankenstein", I was skeptical at first (the history of this script is outlined in the product description). But as soon as I started reading, I realized that this is groundbreaking stuff, and genuine (as far as I can tell).First, Robert Florey did indeed write most of what we know as "Frankenstein" - even more than Mary Shelley did, if you've read the novel - and it really was a crime to leave him out of the credits. Film historians usually dismissed Florey's protestations as sour grapes, but now it looks like he was speaking the truth.There are enough differences to recognize the major improvements that Garrett Fort and James

Whale contributed to the final product, but Florey really did stitch this one together (pun intended). Second, the cover is a sketch that Jack Pierce did of Lugosi for the legendary lost test reel, and it really does look a lot like the final Karloff version; this is also attested to by Florey and Paul Ivano, the cameraperson who shot the test footage. It also sounds like Lugosi didn't storm off in a huff but instead told the studio that he wouldn't be able to keep up with the physical stress of the role. Other than that, I'm not telling you anything - you'll need to read the book!

With the success of *Dracula*, starring Bela Lugosi, Universal Pictures was quick to capitalize on creating a new Lon Chaney in Bela Lugosi. Chaney had been the original choice to portray a dual role as both *Dracula* and Professor van Helsing, *Dracula*'s adversary. Before production could begin Chaney died suddenly leaving Carl Laemmle Jr. without a star. Laemmle Jr. had seen *Dracula* on the stage in New York City, although he could not recall if he had seen Lugosi or Raymond Huntley in the role of Count *Dracula*. However Lugosi was performing in the touring company which happened to be in Los Angeles at that time. Was he the new Lon Chaney? Lugosi was not Carl Jr's first choice for the role. However he eventually won the part and now they needed more ideas for him. "Murders in the Rue Morgue", "Cagliostro", "The Invisible Man" and "Frankenstein" were top on the list. One day in March 1931 Robert Florey, recently returned to Hollywood from Europe, was having lunch at the Musso and Frank Restaurant on Hollywood Boulevard. He was approached by an old acquaintance, Richard Schayer, head of Universal's story department. Schayer told him that his studio was looking for ideas for a new horror film to star Bela Lugosi and he knew Florey was involved with The Theatre du Grand-Guignol de Paris, (a small theater, in an obscure alley in Paris which specialized in sadistic, shocking, explicit, violent melodramas and became known as the "Theater of Horrors". It opened in 1897 and closed in 1962.) They both agreed on "Frankenstein" being the best choice. Schayer suggested that Florey would stand a better chance at being assigned writer and director if he were to present the idea to Carl Laemmle Jr. We present now the script for "Frankenstein" as it would have been had Bela Lugosi starred; and Rober Florey directed.