

A short synopsis of the TNT production of Frankenstein
by Paul Stebbings & Phil Smith
inspired by the novel by Mary Shelley and the Hollywood movie

Prelude: Elisabeth and her father the Professor steal a corpse from a grave to experiment upon.

Scene 1/ A lecture by the Science Professor Fleischflayer is interrupted by the student Victor Frankenstein who challenges the Professor's rational scientific beliefs with his own faith in a human soul. Frankenstein is humiliated by the knowledge and wit of the Professor.

Scene 2/ In Professor Fleischflayer's laboratory at Ingolstadt University, the Professor's daughter, Elisabeth, is helped out by Victor Frankenstein, who is attracted to her. Victor tries to 'seduce' Elisabeth away from her father's materialist and unromantic notions - he suspects that she holds such views but is silent about them for her father's sake. An ape gets hold of a bottle of ether and drugs Victor, when he comes round he takes advantage of Elisabeth's concern to profess his love. This is interrupted by the Professor. Victor asks for Elisabeth's hand. As a test and challenge the Professor recruits Victor to help in an experiment - the revival of the ape with electricity. The ape is killed and then revived, but only briefly - insufficient electricity. Elisabeth suggests reviving a cobra. During this attempt the Professor is bitten and dies, passing on his scientific mission to Victor (who is becoming increasingly convinced by the professor's ideas) and Elisabeth. But Elisabeth has been horrified by the experiment, as Victor has been excited by it, and when Victor suggests using electricity to revive her father Elisabeth makes Victor promise to give up such science and find a new career.

Scene 3/ An atheist student is lynched by a mob of townspeople. Victor - now studying medicine - sees this and later sees the corpse briefly dance when struck by lightning. Victor recruits the gravedigger Igor to seek out corpses to revive the Professor's experiments.

Scene 4/ Elisabeth is in bed. Her dream appears: a strange hybrid figure: dressed in the Professor's tailcoat, the body of the ape, half of his head is cat and out of the top sticks an enormous butterfly wing, one of his arms is the Cobra. Elisabeth gets out of bed and starts to search for Victor.

Scene 5/ In the laboratory Victor is constructing the Monster from dead body parts. He sends Igor off to find a new head. Then exits. Elisabeth appears, worried that Victor has re-started the experiments and is found by Igor who incompetently lets her in. Victor enters, has Elisabeth drugged and put into one of the cages while he continues the Monster's completion and then revival. The monster comes to life, but unexpectedly fixates on Elisabeth. Victor is horrified by the deathliness of his creation - argues with Elisabeth whether to destroy it. Eventually, Igor is left to kill the Monster, but bungles the job and the Monster kills him and escapes. Elisabeth and Victor discover the Monster has gone and vow to destroy it.

INTERVAL

Scene 6 On the edge of the town - the Monster, now clothed gains some solace in the sunlight and the woods. He comes upon the cottage of a Blind Man and his daughter. When the Monster hears the occupants approaching he hides and watches the gentle routine of the couple, learning from their conversations, hymns and prayers. He is attracted by the music the Blind Man plays. In turn she finds comfort in his company and teaches him language. But when the daughter returns she sees the Monster and starts screaming. Trying to quieten her he kills the daughter, running off when he

realizes what he has done. Victor – seeking the Monster - arrives to discover young woman dead. A policeman sees Victor with blood on hands and Victor is arrested for murder.

Scene 7 Courtroom. Judge pronounces Victor guilty of murder.

Scene 8 Elizabeth has been forcibly removed from the gaol, still protesting Victor's innocence. She becomes aware that the Monster is watching her from the shadows. Elizabeth rails at the Monster and challenges him to kill her. She abuses him for being unable to help his creator. Monster conceives of plan to rescue Victor.

Scene 9 Victor's cell. The gaoler laughs at Victor for his Monster 'story'. The Monster appears and smashes down the doors of the prison, carrying off Victor.

Scene 10 Up in the snow covered alps, the Monster and Victor talk. The Monster blames the treatment he has been given by people and the lack of help from his creator as the reasons for his violence. Victor will have none of this and says that responsibility for the crimes lies with the Monster. So, the Monster threatens Elizabeth – offering to leave her and Victor alone only if Victor will make the Monster a living-dead mate. Victor, reluctantly agrees, on condition that the two monsters withdraw from any contact with humans

Scene 11 Back at his home, Victor reluctantly recruits Elizabeth to making the Monster's mate. He worries but it is Elizabeth who persuades him to keep his bargain as she feels sympathy for the Monster.

Scene 12 Cemetery. Victor and Elizabeth are digging up bodies, but unable to find any usable body parts. A young female mourner approaches and Victor and wants to kill her and use her body. When the mourner seems to escape the Monster emerges from the shadows and kills the young woman. Elizabeth is horrified The three run from the cemetery with the corpse, with the townspeople in pursuit.

Scene 13 The lab. Trying to revive the Monster's 'bride'. Elizabeth is accidentally shot by the mob. Victor revives her instead of the young mourner, but the Monster claims her as his promised bride and the revived Elizabeth expresses her preference for the Monster. They escape as the mob enters with burning torches and Victor perishes in the fire.