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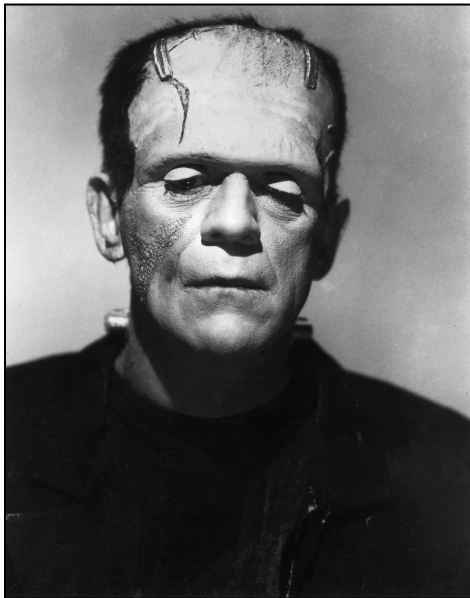
Spring Project

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The Wrong Monster

Mary Shelley's classic novel *Frankenstein* has been adapted numerous times in film. Since the first silent adaptation in 1910, there have been countless versions of this horror story on the big screen. Some adaptations have proved to be successful while others have not; however, they have all added their own unique twist to the original tale. Ultimately, decades of inaccurate adaptations of *Frankenstein* have put the wrong monster in the spotlight, confusing audiences and misrepresenting Mary Shelley's original work.

One of the most famous adaptations of *Frankenstein* is the 1931 movie by James Whale starring Boris Karloff as the monster (IMDB.com). This film is often considered a masterpiece of



the horror genre and has been incredibly influential in popular culture. The expressionist style of the movie, the costumes, and the sets have all become iconic elements of the story. Karloff quickly became the face of the monster, so much that he had the look trademarked to him.¹

Another notable adaptation of *Frankenstein* came in 1974 with Mel Brooks' comedic take on the story, *Young Frankenstein*. Starring Gene Wilder, the film parodied many of the key elements of the original story, including

the famous laboratory scene (IMDB.com). Despite being a comedy, the film depicts young

¹ Boris Karloff as Frankenstein's monster

Victor Frankenstein as a Mad Scientist-in-Progress, which is accurate when compared to Mary



Shelley's young scientist from Geneva.²

In more recent years, adaptations of *Frankenstein* have taken on a more modern feel. In 2015, *Igor*, a film about Frankenstein's assistant, was released. This film

provided a fresh take on the story by making Igor the central character and exploring his backstory. The visually impressive film had a stunning depiction of the Gothic setting of Frankenstein's laboratory.

Frankenstein has been adapted numerous times in film, with each version offering its own unique take on the story. From the classic horror of the 1931 adaptation to the comedic genius of Mel Brooks, the tale of Frankenstein continues to be reinvented and remain relevant in cinema.

Etc...

² Gene Wilder as Young Frankenstein

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3

³ Boris Karloff as Frankenstein's Monster, Gene Wilder as Young Frankenstein, Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Miller in the National Theatre's *Frankenstein*