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Frankensteins Bloody Nightmare (2006)



Skip it!

Summary

I don't normally do this, but I understood so little of this movie that I'm going to start with the director's description of the action.

"Brilliant young Victor Karlstein finds himself lost in an abyss of personal turmoil and professional stress after the woman he most likely seemed to love dies while under the care of his own mysterious medical facility. Determined to keep her alive, Victor uses his mechanically-enhanced reanimated corpse to murder young women in order to furnish "raw parts" for her new body, among other devious things."

Warning! Spoilers ahead!



Barbara's Rant

I love the vague phrasing of "most likely seemed to love", as there was certainly nothing in the movie to tell me what their relationship was. Since her name was Victoria, I thought for a while that she might turn out to be his estranged sister, another victim of his abusive father, but the naming seemed to have as much significance naming the movie Frankenstein but the protagonist Karlstein. Other things I failed to understand included

1. whether Victoria was actually dead (I guessed she was, but then thought perhaps it was a coma of some kind since she was kept in her hospital room),
2. the fact that Victor was at an actual medical facility which treated patients other than his dead girlfriend,
3. the connection between the murders and the dead girlfriend (again, I assumed from the title that there was body-part thievery but wasn't clear on how Victor's body-part/electronics research related to the dead girlfriend),

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4. the connection the drug dealers had to any of the above (plus why they seemed to be doing most of their business in a peaceful meadow, but that's a tangential concern),
5. what the HELL was going during that twisted sexual encounter between Victor and The Monster, and most importantly
6. approximately half the dialogue.

I so wanted to recommend this movie since it's pretty rare to find one (indie or otherwise) that really tries to do something new and interesting. It had a great 70s drive-in movie look to it, which (as a fan of 70s horror) made me happy. And I appreciate that it was intended to be dreamlike and non-linear, so some level of narrative confusion is expected and in fact desired. But I am sure that it was not intentional that (no exaggeration) half the dialogue was unintelligible, even given my repeated rewinds and volume adjustments. I'm also sure that the repeated extreme close-ups and sudden cuts (which were certainly visually striking) were not intended to be as confusing as they were. There were multiple scenes where I wasn't sure (a) what just happened or (b) who was involved, due to lack of any clear longer-range shots. From the director's website, this appears to be his first movie, and the fact that the sound actually did improve quite a bit towards the end makes me hopeful that some of the technical problems will be solved and that his future efforts will be more successful.

(Of course, if you're a fan of oddball indie movies, you should *definitely* check this one out. If you're not, you probably won't want to sit through it.)

Although I'm not sure I wanted to see the monster sex any more clearly. My main question there is, why did The Monster have a vagina? Apparently he was a male burn victim at the creepy medical center before Victor started working on his corpse. Unless he was extremely anatomically unusual to begin with, I'm left to assume that Victor made some improvements of his own when he installed the monster-controlling electronics. The morbid humor of the compubeaver comes to mind, which plays on the themes of technology and nature in similar ways. Perhaps Victor deliberately created a maintenance access port which he found sexually exciting, or perhaps the act of controlling The Monster is inherently sexual to him, and stands as an indictment of our need to continually twist and control the natural world to suit our own pleasure and comfort. This introduction of the sexual aspect of their relationship also suggests that The Monster turned on Victor not because of the violent acts he was forced to commit, but because of the violation he suffered at Victor's hands. Victor's final attack on Tara (ie, dead girlfriend's sister) certainly looked sexual as well as violent, and I think it's significant that The Monster chose that moment to rebel against his programming when he himself had already committed multiple murders of equally innocent women (under Victor's control, of course). Seen that way, The Monster's stomach-vagina becomes the lynchpin which holds the movie's theme together.

Or perhaps it was just plain icky.

BARBARA MAY

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