

## Short Review: “I Was a Teenage Frankenstein” (1958) by Dr. John L. Flynn



**I Was a Teenage Frankenstein** (1958). American International Pictures, b/w and color, 73 min. Director: Herbert L. Strock. Producer: Herman Cohen. Writer: Kenneth Langstry. Cast: Whit Bissell, Phyllis Coates, Robert Burton, Gary Conway, George Lynn, and John Cliff.

Following the colossal success of “I Was a Teenage Werewolf”(1957), in which a mad doctor turns a teenaged Michael Landon into a werewolf, producer Cohen tried not once but twice to make a teen version of the Frankenstein story. In this first attempt, a distant relative of Baron Frankenstein (Bissell) assembles a human body from an assortment of limbs and organs, then grafts the face of a kidnapped teen (Gary Conway) onto his creation. Predictably, the teenaged monster turns on its creator and wreaks havoc at a local high school, years before Columbine. And boy is he pissed that he didn’t get a date to the prom! Neither this nor “How to Make a Monster” (1958) were any good, but next to Ed Wood’s “Bride of the Monster” (1955), they both look like masterpieces.

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