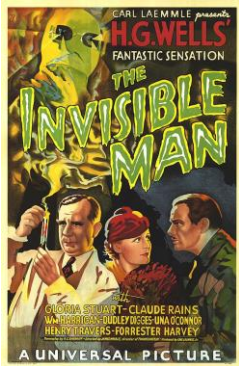


Short Review: “The Invisible Man” (1933) by Dr. John L. Flynn



The Invisible Man (1933). Universal Pictures, b/w, 71 min. Director: James Whale. Producer: Carl Laemmle. Screenwriters: R.C. Sheriff and Philip Wylie. Based on the novel by H.G. Wells. Starring Claude Rains, Gloria Stewart, Henry Travers, William Harrigan, Una O'Connor, Holmes Herbert, John Carradine, and Walter Brennan.

Jack Giffin (Rains), a dedicated research scientist, discovers an invisibility serum while experimenting with a mysterious Indian drug known as moncaine. The potion works remarkably well on a dog, bleaching the beast white, except there is a curious side effect: it makes the dog raving mad. Dismissing the findings of the experiment, Griffin takes the drug himself, becomes invisible, and gradually goes insane. He eventually succumbs to the madness, and embarks on a reign of terror that includes murder, theft, sabotage, and voyeurism. No woman's boudoir or locker room is safe! Based on H. G. Wells' 1897 novel, this was every young boy's fantasy novel, and in the capable hands of exhibitionist James Whale the film became one of Universal's biggest hits. The inevitable sequels, including “The Invisible Man Returns” (1939) and “The Invisible Woman” (1940), followed.

Copyright 2013 by John L. Flynn, Ph.D.