FRANKENSTEIN RETURNS

A free adaptation by Tespis Producciones
based on the original work by Mary Shelley
SCENE I

NARRATOR: (Enter narrator.) University laboratory, Dr. Frankenstein class. (Exit narrator.)

(Enter Doctor Frankenstein.)

FREDDY: Good morning! Today we’ll talk about the human brain. If we look at the base of a brain which has just been removed from the skull, there's very little of the midbrain that we could actually see. Yet, as I demonstrated in my lecture last week, if the under aspects of the temporal lobes are gently pulled apart, the upper portion of the stem of the brain can be seen. This so-called brainstem passes out of the skull through the foramen magnum, and becomes of course the spinal cord. Are there any questions before we proceed?

MEDICAL STUDENT: I have one question, Dr. Frankenstein.

FREDDY: That's Fronkensteen.

MEDICAL STUDENT: I beg your pardon?

FREDDY: My name, it's pronounced Fronkensteen.

MEDICAL STUDENT: But aren't you the grandson of the famous Dr. Victor Frankenstein who went into graveyards, dug up freshly buried corpses, and transformed dead components into-

FREDDY: Yes. Yes. Yes, we all know what he did. But I'd rather be remembered for my own small contributions to science, and not because of my accidental relationship to a famous nutcase. Now if you don't mind, we’ll stop here and continue with the practice in the next lesson. Thank you.

(Class dismissed, students applaud.)

MEDICAL STUDENT: Uh, Dr. Frank- (Frankenstein looks at him in a threatening way.) Fronkensteen?

FREDDY: Yes?

MEDICAL STUDENT: Isn't it true that Erasmus Darwin preserved a piece of Vermicelli in a glass case until, by some extraordinary means, it actually began to move with voluntary motion?

FREDDY: Are you speaking of the worm or the spaghetti?

MEDICAL STUDENT: Why the worm, sir.
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FREDDY: Yes, it seems to me I did read something of that incident when I was a student. But you have to remember that a worm, with very few exceptions, is not a human being.

MEDICAL STUDENT: But wasn't that the whole basis of your grandfather's work, sir, the reanimation of dead tissue?

FREDDY: My grandfather was a very sick man.

MEDICAL STUDENT: But as a Fronkensteen, aren't you the least bit curious about it? Doesn't the bringing back to life what was once dead hold any intrigue for you?

FREDDY: You are talking about the nonsensical raving of a lunatic mind. Dead is dead.

MEDICAL STUDENT: But look at what has been done with hearts and kidneys.

FREDDY: Hearts and kidneys are toys. I'm talking about the central nervous system.

MEDICAL STUDENT: But sir?

FREDDY: I am a scientist, not a philosopher. You have more chance of reanimating this scalpel (Gets a pen out.) than you have of mending a broken nervous system. I am not interested in death. The only thing that concerns me is the preservation of life. (He sticks the pen in his leg.) Ouch! (Screams, and tries to get a grip on himself.) Ladies, gentlemen, class is dismissed.

(Appause, Off.)

(An elderly man approaches, his face can't be seen clearly, he brings a small box in his hand.)

GERHART FALKSTEIN: Dr. Frankenstein?

FREDDY: That's Fronkensteen. (Takes the pen out of his leg.)

GERHART FALKSTEIN: My name is Gerhart Falkstein. I have traveled five-thousand miles to bring you the will of your great-grandfather, Baron Bofort Von Frankenstein. (Gives Freddy a box.)

(Suspense music.)

SCENE II

NARRATOR: Transylvania, surroundings of grandfather Frankenstein’s house.

(Enter Frankenstein.)

FREDDY: This must be my grandfather’s house!
IGOR: Dr. Frankenstein?
FREDDY: Fronkensteen.
IGOR: You're putting me on.
FREDDY: No, it's pronounced Fronkensteen.
IGOR: Do you also say Froderick?
FREDDY: No, Frederick.
IGOR: Well, why isn't it Froderick Fronkensteen?
FREDDY: It isn't, it's Frederick Fronkensteen.
IGOR: I see.
FREDDY: You must be Igor.
IGOR: No, it's pronounced Ayegor. (Ironic.)
FREDDY: But they told me it was Igor.
IGOR: Well, they were wrong then, weren't they? My name is Ayegor and my grandfather used to work for your grandfather.
FREDDY: How nice. I'm sure we'll get along splendidly. (Freddy pats Igor's shoulder, hump, and it clangs like an empty can.) Oh, I uh, you know I don't mean to embarrass you, but I'm rather a brilliant surgeon. Perhaps I can help you with that hump.
IGOR: What hump?
FREDDY: (Transition.) Is this the house?
IGOR: Allow me, master. (Leans towards the baggage.)
FREDDY: Oh, thanks very much.
IGOR: (Weighs the large suitcase and takes the small bag.) Walk this way. (Shows the way.) This way.

(They run into Inga.)

IGOR: Oh, this is Inga. We thought you might need a laboratory assistant temporarily.
FREDDY: Oh.
INGA: (Coming out.) Oh, hello! (A wolf howls.) Werewolf.
FREDDY: Were?
IGOR: (Pointing out.) There.
FREDDY: (Hesitating.) Are we going in?
IGOR: We have to knock.

(Igor knocks, Fraü Blucher opens the door, with a candelabra in her hand.)

FRAÜ BLUCHER: I am Fraü Blucher.

FREDDY: Uh, how do you do? I am Dr. Fronkensteen. This is my assistant. Inga, may I present Fraü Blucher.

FRAÜ BLUCHER: Your rooms have been prepared, Herr Doktor. If you will follow me, please.

FREDDY: After you, Fraü Blucher.

FRAÜ BLUCHER: (Blows out the candles.) Follow me, please. Stay close to the candles, the staircase can be trecherous.

(Exit.)

SCENE III

NARRATOR: Doctor Frankenstein’s room.

(Fraü Blucher in the room with Frankenstein.)

FRAÜ BLUCHER: And this is your room. It was your grandfather Victor’s room.

FREDDY: Where is my grandfather's private library?

FRAÜ BLUCHER: Victor didn’t have a library, Dr. Frankenstein.

FREDDY: Fronkensteen. Well, we'll see. Good night.

FRAÜ BLUCHER: Would the doctor care for a brandy before retiring?

FREDDY: No, thank you.

FRAÜ BLUCHER: Some warm milk, perhaps?

FREDDY: No, thank you very much. No thanks.

FRAÜ BLUCHER: Hot chocolate?

FREDDY: (Losing patience.) Nothing, thank you. I'm a little tired.

FRAÜ BLUCHER: Then I will say g...

FREDDY: (Yelling, cutting her off.) Good night!

FRAÜ BLUCHER: Good night, Herr Doktor. (Exit.)

FREDDY: Good night, Fraü Blucher.
(Frankenstein goes to bed. He’s having a nightmare while he sleeps. Music from violins.)

FREDDY: No no no no no. I'm not a Frankenstein. I'm not a Frankenstein. I'm a Fronkensteen. Don't give me that. I don't believe in fate, and I won't sing it. Alright, you win, you win, I'll give in. I'll sing it, I'll sing it, I'll say it. (Sings.) Destiny, destiny, no escaping that's for me. Destiny, destiny, no escaping that's for-

(Enter Inga.)

INGA: Dr. Fronkensteen, wake up.

FREDDY: What is it?

INGA: You were having a nightmare.

FREDDY: What's that strange music?

INGA: I have no idea, but it seems to be coming from there. (Points out.)

FREDDY: There? You were right. It's coming from behind this wall. It seems louder over here. Hand me that candle, will you?

(Ingas passes on the candle, but doesn’t light it.)

FREDDY: (Looking at the candle.) Can you light it?

INGA: No. I haven’t found any matches in the house. (She pulls out a flashlight.) But I have a torch!

FREDDY: Good girl.

INGA: Oh look, Doctor, a passageway.

FREDDY: Whatever that music is, it's coming from down there. Let me take a look.

INGA: Oh, let me come with you, Doctor, please. I don't want to stay up here alone.

FREDDY: Alright then, follow me.

(They go into the passageway, sound of thunders, rats and Inga screams, off.)

INGA: (V.Off.) Oooooooooh.

FREDDY: (V.Off.) Don't be frightened, dear, just a rat. A filthy, slimy rat.

(A screeching door opens. Enter Frankenstein and Inga. They see bones and heads identified with tags.)
FREDDY: (Examining the first skull.) Dead three years.

INGA: Uh.

FREDDY: (Examining the second skull.) Dead two years.

INGA: Uh.

FREDDY: (Examining the third skull.) Dead six months.

INGA: Good lord.

(Igor’s head appears.)

FREDDY: (Examining Igor’s head.) Recently dead.

IGOR: (Screams.) Aaaaaaahhhhh.

FREDDY: Aaaaaaaaaaahhhhh.

INGA: Aaaaaaahhhhhhhhh.

IGOR: (Sings.) I, ain't got no body. And no body cares for me. Yakatata Katakata Ha.

FREDDY: Ayegor.

IGOR: Froderick.

FREDDY: How did you get here?

IGOR: Through the dumbwaiter. I heard the strangest music from the upstairs kitchen and just followed it down. Call it a hunch.

INGA: There must have been someone else down here.

FREDDY: It would seem that way. And there's the only other door. (They walk towards the door.)

IGOR: Wait master, it might be dangerous. You go first.

(They exit, sound of a door, they enter.)

INGA: (Looking around the place.) Oh.

FREDDY: So this is where it all happened.

VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN: (V.Off.) Just think, a dead brain ready to live again in a new body. Look, no blood, no decomposition, just a few sutures. Throw the main switch.

FREDDY: That’s my grandpa!

CLERVAL: (V.Off.) Yes, master.

IGOR: And mine!
FREDDY: What a filthy mess.
IGOR: I don't know, a little paint, a few flowers, couple of throw pillows-
FREDDY: Well, it seems as if our mysterious violinist has disap-
INGA: Disa what?
FREDDY: Shh. (Freddy approaches a violin.) Well, this explains the music.
IGOR: (Touching the violin.) It's still warm.
INGA: But who was playing it?
FREDDY: I don't know, but whoever it was barely finished putting out his cigar. Such strange goings on. What is this place?
IGOR: Music room.
INGA: But there's nothing but books and papers.
FREDDY: Books and papers? That's it! This was my grandfather's private library. I feel it. Look, look at this. (Reads the cover of a book.) How I Did It, by Victor Frankenstein. (Sound of thunders.)
FREDDY: (Reads:) Until, from the midst of this darkness, a sudden light broke in upon me, a light so brilliant and wondrous, and yet so simple. Change the poles from plus to minus and from minus to plus. I alone succeeded in discovering the secret of bestowing life. Nay, even more, I myself became capable of bestowing animation upon lifeless matter. (Screams.) Then, it could work!
INGA: Doctor, the sun is rising.
IGOR: We should have breakfast, don’t you think? I am starving.
FREDDY: Silence! We are witnessing an important finding.
IGOR: What finding?
INGA: The violin?
FREDDY: No!
IGOR: Cold, cold!
INGA: The book!
FREDDY: Yes!
IGOR: Hoooot!
FREDDY: (Reads:) As the minuteness of the parts formed a great hindrance to my speed, I resolved therefore to make the Creature of gigantic stature. (Stops reading:) Of course, that would simplify everything.
In other words, his veins, his feet, his hands, his organs, would all have to be increased in size.

Exactly.

Then we would have an enormous monster.

That goes without saying.

Ufff!

He's going to be very popular.

So then, what we're aiming for is a being approximately seven feet in height, with all features either congenitally or artificially proportionate in size. Crude yes, primitive yes, perhaps even grotesque. Yet something tells me that this might be our man.

Oh!

Beautiful? Bad taste you have.

But he is not very tall!

Don’t be so fussy, doctor! Death rate in this town is low, last death was seven months ago. We could wait, if you want.

No! This one will do, he’s not tall, but he’s big and beautiful.

Beautiful? Bad taste you have.

(Captivated.) This is my creature! (Transition.) But… why hasn’t he been buried?

Because it is too early, they don’t start working until nine. They might be having breakfast right now.
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FREDDY: Breakfast?
IGOR: Hah. Does it ring a bell? We haven’t had any yet.
FREDDY: C’mon, hurry up! We have to take him home.

(They cover the dead body with a blanket and exit the scene with the chair.)

FREDDY: (V. Off.) Careful, Ayegor! The blanket is falling off.
IGOR: (V. Off.) It’s as heavy as a monster.

(Enter dragging the chair, one of the dead body’s hand slips out of the blanket.)

FREDDY: (Trying to cover the hand.) Uh! Help me, Igor. Quickly!
IGOR: (Trying to move the hand.) I can’t do anything, Doctor, it is as stiff as a dead man’s hand.
FREDDY: What a filthy job.
IGOR: Could be worse.
FREDDY: How?
IGOR: Someone could come.

(Sound of steps approaching. Frankenstein sits in the lap of the dead body, pretending the uncovered hand is his own. Enter Inspector Kemp.)

KEMP: (Looking around.) What are you doing here?
FREDDY: Watching the stars. How nice and quiet is this town, isn’t it, Igor?
IGOR: Indeed, sir, it is a mysteriously quiet town.
KEMP: True, my job is exactly to keep it like this. (Transition.) Just a moment, sir. I know everyone in this neighborhood, but I've never seen your face before. Can you account for yourself?
FREDDY: (Cleaning under the fingernails of the dead hand as if it was his own.) Yes, I am Dr. Frederick Fronkensteen, newly arrived from America.
KEMP: Oh yes, I was told you were here. Well, I'm Inspector Kemp, sir. Pleased to meet you.
FREDDY: (Giving him the dead hand.) How very nice to meet you, Inspector.
KEMP: Why, you're chilled to the bone, sir. A nice warm fire and a hot chocolate may be the thing for you, don’t you think?
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IGOR: Chocolate! Wouldn’t it be nice?
FREDDY: Ha, ha, ha! (Rubbing ‘his hands’ together.) Yes, you’re right.
KEMP: Well, if you have everything in hand, sir, I'll say good night to you.
FREDDY: Thank you very much, Inspector.
KEMP: At your service, sir. Always. (Military salute.)
FREDDY: Good night, Inspector. (Imitates the salute with the dead hand.)
KEMP: Good night, sir. (Exit Kemp.)
FREDDY: (Taking a look below the blanket.) Oh, what an awesome sight. With such a specimen for a body, all we need now is an equally magnificent brain. You know what to do?
IGOR: I have a pretty good idea.
FREDDY: Good man. (Looking at Igor’s hump.) Didn't you- didn't you use to have that on the other side?
IGOR: What?
FREDDY: Your, uh, oh nevermind. You have the name I gave you.
IGOR: I have it written down. (Shows Freddy the palm of his hand and reads.) H. Delbruck
FREDDY: Hans Delbruck, scientist and saint. That will be the great brain for this great body!

(Exit.)

SCENE V

NARRATOR: Victor Frankenstein’s laboratory.

(Igor and Inga at Victor Frankenstein’s laboratory. The creature is tied up to a chair.)

INGA: (Looking at the creature.) He's hideous.
FREDDY: He's beautiful, and he's mine.
IGOR: Are you sure this is how they did it?
FREDDY: Yes, yes, it's all written down in the notes. Everything has gone perfectly. (Starts beating up the creature hysterically.) Wake up, wake up! (Listens to his chest.) Nothing!
INGA: Oh, Doctor. I'm sorry-
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FREDDY: (Interrupting her.) No, no. Be of good cheer. If science teaches us anything, it teaches us to accept our failures as well as our successes, with quiet dignity and grace. (Strokes the head of the creature gently and then loses his temper.), I'll get you for this. What did you do to me?


FREDDY: (Beating him up hysterically.) I don't want to live. I do not want to live.

IGOR: (Mumbles to his own.) Quiet dignity and grace.

FREDDY: My reputation. My reputation.

INGA: Oh, doctor, you mustn't do this to yourself. You've got to stop thinking about it. You should eat something you didn't touch your breakfast.

IGOR: Yes, you should eat some.

FREDDY: (Yelling.) I am not hungry! (Calmed) Oh, maybe it's better this way. That poor, lifeless hulk, maybe it is better off dead.

(The monster wakes up and starts growling.)

MONSTER: (Grunts.) Mmmmmm.

FREDDY: (To Igor.) What did you say?

IGOR: Nothing! I didn't make a sound.

INGA: Neither did I.

FREDDY: But… then… (Looks at the now awake monster.)

MONSTER: Mmmmmm.

FREDDY: Alive, it's alive. It's alive. (To Igor and Inga.) Step away. (To the monster.) Hello there, I'm going to set you free.

MONSTER: Mmmmmm.

FREDDY: (To Inga.) Is the sedative ready?

INGA: Yes, Doctor.

(Frankenstein starts to untie the creature.)

FREDDY: (To the monster.) I want you to sit up. Stand on your feet.

MONSTER: Mmm. Mmm.

FREDDY: (To the monster.) You can do it.
MONSTER: *(Stands on his feet with difficulty.)* Mmmmmm.

FREDDY: *(To the monster.)* Now, walk.

MONSTER: *(Takes some steps, holding Freddy’s arm.)* Mmmmmm

INGA: Oh, Doctor, I'm frightened.

FREDDY: *(Holding the monster.)* Don't worry, *(To the creature.)* good, good, good.

*(Igor lights up a torch aiming to the face of the monster, upsetting him.)*

MONSTER: Mmm.

FREDDY: What is it? What's the matter?

*(The monster starts choking him.)*

FREDDY: *(To Inga.)* Quick, give him the-. Quick, give him the-

INGA: *(Yelling.)* What?

IGOR: What? Give him the what?

*(Frankenstein points out the vein, indicating the sedative. Game of syllables.)*

IGOR: Three syllables. First syllable. Sounds like-

INGA: Head. Sounds like head. Bed? Uh, said?

*(Frankenstein tries to explain with gestures, while the monster is shaking him.)*

IGOR & INGA: Said.

IGOR: Said.

INGA: Said. Second syllable. Little word. This? That? The?

IGOR: A? Said a?

INGA: Said a?

IGOR: The third syllable? One, two, three.

IGOR & INGA: Sounds like-

*(Frankenstein points out, trying to speak.)*

INGA: To give? Give?

IGOR: Sedagive. Give him a sedagive.

INGA: Oh, tive. Tive. Sedative. *(She takes a syringe and gives the monster a shot.)*
FREDDY: (Recovering, he screams.) Sedative!

INGA: (Embracing the Doctor.) Frederick, are you alright?

FREDDY: Yes. Would you excuse me for one minute, dear?

INGA: Of course, Doctor.

FREDDY: Ayegor, may I speak to you for a moment?

IGOR: Of course.

FREDDY: Sit down, wont you?

IGOR: Why thank you (He sits in the floor.)

FREDDY: Oh no, up here, in the chair.

IGOR: Ah, thank you.

FREDDY: Now, that brain that you gave me, was it Hans Delbruck's?

IGOR: No.

FREDDY: Ah, good. Would you mind telling me whose brain I did put in?

IGOR: And you won’t be angry.

FREDDY: I promise I will not be an-gry.

IGOR: I had Hans Delbruck's brain in my hands, I held it very carefully, and when I was coming out of the lab to bring it…

FREDDY: What happened?

IGOR: It slipped from my hands and fell, breaking into pieces.

FREDDY: It broke into pieces…?

IGOR: Yes, doctor, it was not good anymore.

FREDDY: No, it wasn’t good to use anymore.

IGOR: Ah!

FREDDY: And… whose brain was this?

IGOR: Do you want a name?

FREDDY: Yes, the name…

IGOR: Abbey someone.

FREDDY: Abbey someone. Abbey who?

IGOR: Abbey normal.
FREDDY: Abbey normal.
IGOR: I'm almost sure that was the name.
FREDDY: He, he, he.
IGOR: He, he, he.
FREDDY: Are you saying that I put an abnormal brain into this enormous (Grabs Igor by his throat and starts choking him.) Is that what you're telling me?
IGOR: Quick, quick, give him the-.

(Igor points out his arm, someone knocks at the door.)
FREDDY: (Letting Igor free.) I wonder who that could be at this hour. Inga, quick, see who that is. (To Igor.) You, put that thing (Pointing to the monster.) back on the right place, and strap him down tightly. (Going out.)
IGOR: Where are you going?
FREDDY: To wash up. I've got to look normal. We've all of us got to act normally.

(Exit.)

SCENE VI

NARRATOR: The hall of Doctor Frankenstein’s house.

(Frankenstein in the hall of the house with Inspector Kemp. They play darts. Igor is holding the target.)
FREDDY: Ha! Monsters? (Hits the target.)
KEMP: Excellent shot.
FREDDY: This is the twentieth century, Kemp. Monsters are passé, like ghosts and goblins.
KEMP: Not to the good people of this village, Herr Doctor. To them he is the real thing, especially when there is a Frankenstein residing in this castle.

(Inspector Kemp picks up the darts, and when Frankenstein turns around, he places them all in the bull’s eye.)
FREDDY: Nice grouping.
KEMP: Thank you. Your turn.
FREDDY: (Picking up the darts.) I wouldn't think an intelligent fellow like you would fall for all this superstitious rot.
KEMP: It is not superstition that worries me, Herr Doctor, but genes and (Yells to make the doctor miss his shot.) chromosomes!
FREDDY: Rubbish. (Missing the shot.)
KEMP: Oh well you might say that, but this is (Yells.) Transylvania (the Doctor misses his shot again.) and you are a (Yells.) Frankenstein. (The doctor misses his shot again, there's a sound of broken glasses and he gives Kemp an upset look.) You, uh, seem unusually upset by this discussion.
FREDDY: Not in the least. (He throws the dart again.) I find it extremely amusing, that's all. (Misses again, more broken glasses, Inga screams.) Well, this was fun. And now, if you don't mind, Inspector, I'm a little bit tired.
KEMP: Fine. Then I may give the villagers your complete assurance that you have no interest whatsoever in carrying on your grandfather's work.
MONSTER: (V.Off.) Mmm.
KEMP: May I take that as a yes?
FREDDY: Mmm. (Imitating the monster.)
KEMP: Very well.
FREDDY: I think you can find the way out by yourself, can't you?
KEMP: Of course. Until we meet again, Baron.
FREDDY: Yes, drop by anytime. We're always open.
KEMP: Goodnight! (Exit.)
FREDDY: Hurry up, Ayegor! Quick! The creature has woken up.
IGOR: Immediately, sir.

SCENE VII

NARRATOR: Doctor Frankenstein’s lab.
(Enter Frankenstein, Igor and Inga. The monster is free, sound of violin.)
FREDDY: Igor, who did you leave the creature with?
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IGOR: With Fraü Blucher.

FREDDY: *(Yells)* Fraü Blucher!

INGA: She set him free!

FREDDY: It is she who’s playing!

IGOR: She told me she would take care of him.

*(The monster approaches Inga, intending to dance.)*

INGA: *(Terrified.)* Aaaahhhh!

*(The monster gets frightened and runs away.)*

MONSTER: Aaaahhh! *(Exit.)*

FRAÜ BLUCHER: *(V.O.*) You'll never catch him now. He's free. Do you hear me? Free.

*(Enter Frankenstein, Igor and Inga.)*

FREDDY: Gone, gone, we've got to find him, do you understand? We've got to find him before he kills someone. What have I done? Oh, God in heaven, what have I done?

*(Exit all.)*

SCENE VIII

NARRATOR: House in the outskirts of town.

*(Blind woman’s cottage. Music of violins comes from a radio.)*

HARRIET: *(Praying with a rosary in his hands.)* A visitor is all I ask for, a temporary companion just to help me pass a few short hours in my lonely life.

*(Sounds at the door. Enter the creature.)*

MONSTER: Mmm.

HARRIET: Thank you, Lord. Thank you. *(Turns the radio off. Comes closer to the monster and touches him.)*
MONSTER: Mmm.

HARRIET: Oh, no, don't speak. Don't speak. Don't say a word. My joy, my happiness, and my prize from heaven. You must have been the tallest one in your class. My name is Harriet and I live here all alone. What is your name?

MONSTER: Mmm.

HARRIET: Sorry, I didn't get that.

MONSTER: Mmm.

HARRIET: Oh forgive me. I didn't realize you were a mute. You see how heaven plans, me a poor woman, and you, you a mute. An incredibly big mute. (Takes the monster’s hand.) But your hand is frozen my poor child. You must be cold and hungry. How does a nice bowl of soup sound to you, huh?

MONSTER: Mmm.

HARRIET: Yes, well I know what it means to be cold and hungry, yes, and how much it means to have a little kindness from a stranger. Are you ready for your soup?

MONSTER: Mmm.

HARRIET: (Comes holding the hot pot.) Hold out your bowl now. Oh, my friend, my friend, you don't know what your visit means to me. How long I've waited for the pleasure of another human being. (He spills the soup out of the bowl, into the monster.) Sometimes in our preoccupation-

MONSTER: (Moans in pain.) Mmm.

HARRIET: -and our worldly matters, we tend to forget the simple pleasures- (Spills the soup into the monster’s lap again.)

MONSTER: (Moans.) Mmm.

HARRIET: -that are the basis of true happiness. Yes yes yes, oh, and now, a little wine with your soup?

MONSTER: (Moans.) Mmm.

HARRIET: (Takes the hand of the monster and pours some wine on his glass.) Good, good, good, good, yes. (Pours some wine on his own glass.) Wait, a toast. A toast to, yes, to a long friendship. (With the toast, he spills the content of the monster’s glass.) How hungry you must have been. And now, and now, and now for a little surprise. For a special occasion I've been saving, (Gets two cigars.) cigars. Take one. Go on.
MONSTER:  (Taking one.) Mmm.

HARRIET:  (When he approaches the candle, the monster gets upset.) What? No, no, no. Fire is good.

MONSTER:  (Taking one.) Mmm.

HARRIET:  Fire is good, yes. Fire is our friend, yes. Let me show you, let me show you. You see, you see, yeah. Do you have your cigar? Let me see, let me see. Alright. Now. (Tries to light the cigar.) Now, just hold it right there. Now, don't inhale until the tip glows. (Accidentally burns the monster’s finger. The monster screams and runs away.)

HARRIET:  Wait, wait. Where are you going? I was going to make espresso.

SCENE IX

NARRATOR:  In the streets of the town.

(Out in the streets, Freddy, Inga and Igor play the violin.)

MONSTER:  (Hypnotized by the music.) Aaahh.

FREDDY:  Now. Help me.

IGOR:  (Throwing a fishnet around him.) I got him!

MONSTER:  Ahh.

FREDDY:  Quick, the sedative. Now.

INGA:  (Coming closer with a syringe.) Where should I put it?

FREDDY:  Anywhere! Just do it!

INGA:  (Gives the monster a shot.) That’s it.

FREDDY:  (All of them fall to the ground.) He’s out.

IGOR:  I know. (Exhausted.) Me too.

FREDDY:  Let’s put him in the chair. Let’s go.

(They put the monster in the chair and exit.)

SCENE X

NARRATOR:  Doctor Frankenstein’s lab.

(Parallel scenes One, Frankenstein with Inga, two, the monster.)

FREDDY:  I'm going in there. Bring me that candle.
INGA: No!

IGOR: Yes! (Hands him the candle.)

FREDDY: Love is the only thing that could save this poor creature, and I'm going to convince him that he is loved. Even at the cost of my own life. No matter what you hear in there, no matter how cruelly I beg you, no matter how terribly I scream, do not open this door, or you will undo everything I've worked for. Do you understand? Do not open this door.

INGA: Yes, doctor.

IGOR: Nice working with you.

(Frankenstein crosses the threshold and Igor closes the door with the key.)

MONSTER: (Screams desperately when he sees the doctor.) Ahhhh! Mmm!

FREDDY: Ahhhh! (Blows off the candle and runs to reach the door.) Let me out, let me out of here, please. Get me the hell out of here. What's a matter with you people, I was joking. Don't you know a joke when you hear one, ha ha ha ha. (Bangs the door.) For goodness sake, Get me out of here.

INGA: (Tries to open.) Right now, sir.

IGOR: ( Stops Inga.) No.

FREDDY: Open this door, I'll kick your rotten heads in. Mommy. (To himself.) Now wat? (To the monster.) Hello handsome.

MONSTER: (The monster looks around, puzzled.) Hummm.

FREDDY: You're a good looking fellow, do you know that? People laugh at you. People hate you. But why do they hate you? Because they are jealous.

MONSTER: (The monster's content with the compliments.) Ahhh!

FREDDY: Look at that boyish face. Look at that sweet smile. What physical strength? What muscle? You are a god. And listen to me, you are not evil, you are good.

MONSTER: (The monster weeps.) Jum, ju, juuuu.

FREDDY: (Frankenstein hugs him.) Oh, this is a nice boy, this is a good boy. This is a mother's angel. And we love him. (Kisses him in the forehead.) Oh, I'm going to teach you, to walk, to speak, to move, to think. Together you and I are going to make the single greatest contribution to science since the creation of fire.
INGA: (Calling.) Dr. Frankenstein, are you all right?

FREDDY: (Proudly affected.) My name is Frankenstein!

SCENE XI

NARRATOR: Bucharest Science Academy. Only tonight, Dr. Frankenstein introduces the monster, in a new and fabulous reanimation experiment.

(In the theater, Frankenstein and the monster.)

FREDDY: My fellow Scientists and Neurosurgeons, Ladies and Gentlemen, a few short weeks ago, I began an experiment in, incredulous as it may sound, the reanimation of dead tissue. (Laughters, v.off.) What I have to offer you might be the gateway to immortality. (Laughters, v.off.) Ladies and Gentlemen, may I present for your intellectual and philosophical pleasure, the Creature. (The monster comes out. Gasp, v.off.) Please, remain in your seats, I beg you. We are not children here, we are scientists. I assure you there is nothing to fear. First, may I offer for your consideration, a neurological demonstration of the primary cerebellar functions, balance and coordination. (To the monster.) Walk heel-to-toe.

MONSTER: (The creature obeys. Applause.)

FREDDY: (To the monster.) Backwards.

MONSTER: (The creature obeys. Applause.)

FREDDY: Ladies and Gentlemen, from what was once an inarticulate mass of lifeless tissue, may I present a cultured, sophisticated, Man About Town.

(They both wear hats, take two canes, and start dancing and singing a choreography.)

"Puttin' on the Ritz"

FREDDY: If you're blue and you don't know
Where to go to, why don't you go
Where fashion sits?

MONSTER: Puttin' on the Ritz

FREDDY: Different types who wear a day coat
Pants with stripes or cutaway coat
Perfect fits

MONSTER: Puttin' on the Ritz
FRANKENSTEIN RETURNS

FREDDY: Dressed up like a million dollar trouper
Trying hard to look like Gary Cooper

MONSTER: Super-Dooper

FREDDY: Come lets mix where Rockefellers
Walk with sticks or umbrellas
In their mitts

MONSTER: Puttin' on the Ritz

(A light bulb explodes, the monsters gets frightened.)

MONSTER: (Screams.) Ahh.

FREDDY: (Tries to continue with the show.) Nothing, nothing I tell you.
Five, six, seven, eight. (Dancing alone.) For goodness’ sake
come on, are you trying to make me look like a fool? (The
audience boos.) I beg you, for safety's sake, don't humiliate him.

(The monster tries to escape, and Frankenstein grabs him by the arm.)

FREDDY: Come back. Do you understand me? I will not let you destroy my
work. As your creator I command you to come back.

MONSTER: (Pushing.) Aahh.

(The monster pushes Frankenstein to the floor, enter Inga and Igor to help him stand
up, the monster escapes through the audience, enter Inspector Kemp.)

KEMP: Catch him! Kill the monster! (To Frankenstein.) I warned you,
doctor, you’re in big trouble now.

(Exit all to catch the monster.)

SCENE XII

NARRATOR: Doctor Frankenstein’s lab.

(Enter Frankenstein, Igor and Inga.)

FREDDY: He’s escaped, he’s gone. Do you know what that means?

INGA: I have an idea!

IGOR: Let’s play the violin and he will come.

INGA: It was my idea.

FREDDY: (He starts to play the violin.) He will come. He will come.
INGA: Oh, look, he's coming back. Oh, look, that music, oh keep playing. It's the music. It's the music that's bringing him back. Come, come on. (To the monster.) Come, come on you can do it.

(When he arrives, the monster faints.)

FREDDY: Quick, catch him. Have all the preparations been made for the transference?

INGA: Yes, Doctor.

IGOR: Are you sure you want to go through with this?

FREDDY: It's the only thing that can save him now.

IGOR: You realize you're risking both your lives.

FREDDY: Yes.

IGOR: Let’s do it then. Inga, the sedatives!

(Inga injects the monster with a sedative.)

INGA: (While injecting the doctor with a sedative.) So long, doctor. I wanted to tell you that…

FREDDY: (Doped by the sedative.) What? Tell me… (He falls asleep.)

INGA: I love you! (Weeps.)

IGOR: Inga, quick, the helmets!

INGA: Just a second. Do you think he heard me?

IGOR: Of course he didn’t! Hurry up or it will be too late.

INGA: How, how will I know when they're done?

IGOR: The doctor said to allow fifteen minutes. Not one second more or less.

(There’s a hustle outside.)

KEMP: (V.Off.) One, two, three! (Thumping on the door.) One, two, three. (Thump.)

INGA: How long now?

IGOR: Two more minutes.

(Noise is coming closer.)

INGA: What's that noise?

IGOR: I don't know.
INGA:  What time is it?
IGOR:  Almost time.

(Enter Kemp.)

KEMP:  What is this? Stop right now.

INGA:  (Desperate.) No, no, please. Just another seven seconds. No, no, no.

KEMP:  (Taking the helmet off.) Frankenstein you’re under arrest.

(Frankenstein doesn’t react.)

MONSTER:  Don’t touch that man!
KEMP:  What? It's the monster!
IGOR:  Naw, it can't be.
MONSTER:  I said don’t touch that man. (Inga takes the helmet off the monster, he stands up.)

KEMP:  And just who do you think you are that you order me around?

MONSTER:  (Getting closer.) I am the monster.
KEMP:  Yeah, I see that you are the monster.
MONSTER:  For as long as I can remember, people have hated me. They looked at my face and my body, and they ran away in horror. In my loneliness I decided that if I couldn't inspire love, which was my deepest hope, I would instead cause fear.

KEMP:  Uuhhh!

MONSTER:  I live because this poor, half-crazed genius has given me life. He alone held an image of me as something beautiful. And then, when it would have been easy enough to stay out of danger, he used his own body as a guinea pig to give me a calmer brain and a slightly more sophisticated way of expressing myself.

KEMP:  Well, this is of course an entirely different situation. As the leader of this community, may I be the first to offer you my hand in friendship.

(Inga and Igor applaud.)

MONSTER:  Thank you.
KEMP:  You are entirely welcome. And now let us all go to my house for a little sponge cake and a little wine and-
MONSTER: Thank you, but I need some rest.
KEMP: Ah, sure! Goodnight, gentlemen! (To Inga.) Goodnight, Madame! (Exit.)
FREDDY: (Waking up.) Inga! My love! Inga!
INGA: Yes, sir! You’re alive, you’re alive!
FREDDY: Of course! Hurry up, before everybody arrives!
MONSTER: Everything is under control.
FREDDY: (Surprised.) Oh! My creature! What happened?
IGOR: Well... and... then! It is a long story, doctor, Inga will explain.
MONSTER: Yes, we better leave them alone. Let’s go, Igor!
IGOR: Yes sir. (To himself.) Lucky me, now they all give me orders!
MONSTER: (Exit.) Let’s go!
IGOR: I’m coming (Exit.)
INGA: Doctor!
FREDDY: ¡Yes, Inga!
INGA: Doctor!
FREDDY: Yes, Inga!
INGA: Doctor! ...
FREDDY: Yes, Inga!
INGA: Nothing!
FREDDY: Tell me, would you like to be Mrs. Frankenstein?
INGA: Mrs. Frankenstein! What a beautiful name!

(Traditional Wedding March. They start dancing.)

INGA: I was afraid.
FREDDY: Why, my love?
INGA: Something could’ve gone wrong. But fortunately the transference went alright.
FREDDY: (Grunting like the beast.) Mmm. Mmm.

END
COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Dr. Frankenstein pronounce his name Fronkensteen?

2. When Dr. Frankenstein was asked by his student to talk about his grandfather’s work, he was reluctant to do so. Why?

3. Why does Dr. Frankenstein travel to Transylvania?

4. When Dr. Frankenstein enters his grandfather’s private library he discovers a book. What information does he find in that book?

5. Why does Dr. Frankenstein decide to look for a large corpse to experiment on?

6. What adjective (or adjectives) would you use to describe Fraü Blucher?

7. What do you find unusual about Igor?

8. What went wrong with Dr. Frankenstein’s experiment?

9. Why does Inspector Kemp come to Dr. Frankenstein’s house?

10. Why does the creature run away three times during the play?

11. What makes him return to Dr. Frankenstein?
IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

Twelve idiomatic expressions found in the play are explained below. Write your own sentences in which the expressions are used correctly.

1. “To put someone on” (tomar el pelo a alguien) Example: “When I told you yesterday that I won the lottery, I was putting you on.”

2. “To get along” (llevarse bien) Example: “My son and your daughter always get along when they play together.”

3. “To take a look” (echar un vistazo) Example: “I would like to take a look at the letter before you send it.”

4. “To be starving” (estar muriendo de hambre) Example: “I haven’t eaten anything since early this morning, and I’m starving.”

5. “To go without saying” (sobrar decir) Example: “It goes without saying that I’ll pay you for the work you’ve done.”

6. “To be chilled to the bone” (estar congelado de frío) Example: “After walking 20 kilometers in the snow, we were chilled to the bone.”

7. “To have everything in hand” (tener todo bajo control) Example: “Don’t worry, I have everything in hand.”

8. “To set free” (poner en libertad) Example: “After feeding the baby bird for six weeks, we set him free.”

9. “To strap down” (sujetar con una correa) Example: “The scientists had to strap down the creature so that it wouldn’t do any more harm.”

10. “To drop by” (hacer una visita corta e informal) Example: “My brother dropped by this morning to pick up his package.”

11. “To screw up” [slang] (estropear, fastidiar) Example: “Peter screwed up his sister’s surprise party by bringing her to the house before the guests arrived.”

12. “Man-about-town” (hombre de mundo) Example: Being a man-about-town, he felt very comfortable talking with the rich upper class.
## VOCABULARY

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picky
raving lunatic
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(to) save
(to) scream
sedative
(to) show
skull
stiff
success
surgeon
toast
torch
treacheryous
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(to) warn
will
(to) witness
worm

pesadilla
chiflado, a
quisquilloso, a
loco de atar
darse cuenta
salvar, rescatar
gritar
sedante
enseñar, mostrar
calavera
rígidio, a
éxito
cirujano
brindis
linterna
peligroso, a
deshacer
advertir
testamento
ser testigo de
gusano