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Photo Credit: Ken Woroner / Netflix Guillermo del Toro's long-awaited adaptation of Frankenstein is shaping up to be one of Netflix's biggest movie releases of 2025. Slated to premiere in November 2025 with a TIFF premiere, the gothic retelling promises to be a deeply emotional and visually stunning take on Mary Shelley's classic 1818 horror novel. The project has been in del Toro's heart for decades. The director, known for his distinctive blend of dark fantasy and horror in works like Pan's Labyrinth and The Shape of Water, has described Frankenstein as a "Miltonian tragedy" and a story he's wanted to tell for 50 years. "I had an epiphany when I first saw Frankenstein. It's a movie that required growth and tools I didn't have 10 or 20 years ago. Now I'm brave—or crazy—enough to tackle it." Before we dive into the full preview, here's the first look teaser that was first released during TUDUM 2025. A Faithful but Unique Adaptation While there have been countless Frankenstein adaptations across film, TV, comics, and games, del Toro is promising something special—a faithful yet emotionally layered version of Shelley's story. The film stays rooted in the 19th-century setting, exploring Victor Frankenstein's obsession with the decay of life and his morally ambiguous experiments that lead to the creation of a reanimated creature. This version also introduces Dr. Pretorius, who must track down Frankenstein's monster—believed to have died decades earlier—to continue the late doctor's work. Del Toro emphasizes the human fragility and tragedy at the heart of the story. The gothic production design reflects his trademark style, with laboratory sets described as "the remnants of once-great structures—ruins more beautiful than the original buildings, a clash of creation and destruction." The Star-Studded Cast Pictures: Getty Images When we first unveiled the project, we stated that Oscar Isaac was eyed for one of the primary roles of the project. Isaac has been a titan of Hollywood in the last decade, appearing in titles like Dune and Star Wars. A follow-up Deadline article stated that Andrew Garfield (tick, tick... Boom!), The Amazing Spider-Man) and Mia Goth (Pearl, X) were in talks to star. Although Goth is still attached to the project, Garfield would later depart, with Jacob Elordi (The Kissing Booth, Euphoria) taking his place and playing the role of The Monster. In October 2023, at the aforementioned Pacific Rim 10th Anniversary IMAX 3D Event, Guillermo del Toro confirmed all three castings and revealed that Christoph Waltz would star. Waltz recently starred in GDT's Pinocchio, voicing Count Volpe. He'll play Dr. Pretorius in this adaptation. Further cast members for the movie now include: Charles Dance (Game of Thrones) David Bradley (Harry Potter, After Life) as Blind Man Lars Mikkelsen (Headhunter) as Captain Anderson Christian Convery (Sweet Tooth) Felix Kammerer (All Quiet on the Western Front) as William Nikolaj Lie Kaas (Department Q: The Keeper of Lost Causes) as Chief Officer Larsen Joachim Fjellstrup (Itsi Bitsi) as Dr. Udsen Lauren Collins (Degraassi: The Next Generation) Ralph Ineson (The Witch, The Office) is playing a "pivotal cameo" Some of the minor actors to feature include: Sofia Galasso Duff MacDonald In November 2024, Vanity Fair revealed the first still from the film, showing Victor Frankenstein in his decaying lab surrounded by human remains—a hauntingly beautiful tease of what's to come. Where is Frankenstein in production? DevelopmentFilming ScheduledFilming OngoingPost-Production Our intel suggested that the movie was originally due to get underway with filming in the Summer of 2023. Sadly, that could not get going because of SAG-AFTRA started their strikes in July 2023. Over that summer, we'd been scratching our heads with a consistently mentioned project called Prodigal Father. Thankfully, we connected that to this new Frankenstein. Whether it's the full title or just a working title is unclear. According to the DGC, "art and accounting" prep on the movie is due to begin in October 2023, again under the working title of Prodigal Father. Picture: Guillermo del Toro Recent updates on production sites like Ontario Creates currently list Prodigal Father to begin filming on February 21st, 2024, with it then scheduled to wrap on June 13th, 2024. According to the DGC, production was pushed back by a couple of weeks and instead began on March 3rd, 2024. Filming is still listed to conclude by June 13th, 2024. The movie is set to be filmed in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and will be partly filmed in London, England. Post-production (both picture and sound) will continue again, according to DGC, through March 2025. Throughout February 2024, in pre-production, Guillermo posted numerous times while in Canada, scouting for filming locations for the new movie. The boat you can see in that final picture is set to play a major role in the movie. On May 1st, Mayor Olivia Chow held a press conference outside the set of the movie, lauding the upcoming movie. Twitter user Andrew Thomas caught some great snaps of filming on the upcoming movie in April 2024: @andrewbent / X On June 24th, 2024, Guillermo del Toro (sporting an Ultraman: Rising T-shirt) provided an update on filming, saying: "LAST week of shoot in Toronto- the London and Scotland until October." A Theatrical Release Before Netflix In a rare but exciting move for Netflix, Frankenstein will also have a theatrical run before its streaming debut. Del Toro confirmed on BlueSky that the movie will hit the big screen, though Netflix hasn't detailed how wide the release will be. It may mirror previous limited theatrical releases like Pinocchio or The Killer, which aimed for awards eligibility. The first premiere for Frankenstein has been confirmed to be part of the Toronto International Film Festival, where it'll hold its North American Premiere. What to Expect At TUDUM 2025, Guillermo del Toro took the stage with Oscar Isaac and Mia Goth and shared a heartfelt reflection, saying, "This is the culmination of a journey that has occupied most of my life. I first read Mary Shelley's Frankenstein as a kid, and saw Boris Karloff in what became for me an almost religious state. Monsters have become my personal belief system. There are strands of Frankenstein throughout my films, Cronos, Blade, Hellboy, Pinocchio, and I've been actively pursuing this for 25 years. It has grown so close to me that now it's my biography." He explained the film is "a dark and sumptuous emotional drama, a character piece sprung from the pages of Mary Shelley's classic novel", focusing on the relationship between creator and creation, and father and son. Oscar Isaac added, "Playing Victor Frankenstein for this master of cinema has been the experience of a lifetime. The passion, love, and dedication we've all put into this movie is reflected in every frame." Fans of gothic horror can anticipate: A visually striking, gothic reimagining in line with del Toro's signature style A character-driven story exploring the tragic consequences of creation A faithful but emotionally richer adaptation of Shelley's original novel A haunting score, practical effects, and stunning production design that evoke the beauty of decay The film has already drawn stylistic comparisons to Bloodborne and Van Helsing, with fans praising the dark, ruinous aesthetic glimpsed in early images. Netflix confirmed that Frankenstein will premiere globally in November 2025. The movie has a runtime of 2 hours and 29 minutes. You can set a reminder on Netflix to be notified when it's released. Picture: Netflix Picture: Netflix Picture: Netflix Picture: Netflix What's Next for Guillermo del Toro on Netflix? Frankenstein isn't del Toro's only upcoming project with the streamer. He's also working on The Buried Giant, another stop-motion film, and developing a vampire-themed project titled Vampire Tapestry. Fans are also still waiting for news on whether Cabinet of Curiosities will return for a second season. Are you excited to see Guillermo del Toro's Frankenstein on Netflix? Will you catch it in theatres first? A brilliant but egotistical scientist brings a creature to life in a monstrous experiment that ultimately leads to the undoing of both the creator and his tragic creationA brilliant but egotistical scientist brings a creature to life in a monstrous experiment that ultimately leads to the undoing of both the creator and his tragic creationYou have no recently viewed pages The source text for multiple film, book, and stage adaptations, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein combines the bone-chilling imagery of the Gothic novel with the romantic era's exploration of the sublime in order to grapple with the question of what hides within human nature. Shelley began writing the novel in 1816 while summering in Geneva with Lord Byron and Percy Shelley. When bad weather drove the poets inside, Byron proposed a competition to write the best horror story. While Byron and Percy Shelley never completed the task, Mary Shelley created a monster that has thrilled, terrified, and shocked readers' imaginations for generations. In her novel, Doctor Victor Frankenstein becomes possessed by his project to reanimate dead flesh. He poaches mismatched body parts from different cadavers in order to stitch together a whole human man. The eight-foot-tall mass he creates is monstrous: his skin barely covers his muscles or bones, his lips are set black and straight, and his bright yellow eyes barely escape the shriveled skin around them. Horrified, Frankenstein abandons his grotesque creation. When the creature awakens into an unwelcoming world, he seeks both answers and revenge against his maker. In Shelley's own words, it is a story that will "make the reader dread to look round, curdle the blood, and quicken the beatings of the heart." Project Gutenberg 76,376 free eBooks 30 by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley "Frankenstein; Or, The Modern Prometheus" by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley is a novel written in the early 19th century. The story explores themes of ambition, the quest for knowledge, and the consequences of man's hubris through the experiences of Victor Frankenstein and the monstrous creation of his own making. The opening of the book introduces Robert Walton, an ambitious explorer on a quest to discover new lands and knowledge in the icy regions ... Read More of the Arctic. In his letters to his sister Margaret, he expresses both enthusiasm and the fear of isolation in his grand venture. As Walton's expedition progresses, he encounters a mysterious, emaciated stranger who has faced great suffering—furthering the intrigue of his narrative. This stranger ultimately reveals his tale of creation, loss, and the profound consequences of seeking knowledge that lies beyond human bounds. The narrative is set up in a manner that suggests a deep examination of the emotions and ethical dilemmas faced by those who dare to defy the natural order. (This is an automatically generated summary.) Show Less Short summary: Frankenstein is a classic in the Western horror genre of literature. The novel follows a young scientist who becomes obsessed with the idea of finding the secret to creating life. What he finds is that "playing God" is not all he thought it would be. He is overwhelmed by the consequences of meddling with nature and suffers greatly for the rest of his life after the creation of his monster. Common human flaws and downfalls such as grief, pride, unchecked thirst for knowledge, secrecy, and shame are explored as Victor Frankenstein must suffer the consequences of bringing unnatural life into the world. Once Frankenstein has created life, the livelihood of all he previously held dear is threatened and taken from him in a series of tragic events. Although he attempts to run away from his problems, they always catch up with him. Even when he decides to face things head-on, the consequences of what he has done are too much for any man to bear. Literary Elements of Frankenstein Author: Mary Shelley Type of Work: Novel Genres: Gothic; science fiction Published Date: 1818 Setting: Geneva; the Swiss Alps; England and Scotland; the frozen North; Ingolstadt. All during the eighteenth century. Main Characters: Victor Frankenstein, The Monster Protagonist: Victor Frankenstein Antagonist: The Monster Major Thematic Elements: The dangers of knowledge; nature and the power its beauty holds; literature and written word; monstrosity and abominations against nature; secrecy Motifs: Passive women; abortion Exposition: The narrator, Robert Walton, is captaining a ship bound for the North Pole that becomes trapped in ice. He writes to his sister in England about his encounter with Victor Frankenstein who had been traveling by dogsled across the ice. He is taken aboard the ship to recover from the effects of the bitter cold. Conflict: Victor Frankenstein's fixation with creating life. Plot: Told over a series of letters written by Robert Walton. Major Symbols: Fire; light Climax: Elizabeth's murder on the night of her wedding to Victor Frankenstein. Literary Significance of Frankenstein Mary Shelley's Frankenstein explores common themes of the time in which it was written. During the 19th century, the Western societies were making numerous bold scientific advances. Frankenstein is a response to unchecked scientific power and dubious ethics. Many religious individuals saw these scientific advances as a slight against God. This novel is a response to this particular social turmoil. Although certainly a member of the horror genre, Frankenstein can also be viewed in a Romantic lens as well. Romanticism was an artistic movement that highlighted the beauty of nature above all else. Certain themes in this novel enforce this idea—the concept that man cannot achieve anything better than nature itself has is critical to exploring Frankenstein. So not only does the novel provide an interesting commentary on a time in history, it also is an unusual and fascinating study of the Romantic movement in literature. Frankenstein Book Summary, Plot Outline Frankenstein plot summary: The narrator, Robert Walton, tells Victor Frankenstein's story in a series of letters back home to his sister in England. He is captaining a ship to the North Pole, but his ship becomes trapped by ice. Victor Frankenstein encounters the ship with traveling on a dog-pulled sled and is taken aboard to rest and recover from the cold. As Walton helps nurse Frankenstein back to health, he hears his incredible stories. Frankenstein begins his tales by recounting a happy childhood in Geneva. His was very close with his cousin, Elizabeth Lavenza and enjoyed her company. When he is older, he studies at the university in Ingolstadt to study chemistry. While in his studies, he becomes obsessed with a desire to uncover the secret to life. After researching this question for many years, he becomes convinced that he has discovered it. He spends many months creating a creature out of various body parts. On a stormy night alone in his apartment, he finally brings his creation to life. However, he is horrified at the sight of his creation once it becomes animated. He spends a fitful night tossing and turning while his new monster looms over him. Victor feels intense remorse and wanders out into the streets of town. There, he runs into his friend, Henry, who is also studying at the university. He brings Henry back to his apartment, but The Monster is not there. Victor becomes deathly ill and is sickened by what he has done. He makes plans to return home to his family in Geneva to recover and to put his deeds behind him. Just before he is about to leave, he gets a letter from his father informing him that his brother has been murdered. He rushes home immediately, consumed with grief. As he travels through the woods in which his brother was strangled to death on his way home, Victor sees his monstrous creation and becomes convinced that The Monster killed his brother. When Victor arrives home, he discovers that a kind girl who was taken in by the Frankenstein family has been accused of the murder. She maintains that she is innocent. Guilty and heartbroken, Victor becomes despondent and even more unwell. One day, Victor seeks solace in the mountains. As he crosses a glacier, he encounters The Monster. The Monster admits to the murder of Victor's brother but explains that he had meant to kill Victor. He thinks his creator cruel for giving him life and then abandoning and rejecting him. He begs Victor to create a companion for him so that he no longer has to struggle alone. Although Victor is horrified at the thought of creating another monster, he is eventually convinced to do so. Victor travels to England and brings his friend, Henry, along with him. They gather information for the purpose of creating a female monster—a mate for the original monster. Victor separates with Henry and Scotland and sets to work on his second creation on an island in the Orkneys. As he works one night, he sees his original monster looking inside at what he is doing. He has a frightening grin on his face. Overcome with disgust at what he is doing, Victor destroys his second creation. The Monster is enraged and swears that he will get revenge on Victor. Victor gathers up the body parts he was working with and takes a boat out on the lake to dump them. While out on the water, a storm kicks up and Victor cannot return to the island where he was doing his work. He washes ashore in a nearby town and is arrested and accused of murder. When they reveal the body to him, he sees that it is Henry, who has been strangled by The Monster. Victor is sent to prison and becomes feverishly ill. Eventually, Victor returns to Geneva with his father. Shortly after, he becomes engaged to his childhood companion, Elizabeth. On the night of their wedding, Victor sends her away out of fear that The Monster will show up to kill him. However, it turns out that The Monster always intended to kill his bride. When Elizabeth is murdered by The Monster, Victor returns home to his father who dies of grief after a brief time passes. Victor promises that the rest of his life will be dedicated to finding The Monster and getting revenge. Victor tracks The Monster north but loses the trail. This is when Walton finds him. Walton closes out with some final letters to his sister. Victor died on his ship shortly after telling his story. He had been ill for some time and the cold exacerbated his health problems. Walton visits the room in which Victor's body is kept one day and is shocked to find The Monster weeping over his creator's body. The Monster tells Walton that he has suffered greatly because of his solitude, hatred, and shame. He then leaves for the most remote and icy location of the north to die alone and leave behind his suffering. Robert Walton, the captain of a ship bound for the North Pole, writes a letter to his sister, Margaret Saville, in which he says that his crew members recently discovered a man adrift at sea. The man, Victor Frankenstein, offered to tell Walton his story. Frankenstein has a perfect childhood in Switzerland, with a loving family that even adopted orphans in need, including the beautiful Elizabeth, who soon becomes Victor's closest friend, confidante, and love. Victor also has a caring and wonderful best friend, Henry Clerval. Just before Victor turns seventeen and goes to study at the University at Ingolstadt, his mother dies of scarlet fever. At Ingolstadt, Victor dives into "natural philosophy" with a passion, studying the secrets of life with such zeal that he even loses touch with his family. He soon rises to the top of his field, and suddenly, one night, discovers the secret of life. With visions of creating a new and noble race, Victor puts his knowledge to work. But when he animates his first creature, its appearance is so horrifying he abandons it. Victor hopes the monster has disappeared for ever, but some months later he receives word that his youngest brother, William, has been murdered. Though Victor sees the monster lingering at the site of the murder and is sure it did the deed, he fears no one will believe him and keeps silent. Justine Moritz, another adoptee in his family, has been falsely accused based of the crime. She is convicted and executed. Victor is consumed by guilt. To escape its tragedy, the Frankensteins go on vacation. Victor often hikes in the mountains, hoping to alleviate his suffering with the beauty of nature. One day the monster appears, and despite Victor's curses begs him incredibly eloquently to listen to its story. The monster describes his wretched life, full of suffering and rejection solely because of his horrifying appearance. (The monster also explains how he learned to read and speak so well.) The monster blames his rage on humanity's inability to perceive his inner goodness and his resulting total isolation. It demands that Victor, its creator who brought it into this wretched life, create a female monster to give it the love that no human ever will. Victor refuses at first, but then agrees. Back in Geneva, Victor's father expresses his wish that Victor marry Elizabeth. Victor says he first must travel to England. On the way to England, Victor meets up with Clerval. Soon, though, Victor leaves Clerval at the house of a friend in Scotland and moves to a remote island to make his second, female, monster. But one night Victor begins to worry that the female monster might turn out more destructive than the first. At the same moment, Victor sees the first monster watching him work through a window. The horrifying sight pushes Victor to destroy the female monster. The monster vows revenge, warning Victor that it will "be with him on [his] wedding night." Victor takes the remains of the female monster and dumps them in the ocean. But when he returns to shore, he is accused of a murder that was committed that same night. When Victor discovers that the victim is Clerval, he collapses and remains delusional for two months. When he wakes his father has arrived, and he is cleared of the criminal charges against him. Victor returns with his father to Geneva, and marries Elizabeth. But on his wedding night, the monster instead kills Elizabeth. Victor's father dies of grief soon thereafter. Now, all alone in the world, Victor dedicates himself solely to seeking revenge against the monster. He tracks the monster to the Arctic, but becomes trapped on breaking ice and is rescued by Walton's crew. Walton writes another series of letters to his sister. He tells her about his failure to reach the North Pole and to restore Victor, who died soon after his rescue. Walton's final letter describes his discovery of the monster grieving over Victor's corpse. He accuses the monster of having no remorse, but the monster says it has suffered more than anyone. With Victor dead, the monster has its revenge and plans to end its own life.

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