

# PERSPECTIVES

## AND ENTERTAINMENT

### *Movies and videos, scary and scarier*

*Frankenstein: The True Story*

By RON WOLF  
Staff Writer

Not a movie for viewers who have a thirst for blood and gore, this is the first attempt in movie history to breathe truth into the Frankenstein tale, or be as true to the original Mary Shelley story.

This interpretation of Frankenstein, written when Shelley was 19, loses a lot of its flavor in the editor's cut from television movie to video.

Made in 1973 for television, directed by Jack Smight, the original was 240 minutes long, but was reduced to a measly 120 minutes for video. Sadly, a superb introduction by actor James Mason was lost in the process.

Movie stars Michael Sarrazin, Leonard Whiting (Romeo and Juliet), augment a cast of television stars including Jane Seymour (Dr. Quinn), Agnes Moorehead (Bewitched), Sir John Gielgud, Sir Ralph Richardson, David McCallum (Man from U.N.C.L.E.) and Tom Baker (Dr. Who).

**Frankenstein: The True Story** has its moments, such as solar power as the main power source which breathes life into the creature. Solar power may be old by our modern-day standards but, back in 1973, it was brand new.

Unfortunately, viewers may not appreciate the scenes because of the bad editing cuts.

Romantic and colorful, the video makes viewers feel sorry for the creature, like any great Frankenstein film should.

Actors give it their all in the film and viewers can clearly see they enjoyed working together on the project. Unfortunately, the movie was shown early mornings and many viewers never saw it.

Cut in a hurry to meet the demands of Frankenstein enthusiasts, full appreciation of *Frankenstein: The True Story*, would be better achieved by watching your television guide and taping all four hours.

ARTS