

= Frankenstein , MD =

Frankenstein , MD is a 2014 American Gothic horror comedy webseries with transmedia elements . Produced in partnership between Pemberley Digital and PBS Digital Studios , the show is a modern adaptation of Frankenstein by Mary Shelley , replacing the eponymous character with Victoria Frankenstein , a medical student near graduation . The show , which represents PBS Digital 's first foray into scripted content , was created by Bernie Su , Brett Register , and Lon Harris and premiered on YouTube on August 19 , 2014 . It has been generally well received by critics . Its season finale debuted on October 31 , 2014 .

= = Synopsis = =

Frankenstein , MD is presented as an educational webseries presented by medical students ( and later doctors ) Victoria Frankenstein and Iggy DeLacey from the fictional Engle State University . Each episode generally consists of Frankenstein experimenting with cutting @-@ edge medical technologies or theories , often using DeLacey or her childhood friends Eli Lavenza and Rory Clerval as subjects . Dr. Abraham Waldman serves as an adviser to Frankenstein , usually acting as a foil and reminding her of the impracticality or perceived impossibility of her experiments and theories .

Partway through the series , the show 's unseen camera operator and editor , Robert Walton , dies from a fall while adventuring in Alaska , where his body is left partially preserved in the snow . Frankenstein becomes distraught and attempts to revive Walton 's corpse with DeLacey 's help in secret using the medical technologies she had expounded upon earlier in the show . The attempt is successful , but the revived creature is startled by light and escapes the lab , running into the woods . Later , as Frankenstein and Lavenza are trying to locate the creature from her father 's basement , Clerval is killed mysteriously while camping . The creature confronts Frankenstein and asks her to make him a friend . She grows morally opposed to the idea of recreating her experiment and agrees to run off to Costa Rica with Lavenza after he confesses his love to her . The creature returns to her makeshift lab and kills Lavenza in anger after he tries to stop it from hurting Frankenstein .

= = Production = =

Frankenstein , MD was announced in May 2014 , in a partnership between PBS Digital Studios , the online arm of the American Public Broadcasting Service ( PBS ) , and Pemberley Digital whose previous webseries included The Lizzie Bennet Diaries ( an adaptation of Jane Austen 's Pride and Prejudice ) and Emma Approved ( based on Austen 's Emma ) . The show is a transmedia adaptation of Frankenstein ; or , The Modern Prometheus by Mary Shelley that reimagines the story 's male protagonist Victor Frankenstein as a female student of medicine named Victoria Frankenstein . The show is PBS Digital 's first scripted program , though it also includes educational elements .

According to its writers , Frankenstein , MD 's narrative fills a two @-@ year gap left by Shelley 's source text between Victor Frankenstein 's time at medical school and his reappearance as a mad scientist . The original Frankenstein is driven to insanity by his ostracization and Frankenstein , MD attempted to recontextualize this concept by gender @-@ swapping its lead . Victoria Frankenstein is a medical student and later doctor grappling with institutional sexism in what the creators called the " sort of a male @-@ dominated profession " of medicine .

The show is produced by Bernie Su who was previously responsible for Pemberley Digital 's other webseries . Filmed at YouTube 's Space LA production studio , it premiered on the site on August 19 , 2014 . Prior to the show 's premiere , accounts on social media for various characters in the show were created , allowing viewers to interact with Frankenstein 's protagonists . Joe Hanson , host of PBS Digital 's It 's Okay To Be Smart , acts as the show 's science consultant . In early episodes of the show , Frankenstein neglected to wear gloves during her experiments which Su claimed was because , " real science and real @-@ life procedures aren 't sexy for entertainment " .

During its run , fans noticed this and called the show out for the error ; in later episodes she is depicted with gloves on for all of her scientific work . The first season of the show concluded after 24 five- to eight @-@ minute episodes on October 31 , 2014 .

Episodes of *Frankenstein , MD* are directed by Brett Register , executive produced by Su , and produced by Tracy Bitterolf with consulting producer by Frederick Kim . Register and Lon Harris serve as showrunners with the latter also working as head writer . Other writers include Kim , Danielle Evenson , and Taylor Brogan . The series 's cinematographer is Matt Ryan .

= = Cast and characters = =

Victoria Frankenstein ( Anna Lore ) ? Analogous to Victor Frankenstein , she is a medical student described by The New York Observer as " smart , strong willed and filled with both an insatiable desire to learn about science and an unwavering belief in the field itself . " According to Register , Frankenstein 's character was not fully understood by the creators of the show until after Lore was cast on July 23 , 2014 . She helped them view the role as " this very confident but almost introverted character " .

Ludwig " Iggy " DeLacey ( Steve Zaragoza ) ? Analogous to Igor , he is Frankenstein 's fellow student and co @-@ host of her show . Zaragoza mailed an audition tape to the show 's producers before in @-@ person auditions began which " set the bar for the character of Iggy " according to Register .

Dr. Abraham Waldman ( Kevin Rock ) ? Analogous to M. Waldman , he serves as a mentor to Frankenstein .

Eli Lavenza ( Brendan Bradley ) ? Analogous to Elizabeth Lavenza , he is one of Frankenstein 's close friends .

Rory Clerval ( Sara Fletcher ) ? Analogous to Henry Clerval , she is another of Frankenstein 's close friends .

Robert Walton / The Creature ( Evan Strand ) ? A combination of both Robert Walton and Frankenstein 's monster from the novel , Walton is the camera operator for Frankenstein 's vlog . He dies and is reanimated by her experiments . Lon Harris , a producer and writer of the series , chose Strand to perform The Creature because Strand 's performance was very different from Boris Karloff 's , and Tracy Bitterolf , a producer , praised Strand 's control of his body . Strand described his performance as being inspired by a five year old child , a silverback gorilla , and a rhinoceros .

= = Episodes = =

= = Reception = =

Reviewing the first three episodes of the show for The A.V. Club , Myles McNutt felt that the fact that the show was a coproduction of PBS and Pemberley Digital was " the most exciting part " but that it was also the element " that takes the most time to negotiate in the series ? first three episodes , as the writers and the audience alike adjust to the distinct goals of the science fiction vlog webseries . " McNutt declared the first three episodes " a solid start " and rated them B + , B , and A- , respectively . Nicole Vranjican wrote in The New York Observer that the show " has a definite juvenile feel and is likely best suited for scientifically curious Jr . High students " and that its message " that being smart is cool ... sets a standard for television that more TV shows should get behind " . After viewing the first six episodes , Atiya Abbas noted in Vox Magazine that " [ t ] he series is light @-@ hearted compared to the dark subject of the novel " . On Hypable , Marama Whyte called the show " highly comedic " and noted its high production value and Anna Lore 's " standout performance " as positive aspects .