



The Laughing Dead: The Horror-Comedy Film from Bride of Frankenstein to Zombieland

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Hybrid films that straddle more than one genre are not unusual. But when seemingly incongruous genres are mashed together, such as horror and comedy, filmmakers often have to tread carefully to produce a cohesive, satisfying work. Though they date as far back as James Whale's *Bride of Frankenstein* (1935), horror-comedies have only recently become popular attractions for movie goers.

In *The Laughing Dead: The Horror-Comedy Film from* Bride of Frankenstein *to* Zombieland, editors Cynthia J. Miller and A. Bowdoin Van Riper have compiled essays on the comic undead that look at the subgenre from a variety of perspectives. Spanning virtually the entire sound era, this collection considers everything from classics like *The Canterville Ghost* to modern cult favorites like *Shaun of the Dead*. Other films discussed include *Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein*, *Beetlejuice*, *Ghostbusters*, *House on Haunted Hill*, *ParaNorman*, *Scream*, *Vampire's Kiss*, and *Zombieland*.

Contributors in this volume consider a wide array of comedic monster films—from heartwarming (*The Book of Life*) to pitch dark (*The Fearless Vampire Killers*) and even grotesque (*Frankenhooker*). *The Laughing Dead* will be of interest to scholars and fans of both horror and comedy films, as well as those interested in film history and, of course, the proliferation of the undead in popular culture.



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