

Comic-Con: A glimpse of "FRANKENSTEIN'S ARMY"

Written by Samuel Zimmerman
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It was the coolest thing Fango saw at San Diego Comic-Con this weekend, and we can only kind of show you.

Born out of a promise of Nazi monsters in the brief, but striking teaser, WORST CASE SCENARIO, it's been years since genre fans across the globe have started dying to see Dutch filmmaker Richard Raaphorst's vision come to life.

Last year, Dark Sky Films stepped in, and FRANKENSTEIN'S ARMY is now marching our way. Hitting San Diego with Rogier Samuels, of Unreal FX, the film's visual FX supervisor unleashed a host of wondrous images on me. Each was sternly followed with a warning of "for your eyes only," and now it feels like a secret I just don't want to keep.

FRANKENSTEIN'S ARMY takes place toward the end of WWII, as Russian soldiers push into eastern Germany and stumble across a secret Nazi lab, one that has unearthed and begun experimenting with the journal of one Dr. Viktor Frankenstein. The scientists have used the legendary Frankenstein's work to assemble an army of super-soldiers stitched together from the body parts of their fallen comrades—a desperate Hitler's last ghastly ploy to escape defeat.

What's amazing about what I saw, or at least what I'm so thankful for, is the lack of Nazi zombies. A tired idea that simply never lives up to our own nightmares, Raaphorst and Samuels have created *creatures*. I saw monsters that feel legendary, crafted practically with stitches and machinery and a complete disregard for human life. They're both undeniably rad, and totally nightmarish. There's a "mosquito" armed with enormous drills, a soldier with an airplane's propeller for its head, and something just called Tankbot. Of course, there was massacre-level body parts, head explosions and blood geysers to boot.

Luckily, the one-off action figure of Crypt Monster that Samuels brought stateside, I *can* show off. And perhaps even more fortunately, the back of its casing provides a glimpse of some of the aforementioned monsters at hand. Whet your appetites for what looks to be a proper monster movie ("Richard wants to do everything practical," Samuels said), and join me in hoping we get a teaser soon.

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