

Oscar Isaac & Jacob Elordi Shine at Venice Film Fest

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On **August 30, 2025**, Guillermo del Toro's long-anticipated gothic adaptation of *Frankenstein* made its striking debut at the 82nd Venice International Film Festival. Audiences greeted the Netflix-backed drama with a **roaring 13-minute standing ovation**—one of the longest receptions of the festival year, signaling undeniable acclaim and positioning the film at the center of the awards-season conversation.

Crafting a Lifelong Vision

For del Toro, this film is a deeply personal epic—**“the movie that I’ve been in training for 30 years to do,”** he shared during the premiere. The filmmaker, now experiencing what he described as a “postpartum depression” of sorts, delivered what he hopes is more than just horror—it’s a lavish, emotional gothic feast rendered with heartfelt precision.

A Cast Composed of Talent and Emotion

The film reunites a stellar cast fronted by **Oscar Isaac** as Victor Frankenstein and **Jacob Elordi** as the Creature. Isaac described del Toro's direction as setting a tone of trust from the start: **“I’m creating this banquet for you, you just have to show up and eat.”** Isaac reflected that the story speaks powerfully to themes of outsider identity—which resonate deeply.

Elordi, who stepped into the role after Andrew Garfield's departure, delivered a performance so immersive that he said the Creature felt like **“the purest form of myself, he’s more me than I am.”** His transformation required up to **10 hours of makeup daily**, yielding a creature both painfully expressive and hauntingly vulnerable.

The emotional weight of the moment moved the cast visibly—Elordi broke down in tears as the applause persisted, embracing del Toro and receiving a heartfelt kiss on the cheek from Isaac amid the crowd's cheers.

A Visual Ode to Humanity, Not Just Horror

Rather than relying on shock value, del Toro reimagines Frankenstein's Creature not as a monster born of terror, but as **“a sad, sensitive creature craving affection and knowledge,”** rejected by a world unable to see beyond his appearance. Del Toro rejected traditional horror tropes, emphasizing **“beauty”** in the Creature's design with minimal CGI and rich, tangible sets—believing that real environments provoke more authentic reactions from actors.

His version of the story explores the moral complexity of creation, ambition, and empathy. The film splits narrative focus between Frankenstein and the Creature—offering a rare dual perspective that invites viewers to reconsider who the real “monster” is.

Critical Reception: From Enthralled to Divided. Early reviews are highly polarized. Some critics praised *Frankenstein* for its emotional depth, striking visual design, and Elordi's standout performance—predicting it could become one of the

defining films of 2025.

What Comes Next

Following its Venice premiere, *Frankenstein* is set for a **limited theatrical release on October 17**, with a global Netflix streaming debut on **November 7**, priming its entrance into both audience and awards circuits

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