

“The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari” (1919): Decla film-Gesellschaft/Berlin, Germany. Directed by Robert Weine, story/screenplay by Carl Meyer and Hans Janowitz, design by Hermann Warm, Walter Reimann, and Walter Rohrig. Starring Werner Krauss and Conrad Veidt. The most cherished film of German Expressionism, “The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari” amazes both with the psychological ramifications of the story and with its grotesquely beautiful visuals. As a horror film it stands side by side with Dryer’s “Vampyr” and Murnau’s “Nosferatu” as the most astounding examples of the genre. Its roots lie in the aftermath of WWI and the tormented world of the German National consciousness at the time. The film conveys through its story and aesthetics a world of chaos and disorder where the individual existence is overshadowed by fear of its own past experience and the hostile powers embodied within the establishment.

Caligari’s story tells of a series of murders committed in a small German town, coinciding with the arrival of Dr. Caligari at the local fair. Caligari’s Cabinet contains the sonambulist Cesare, who can apparently predict the future. Two friends, Alan and Francis, and their mutual beloved Jane visit the fair, and Alan and Francis predict his future. He is told he will die that night. Sure enough, during the night he is murdered. Suspicion naturally falls on Caligari and his sleep-walking henchman...and in order to keep the element of suspense, you’ll have to attend the showing and see the dramatic conclusion to the “Cabinet of Dr. Caligari”.

The Devil Music Ensemble, formed in Boston in 1999, is comprised of Brendon Wood on guitars, lap steel, and synthesizer; Jonah Rapino on electric violin, vibraphone, and synthesizer; and Tim Nylander on drums, and percussion. In its short history the DME has been a rock trio, an European folk band, a 40 piece modern orchestral ensemble, a house band for live theater, a country music review, and a multi-member ensemble performing live soundtracks for silent films.

“Devil Music Ensemble has established itself as one of the primary American groups composing and performing scores for silent films, and can be spoken of in the same breath as groups like The Alloy Orchestra and the Tin Hat Trio.”

Dylan Skolnick Director of Programming Cinema Arts Centre, Huntington NY

With remarkably flexible compositions that land somewhere between Glenn Branca and Can “with contrails of Sister Ray, Goran Bregovic, and Maurice Ravel streaming behind” (Village Voice), Devil Music has taken their new score to “The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari” to movie theaters, museums, and college campuses all over the country. The DME has enjoyed playing for audiences spanning from teenagers to the silver foxes all in one venue; and looks forward to seeing you at the movies. For more information go to www.devilmusic.org.