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Duck Soup Cinema silent film series kicks off with ‘The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari’

Madison, Wis. (Sept. 19, 2024) — It’s spooky season, and what better way to celebrate than with “[The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari](#)”? The first show in the 2024/25 [Duck Soup Cinema](#) series, “The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari” uses striking visuals to reflect a distorted mind, creating an unsettling atmosphere of reality—just in time for Halloween. Choose between the 2 p.m. or 7 p.m. showing on **Saturday, Oct. 5** in Capitol Theater.

This film invites you into a creepy little German town where a string of murders has everyone on edge. Enter the mysterious Dr. Caligari and his hypnotic carnival act. Is he behind these grisly crimes? The film’s twisted visuals match its psychological drama, making it a standout in the world of German

Expressionist cinema. Roger Ebert called it "the first true horror film," and it's easy to see why. The eerie style influenced everything from art cinema to American film noir. You're in for a night of chills, thrills and, of course, incredible live music from organist Clark Wilson.

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari

- Directed by Robert Weine, Germany, 1920
- Film length: 75 minutes
- Print provided by Kino Lorber
- Organist: Clark Wilson
- Emcee: Joe Thompson
- Vaudeville: Wayne the Wizard
- Lobby Act: Doc the Rube

Nationally known for providing an authentic silent film experience, [Duck Soup Cinema](#) includes local vaudeville entertainment with an emcee, door prizes and a classic feature film. A skilled organist masterfully plays live organ accompaniment on Overture's original Grand Barton Organ, mirroring the actors' emotions, just as it was done in 1928. Duck Soup Cinema is curated by James Kreul.

Tickets (\$12 for adults, \$4 for ages 12 and under) are available at [overture.org](#). Join the [Duck Soup Cinema Club](#) by purchasing a package (\$30), which includes tickets to all three Duck Soup Cinema shows, priority seating and email newsletters with fun facts about each title.

COMING UP NEXT IN DUCK SOUP CINEMA:

Yes or No - Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025

"Yes or No" delves into the complexities of truth and deception, challenging viewers to consider the ambiguity of what they see.

The Dragon Painter - Saturday, May 3, 2025

"The Dragon Painter" tells the story of an artist whose passion blurs reality and imagination, demonstrating the power of creativity.

NOTE: As these films were released nearly a century ago, some films may depict theatric and social conventions of the time related to race, gender, socio-economic status and identity which are unacceptable. In response, we will be exploring and unpacking some of this material throughout the season and providing pre- and post-show resources.

OVERTURE CENTER FOR THE ARTS in Madison, Wis., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization that features seven state-of-the-art performance spaces and four galleries where national and international touring artists, nine resident companies and hundreds of local artists engage people in more than 500,000 educational and artistic experiences each year. Overture's mission is to support and elevate our community's creative culture, economy and quality of life through the arts. [overture.org](#)

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