

UNC Charlotte Department of Theatre Presents

The **Caligari** Project

A new twist on the classic horror film,
created and directed by Tom Burch

Nov. 2-5

Black Box Theater, Robinson Hall



COLLEGE OF ARTS +
ARCHITECTURE

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE
COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE

The Department of Theatre presents

The Caligari Project

by Tom Burch

Adapted from *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*

DIRECTOR

Tom Burch

COSTUME DESIGN

Adrian Ewens

DRAMATURG

Rayden Leeder

SCENIC & PUPPETRY DESIGN

Tom Burch

LIGHTING DESIGN

Bruce Auerbach

SOUND DESIGN

Benjamin G. Stickels

STAGE MANAGER

Emmanuel Powell

Black Box Theater
Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts
Thu Nov 2- Sat Nov 4, 2023 | 7:30 pm
Sat Nov 4 & Sun Nov 5, 2023 | 2 pm
coaa.charlotte.edu

The Caligari Project

by Tom Burch

PUPPETEERS

Thea Bowers

Amy Chen

Mariah Latorre

Braden Kneeshaw

Maxwell Martin

Diego Milner

Irene Nash

Emily Parker

Jacob Scannell

Helen Tran

Kiana Vazquetelles

Ananda Zabala

VOICE ACTORS

Justin Dominguez-Zamarripa

Marina Faillace

Connor May

Holly Shuford

This project was adapted from the silent film, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, (1920) written by Carl Meyer and Hans Janowitz, and directed by Robert Weine.

Some of the music used in this production is allowed under a Creative Commons license. For more information on these compositions, and the license, please visit <https://sites.google.com/uncc.edu/caligarimusic>

Director's Note

In 1920, Carl Meyer and Hans Janowitz wrote a story about the question of power – how it can be abused with seemingly good intentions, and the responsibility of a society that puts such people in places of power. Knowing what was to come in their homeland, Germany, in the next decade, makes their work even more eerily prescient. They framed their story with the burgeoning ideas of psychology – Freud's seminal work, *A General Introduction to Psychoanalysis*, was published just three years before and was the talk of the European intelligentsia, particularly his use of hypnotism as a method of exploring the human mind. They lined their story with questions of madness, societal mayhem, and a sleepwalker-turned-murderer by a mad scientist.

Thus, the silent film, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, came into being. According to most film historians, it's now considered the first horror movie. By contemporary standards, the story may seem very mild... quaint, even. And yet, this work set a standard that permeated this new medium of film. *Time Magazine* recently named it as one of the most influential movies of the past century, and rightfully so...the extreme visual design of the costumes, make-up and sets are considered landmarks of German Expressionism, the camera angles used to heighten the sense of dread were developed further in movies such as *Nosferatu* (1922), *Frankenstein* and *Dracula* (both 1931), and have been quoted as inspiration by contemporary directors such as George Romero, Tim Burton, and Guillermo del Toro. The trope of a "monster" carrying the prone body of a damsel-in-distress over the rooftops didn't start with *King Kong* (1933), but with *Caligari*. The tell-tale shuffle of a zombie didn't originate with *The Night of the Living Dead* (1968), but with *Caligari*, and the list goes on.

Why puppets? Why not? The melodrama of silent film acting lends itself to a degree of ridicule (again, by modern standards), as well as the ability to create caricature over character. The ability to lean into German Expressionism as a visual and societal shift and to use those ideas to create the characters AS WELL AS the space, was too fun of an opportunity for the Theatre Department to pass up.

This is an off-the-wall kinda project, and I'm grateful to the students and faculty for letting us take an odd idea and run with it. We hope you enjoy!

About the Department of Theatre

OUR MISSION:

The Department of Theatre provides a student-focused liberal arts education that develops theatre artists, scholars and teachers to investigate current best practices and emerging entrepreneurial methods in theatre and other kinds of professional performance. Aligning with the university's commitment to open-access education, we integrate the values of equity and inclusion to drive vibrant intellectual inquiry, ethical and informed community engagement, and innovative creative research practices.

OUR VISION AND VALUES:

We see theatre education as a path to a career in the professional and educational theatre industries as well as any profession that requires innovation, creative thinking, strategic collaboration and communication skills. Our vision for the future aligns with our commitment to the following actions and values:

Community and Collective Action

- We embrace our institution's commitment to an open access education and welcome students from across the state and beyond regardless of their prior level of preparation in the theatre field.
- We serve the rich cultural life of our urban region and facilitate partnership-oriented projects with the Charlotte metro area and its diverse communities.
- We foster an inclusive student community of citizen artists engaged in theatre practices that facilitate community change and social justice through partnerships and collective action.

Anti-racism

- We recognize this is a complex process, a journey, and we are committed to taking that journey as colleagues, teachers and mentors.
- We offer culturally responsive pedagogies and production practices in service of equity, inclusion, diversity and anti-racism.
- We open space for anti-racism work that addresses current inequities in our community and region.
- We commit to participating in conversations with other communities and regions as they aim to take on their own anti-racism work.
- We examine robust global historical perspectives for theatre-making that interrogate past practices and pedagogies in service of a more equitable and inclusive curriculum.

Inclusivity and Collaboration

- We embrace a wide and inclusive range of approaches to the study and practice of theatre with respect to race, nationality, gender, age, sexuality, ability, economic status, and disciplinary focus.
- We seek the voices and perspectives of all students, faculty, and staff and strive to create an equitable environment that includes room for thoughtful discussion and the active practice of compassion and inclusion.
- We engage in collaborative processes while celebrating the individual voice, the synthesis of multiple perspectives and the acknowledgement of all contributions.

Investigation and Discovery

- We center the role of creativity in all of our research modalities.
- We examine the impact of theatre beyond our stages and interrogate how theatre challenges and/or reflects the current state of society.
- We engage in research that fosters innovative theory and practice.
- We emphasize a process over product approach to the study and practice of theatre.
- We create opportunities for students to develop critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving skills and to apply them to theatre-making and theatre studies with an ultimate goal of shaping the next generation of creatives/scholars/citizens.

Department of Theatre Faculty and Staff

David Janowiak, Chair

Tyisha Stafford, Office Manager

Bruce Auerbach, Professor of Scenic and Lighting Design

Tom Burch, Associate Professor of Scenic Design, Associate Chair

Rob Conkie, Robinson Distinguished Professor of Shakespeare

Lynne Conner, Professor of Theatre

CarlosAlexis Cruz, Associate Professor of Physical Theatre, Director of the Master of Fine Arts Program

David Fillmore, Jr., Professor of Lighting Design

Margarette Joyner, Visiting Assistant Professor of Costume Design

Ron McClelland, Visiting Assistant Professor of Acting

Jay Morong, Senior Lecturer in Theatre (LBST and Film Studies)

Beth Murray, Associate Professor of Theatre Education

Mark Pizzato, Professor of Theatre and Film

Laura Waringer, Assistant Professor of Directing

Robin Witt, Professor of Directing

Jessica Bilgrad, Adjunct Professor of Theatre

Jill Bloede, Part-time Lecturer in Theatre (Acting, LBST Studies)

Marla Brown, Part-time Lecturer in Theatre (Acting, Dramaturgy)

CoA+A Performing Arts Services

Dean Adams, Senior Associate Dean for Performing Arts

Hali Hutchison-Houk, Production Manager

Liz Paradis, Audience Services Manager

Beth Rucker, Business Services Coordinator

Liz Wooley, Performing Arts Operations Manager

Meena Carr, Assistant Technical Director

Rachel Engstrom, Lecturer, Costume Lab Supervisor / Designer

Matthew B. Fraiser, Lecturer, Technical Director

Rick Moll, Senior Lecturer, Production Electrician

Gordon W. Olson, Senior Lecturer, Lighting Designer

Benjamin G. Stickels, Senior Lecturer, Audio Engineer, Asst. Production Manager

Rachel Swenson Watkins, Senior Lecturer, Stage Management

Hazel Doherty, Music Stage Manager

Wendy Van Rees, Performing Arts House Management Supervisor

Tammy McNamara, Performing Arts House Manager

Production Team

PRODUCTION MANAGER	Hali Hutchison-Houk
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Matthew B. Fraiser
ASST. TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Meena Carr
AUDIO ENGINEER/ SOUND SUPERVISOR	Benjamin G. Sitckels
PRODUCTION ELECTRICIAN	Rick Moll
COSTUME DESIGN MENTOR	Rachel Engstrom
STAGE MANAGEMENT MENTOR	Rachel Swenson Watkins
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Leanne Niedziela
ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER BED DESIGN	Kat Fletcher Diego Milner, Jacob Scannell
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR	Naomi Diaz
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR	Madison King
DECK CREW	Samantha Bredwell
WARDROBE CREW	Reagan DeCaro, Melanie Rushing
COSTUME LAB TECHNICIANS	Sophia Bradley, Ellie McCutchen Astrid Reed-Kennedy, Adriana Tavira-Garibay
COSTUME LAB CREW	Lily Barber, Marina Faillace, Sophie Hardy, Hannah Permenter, Melanie Rushing
CUTTER/DRAPER	Beth Killion
LIGHTING LAB TECHNICIANS	Sophia Bradley, DJ Cook, Naomi Diaz, Kat Fletcher, Madison King, Leanne Niedziela
LIGHTING LAB CREW	Jean Crawford, Stella O'Conner, Varsha Singh
SCENIC CARPENTERS	Macey Biddinger, Joey Ellsworth Katelyn Fennell, Kayla Lowndes
SCENIC PRACTICUM PAS AUDIO TECHNICIAN	Macey Biddinger, Gizzi Kolako Emily Parker
ROBINSON HALL TECHNICIANS	Caleb Basham, Lucy Burch, Kayhe Duerson, Alex Mclellan, Nick Mendlik, Christian Souza, Renee Szeghy
PATRON SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES	Will Loyd, Alex Lozier, Avery Pack, Justin Spencer

College of Arts + Architecture

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

Gospel Choir Mon Nov 6 | 7:30 pm
Rowe Recital Hall

Faculty Spotlight Tue Nov 14 | 7:30 pm
Faculty & Friends Concert Series Rowe Recital Hall

Fall Dance Concert Thu Nov 16- Sat Nov 18 | 7:30 pm
Sun Nov 19 | 2:00 pm

Percussion Ensemble Mon Nov 27 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

Jazz Ensemble and Combos Tue Nov 28 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band Wed Nov 29 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

DECEMBER

University Chorale Fri Dec 1 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

Men's & Women's Choirs Tue Dec 5 | 7:30 pm (W) & 8:30 pm (M)
Anne R. Belk Theater