

DONOVAN'S BRAIN - CAST, CREW AND MUSICIANS

Dr. Patrick Cory: Jeffrey Nordin
Janice Cory/Reporter: Christine Nordin
Dr. Shratt/Dr. Zanger: David Geister
Donovan's Brain: Paul Cameron
David Cory/Soundtrack: J Roth

WHO IS THE VILLIAN IN DONOVAN'S BRAIN? by Jeffrey Nordin

Radio plays evoke a sense of nostalgia. The times that created them are remote in many ways; by the 21st Century, the effect Orson Welles' broadcast of War Of The Worlds and the panic it caused seem impossible to repeat. Was the world ever so gullible? There is something akin to scary stories around a campfire in dramas like War Of The Worlds and Donovan's Brain. The mind's eye sees the story unfold. The moment passes so quickly that the rules of continuity and foreshadowing can be bent. The experience is personal, internal and can be profound.

In tonight's performance you will meet Dr. Patrick Cory and come to question his sanity. Is Dr. Cory insane from the beginning? If so, obsession is at the root of his madness. Dr. Cory's obsession with science blinds him. He builds trust with a monkey and then kills and mutilates it for - what he sees as - the sake of scientific advancement.

William H. Donovan's arrival, and the chance for Dr. Cory to continue his experiments on a human, erases the line between man and monkey. What was done to the monkey is done to Donovan. What is done to Donovan is done to Dr. Cory. The line between Donovan and Dr. Cory ceases to be.

Donovan or Dr. Cory - who is the villain? In the 1953 movie version of this story, so much is changed from the 1944 radio plot, that the answer is not open for interpretation. Who is the villain? Our presentation - true to the 1944 script - allows you the opportunity to contemplate this intriguing question among others.



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ABOUT THE THEREMIN

The theremin was invented in 1919 by Lev Sergeivitch Termen. Termen was in the midst of researching proximity sensors; his research was sponsored by the Russian government. When he demonstrated his invention to Vladimir Lenin, Lenin is said to have been so impressed that he began taking lessons upon it. Lenin also sent Termen on a trip around the world to demonstrate this latest Soviet technology and the invention of electronic music. In the late 1920s, Termen emigrated to the US, but was later kidnapped by Soviet agents and forced to return to the USSR. He was put to work in a labor camp and designed the first 'bug'(covert listening device.)

The theremin can be heard in many old sci-fi productions for film and radio (as well as tv - listen to the original Star Trek opening.)

Playing the theremin requires no physical contact with the 'instrument' to produce music. Pitch and volume are controlled by theremin players simply by moving their hands through the air. The theremin used in Walking Boxes' production of Donovan's Brain is a simpler version of Terman's original, which had two antennae.

MAGNIFICENT MOVING PANORAMA

Jeff Nordin, (narrator of The Musicker's Lantern & actor in Donovan's Brain) and Dave Geister (actor in Donovan's Brain) both appear with the approval of Professor Wyllie's Magnificent Moving Panorama: a steamboat trip up the Minnesota River and back, in 2 acts and 1 olio. Contact Historic Murphy's Landing for show dates & booking info: 925-445-6901



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