



THE MUSICKER'S GAZETTE



No. 3

WALKING BOXES PRODUCTIONS

DONOVAN'S BRAIN

Written in 1943 by German-born Curt Siodmak (who also wrote *The Wolf Man*, *Son of Dracula*, and others) *Donovan's Brain* was presented on the radio program *SUSPENSE* in 1944 with Orson Welles giving a brilliant performance as Dr. Patrick Cory. Walking Boxes will pay homage to that great 1944 production by giving the audience the opportunity of being right in the studio as the drama is being created. Production notes and musings about the story's intrigue are on Page 2...

THE MUSICKER

The Musicker's Lantern continues the story begun in *The Musicker's Tribunal* of the hapless Musicker and his struggle to find release from the Contract of Living. Tired of what he sees as the Tribunal's unfair persecution of him, the Musicker attempts a desperate escape into a nether realm, only to find he can't escape himself...or can he? For production notes and other information about the show please turn to Page 3...

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FLYHARD JENKINS

Flyhard Jenkins is back, still flying hard against the spin. For more about his musical guests, please turn to Page 4...

THESE BOXES ARE WALKING ONLINE

Visit Walking Boxes Productions online at www.walkingboxes.com to find out more about upcoming shows, music lessons, and other endeavors of Walking Boxes' artists.

WALKING BOXES SENDS THANKS

Many people deserve thanks for the evenings' productions: Papa Roth for promotional work and support; Dave Polanski for technical support; Dave Geister for creating the poster; Christine Nordin for technical assistance; Ted Lowell (owner of Acadia Cafe) for his support and goodwill; the sponsors featured in this gazette who are willing to support local artists; and last (but certainly not least) all the performers contributing to the productions.

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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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THE MUSICKER'S LANTERN -
CAST, CREW AND MUSICIANS

Narrator: Jeffrey Nordin
Guitars & Drums: Paul Cameron
The Light: Anne Nordin
The Musicker: J Roth

MUSICKER'S PREVIOUS MANIFESTATIONS
(in Episode 1 – The Musicker's Tribunal)

Lorance Johnson – A veteran of the American Civil War. Played trombone in a Confederate Army band before being captured by the Union Army. Later went on to become a minor star of Vaudeville creating a brief stir with his song: “Catfish in My Shoe”.

Gylych – A 13th Century Turkoman trader on the Silk Road. Captured by the Mongols and forced to play his Chinese suona horn for their military campaigns in Central Asia where he witnessed the massacre of the entire populace of his home city Merv.

Dmitri Andreyev – Russian on his father's side, Roma (Gypsy) on his mother's, Dmitri was drafted into the Russian Army to fight the Nazis. While holed-up in the desperate battle for Stalingrad, he helped spur the men on by playing balalaika. After the war he found the Nazis had exterminated his mother's family. Later he was sent to a labor camp in Siberia for alleged treasonous activities.

Tomita Kyu – Soldier in the Japanese WWII army. Survived the dropping of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, but his face and body were badly scarred. Went on to help revive the Awa-Odori dance festival in his home ken of Tokushima with his manic shamisen playing.

J Roth – Disgruntled musician in 21st Century America.

MUSICKER'S LANTERN -
ABOUT THE SCORE

With the exception of the songs entitled: The Tower and Raft, all songs in the story were conceived by J Roth. The Tower was conceived by Paul Cameron, and Raft by J Roth and Paul Cameron. The Gala was borrowed from Roth's The Dragonfly Hunter. The songs Blue Sun and Raft (originally entitled: Canoe) were borrowed from Roth's Under a Blue Sun CD.

The Musicker's Lantern score is as follows:

The Wall of Reckoning

- ◆ The Gala
- ◆ The Way
- ◆ Blue Sun
- ◆ The Wretched One
- ◆ The Tower
- ◆ Raft

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THE INSTRUMENTS OF SRAZHALYS

The triangular-shaped instrument played by the members of Srazhalys is called a balalaika (literally means: 'plaything'.) The round-shaped instrument is called a domra. The predecessors to both of these instruments are believed to have been brought to Russia by the Mongols in the 12th or 13th Century. They became popular village instruments in Russia for centuries, especially used by skomorokhi. The skomorokhi were wandering minstrels of sorts who were prone to criticize the Tsar, the Church and Russian society. This led to the instruments being banned at different times. Even when not banned they were generally scorned by the Russian upper class as instruments of the peasant class until the late 1800's when a nobleman named Vassily Andreyev brought the instruments to popularity with concert-goers and the Court. The instruments can now be heard in classical orchestras as well as in folk ensembles.

The domra and balalaika used by Srazhalys are stamped "Leningrad" (a city now known by its original name "St. Petersburg"). The instruments made a heroic trip from Russia to the U.S. by boat in 2002.

HORACE GREELEY THE LESSER

Local musician, Horace Greeley the Lesser appears on Flyhard Jenkins' February 2005 show. Though Flyhard will not get a chance to interview Greeley on his show, they did have a brief interview off-stage.

Flyhard (F) : Why are you called the 'Lesser'?

Horace (H) : Go North, young man. Go East, young man. Go South, young man. If I say that, then they'll say 'go to Hell, old man'. Now Horace Greeley of the 1800s, he said: 'Go West, young man' and some did. So he gets the "Greater" title.

F: Your song I am and I am Not has enigmatic lines like: 'I am a meat-eating vegetarian.'

How is it possible to be such?

H: The song doesn't have that line.

F: It doesn't?

H: Actually it does. And actually it doesn't. Do you see what I mean?

F: Actually, I don't.

H: And you do – you do and you do not.

F: You sure like your word play.

H: Words are reality's bones...at least social hopscotch-jump-from-square-to-square reality.

I prefer my hopscotch on the rocks.

F: Well, how about the song you sing:

May the Cow Jump Over You. What is the cow supposed to signify?

H: It's best just to moo. Mooooooo. Mooooooo.

Go ahead, you try it.

F: I'd rather not.

H: No, and I'd rather not signify, but here goes - Signifyyyy. Sig-ni-fyyyyy. See what I mean?

F: So I'm wondering Horace, could you lay down the straight line if you wanted to?

H: And would Straight bring along his friend Narrow? Likely, highly likely. Now Squiggly generally hangs out with Broad. So if I give it to you squiggly, there's broader room to scoop out some gems. See?

F: I see a thread of reason in what you're saying, but it's a challenge to sew it together.

I do thank you though for the interview.

H: You can keep the change.

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