A Caligari Christmas carol: FadaDance throws annual party

FadaDance joins Caligari Project with 'Get Drunk on German Expressionism' show

Tonight will likely be anything but silent horror as FadaDance hosts their annual Christmas party.

It will more likely be loud, frenetic and feature a touch of the insanity displayed in the movie that inspired the Regina dance company.

As part of the Caligari Project, FadaDance have asked people to "Get Drunk on German Expressionism" by celebrating the 1920 silent film *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*.

"Get Drunk on German Expressionism" is the name of the show FadaDance is presenting as part of the Caligari Project, a multi-disciplinary and multi-venue festival celebrating German expressionism, launched earlier this year and continues this month.

- **German Expressionism festival brings moody movies to Regina**

It has been FadaDance co-artistic director Heather Cameron's initiation into the world of German expressionism.

"That was probably the most exciting part about the project: entering it and knowing nothing," she told CBC Radio's *Saskatchewan Weekend*.

- **Regina composer rescores classic horror film The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari**

Cameron said she thinks many of the dancers and collaborators were in the same position as her.

"It was so exciting to learn about this period of time," Cameron said.

German expressionism refers to the artistic movement that arose after the First World War. In films, it is characterized by dark themes, moody atmosphere, the use of shadows, painted backdrops, weird angles and peculiar makeup.

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari was written by Hans Janowitz, a veteran of the First World War.

"It's hard to look at the art without saying, 'Why was this happening?'" Cameron said.

"It has been really thrilling, actually, to learn both the artistic side of things and the historical side of things."

Three sets of dance performances will take place during the party, primarily by FadaDance performers.

One performance will use only flashlights to light the darkness, one will be Victorian-era-themed, and guest performer Tamara Unroe will display shadow puppet work throughout the night.

"Get Drunk on German Expressionism" will take place at the Exchange in Regina. Doors open at 9 p.m.