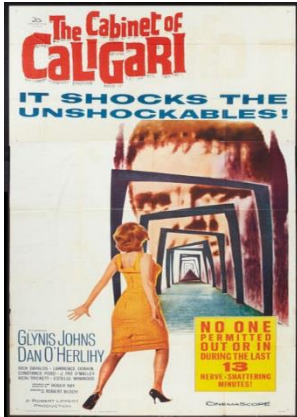


Short Review: “The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari” (1962) by Dr. John L. Flynn



The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1962). Lippert/Fox, b/w, 105 min. Director and Producer: Roger Kay. Screenwriter: Robert Bloch. Loosely based on Robert Wiene's “The Cabinet of Doctor Caligari.” Cast: Dan O'Herlihy, Glynis Johns, Estelle Winwood, Vicki Trickett, and J. Pat O'Malley.

Loosely based on Director Robert Wiene's expressionist masterpiece “The Cabinet of Doctor Caligari” (1919), this was simply an inferior remake of a film that needed no remaking. Drugged and held prisoner by the kindly Dr. Caligari (O'Herlihy), who found her stranded on a lonely country road, a woman (Johns) struggles through a series of nightmare adventures. These include all manner of sexual deviation, from voyeurism to exhibitionism to sex with an impotent stranger. Numerous shock treatments lead to the ultimate realization that the woman is a patient, suffering from sexual repression, who has been under Caligari's treatment at a mental institute. Surprise, surprise! Anyone who has seen the original or knows its shocking secret would be able to figure Robert Bloch's screenplay out in an instant, including the distorted, expressionist sets. This 1962 production makes most audience members long for the original.

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