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Clubfoot Orchestra

(Silent Film Accompaniment;
66 min.)

San Francisco, June 13 — The nine-piece, plus conductor, Clubfoot Orchestra of Frisco is a remarkable aggregation that has earned that community's respect over the past nine months both for its club-concert playing and its accompaniment of the 1919 German silent pic, "The Cabinet Of Dr. Caligari," via an original, excitingly eclectic score by Clubfoot player Richard Marriott.

Orchestra plays live at the front of the house with only conductor Steed Cowart facing the screen. Clubfoot has worked several theaters with this gig; performance reviewed was at Frisco's Roxie Theater. The gig was intro'd at last Fall's Mill Valley Film Festival and has been booked frequently in several Northern California venues since.

On its face, this might seem like a campy, clown-cluttered concept. But such is not the case at all. The Clubfoot players are skilled, most of them classically trained, and Marriott's score is a grand, giddy mix of so many genres and tempos that it matches the impressionism and dissonance of the celebrated story of somnambulist murder.

Group already has three albums, under local Ralph label, and is considering a videocassette of "Caligari" effort (pic is in public domain).

Orchestra is named after a one-time Frisco boite called Club Foot and has been together since '83. Its future seems limitless, with Marriott now talking of writing a score and then lensing a film to fit it.

Players are: Beth Custer, clarinet; Julian Smedley, five-string violin; Dave Barrett, alto sax; Doug Morton, trumpet; Gino Robair, traps and xylophone; Josh Ende, baritone sax; Bob Lipton, tuba; Dick Egner, guitar, and Marriott, trombone, trumpet, flute, Emax.

Herb.