[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [Template:Infobox royalty](/wiki/Template:Infobox_royalty)

**Caligula** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en))[[1]](#cite_note-1) American actor [Jay Robinson](/wiki/Jay_Robinson) famously portrayed a sinister and scene-stealing Caligula in two epic films of the 1950s, [*The Robe*](/wiki/The_Robe_(film)) (1953) and its sequel [*Demetrius and the Gladiators*](/wiki/Demetrius_and_the_Gladiators) (1954).[[143]](#cite_note-143) A feature-length historical film [*Caligula*](/wiki/Caligula_(film)) was completed in [1979](/wiki/1979_in_film), in which [Malcolm McDowell](/wiki/Malcolm_McDowell) played the lead role. The film alienated audiences with extremely explicit sex and violence and received extremely negative reviews.[[144]](#cite_note-144) David Brandon portrayed Caligula in the 1982 Italian exploitation film *Emperor Caligula, the Untold Story* which was directed by [Joe D'Amato](/wiki/Joe_D'Amato). [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[Courtney Love](/wiki/Courtney_Love) appeared as Caligula in a fake trailer for *Gore Vidal's Caligula*, ostensibly a remake of the 1979 film, but actually a parodic short film by conceptual artist [Francesco Vezzoli](/wiki/Francesco_Vezzoli).[[145]](#cite_note-145) Szabolcs Hajdu portrayed Caligula in the 1996 film *Caligula*.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

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### In literature and theatre[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

*Caligula*, by French author [Albert Camus](/wiki/Albert_Camus), is a play in which Caligula returns after deserting the palace for three days and three nights following the death of his beloved sister, Drusilla. The young emperor then uses his unfettered power to "bring the impossible into the realm of the likely".

In the 1934 novel [*I, Claudius*](/wiki/I,_Claudius) by English writer [Robert Graves](/wiki/Robert_Graves), Caligula is presented as being a murderous sociopath from his childhood, who became clinically insane early in his reign. At the age of only seven, he drove his father [Germanicus](/wiki/Germanicus) to despair and death by secretly terrorising him. Graves's Caligula commits incest with all three of his sisters and is implied to have murdered Drusilla.

In the BBC series based on Graves' novel (where the role is played by [John Hurt](/wiki/John_Hurt)), Caligula, although unhinged since early childhood, becomes dangerously psychotic after an apparent epileptic seizure and awakens believing that he has metamorphosed into the god Zeus. He kills Drusilla while trying to reenact the birth of [Athena](/wiki/Athena) by cutting his child from her womb.

In 1941, [Edgar Rice Burroughs](/wiki/Edgar_Rice_Burroughs) wrote [*I Am a Barbarian*](/wiki/I_Am_a_Barbarian). The story is pitched as a free translation of the memoirs of Britannicus (a fictional character created by Burroughs) who was the slave of Caligula from early childhood till Caligula's death.

The character Ellsworth Toohey in [Ayn Rand's](/wiki/Ayn_Rand) 1943 novel [*The Fountainhead*](/wiki/The_Fountainhead) references Caligula in his climactic speech to Peter Keating stating, "Remember the Roman Emperor who said he wished humanity had a single neck so he could cut it? People have laughed at him for centuries. But we'll have the last laugh. We've accomplished what he couldn't accomplish. We've taught men to unite. This makes one neck ready for one leash."

The play *The Reckoning of Kit and Little Boots*, by [Nat Cassidy](/wiki/Nat_Cassidy), examines the lives of the Elizabethan playwright [Christopher Marlowe](/wiki/Christopher_Marlowe) and Caligula, with the fictional conceit that Marlowe was working on a play about Caligula around the time of his own murder. It emphasizes the similarities between the two characters—both stabbed to death at 29, both in part as a result of their controversial religious perspectives. The play focuses on Caligula's love for his sister Drusilla and his deep-rooted loathing for Tiberius. It received its world premiere in New York City in June 2008.[[146]](#cite_note-146)[[147]](#cite_note-147) Eugene O'Neill's play [*Lazarus Laughed*](/wiki/Lazarus_Laughed) features the young Caligula as one of its pinnacle characters, where he is portrayed as a psychopath who believes he will only be happy once Tiberius is dead and he is the Caesar.

### In music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

Canadian death metal band [Ex Deo](/wiki/Ex_Deo) released an album called *Caligula*, styled as *Caligvla*. The band's video, "I Caligula", features Caligula and other members of his court that were important in his rule.

[The Dickies'](/wiki/The_Dickies) 1989 album [*Second Coming*](/wiki/Second_Coming_(Dickies_album)) includes the song "Caligula," which relates his origins and reign of terror.

### In television[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

Caligula has been portrayed in a number of television series:

* [Ralph Bates](/wiki/Ralph_Bates) in the 1968 [ITV](/wiki/ITV_(TV_network)) television series [*The Caesars*](/wiki/The_Caesars_(TV_series));
* [John Hurt](/wiki/John_Hurt) in the 1976 [BBC](/wiki/BBC) television series [*I, Claudius*](/wiki/I,_Claudius_(TV_series));
* [John McEnery](/wiki/John_McEnery) in the 1985 miniseries *A.D.*;
* [Tony Hawks](/wiki/Tony_Hawks) in the [*Red Dwarf*](/wiki/Red_Dwarf_(TV_series)) episode "[Meltdown](/wiki/Meltdown_(Red_Dwarf))" (1991);
* [Alexis Arquette](/wiki/Alexis_Arquette) in season six of [*Xena: Warrior Princess*](/wiki/Xena:_Warrior_Princess) (2001);
* [Simon Farnaby](/wiki/Simon_Farnaby) and [Jalaal Hartley](/wiki/Jalaal_Hartley) in "[Horrible Histories](/wiki/Horrible_Histories)";
* [John Simm](/wiki/John_Simm) in the 2004 miniseries *Imperium Nerone*.
* [Simon Gower](/wiki/Simon_Gower) in the 2015 miniseries [*A.D. The Bible Continues*](/wiki/A.D._The_Bible_Continues)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

### Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

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* [Josephus](/wiki/Josephus), [*Antiquities of the Jews*](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/josephus/works/files/works.html), (trans. W.Whiston), Books XVIII–XIX
* [Philo of Alexandria](/wiki/Philo_of_Alexandria), (trans. C.D.Yonge, London, H. G. Bohn, 1854–1890):
  + [*On the Embassy to Gaius*](http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/yonge/book40.html)
  + [*Flaccus*](http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/yonge/book36.html)
* [Seneca the Younger](/wiki/Seneca_the_Younger)
  + [*On Firmness*](http://www.stoics.com/seneca_essays_book_1.html)
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  + [*To Marcia, On Consolation*](http://www.stoics.com/seneca_essays_book_2.html)
  + [*On Tranquility of Mind*](http://www.stoics.com/seneca_essays_book_2.html)
  + [*On the Shortness of Life*](http://www.stoics.com/seneca_essays_book_2.html)
  + [*To Polybius, On Consolation*](http://www.stoics.com/seneca_essays_book_2.html)
  + [*To Helvia, On Consolation*](http://www.stoics.com/seneca_essays_book_2.html)
  + [*On Benefits*](http://www.stoics.com/seneca_essays_book_3.html)
  + [*On the Terrors of Death*](http://www.stoics.com/seneca_epistles_book_1.html) (Epistle IV)
  + [*On Taking One's Own Life*](http://www.stoics.com/seneca_epistles_book_2.html) (Epistle LXXVII)
  + [*On the Value of Advice*](http://www.stoics.com/seneca_epistles_book_3.html) (Epistle XCIV)
* [Suetonius](/wiki/Suetonius), [*The Lives of Twelve Caesars*](http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Suetonius/12Caesars/Caligula*.html), Life of Caligula
* [Tacitus](/wiki/Tacitus), [*Annals*](http://mcadams.posc.mu.edu/txt/ah/Tacitus/TacitusAnnals06.html), Book 6

Secondary material

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

* [The portrait of Caligula in the Digital Sculpture Project](http://www.digitalsculpture.org/caligula/index.html)

[Template:Commons](/wiki/Template:Commons) [Template:Wikisource1911Enc](/wiki/Template:Wikisource1911Enc) [Template:Wikiquote](/wiki/Template:Wikiquote)

* [Caligula Attempts to Conquer Britain in AD 40](http://british-history.net/roman-britain/caligula-attempts-to-conquer-britain-40-a-d/)
* [Biography from De Imperatoribus Romanis](http://www.roman-emperors.org/gaius.htm)
* [Biography of Gaius Caligula](http://www.webcitation.org/query?url=http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Parthenon/7094/caligula.html&date=2009-10-25+06:19:04)
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* [A chronological account of his reign](http://www.vroma.org/~bmcmanus/caligula.html)
* [Caligula](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/caligula.shtml) at [BBC History](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/)
* [Template:BBC programme](/wiki/Template:BBC_programme)
* [3D model of the J. Paul Getty Museum's "Head of Emperor Caligula", via photogrammatric survey](http://www.thingiverse.com/thing:196059/)

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