

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Adaptation by Loren Crawford

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Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde

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Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is dedicated to the joyful young actors at Sacred Heart School for the Arts who were the inspiration for it in the first place.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Based on the classic story by Robert Louis Stevenson, Dr. Jekyll is back for a second year of teaching science at Devon Academy after leaving his position as head of surgery at Guy's Hospital under mysterious circumstances. He continues with his private research at the school, enlisting Head Girl Jackie Utterson as a lab assistant. Frightening things begin to happen, beginning with an attack on a student who was sneaking off the school grounds. Utterson is dismayed to find that another person is also assisting in the lab— the terrifying Mr. Hyde. When beloved school trustee Lord Carew is murdered, the school suspends all classes until the safety of the students can be secured. It is Head Girl Utterson and her best friend Michelle Enfield who discover the truth: that the brilliant Dr. Jekyll is the same man as the inhuman Mr. Hyde.

The cast features an array of lively students and teachers, including the spoiled Hilary Carton, homesick Lottie, dear Dr. Lanyon, the lovely Miss Latimer, the ancient etiquette teachers Miss Livingston and Ms. Livingston, the bombastic Mr. Wister, and the humorless Miss Hatchet. About 90 minutes with intermission.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

October 31st, 2014

Sacred Heart School for the Arts in Louisville, KY.

Original cast:

Grace Funke, Anabel Puri, Laurel Jolgren, Zoe Blake, Jess Crawford, Olivia Blake, Katie Elliott, Lindsay Lott, Katie Donohue, Sara Miyamoto, Isabella Cockerham, Reagan Blandford, Eloise Mercer, Kirsten Oyler, Emily Wiseman, Riley Newman Gatton, Gabe Biagi, Baylor Barnum, Veronica Johnson, Maddie Gaughan, Davis Jolgren, Katie Elliott, Osaz Omoruyi and Will Kissel.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(6 m, 17 w, 1 flex.)

Students:

BENDI: New to school, from Australia.

HELGA: New to school, from a small town.

LOTTIE: Also new, young, clumsy & nervous.

HANNAH: Has been at the school forever, sarcastic.

EDIE: Hannah's sidekick, laughs at everything she says, often gets into trouble.

PIPER: Hannah's little sister, her first year at school, curious, energetic.

MAEVE: Easy going, gets along with everyone.

HILARY: The rich girl, spoiled, used to being the center of attention.

CAROLYN: Part of Hilary's posse, tries to copy everything Hilary does.

VELYN: Also part of posse, also annoyingly emulates Hilary.

JACKIE UTTERSON: Head Girl, wants to be a scientist.

MICHELLE ENFIELD: Utterson's best friend, head of student council.

ANGELA: Kind, good, always does the right thing.

The School:

MISS LIVINGSTON: Elderly spinster teacher of etiquette, proper and old-fashioned.

MS. LIVINGSTON: Her twin and co-teacher.

DR. JEKYLL: The science teacher, mysterious, brilliant, troubled.

DR. LANYON: The head of school, an old man, sometimes forgetful and out of touch, kind.

MR. WISTER: History teacher, bombastic and dramatic.

MISS HATCHET: Humorless and strict gym teacher and house matron.

MISS ROSE LATIMER: Literature teacher, kind, has a place in her heart for Dr. Jekyll.

MR. POOLE: Groundskeeper, a friend to all, plays the saxophone.

Outside the School:

MRS. or MR. CHARLES: Hard-hitting reporter, a celebrity in the field of journalism. May be doubled with Maeve.

MR. HYDE: Pure evil, barely human.

LORD DANVERS CAREW: A revered and elderly trustee of the school, delighted by Devon Academy.

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Setting

1939

Devon Academy, an all-girls boarding school in England.

Settings

The Great Hall
Mansfield Common Room
Dr. Lanyon's Library
Dr. Jekyll's Science Room
Outside on the school grounds

Special Effects

In its initial production, a floor length two-way mirror was used for the transformation of Jekyll into Hyde. As Dr. Jekyll looked into the mirror, lights came up behind the mirror that changed Jekyll's reflection into that of Hyde as the actor standing on the other side was lit. The mirror was hinged like a door, allowing Hyde to emerge and pull Jekyll behind the mirror, trapping him there as a reflection.

Sound Design

Popular music from the 1930s can be used throughout the play to cover scene changes and transitions. Recordings of "Jerusalem" a hymn by Robert Blake, and a saxophone solo are needed. Sound effects include a thunderstorm and a school bell.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Dr. Jekyll's science room. DR. JEKYLL is speaking as he makes notes. His desk is full of notebooks and something is bubbling away in beakers behind him. He moves between making notes and observing the experiment. He is completely absorbed.)

DR. JEKYLL: I was born into good fortune with a sound intellect and every opportunity for a glorious future. I am inclined to be industrious and I am fond of the respect of the wise and good among my fellow men. But always there is something in me—

(SFX: Loud knock at the door. DR. JEKYLL is startled and confused.)

DR. JEKYLL: *(Cont'd.)* Yes? Come in.

(MR. POOLE enters.)

POOLE: Begging your pardon, sir, but Dr. Lanyon asked me to tell you that the train had arrived and the girls would be here shortly.

DR. JEKYLL: So soon? I thought they had just left.

POOLE: The summer's gone by quickly, sir, that's a fact. Another school year begins.

DR. JEKYLL: And so it goes.

(POOLE begins to exit.)

DR. JEKYLL: *(Cont'd.)* Poole. It is Poole, isn't it?

POOLE: Yes, sir.

DR. JEKYLL: I've placed an order that ought to arrive in town tomorrow. Will you see that it's delivered promptly here? Here's the order. *(Hands HIM a paper.)*

POOLE: *(Glancing at paper.)* Pardon me, sir, not that it's any of my business, but I don't think the young ladies will go for this at all.

DR. JEKYLL: You are correct, Mr. Poole, it's not any of your business. But you needn't worry. It's for my own work, not the students.

POOLE: Yes, sir, very good, sir.

(POOLE exits. DR. JEKYLL goes back to his notes.)

DR. JEKYLL: Yes, always there is something in me struggling to get out, an animal nature that rejoices in doing wrong. I keep this side of myself hidden, I am ashamed of it. I am not alone. All of mankind has a dual nature. Everyone has a beast within.

Scene 2

(AT RISE: The Great Hall. The first day of school after summer break at Devon Academy. SFX: The bell rings. STUDENTS are entering the great hall with suitcases and trunks, dressed in school uniforms from the 1930s. ANGELA and MAEVE enter together and cross the stage carrying their suitcases.)

MAEVE: It feels good to be back.

ANGELA: It really does. I was so nervous this time last year, but now it feels like home sweet home.

MAEVE: I hope we're rooming together again.

ANGELA: Me too!

(THEY exit the other side of the stage as BENDI and HELGA enter.)

BENDI: I think we go this way.

HELGA: Have you been here before?

BENDI: No, but everyone else is headed this way, they must know something.

HELGA: I'm Helga, by the way.

BENDI: I'm Berenice, but everyone calls me Bendi.

End of Freeview

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