THE COMMONWEAL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

DR. JEKYLL Mr. Hyde

BASED ON THE NOVELLA STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE" BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

A HORROR CLASSIC. REIMAGINED.

AUG 26-OCT 29

PROFESSIONAL LIVE THEATRE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We, at the Commonweal Theatre, acknowledge that we work and gather on the ancestral lands of the Dakota Nation and other Indigenous peoples. We recognize these Nations as the original caretakers of this land and acknowledge the injustices committed against them. We strive to promote healing and inclusion through storytelling, which is fundamental to our mission.

As artists in our community we have a responsibility to create a welcoming, inclusive, and nurturing environment where visitors and community members can gather and explore big ideas through live theatre. Fostering such an environment begins with education and reflection. Our Land Acknowledgement is just one way the Commonweal exercises our commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Thank you to the Minnesota Historical Society, Lanesboro Historical Society, Prairie Island Indian Community, Mississippi Valley Archeology Center, and Mower County Historical Society for assisting in the research that led to the formation of our Land Acknowledgement.

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Metis artist Victoria Scattergood is inspired by historical ledger drawings which were popular across the northern and southern plains of Canada and the US. She puts a unique perspective on it, using actual historical ledger prints from the late 1800s with beautiful, hand drawn animals.

WELCOME TO OUR 35th SEASON!

Welcome to our 35th season! Whether you've been with us from the beginning or this is your first time, we are thrilled you could join us as we celebrate over three decades of producing award-winning, professional, live theatre in Lanesboro. The journey we will take together this year is full of romance, mystery, laughs, and thrills.

Continuing on our journey through the season, our next stop is a very creative, inventive stage adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novella "Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," brought to life by one of our favorite playwrights: Jeffrey Hatcher.

This thriller is the classic look at what happens when the light and the dark side of one's personality are fully embodied. Set in Victorian London and told through a small, talented ensemble of six actors, this version doesn't shy away from the gruesome aspects of the story but tells of them in a highly theatrical manner. Guaranteed to have you wondering about the inner lives of humans and what happens when those aspects are given voice, the play also reflects upon male/female relationships, the nature of the pursuit of truth through science, and other themes that continue to resonate with modern



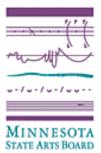
audiences—all in a highly modern voice. Plus, the story is perfect for the fall, which encourages us to meditate on spooky moments and things that go bump in the night.

Enjoy HAL CROPP Producing Artistic Director



The Commonweal Theatre Company is a member of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts and a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

> 208 Parkway Avenue N., P.O. Box 15 Lanesboro, Minnesota 55949 (800)657-7025 • (507)467-2525 Commonwealtheatre.org



THE COMPANY

THE ARTIST/ADMINISTRATOR

The Commonweal Theatre operates under a unique model in which all resident company members have specific, non-artistic responsibilities in addition to their artistic projects. This innovative approach has a great many benefits, most recently illustrated by the fact that we were able to keep our team fully employed throughout the pandemic, allowing us to reopen our doors and once again bring you professional live theater at the earliest possible opportunity—one of the first theaters in the nation to do so.



LIZZY ANDRETTA (she/her) is in her seventh season at the Commonweal, having first appeared in *The Elephant Man* (2017). Since then, she has appeared in *Dancing Lessons, Dracula: Prince of Blood, Boeing Boeing, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,* and last season's *Leading Ladies* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. She also served as the choreographer for *Peter & the Starcather, Stones in His Pockets,* and *A Christmas Carol* (2021). Lizzy holds a B.S. in theatre from Skidmore College and an M.F.A. from the East 15 Acting School in London.



CODY BEYER (he/him) is starting his first full season with the Commonweal after joining last summer. Last season, he co-designed props for *Good People* and appeared onstage in *Alice in Winter Wonderland*. Cody is an actor, designer, and builder who worked in Chicago for 7 years before joining this community with his partner and fellow company member, Laurie Roberts. In Chicago, he worked mostly with Theatre-Y and Hell in a Handbag Productions. Favorite credits include *Macbeth* and *Stories of the Body*. He received his B.A. in Theatre Honors from the University of Tennessee.



STELA BURDT (she/her) is grateful to celebrate her 24th season with our Commonweal family. Past onstage work includes roles in *Good People, Souvenir, Woody Guthrie's American Song, Crimes of the Heart, Zombies from the Beyond, A Midnight Dreary, Harvey,* and *Man of La Mancha.* In addition to performing, Stela is a music director, sound designer, and freelance vocalist. Currently, Stela is in the role of a lifetime as mom to Kieran. Love and Light, #TeamScottyForever.



HAL CROPP (he/him) is in his 32nd season where favorite roles have been in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Come Back, Ghostwriter, Dracula, Outside Mullingar, Sherlock Holmes, The Drawer Boy, To Kill A Mockingbird, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Christmas Carol, Groucho,* and *Talley's Folly.* Selected directing credits: *I Love to Eat, Headspace Theatre, Peter and the Starcatcher, Brand, Heartland Portrait, Wild Duck, Measure for Measure, Peer Gynt, A Midnight Dreary, Enchanted April, Ghosts,* and *Little Shop of Horrors.* Hal holds a B.A. (Brown University), an M.B.A. (Santa Clara University), and an M.F.A. (the National Theater Conservatory). He was the Sally Irvine Award winner for Initiative (2006).



ASK AT THE BOX OFFICE ABOUT OUR ASSISTED-LISTENING DEVICES, SPECIAL SEATING FOR THOSE WITH MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS, ASL-INTER-PRETED PERFORMANCES AND VISUAL DESCRIP-TION FOR THE SIGHT-IMPAIRED.

THE COMPANY



DAVID HENNESSEY (he/him) serves on the Commonweal development team and has appeared in more than 60 shows over 25 years, including Doc in *Leading Ladies*. Other favorites: *HeadspaceTheatre*, *Holmes and Watson*, *The Drawer Boy*, and *The Rainmaker*. He designed costumes for *Ice Maidens* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, oversees audio descriptions for the visually impaired, and leads COVID mitigation protocols. Other acting credits include In Heart Theatre, Park Square Theatre, Jungle Theatre, and American Players Theatre. He lives in Preston with Linda, his favorite scene partner for 50 years.



SARA HUESER (she/her) started as an apprentice at the Commonweal in 2022 and is joining the Resident Company. Favorite Commonweal credits: *Leading Ladies, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Good People,* and *Alice in Winter Wonderland.* Before Lanesboro, she worked for Centre Stage South Carolina. Originally from Newberry-town, PA, Sara holds a bachelor's in Computer Engineering and a B.F.A from Savannah College of Art and Design. Sara is grateful for the Commonweal and her parents for the outpouring of support.



JACLYN JUNE JOHNSON (she/they) joined the Commonweal in 2020. An arts administrator, actor, director, playwright, costume designer, and teaching artist, Jaclyn has credits across the country. Companies include St. Croix Festival Theatre, Children's Theatre Madison, Creede Repertory, Riverside Shakespeare Festival, Riverside Theatre, Chicago's UTG Improv Theatre. Jaclyn has a B.A. from Cornell College. She wishes to thank: her family, friends, spouse and their pets for their encouragement and love; and you for your support of the arts and the uniquely healing community of theatre.



JOSIAH LAUBENSTEIN (he/him) is in his fifth season at the Commonweal, serving as Literary Manager and Videographer. Commonweal credits include: *Leading Ladies, Dancing Lessons*, and *Boeing Boeing*. At Festival Theatre in St. Croix Falls, WI, he served as the Marketing Director and acted in nine productions over two years. Josiah earned his M.F.A. from the University of South Carolina. Josiah is a proud member of Glassbox Theatre Group and a co-founder of Highway Walkers Media Company. He is happily married to Rachel and besotted with their first child, Franny.



ISABELLA ANASTASIA LEIGH (she/her) is elated to be joining Commonweal for her first season. Isa is a director, stage manager, and wardrobe artist from Madison, Wisconsin, most recently residing in Austin, Texas. Previously, she has worked with Austin Shakespeare, Broom Street Theater, Children's Theatre of Madison, Forward Theater, Jarrott Productions, Music Theatre of Madison, ScriptWorks, and StageQ, among others. Isa received her BA in Gender & Women's Studies from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Much love to her kitties, Rosalind and Beatrice.



JOHN B. NICOL (he/him) is excited to be returning to the Commonweal as a resident ensemble member! Born and raised in community theatres around Northeastern lowa, he went on to receive his B.S. in Theatre Arts from Minnesota State University, Mankato. There, he played Matt Friedman in *Talley's Folly* and Smee in *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Other regional credits: Willard Hewitt in *Footloose* at the Paul Bunyan Playhouse and Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Free to the People Theatre.



THANK YOU FOR SILENCING YOUR PHONES AND REFRAINING FROM TEXTING DURING THE PERFORMANCE.

THE COMPANY



LAURIE ROBERTS (she/her) recently appeared in Alice in Winter Wonderland and choreographed The Mystery of Edwin Drood. Chicago credits include A Red Orchid Theatre, Hell in a Handbag, Facility Theatre, Theatre Y, and Red Tape Theatre. She also performed in Cincinnati at Know Theater and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. Some of her favorite work has been devised and performed in Pontlevoy, France, and at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Laurie has also worked as an acting teacher, movement director, and choreographer. She earned her M.F.A. in Acting at the U. of South Carolina. Love to Duke Orsino, Merry, and her wonderful partner, Cody.



JODIT. RUSHING (they/them) is in their fifth season at the Commonweal. Their favorite credits include An Iliad (Wealhouse), On The Verge, I Love to Eat, Leading Ladies, and Good People. Before their tech apprenticeship with the Commonweal in 2019, they stage managed for Doniphan Dance Project in Tupelo, MS. Jodi holds a B.A. in Theatre and Film from the University of Mississippi.



TIM SAILER (he/him) is in his sixth season at the company, serving as an actor and the Assistant Director of Marketing. Recent Commonweal credits include Leading Ladies, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, and A Christmas Carol. Other regional work includes appearances at American Shakespeare Center, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Texas Shakespeare Festival, Park Square Theatre, and Theatre L'Homme Dieu. Tim holds an M.F.A. from the University of Houston. He lives in Lanesboro with his scruffy puppy Rufus.



The Company



ALEX SCHLESINGER (they/them) is excited to join the Resident Ensemble after their apprenticeship in 2022. Alex graduated from Luther College in 2021 with a B.A. in Theatre. You may have seen them last year as Durdles in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Stevie in *Good People*, and the Mad Hatter in *Alice in Winter Wonderland*. Their favorite role outside of the Commonweal was Riff Raff in the *Rocky Horror Show*. Alex thanks their mentor, professor, and good friend Jeff Dintaman for his years of support and sharing of knowledge that got Alex to where they are today.



ADRIENNE SWEENEY (she/her) is grateful to be in her 23rd season, serving as Assoc. Artistic Dir. and Dir. of External Relations in addition to artistic roles. From Philadelphia, she holds an M.F.A. in Acting from the U/AZ. A commercial voice talent, she can be heard regionally on radio and TV. Commonweal favorites include Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* ('21), *Silent Sky* (director), *Boeing Boeing, Steel Magnolias, Outside Mullingar*, and *Sylvia*. Adrienne believes that the act of sitting together in the dark, sharing stories, can help bring light to the world, something we all crave now more than ever. She looks forward to sharing time and space with you.



JEREMY VAN METER (he/him) is enjoying his 12th season at the Commonweal. Favorite credits: Herb Tucker in *I Ought to Be in Pictures*, C.K. Dexter Haven in *The Philadelphia Story*, Anthony Reilly in *Outside Mullingar*, and the title role in *Dracula: Prince of Blood* by Scott Dixon. His career began at The Barter Theatre (VA), and he has appeared regionally at Riverside Theatre, Lexington Children's Theatre, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and Great River Shakespeare Festival. Jeremy holds an M.F.A. in Acting from the U. of Iowa and makes his home in Lanesboro with his lovely and extremely talented wife, Catherine Glynn.

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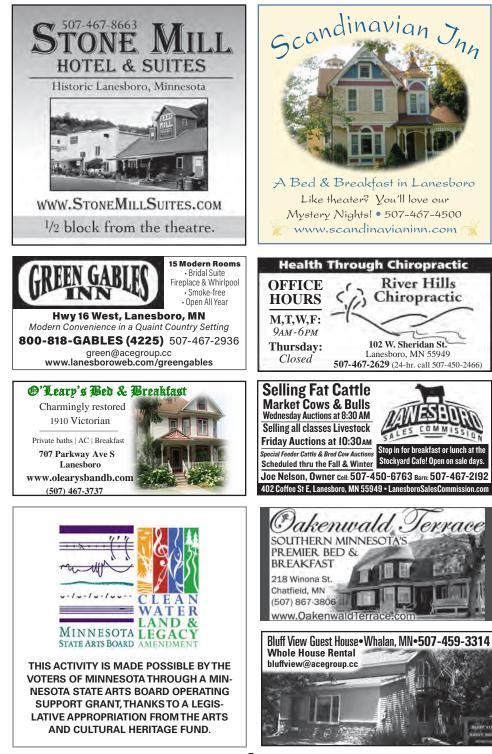
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2023/2024 SEASON

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Notes from the Director



It is such an honor to have been invited back to Commonweal.

It's been over 20 years since I lived and performed in this community, but a piece of my heart has remained resident. To return to fellowship with this valley and its people is a dream fulfilled.

As I read Hatcher's heart-pounding adaptation for the first time, he had me thinking about the pieces of my own identity: the part that

I show to the world, the part that I save for my closest loved ones, and the deepest secret part that I can barely admit exists. I admit that sometimes it is the pressure to appear perfect in the eyes of colleagues that brings out my Hyde. Hatcher's play challenges me to see the good in my worst and the bad in my best.

I hope you find that our production does justice to this thrilling and insightful text.

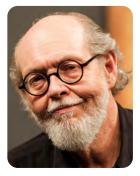
-Mark Baer

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

JEFFREY HATCHER (adapter/playwright)

AT COMMONWEAL: To Fool the Eye, The Turn of the Screw, Holmes and Watson, and adaptations of Ibsen's A Doll's House, When We Dead Awaken, Brand, John Gabriel Borkman, An Enemy of the People, The League of Youth, and Pillars of Society.

BROADWAY: Never Gonna Dance (book). OFF-BROADWAY: Three Viewings and A Picasso at Manhattan Theatre Club; The Government Inspector and The Alchemist at Red Bull; Scotland Road and The Turn of the Screw at Primary Stages; Lucky Duck (book w/Bill Russell) at the New Victory;



Tuesdays with Morrie (with Mitch Albom) at The Minetta Lane; *Ten Chimneys* at Peccadillo, *Neddy* at American Place, *Fellow Travelers* at Manhattan Punchline.

OTHER PLAYS/THEATERS: Compleat Female Stage Beauty, Mrs. Mannerly, Murderers, Cousin Bette, Smash, Key Largo (with Andy Garcia), Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Holmes and Watson, A Confederacy of Dunces, and others at the Guthrie, the Geffen, Old Globe, Yale Rep, Seattle Rep, Huntington, South Coast Rep, Arizona Theater Company, Indiana Rep, Children's Theater Company, Illusion, Denver Center, Philadelphia Theater Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Rep, Northlight, Westport Playhouse, Actors Theater of Louisville, and dozens more in the U.S. and abroad.

FILM: *Stage Beauty, Casanova, The Duchess, Mr. Holmes* and *The Good Liar.* TV: episodes of *Columbo* and *The Mentalist.* GRANTS/AWARDS: NEA, TCG, Lila Wallace Fund, Rosenthal New Play Prize, Frankel Award, Charles MacArthur Fellowship Award, McKnight Foundation, Jerome Foundation, Barrymore Award Best New Play and 2013 lvey Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a member and/or alumnus of the Playwrights' Center, the Dramatists Guild.

2023–2024 APPRENTICE CLASS

THE APPRENTICE PROGRAM

The Commonweal Theatre Company offers exciting 11-month apprenticeships intended to help young theatre artists transition into the professional world. Apprentices serve on either a performance or technical track. Administratively, they work alongside company members on the Marketing, Development, and Production teams. Because of this rare organizational model, Commonweal apprentices experience the full scope of running a nonprofit theatre company. It culminates in a final capstone production which is chosen, designed, and performed by the apprentice company.



SYNTHIA GONZALEZ (they/them) is a recent graduate from Augustana College with a B.A. in Theatre History and Theatre Tech & Design. Their favorite stage management credits include *Faustus, Lightning Thief, The Mountaintop, Ride The Cyclone,* and *Cabaret.* Other credits include 2021–22 Augustana Dance Co. recitals (lighting design), *The Threepenny Opera* (assistant dir.), *The God of Vengeance* (director and set design). They are so excited to be involved at the Commonweal and hope you enjoy the show!



HANNAH HEIL (she/her) is overjoyed to be joining the Commonweal family as an acting apprentice! Hannah grew up in the Colorado mountains and graduated from NYU Steinhardt with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance: Music Theatre. Recent NYC credits include *The Wild Party, Assassins,* and *Damnation! The Musical!,* which Hannah co-created at NYU. Favorite regional credits include *A Chorus Line, Les Miserables,* and *EDGES: A Song Cycle.* Endless thanks to her mentor Alex, her besties Sonali and Ellie, and her loving, supportive family.



JOSIE RAMLER (they/she) is so excited to be working with the Commonweal this season as an acting apprentice! Josie is from Chanhassen, MN and just graduated with a B.A. in Theatre from Luther College. Some of their favorite credits include playing Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Somebody in *Everybody* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, and assistant directing *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell. They are so eager to be a part of the acting apprenticeship this year and to learn and grow with the Commonweal!



JOSEPH SHERIDAN (he/him) is thrilled to be joining the Commonweal as an apprentice! From Columbus, OH, Joseph has just graduated with a B.A. in Theatre and Arts Management from Miami University. Trading the small town of Oxford, OH for the even smaller town of Lanesboro, he's fulfilling no small dream: acting for the first time on the professional stage. Favorite credits include the original musical *The Butterflies' Promise* (writer and director), *Head Over Heels* (Dametas), and leading the student-run New Wave Theatre Company.



THOMAS TEETER (he/him) is overjoyed to be joining the Commonweal apprentice program. Hailing from Topeka, KS, Tom has been a performer his entire life. A proud graduate of Carleton College and the National Theater Institute, his favorite projects include Louis XVI in *Marie Antoinette* at the Emerging Professionals Ensemble; *If I Should Die*, a play he wrote and starred in; and *That Wilderness of Glass*, a devised performance. While here, he hopes to make an impact on the Commonweal.

Connect with the Commonweal 🛐 🎯 💓 G

DR. JEKYLL & Mr. Hyde

from the novella "Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" by Robert Louis Stevenson

DESIGNERS & SPECIALISTS

Director Set Design Costume Design Lighting Design Props Design Sound Design Fight Choreography Intimacy/Movement Coach Dialect Coach Production Manager Rehearsal Stage Manager Performance Stage Manager Assistant Stage Managers Mark Baer Cody Beyer Jason Lee Resler Paul Epton Sara Hueser Alex Schlesinger The Fake Fighting Company Laurie Roberts Hal Cropp Jaclyn June Johnson Isabella Anastasia Leigh Jodi Rushing Synthia Gonzalez, Joseph Sheridan

CAST

Dr. Henry Jekyll Edward Hyde, Gabriel Utterson, et al. Edward Hyde, Sir Danvers Carew, et al. Edward Hyde, Dr. Lanyon, et al. Edward Hyde, Poole, et al. Elizabeth Jelkes, et al. Tim Sailer David Hennessey Jeremy van Meter Betti Battocletti Josie Ramler Jaclyn June Johnson

SETTING

London, 1883

There will be one 15-minute intermission, Please see the front of house staff for the precise run time of each act.

The World Premiere of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde was commissioned and produced by Arizona Theatre Company, David Ira Goldstein, Artistic Director; Jessica L. Andrews, Executive Director. Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

PRODUCTION **S**PONSOR





Media Partner

The Commonweal is grateful for a generous anonymous donation in sponsorship of the entire 2023 season. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Thank you

If you are not a theater professional, you may not be aware that the American theater is in crisis. This summer, Book-It Repertory Theatre in Seattle, Triad Stage in Greensboro, N.C., and Unexpected Stage Company in Maryland announced they were closing. The Humana Festival, one of the nation's premiere new play festivals, was canceled. Lookingglass Theater in Chicago paused production through the spring and, closer to home, Park Square Theatre in St. Paul suspended production halfway through their season. Many of the great regional theaters in this country–Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Dallas Theater Center, the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles–are mounting massive fundraising campaigns, limiting their seasons, or both. Theater education programs across the country are being dissolved–including St. Mary's in Winona and MSUM in Moorhead. The *New York Times* has declared "American Theater Is Imploding Before Our Eyes." The *Los Angeles Times* states "the theatergoing habit is broken."

And yet...here you are.

While this turmoil surrounds us, we are more fortunate, thanks to you. Of course, our attendance has dropped since the pandemic, but the decline has not threatened our existence. Because of you, we continue to produce quality theater to enrich the common good.

And your support reverberates far beyond Lanesboro and the Commonweal. Former company members continue to contribute to the art form long after their time here–Megan Pence as the managing director of Lakeshore Players in White Bear Lake, Philip Muehe as managing director of Rochester Repertory Theater, and Lisa Weaver, Mark Baer, Carl Lindberg, and Carla Noack as teachers in theater education programs across the country, to name just a few. As we say all the time: without you, the audience, what we do is just rehearsal. YOU are essential to our success and the reason we are here. Thank you!

Call Gunder Van Mala sperfame

ON ADAPTATION

Jekyll and Hyde/Hyde and Jekyll by Jeffrey Hatcher

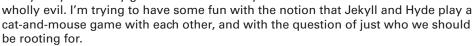
Robert Louis Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* has probably been adapted for the stage more often than *A Christmas Carol*. Beginning with Richard Manfield's version 125 years ago, there has never been a time when the good doctor and his evil doppelganger haven't been drinking potion and murdering pedestrians on a stage somewhere in the world. So it's difficult for the playwright who is asked, as I was by David Ira Goldstein, to come up with a new slant on the story. Adaptation is always an act of betrayal, as the adaptor is always leaving out some aspects of the original. More violently, however, are the changes the adaptor makes to the

original's structure and dramatis personae. One of the more intriguing gaps in Stevenson's novella is its lack of female characters; aside from a maid and a few street urchins, the main players are all men. Mansfield, the actor/impresario who first adapted the book for the commercial stage in 1887, knew this was a non-starter and added roles of Jekyll's angelic fiance and the hapless prostitute murdered by Hyde, a dramatic dynamic that has been employed (stolen)

by every other version since. In these re-tellings of the tale, the prostitute is drawn to Jekyll by his kindness and murdered by Hyde for her betrayal.

For my own adaptation, I knew I wanted as much sex and romance in the story as Mansfield and the rest had, but I didn't want to copy the Good Girl/Bad

Girl approach they had taken, nor did I want to suggest that it was only Jekyll to whom women could be attracted. After all, there are [those] who like "The Bad Boy." So, in my version the roles are somewhat reversed, as are some aspects of Jekyll and Hyde themselves. One of the arguments I've never quite believed–and I suspect Stevenson didn't believe it either–is that Henry Jekyll is wholly good while Edward Hyde is



In any case, it's been a real kick to play in Stevenson's world, amid his bubbling beakers and fog-shrouded paths. In the end, I hope this will be the kind of adaptation that serves three masters: the Original Story, which should be respected; the Audience, who should be given a good show; and the Adaptor, who should bring something new to the party.





The story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde has been adapted countless times, including the 1963 film "The Nutty Professor" starry Jerry Lewis (top), the Broadway musical version by Frank Wildhorn (left) the 1970's TV show "The Incredible Hulk" (below).



THE HORROR GENRE by Josie Ramler

Horror is an alienating genre. The audience's human responses are used against them–feelings of fright, alarm, and unease. But underneath the sense of foreboding, the jump scares, and the adrenaline, the horror genre provides tools to combat fears and face them head-on. The characters in *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* adapted by Jeffrey

Hatcher from the novella *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll* and *Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson face nearunspeakable deeds of violence, yet they fight to survive.

Horror also reveals a very human fascination with the dark and disturbing. When faced with something visceral, one often wants to look away

and remove oneself from violence, but may also desire to keep watching. This is illustrated by a line in the show, spoken by the witness to a crime; "The better me would have called out sooner... but the bad in me... wanted to watch."

"Horror is a universal language; we're. all afraid. We're born afraid."

> —JOHN CARPENTER Director of classic horror films including "Halloween" & "The Thing"

way Iso desire to keep watching. This is e witness to a crime; "The better me n me... wanted to watch." In this adaption of the classic story, the character Hyde is played by an ensemble of actors who also perform as other, more civilized characters

throughout the show. Hyde is played by everyone, so he could be anyone. The fascination of the macabre paired

with the idea that everyone is capable of crime encourages an audience to wonder what a person is really capable of, and ultimately, "what am I truly capable of?"



"Monsters are real, and gbosts are real too. They live inside us, and sometimes, they win."

-STEPHEN KING

MENTAL HEALTH IN DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE

by Josie Ramler

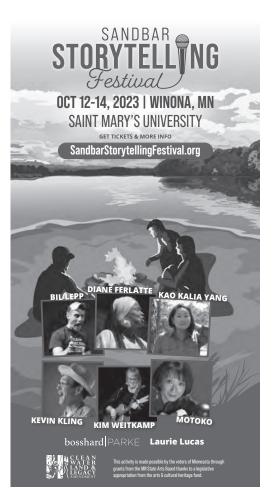
The challenges that Jekyll faces with Hyde, or rather, that he faces with himself, can often be related to mental health disorders. Some scholars believe Jekyll represents individuals with bipolar disorder, multiple personality disorder, or schizophrenia. He is often disoriented, prone to outbursts, and has two distinct personalities.

Psychology was an emerging scientific discipline within the late Victorian period. This could have motivated Robert Louis Stevenson to write a complex story about mental struggles. Today, attitudes have shifted greatly. With a more modern lens, *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* can be viewed as a way of emphasizing the importance of community care. Perhaps, the story displays a man who has succumbed to his illnesses because of a community that

"Many different interpretations of the mental health issues in the novella exist, including ideas of sexual repression, drug addiction, anger management, and a variety of personality disorders.

> -THE TRAUMA & MENTAL HEALTH REPORT, York University, Toronto

does not support him. When Jekyll consults Dr. Lanyon about a patient, he describes himself. Once hearing of the mysterious patient's experiences, Dr. Lanyon immediately recommends the patient be confined to an asylum. This illustrates an attitude towards mental illness that is polarizing, villainizing, and dehumanizing. Jekyll cannot approach anyone in his community for help out of fear of retribution. This can be viewed as a call for mental health services to focus more on community care.



STEVENSON & THE JEKYLL & HYDE NOVELLA

by Thomas Teeter



Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) was a Scottish-born poet and novelist known for *Treasure Island, Strange Case* of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde,* and *Kidnapped.* He came from a family of engineers but showed an aptitude for storytelling at an early age. He studied law to appease his father but never practiced, choosing instead to focus on writing.

According to legend, *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr.*

Hyde was inspired by a nightmare the author had that was so violent, his wife had to forcibly wake him. The novella comes out of the strict and regimented society of Victorian England which exerted immense pressure to appear moral and upright. In contrast, prostitution and drug use were commonplace in daily life, and society relied on child labor and colonialism to

support itself. This 'bifurcation' is a common theme in many novels of the time.

Upon publication in 1884, the novella was an instant bestseller, moving 40,000 copies in under six months. It was adapted for the London stage within two years of its release, "All human beings, as we meet them, are commingled out of good and evil..."

-STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE

coinciding with the murders of Jack the Ripper. The play eventually closed after the lead actor became a suspect in the killings due to his portrayal of Hyde. It has since seen over 100 stage adaptations and 130 film versions, as well as ballets, prequels, sequels, and re-imaginings. "The story is now so embedded in popular culture that it hardly exists as a work of literature," says Claire Harman, Stevenson biographer.

Although Stevenson was a great traveler, he was plagued by lung issues-

"If [Bram Stoker's] Dracula leaves one with a sensation of having been struck down by a massive 400-page wall of horror, then Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde is like the sudden, mortal jab of an ice pick."

-STEPHEN KING

suspected to be tuberculosis. His travels were partly a search for healthier climates for his condition, and he lived in England, France, New York, and Switzerland before settling in Samoa where he died at the age of 43.

Following his death, Stevenson was dismissed as a writer of horror and children's stories, but

he remained a household name throughout the 20th century till his work was reevaluated. Today, he is the 26th most translated author in the world.

Also Featuring



MARK BAER (director, he/him) is a lifelong actor, director, and producer. Currently he is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Indiana University Northwest where he serves as Faculty President. Mark is so honored to return to Commonweal after a long absence, having been part of the resident company from 2000-2002. Recent directing credits include *Everybody* and *A Bright New Boise* for Theatre Northwest, *True West* for St. Croix Festival Theatre and *Chess* for Circle City Acting Company. Mark is deeply grateful for the support of his wife Kelly and daughter Samantha.



BETTI BATTOCLETTI (Hyde, Dr. Lanyon, she/her) recently performed at the Commonweal in *I Ought to Be in Pictures* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. She appeared in *Sanders Family Christmas, On the Verge, The Clean House, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,* and *Steel Magnolias.* Other favorite credits include *Always... Patsy Cline* (at Lyric Arts), and *The World Goes Round, Urinetown* (The Jungle Theater), as well as *42nd Street, Prisoner of Second Avenue, Cassie in A Chorus Line* (Artistry), and Georgie Bukatinsky in *The Full Monty* (Theater Latte Da). She is a lyricist, playwright, choreographer and owns Bodiology Pilates in Minnetonka, MN.



PAUL EPTON (lighting design, he/him) is back to design for three productions this season. Past favorites include *Come Back, Sanders Family Christmas*, and *Silent Sky*. He started designing lights at Carleton College, spent 11 years in Detroit, and returned to MN in '92, where he has designed for Off-Leash Area, Six Points Theater, Mixed Blood Theatre, and others. A year-round bicyclist, one of his early designs was for *Spokesong*. Awards: Lighting Designer, Ivey Award Honoree for *Ruined*; Lighting Designer, Ivey Award Honoree for *Psst!*; Detroit Free Press Theatre Excellence Award (Design); and Detroit News Drama Critics Award (Theatre Craft).



JASON LEE RESLER (costume design, he/him) has designed nine productions with the Commonweal Theatre Company—most recently *Good People*. Jason's other designs include *The Medora Musical* (10 seasons), *The Medora Gospel Brunch*, and *Honky Tonk Angels* (all in Medora, ND) as well as productions with Trollwood Performing Arts, Phoenix Theatre, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Great Lakes Theater Festival, Hope Summer Repertory, Park Square Theatre, History Theatre, Illusion Theater, Cortland Repertory, and Citadel Theatre Company. Jason is Assoc. Professor of Costume Design at Indiana University South Bend. www.jasonleeresler.com



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