**Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde**

Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher
from the novella *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson
Directed by Kara Davidson (she/her/hers)
Performances: October 5-8 & 11-13, 2023

**About the play**
A new suspenseful and innovative re-telling of a classic gothic tale of good versus evil, this play explores the battle of a man with his inner psyche. We know Dr. Jekyll to be a proper, upstanding, and ethical citizen of Victorian-era London, but he holds a dark secret. Jekyll’s experimentations with “powders and tinctures” have released his shadow self into the world -- a self that is allowed to experience (and act upon) the emotions and passions that Jekyll deprives himself of. The result is a wild, almost feral, being (Mr. Hyde) who lives recklessly and without boundaries. Control becomes addiction, and lines between reality and imagination begin to blur as Jekyll investigates who he becomes when he slips into the trance that is Mr. Hyde. As both sides of self become more aware of the other, there is a cat-and-mouse psychological battle of who deserves to remain.
This is also a play about disassociation. About repression. What happens to us as humans if we deny the duality of our natures? How do we mask our inner selves to present the perfect image of our outer selves to the world? What damage do we do in hiding away our full selves and only presenting a fragmented image of perfection?
Our production will explore these themes of fracture, dissociation, and repression by incorporating devised physical storytelling and movement sequences, as well as incorporating shadow play throughout the piece. Mr. Hyde is separated into four actor tracks, and this ensemble of Hydes will be the main orchestrators of the world playing multiple characters, as if toying with Jekyll’s mind throughout.
The play will be physical in nature; the movement and gesture work will require a strong sense of body awareness and self but will remain accessible for actors of any level of physicality. We will be exploring heightened language with the texts, almost as if it exists out of a specific time and exact place, and dialects may or may not be used.

**Audition Dates & Information**
UNO Theatre Weber Fine Arts Building
Auditions: Saturday, August 19 & Sunday, August 20 6:30-9:30 PM
Callbacks: Tuesday, August 22 6:30-9:30 PM
- Actors of diverse identities, backgrounds, and experience levels are welcome and encouraged to audition.
- Actors called back for *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* should come prepared to move, play, and read from scenes and/or monologues from the play.

**Audition Workshops** Sat. Aug. 12 – 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM / Wed. Aug. 16 – 4:00 to 6:00 PM
Weber Fine Arts Rm # 333
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Character Information and Content Disclosures

The script is designed to be performed by six actors. We are increasing the cast of this script to 10 actors, and most tracks will be open to gender interpretation unless otherwise indicated below. Please note that the actor tracking for our production will not follow what is in the script. The Playwright has given permission for these changes and has also given permission for us to redistribute the text of the Hydes as it supports our storytelling in this production.

Character Information

- **Dr. Jekyll (male-identified)** - Brilliant and educated. Dr. Jekyll is an intelligent man who prides himself on his moral and ethical standing in society. Jekyll is on a mission to preserve his own purity by suppressing his shadow self at any cost.

- **Elizabeth Jelkes (female-identified)** - Both tender-hearted and self-assured, Elizabeth is a woman who teaches Hyde about the depth and power of love and how it can serve to heal the things we seek to repress. She is not afraid of Hyde.

- **Hyde (Body)** - (any gender) A shadow self of Jekyll’s psyche. Repressed, this layer of psyche struggles with containing violent impulses and inflicts physical pain and harm.

- **Hyde (Mind)** - (any gender) A shadow self of Jekyll’s psyche. Repressed, this layer of psyche experiences extreme paranoia, spreads confident ignorance, and is short-sighted.

- **Hyde (Spirit)** - (any gender) A shadow self of Jekyll’s psyche. Repressed, this layer of psyche explores immorality and corruption with abandon, and exhibits behaviors fueled by nihilistic and existential beliefs.

- **Hyde (Heart)** - (any gender) A shadow self of Jekyll’s psyche. Repressed, this layer of psyche fears abandonment and rejection, is stunted by grief, and craves retaliation for hurt.

- **Gabriel Utterson (any gender)** - A practical and observant lawyer. A friend of Dr. Jekyll’s, Utterson who becomes intertwined in observing the concerning changes in Jekyll's lifestyle and temperament.

- **Sir Danvers Carew/Inspector (male-identified)** - A corrupt, egotistical, and sadistic man who is the chief surgeon of the College of London Hospital. He is Jekyll's rival and foe, and Jekyll detests Carew’s flippant morality. This actor will double as the Inspector in Act 2, as if Carew has come back to haunt and hunt Jekyll.

- **Dr. H-K Lanyon (any gender)** - A boisterous and light-hearted presence, and friend of Dr. Jekyll...until Lanyon sees/knows too much.

- **Poole (female-identified)** - Jekyll’s house manager. She cares for Jekyll deeply and sees herself as a care-taker for his overall wellbeing.

Content Disclosure:

The storytelling of the text will be supported and influenced by sound and movement. We will be devising moments as an ensemble, inspired by approaches such as Anne Bogart’s Viewpoints and the Frantic Method.

Many of the violence moments will be crafted in shadow without full visibility. We will ensure both a physically safe and emotionally safe working environment conducive for exploration of these moments and topics.