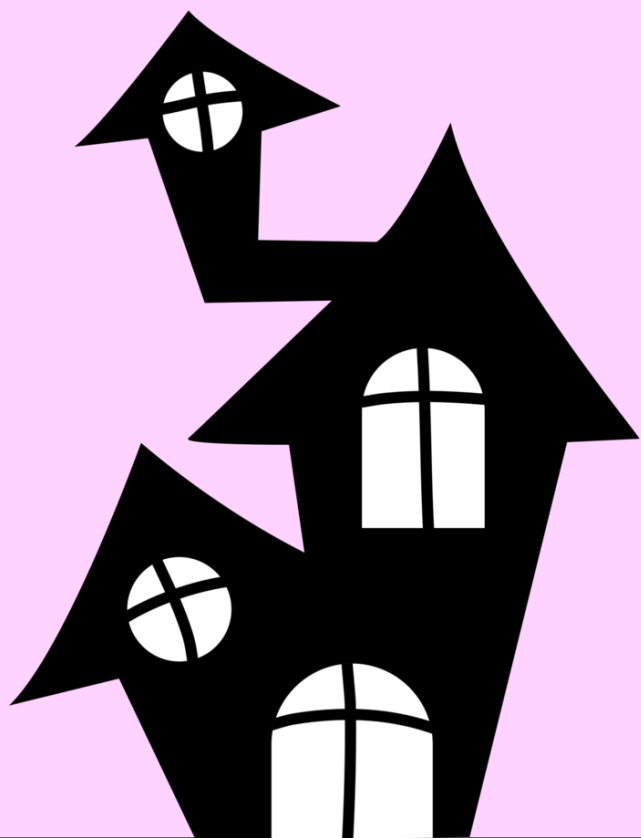


# CHEMICAL IMBALANCE: A JEKYLL AND HYDE PLAY



## 2025-2026 THEATRE SEASON “WHAT’S IN A NAME?”

Blinn College Division of Arts, Kinesiology & Agriculture  
Brenham Campus



### RESOURCE GUIDE

This resource guide serves as an educational starting point to understanding and enjoying *Chemical Imbalance: A Jekyll and Hyde Play*. Please note that the interpretations of the theatrical work may differ from the original source content.

# **CHEMICAL IMBALANCE: A JEKYLL AND HYDE PLAY**

**Written by Lauren Wilson**

**Directed by Brad Nies**

**Costumes, Makeup, and Hair by Jennifer Patrick**

**Technical Direction by Kevin Patrick**

**2025 Faculty Showcase for  
Blinn College-Brenham Campus  
Featuring Jennifer Patrick**

**Produced by special arrangement with  
Dramatists Play Service, Inc.**



# SYNOPSIS

*A dark but hilarious farce adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson's classic work about a Victorian doctor whose potions allow him to walk the line between aristocracy and depravity. In this version, insanity ensues when the doctor's friends and family accidentally drink his concoction.*

*This show is suitable for ages 13 and up. This production will utilize flashing lights and atmospheric effects.*



## PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

*November 13 & 14* *7:00 PM*

*November 15 & 16* *2:00 PM*

## PREVIEW PERFORMANCES

*November 13* *10:00 AM & 1:00 PM*

## ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

*November 15* *4:30 PM*

**DR. W. W. O'DONNELL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

**BLINN COLLEGE-BRENHAM**

# LAUREN WILSON, PLAYWRIGHT

In 1990, Lauren Wilson graduated from the Ecole de Cirque in Brussels, and she graduated from the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre in 1992. Since 2015, she has worked as a writer, director, and performer for the Dell'Arte Company. Prior to this, Wilson earned her B.A. from Reed College, as well as her M.F.A. from Sarah Lawrence College in Yonkers, New York. In 2008, Wilson received a year-long Dramatists Guild Fellowship for Playwriting and the Stanley and Evelyn Lipkin Prize for Playwriting. Her comedies include "Chemical Imbalance" and "The Golden State," both published by Dramatists Play Service, and her work, "Wedding Duet" appears in the 2007 anthology "Laugh Lines: Short Comic Plays." Before joining the faculty at Dell'Arte, Wilson taught at the State University of New York, Humboldt State University, and the American Conservatory Theatre.



Robert Louis Stevenson's

## **THE STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE**

*Considered one of the most famous pieces of English literature, Stevenson's gothic horror novel follows Gabriel John Utterson, a London solicitor, who relates a series of strange events between his old friend, Dr. Henry Jekyll, and a murderous villain named Mr. Hyde. Penning his work in 1886, Stevenson had always been intrigued by the notion that human personalities could reflect both good and evil. For inspiration, Stevenson used his friend, Eugene Chantrelle, a teacher who was tried, convicted and executed for the 1878 murder of his wife. Chantrelle, who appeared to lead a completely normal life during the day, became a fiend at night who not only poisoned his wife with opium, but also poisoned several other people in France and England. Originally, the book sold as a "penny dreadful," a cheap paperback that sold for one penny and told fictitious stories concerning detectives, criminals, and supernatural events. However, after a favorable review of the story was published in the London Times, the book became very popular. Since then, it has become the basis for several plays, movies, and illustrated works.*



# PARODIES, SATIRES, AND FARCES

*Lauren Wilson's play, "Chemical Imbalance," has been referred to as a parody, a satire, and a farce. While all three of these terms are forms of humor and social commentary, they each have distinct characteristics.*

**PARODY:** *This form of entertainment exaggerates an original work's characteristic style for humorous or critical effect. As such, it will utilize imitation, ridicule, and sarcasm.*

**Example:** *"Chemical Imbalance" employs a melodramatic acting style that was popular in the late 1800s.*

**SATIRE:** *This form of entertainment exaggerates to expose and criticize human vices, follies, and shortcomings. It will include irony, exaggeration, and burlesque.*

**Example:** *"Chemical Imbalance" pokes fun at the way women, authority figures, and the lower social classes were viewed during the late 1800s.*

**FARCE:** *This type of comedy relies on exaggerated and improbable situations for audience amusement. It employs physical comedy, as well as rapid-fire dialogue.*

**Example:** *The plot of "Chemical Imbalance" is ridiculously funny, and the dialogue is spoken very quickly.*



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