2014-2015 Theatre Season: A Year of Transformations
Blinn College Division of Visual and Performing Arts
Theatre Arts Program-Brenham

Dr. Jekyll

and

Mr. Hyde

A Melodrama from the Romance
by Robert Louis Stevenson
by T. R. Sullivan

Resource Guide

This resource guide serves as an educational starting point to understanding and enjoying T. R. Sullivan’s Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. With this in mind, please note that the interpretations of the theatrical work may differ from the original source content.
Robert Louis Stevenson’s

Dr. Jekyll
&
Mr. Hyde

by T. R. Sullivan

Directed by
Bradley A. Nies
Technical Theatre
Direction by
Kevin Patrick
Costume, Make-Up
and Hair Design by
Jennifer Patrick

Based on Robert Louis Stevenson’s 1886 novella, this melodrama, originally produced on Broadway in 1887, tells the story of a London lawyer who investigates the strange transformation of his old friend, Dr. Henry Jekyll, into the evil Mr. Edward Hyde. A great Halloween treat that explores good vs. evil!

Blinn College-Brenham Entry to the 2014 Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival

Public Performances
October 16, 17, 18  7 p.m.
October 19          2 p.m.

High School Preview Performances
October 16 & 17      1 p.m.

Dr. W.W. O’Donnell Performing Arts Center Auditorium
Brenham, Texas

Tickets can be purchased in advance online at www.blinn.edu/BoxOffice, by calling 979-830-4024 or by emailing BoxOffice@blinn.edu
The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Based on a dream that Robert Louis Stevenson had while recovering from an illness, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* is a horror novella that centers on the consequences of scientific experimentation. In addition, this gothic fiction focuses on how advanced science and technology may influence human behavior. First published in 1886, the work takes place in London, England and is told in the third-person point of view from the perspective of Gabriel Utterson, Dr. Jekyll's attorney and friend.

The History of the Play

The first stage version of Stevenson’s story opened in Boston in 1887, and it moved to New York’s Madison Square Theatre later the same year. After a successful run on Broadway, the play went on tour in Great Britain. The four act melodrama was written by Thomas Russell Sullivan for Richard Mansfield; an actor who continued to revive the Jekyll and Hyde characters until his death in 1907.

Dr. Jekyll in Love

Did you know that T.R. Sullivan’s play was the first to include a fiancé for Dr. Jekyll; a woman named Agnes Carew? Another stage version included a love interest for him named Sybil Howell, and the original 1931 film script included a barmaid named Ivy who flirted with the good doctor.
**Definitions**

**What is a Novella?**
A novella is a prose narrative that is longer than a short story, but not as long as a novel. The English word "novella" comes from the Italian word "novella" which means "new".

**What is Gothic Fiction?**
Gothic Fiction is a type of writing that focuses on dark and frightening events. Its name comes from the Gothic architectural style popular in Europe between the 12th and 16th centuries that included structures with deep shadows, stone walls, and gargoyles looming on exterior ledges.

**What is Broadway?**
Broadway, or Broadway Theatre, refers to theatrical productions that are presented in one of the 40 professional theatres located in the Theater District in New York City. Broadway plays are considered to be the highest level of commercial theatre in the United States.

**What is a Melodrama?**
A melodrama is a dramatic play that exaggerates plot and characters to appeal to the play’s emotions. Melodramas were highly popular during the 18th and 19th centuries, and they used orchestral music to accompany the action. This style can also be applied to movies, television, and radio.

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**Bloodstains on Broadway**
Did you know that there have been a lot of scary plays and musicals on the professional stage? It’s true! Here is a list of just a few of the creepy shows that have slithered into New York City’s Theatre District:

- *Carrie the Musical* - (1988)  
- *Dance of the Vampires* - (2002)  
- *Dracula* - (1927)  
- *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* - (1887)  
- *Frankenstein* - (1981)  
- *Jekyll and Hyde* - (1997)  
- *The Phantom of the Opera* - (1988)  
- *Sweeny Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* - (1979)  
- *Young Frankenstein* - (2007)
Robert Louis Stevenson-The Novelist

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland on November 13, 1850, Robert Louis Stevenson came from a family of engineers, lawyers, and church ministers. At the age of seventeen, he enrolled in Edinburgh University where he studied engineering, law, and, eventually, creative writing. After deciding to be a writer, Stevenson spent his summer vacations in France to be in the company of young writers and painters. It was there he met his future wife, Fanny Van de Grift Osbourne; an American divorcée with two children who was eleven years his senior. While his early writings were based on his travels, Stevenson eventually began writing short stories; many of which were published in the late 1870’s. He was inspired by his stepson’s drawing of a “pirate’s treasure map” to write Treasure Island in 1883. This work led to the penning of other novellas such as Kidnapped and The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, both published in 1886. Before he died in 1894, Stevenson had established himself as a poet, historian, playwright, anthropologist, and Postmodernist. In short, Robert Louis Stevenson was a talented writer who was constantly experimenting with various genres.

Definitions

What is an Anthropologist?
An anthropologist is anyone who studies past and present human beings and contributes to our knowledge of social, biological, and natural sciences.

What is a Postmodernist?
A Postmodernist is anyone who studies Postmodernism; an artistic movement that was developed in the late 20th Century and rejected the advancement of modern technology and the rapid growth of cities.

What is a Genre?
Genre is the term for any category of literature, music, or visual art that is based upon a set of stylistic criteria.
Thomas Russell Sullivan-The Playwright

Thomas Russell Sullivan Jr. was born on November 21, 1849 in Boston, Massachusetts to a family that included politicians and schoolmasters. He had hoped to attend Harvard College, but he was forced to support himself after both parents died when he was fourteen. Working as a bank teller in Paris and London, Sullivan gained an appreciation for the fine arts; specifically theatre. He eventually returned to Boston to begin writing original plays, novels, and short stories. By 1880, his plays were being staged at the Boston Museum; a venue that showcased theatrical performances. In 1885, Sullivan befriended the actor Richard Mansfield who suggested he adapt Stevenson’s *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* with Mansfield playing the dual title role. Sullivan’s adaptation premiered at the Boston Museum in 1887, and from there it traveled to New York and to London. By the time of his death in 1916, Sullivan was considered a highly respected figure in Boston’s literary community.

Richard Mansfield-The Actor

Richard Mansfield (1857-1907) was an English actor and manager who was best known for his performances in Shakespeare plays, Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, and his portrayal of the dual title roles in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. He came to America in 1882 where he received critical acclaim for his roles in several Broadway productions. It has been recorded that Mansfield’s performance of Mr. Hyde was so disturbing that ladies literally fainted and had to be carried out of the theatres. In addition, one frightened theatre-goer wrote to the police and accused him of being Jack the Ripper!
The Characters in the Play
General Sir Danvers Carew; A well-liked nobleman.
Miss Agnes Carew; His daughter.
Mr. Gabriel John Utterson; A prominent solicitor.
Dr. Hastie Lanyon; A reputable doctor, and uncle to Agnes.
Mrs. Lanyon; His wife, and aunt to Agnes.
Dr. Henry “Harry” Jekyll; A well-respected doctor.
Mr. Edward Hyde; A hideous fiend.
Jarvis; Sir Danvers’ butler.
Mrs. Rebecca Moore; Keeper of Hyde’s lodgings.
Inspector Newcomb; of Scotland Yard.
Mrs. Poole; Dr. Jekyll’s housekeeper.

Prevailing Themes in the Play

**Good vs. Evil**
The play asks the question, “Can good can be separated from evil in human beings, or are the two forever intertwined?”

**Repression**
The more Dr. Jekyll’s forbidden appetites are repressed by Victorian society, the more he desires the life of Mr. Hyde.

**Fears of Scientific Advance**
Dr. Jekyll’s scientific advances lean towards the supernatural, while society dictates a more traditional set of scientific notions.

**Women and Femininity**
While the women in the play are not necessarily weak, they find that they are unable to protect themselves against Mr. Hyde’s nefarious ways.
The London premiere of T. R. Sullivan’s *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* opened just days before the first of five murders in London’s Whitechapel District, and London tabloids immediately cited Mansfield’s portrayal of Mr. Hyde as a factor in the slayings. The publicity made Mansfield famous, but the play’s attendance decreased as many theatre patrons felt the play was in bad taste. The production soon closed, Mansfield returned to America before touring the production in Great Britain, and the original London production of T. R. Sullivan’s work became forever associated with the unsolved murders committed by Jack the Ripper.

**Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival**

This production will be the Blinn College-Brenham entry to the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. KCACTF is a national organization that exists to celebrate the educational and creative process of university and college theatre. KCACTF promotes professional standards and provides students and faculty with opportunities to bridge the academic and professional worlds. KCACTF honors achievements in diversity and excellence and encourages experiences in all areas of theatre.
Hey, Teachers!

Look These Up...If You Dare!

We encourage you and your students to explore these topics further by checking out the following resources:

Internet Source, www.bookrags.com, Lesson Plans for Dr. *Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*—Over 100 pages of tests, essay questions, lessons, and other teaching materials!

Internet Source, www.brighthubeducation.com, High School English Lessons—Lesson plans for setting up and facilitating group discussions about the novella *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* in your classroom!

Internet Source, www.novelguide.com, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*—Study guide for the original novella written by the Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson that was first published in 1886!

Internet Source, www.scholastic.com, Lesson Plan—*Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*—Storia teaching guide for grades: 6–8, 9–12!

Internet Source, www.webenglishteacher.com, Lesson Plans and Teaching Ideas for *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*—This page from the Victorian Web includes a variety of links to criticism and commentary!
Resources


Capitol Collections. (1889). Cabin of the Casco [Photograph].


Internet Source, www.ibdb.com, Internet Broadway Database-Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.


Internet Source, www.ibdb.com, Internet Broadway Database-
*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street.*

Internet Source, www.ibdb.com, Internet Broadway Database-
*Wicked.*

Internet Source, www.ibdb.com, Internet Broadway Database-
*Young Frankenstein.*

Internet Source, www.playbill.com, Ask Playbill.com: 
Broadway or Off-Broadway-Part I.


Menikoff, B. (1987), "Class and Culture in the English Short 
Story". *Journal of the Short Story in English* 8. Biannual 
Journal.

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Merriam-Webster Dictionary. (2004). “Definition for Post-
modernism”. Merriam-Webster, Inc.

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