

DR JEKYLL & MR HYDE



Written by
ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

Adapted by
RYAN PHILPOTT

Performed by
DICKENS THEATRE COMPANY



Who are Dickens Theatre Company?

Since 2015, **Dickens Theatre Company** have been creating exciting stage adaptations of literary classics, making theatre accessible to all.

DTC's **Revision on Tour** programme gives students the chance to see the texts they study in the classroom brought vividly to life on stage by professional actors, with performances designed to **engage, educate and inspire**.



Synopsis of the novel:

When the well-respected scientist, Dr Jekyll, meddles with the darker side of science, he creates a potion to separate the good and evil parts of his own nature. By transforming into the, malevolent Edward Hyde, Jekyll is able to bring out his own evil second nature. But as Hyde's control grows, Jekyll struggles and ultimately fails to suppress his dark alter ego, leading to ultimate tragedy.



DTC's adaptation:

DTC's streamlined adaptation contains all of RLS's original themes, characters, scenes and speeches. The added bonus comes from RLS himself who, acting as narrator throughout, builds a bridge of trust with the audience, recapping key scenes through engaging verse. DTC's J&H is skilfully brought alive by 6 awesome, multi-rolling actors.

***PLUS - A FREE post-show Q&A session with the cast & director available after matinee performances.**

KEY THEMES:

- DUALITY OF HUMAN NATURE
- REPUTATION & SECRECY
- SCIENCE, RELIGION & SUPERNATURAL BELIEFS
- GOOD & EVIL

SHOW RUNNING TIME:

90 MINUTES +PLUS INTERVAL

AGE GUIDANCE:

8YRS UPWARDS

MOTIFS:

- DOORS & WINDOWS
- LIGHT & DARK
- SALT & DRUGS

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Dr J & Mr H is heavily influenced by the social, scientific, & intellectual climate of the late 19th century. RLS's exploration of duality, morality, & human nature reflects the tensions of a society grappling with rapid change & uncertainty.

By understanding the historical context of the novel, students can better appreciate its themes of respectability, science, & the darker aspects of human nature, which continue to resonate today.

How much are tickets?

£16 plus every 11th ticket free for staff.

Age recommendation?

Our audiences range from Year 5 & 6 pupils experiencing Dickens for the very first time, through to Year 10 & 11 students, frantically trying to learn all those key quotes, themes & motifs for their exams.

LINKS TO THE KS3 & KS4 NATIONAL CURRICULUM:

Social and Historical Context (KS3 & KS4)

Watching DTC's production provides a strong basis for exploring the social, political and historical context of 19th-century Britain, including Victorian attitudes towards morality, social class divisions and crime in London at this time. Students can study the impact of the rapid rise in scientific discovery, much of which shook the foundations of deep-rooted Christian faith and morality. They can also consider the fear and reality of crime in an expanding urban environment, alongside the stark contrast between the wealthy gentleman, Jekyll, and the lower-class, animalistic Hyde. This understanding helps students develop AO3 skills in analysing how context influences a text, a key requirement for GCSE English Literature.

Literary Themes (KS3 & KS4)

DTC's play presents all the significant themes of duality, morality, the nature of evil, reputation, friendship, repression, violence and deceit. Students can analyse these themes through characters such as the loyal yet fallible Utterson and the callous Hyde, considering how Darwinism influenced the portrayal of Hyde's primal and primitive behaviour.

Character and Language Analysis (KS3 & KS4)

Students can critically analyse Stevenson's vivid descriptions of characters and settings. Post-show activities back in the classroom can focus on identifying and analysing oxymorons and juxtapositions, figurative language and Stevenson's use of pathetic fallacy to reflect good and evil.

LINKS TO THE KS2 NATIONAL CURRICULUM:

Reading Comprehension

Understanding Texts: Children can develop their comprehension by analysing the story's events, characters and plot, including understanding the purpose of specific vocabulary and literary devices.

Exploring Themes: Pupils can discuss the play's core themes, such as the contrast between good and evil, scientific progress and the concept of duality.

Historical Context: The story provides a window into Victorian society, allowing children to learn about the historical period in which Stevenson lived.

Writing

Narrative Structure: Teachers can use Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde to inspire narrative writing by examining how Stevenson builds suspense and uses sensory details to create atmosphere.

Character Development: Pupils can explore characterisation by analysing Jekyll and Hyde's contrasting or similar personality traits, and write about characters through their actions and interactions with others.

Vocabulary Enhancement: Post-show activities can focus on the challenging Victorian vocabulary and the figurative language used both in the novel and in DTC's adaptation.

Speaking and Listening

Discussion: The themes and characters presented in DTC's play can serve as a basis for spoken presentations or group discussions, where students can share their interpretations and ideas after watching the performance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.dickenstheatrecompany.co.uk

info@dickenstheatrecompany.co.uk

07799 661124 | 07990 587934

