

JEKYLL & HYDE **by Robert Louis Stevenson**

Adapted by **Caroline Devlin**
Directed by **Marieke Audsley**

5-22 February 2021
Holy Trinity Church, Guildford

To mark the start of their 15th year, the award-winning Guildford Shakespeare Company return to the stage with a gripping, new one-person adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's thriller **THE STRANGE CASE OF DR JEKYLL & MR HYDE**.

1886. A malevolent creature prowls the fog-shrouded streets of London. Only two men know its true identity; one of them is dead, the other is in a race against time to understand the terrible events he's witnessed and to stay alive...

The original psychological thriller, Robert Louis Stevenson's 'shilling shocker' has fascinated readers and audiences for 130 years. The novella explores the respectable Dr Jekyll's association with a mysterious and violent young man called Edward Hyde. Through the eyes of Jekyll's friend Utterson, we learn of the diabolical experiment Jekyll has carried out, and are brought, literally, face to face with humanity's basest capacity for evil.

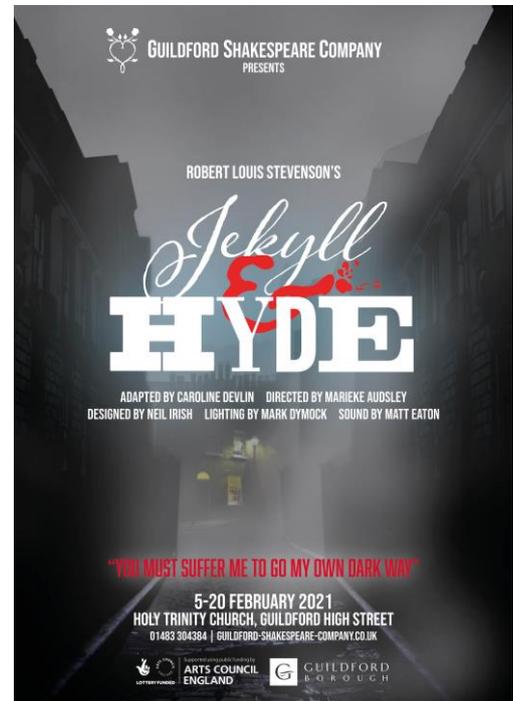
This new stage adaptation places a single actor centre stage adding an electrifying layer to the split personality at the heart of the story. The Victorian novella has been adapted by **CAROLINE DEVLIN**, who will be celebrating her 10th year of collaborating with GSC. Her first production in 2011 was "*A Hamlet to die for*" (British Theatre Guide), and has since gone on to direct some of the company's most memorable shows including *The Winter's Tale*, *King Arthur*, *Merry Wives* and most notably *King Lear* with Brian Blessed in the title role.

GSC are thrilled to welcome back actor **ROBERT MOUNTFORD** who will be playing all roles in this one-person production. Robert played Polixenes in *The Winter's Tale* (2016) and Parolles in *All's Well That Ends Well* for the company's first co-production, and London transfer, with Jermyn Street Theatre in 2019.

MARIEKE AUDSLEY's directing credits include a touring production of *Julius Caesar* for the RSC and *Sleight & Hand* by Chris Bush at Summerhall in Edinburgh which was broadcast to 30 Odeon cinemas nationwide and BBC iPlayer. As an Associate she has worked on numerous RSC productions and for the Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company in the West End.

JEKYLL & HYDE will be GSC's first full-scale in-person production since theatres were closed in March 2020, and sees them return to their regular winter venue of Holy Trinity Church on Guildford High Street, with whom they have been very closely working. Full COVID-secure protocols will be in place including a reduced audience capacity, temperature checks and socially distanced seating. The production will run without an interval for approx. 65 minutes.

MATT PINCHES, GSC Co-Founder: "*We really can't believe it has been almost a year since we last welcomed people to a main production. The open-air pilot event in August was a wonderful tonic and demonstrated how important live theatre is to our community. Additionally, the invaluable experience of that event has meant we can ensure the safest possible experience for our audiences. It promises to be a truly thrilling start to our 15th year of theatre making.*"





Press Release

Date: **18 December 2020** Use: **IMMEDIATE**
GSC Honorary Patron **Brian Blessed OBE**

COMPANY

Actor	Robert Mountford
Adapted by	Caroline Devlin
Directed by	Marieke Audsley
Set & Costumes by	Neil Irish
Lighting by	Mark Dymock
Sound by	Matt Eaton

DATES, TIMES & TICKETS

Friday 5 February – Saturday 20 February

PRESS NIGHT MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 7.30pm

Evenings	7pm/7.30pm
Matinees	4.00pm (Saturdays)
Late-shows	9.00pm (11, 12, 18, 19 Feb)

Full	£25
Concession	£23 (Over 65, Reg. Disabled, student, Equity, Jobseeker)
Child	£16.50 (under 16)
Family	£78 (2 full, 2 under 16)
Preview	£18 Friday 5 Feb (7.30pm) & Sat 6 Feb (4pm) all tickets

Strictly limited availability.

Running Time **65 mins** (approx.)

Booking now open.

BOX OFFICE:

www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk/jekyll-and-hyde

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Note to Editors

Guildford Shakespeare Company is an award-winning, site-responsive theatre company. Established in 2006 by actor-managers Sarah Gobran and Matt Pinches, it has produced over 40 shows in unique venues including Guildford Cathedral, Watts Gallery, West Horsley Place and a Flemish Spiegeltent. In 2015, Brian Blessed OBE played the title role in *King Lear*. Its Education and Outreach works with over 5000 people young and old every year including free-to-access social inclusion programmes. GSC is one of the largest producers of home-grown theatre in the region.

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