

DOC JEKYLL AND MR H
Working title

FIRST THOUGHTS...

We are doing a show that is rather more modern in its feeling than the show I did ten years ago. I loved that show. But with the level of addiction to screens, to trolling on the internet, to harassing others, to feeling it is a necessary passage of life to try being mean or to taking drugs, I feel it is time to do a new version.

I am using the 2m x 2m LED screen to be moving decor and to really give the lovely images from the previous show. The films were amazing. I will also have a 2m x 1m LED to be the mirror into which Jekyll looks and finds himself trapped. Dr J will be attracted to the mirror-screen, the way he touches it will reflect our attitudes to ours. Like this he is trapped by his own screen. And it is a modern screen. So, we the troupe comment on our own technology and maybe some of the public might identify to in this way with Jekyll.

We all know that so many kids see quite traumatic images from Primary school now. These images might well pop up in their lives later, they could and often do, deeply disturb. But the fascination is there...

Jekyll is addicted to his screen, to his mirror, he gets up in the middle of the night to let Hyde out. He feels himself tempted to create a drug to give him the excuse to be bad. The excuses he gives himself are shallow. He becomes Hyde who harasses people in the real world. It is not benign. The sins of Hyde are terrible and each one more horrendous than the last. Like internet trolls and those kids who push traumatic imagery at other teenagers there is the thrill of being bad. But it grows... and people get hurt.

FIRST THOUGHTS ON THE LOOK...

The costumes on stage will hopefully look Victorian, but the direction and the feel is 100% modern. The text is the same! The challenge is to transmit the modern.

In the public the 2 technicians will be wearing TEA T-shirts and modern black jackets. They are the mute staff of Dr Jekyll's household. One of them is in the lighting box and one in amongst the public, holding an iPad. It is he who launches the films of the show. He is the one whom Jekyll sends to the wholesale chemist to buy the elements Dr J uses to make his drug. By bridging the gap between the story to the play to the real world I hope to reinforce the comparison between all of us and Jekyll.

If even one night a kid decides not to stay up on their screens to release their « troll-Hyde » to do *cyber harsellement* or to delve into images that burn forever into the brain, we have done some good.

... and it is a jolly good story too.

Lucille O'Flanagan