Next on our stage:

DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE  
SEPT. 17-OCT. 18

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NOV. 19-DEC 20

TIGERS BE STILL  
JAN. 21-FEB. 21

A companion guide to

**Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde**

Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher

from the novella *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson
**SYNOPSIS**

In the fog of Victorian London, Dr. Henry Jekyll conducts mysterious experiments and discovers he has a dark other self. The villainous Mr. Edward Hyde lives free from the laws of conscience and society, with deadly results. When Jekyll decides to end his experiments, Hyde pushes back—and the two sides face off in a dangerous contest. This new and shocking version of Robert Louis Stevenson's novella is a theatrical feast of depravity, lust, horror, and love—featuring four different actors (including one woman) playing the multi-faceted Hyde.

**CHARACTERS**

**Dr. Henry Jekyll**: A 19th-century London doctor, respectable and respected, but unafraid to speak his mind and challenge authority.

**Mr. Edward Hyde**: The first readers of Robert Louis Stevenson's novella didn’t start out knowing that the libertine, dangerously uninhibited Hyde was a shadowy alter ego of Jekyll. To them he was only the mysterious villain and a completely separate character—until they learned the truth in the book’s surprising twist. In Jeffrey Hatcher’s modern adaptation, the four actors playing Hyde depict different sides to his personality.

Mark Anderson Phillips, director of the City Lights production, in an interview recently described the quartet this way: “Even within Dr. Jekyll, there are different shades of darkness; the four Hydes sort of represent different aspects of what we might consider evil: one is perhaps the cruel one, one animalistic, one impulsive and quick to violence, one calculating and methodical.”

The actors playing Hyde also portray a host of other characters, including: **Gabriel Utterson**, Jekyll’s keenly intelligent attorney; **Poole**, his loyal servant; and **Sir Danvers Carew**, a prominent and arrogant leader in London’s medical community.

**Elizabeth Jelkes**: Well-spoken and courageous, this young hotel maid starts out frightened of Hyde and then develops a fascination with him.
Robert Louis Stevenson's World

A free spirit and high-seas traveler, Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) had a life as adventurous as his books. He could have followed his father into the lighthouse business in Edinburgh. Instead, he chose atheism, a literary career, and marriage to an American divorcée who rolled her own cigarettes (imagine the scandal).

During his life, Stevenson's travels took him far and wide. He met his wife, Fanny, in France, wooed her in San Francisco, and sailed with her in the South Seas. The family would even settle in Samoa, where Stevenson got embroiled in a local civil war.

But his first big break as an author started on a sleepy family vacation. One rainy day during a holiday in Scotland, Stevenson and his stepson started painting a treasure map. All good maps shelter stories, and this one turned into the 1883 adventure novel Treasure Island. The pirate character Long John Silver may have come from Stevenson's one-legged literary agent.

Another adventure novel, 1886's Kidnapped, would also contribute to Stevenson's literary fame. Meanwhile, the author was also exploring another type of drama: one that emerged from the darkest recesses of the human mind.

Since childhood, Stevenson had been fascinated by the story of William Brodie, a craftsman who had lived in Edinburgh a century before, and had built the wardrobe that stood in Stevenson's own bedroom. Everyone had thought Brodie an upstanding chap. He was president of a trade guild and member of the town council. Then his double life came out: he was also a secret thief, philanderer, and gambler.

"On 1 October 1788, William Brodie was hanged for theft in the Lawnmarket in front of a crowd that was the largest seen in living memory," the BBC would later write. "He strode out to the gallows in fine clothes and a powdered wig."

Brodie's story inspired Stevenson to write a play with W E Henley, called Deacon Brodie, or the Double Life. Critics yawned, but Stevenson was fixated on the topic. A popular story states that one night Fanny woke her husband up as he first dreamt about a respectable doctor named Jekyll turning into his dark alter ego Hyde. The author was enraged.

"Why did you wake me? I was dreaming a fine bogey tale," Stevenson reportedly said. He then descended into a flurry of writing. In three days he had written the first draft of what would become his 1886 novella Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

Many also say Stevenson's inspiration for Jekyll and Hyde came from drugs. Was the author really being treated for an illness with hallucinogenic mushrooms at the time? Only history knows.

What is known for certain is that in 1888 Stevenson wrote in an essay that he had been trying "to write a story on this subject, "to find a body, a vehicle, for that strong sense of a man's double being which must at times come in upon and overwhelm the mind of every thinking creature."
Victorian England and Jack the Ripper

Though Stevenson would leave the UK behind for Samoa, his book was perfectly positioned to become a hit in his native Britain. Gothic fiction in the 19th century often explored the concept of the alter ego. Proper Britons loved reading about people with dark sides.

“The Victorians were crazy for stories about the dual nature of man, I suppose mostly because notions of propriety, respectability and self-control were so highly prized in their society,” Mark Anderson Phillips, who directs City Lights' production, writes in his director’s notes. “But what they aspired to be and what they were, then as now, were two very different things.”

Stevenson took his analysis one step further. His novella argued that not only men have alter egos: societies do as well. If the good doctor Jekyll had a dark side, so did Victorian London. Walk one street away from a posh, leafy neighborhood, and suddenly you got hit with a blackjack. Respectability can live quite naturally side-by-side with squalor.

In London, upstanding people didn’t like to talk about the East End neighborhood. It was full of poverty, brothels, crime, and (just as bad to some people) immigrants. It was hard to ignore, though, especially when prostitutes there started dying in an unusual manner. In August and September of 1888, a serial killer who came to be known as Jack the Ripper was killing these women and mutilating their bodies. Though someone claiming to be the killer sent taunting letters to the police, Jack the Ripper was never caught.

This was just two years after Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde was published, and Jekyll and Jack often got tangled up in the atmosphere of fear and confusion. Everyone in the U.K. and the U.S. was talking about these sordid tales, and many assumed they were connected. Was Jack the real Hyde? And deep down, didn’t everyone have an acquaintance—or even a friend or lover—who just might have a dark side? Look over your shoulder. Or, perhaps, within.

"With every day, and from both sides of my intelligence, the moral and the intellectual, I thus drew steadily nearer to the truth, by whose partial discovery I have been doomed to such a dreadful shipwreck: that man is not truly one, but truly two."

-Robert Louis Stevenson

Is that man Jack the Ripper? How about him? This 1888 image from the Illustrated London News shows members of the "Vigilance Committee in the East End" eying "A Suspicious Character."
In City Lights’ production, Dr. Jekyll (George Psarras, left) is watched by the fair Elizabeth (Kendall Callaghan, in dress) and the four faces of Mr. Hyde: Keith Marshall, Adam Magill, Lucy Littlewood, and Max Tachis.

**METHOD ACTING?**

When Richard Mansfield played the title characters in an 1888 stage version of *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, his performance was so convincing that many patrons wondered if the actor could be a Jack the Ripper suspect.

According to the British Library, one theater patron even wrote to the police, saying:

“I should be the Last to think because A man take A dretfull Part he is therefore Bad but when I went to See Mr Mansfield Take the Part of Dr Jekel and Mr Hyde I felt at once that he was the Man Wanted…I do not think there is A man Living So well able to disguise Himself in A moment…”
**About The Playwright**

A prolific Minneapolis writer, Jeffrey Hatcher has written for stage and screen—both large screens and small. He penned the screenplay for this year’s well-regarded Ian McKellen movie *Mr. Holmes*, and also wrote episodes of a little TV show called *Columbo*. Hatcher is also the playwright and screenwriter behind *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, which had a successful run at City Lights in 2011.

Other works include the Off-Broadway plays *Three Viewings*, *A Picasso*, *Scotland Road*, and an adaptation of the Henry James tale *The Turn of the Screw*. He wrote the book for the Broadway musical *Never Gonna Dance*, and co-wrote the stage adaptation of *Tuesdays with Morrie* with Mitch Albom.

Hatcher is particularly known for adapting literary classics. Besides working with the words of Stevenson and James, he has also put his stamp on many other established writings. His other adaptations include: *Smash* (an adaptation of George Bernard Shaw’s novel *An Unsocial Socialist*), *Murder by Poe* (an adaptation of five Edgar Allan Poe stories), *Cousin Bette* (an adaptation of Honoré de Balzac’s *La Cousine Bette*) and most recently *To Begin With* (an adaptation of *The Life of Our Lord* by Charles Dickens).

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**Meet The Director**

Mark Anderson Phillips is a familiar figure in Bay Area theater circles, from acting at American Conservatory Theatre, TheatreWorks, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and other companies to sitting in the director’s chair.

Audiences who saw the premiere production of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* at San Jose Rep / Arizona Theatre Company will recognize him as one of the original Hydes. He also directed *What the Butler Saw* at City Lights in 2005, and has helmed several productions with Children’s Musical Theater San Jose.

More recently, he directed *Sleuth* and *The 39 Steps* at Center REPertory company, winning both the 2014 and 2015 Shellie Awards for Best Direction of a Play.

Outside the area, Mark has appeared at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (*Joan Rivers – a work in progress by a life in progress*) and the New York International Fringe Festival (*Abraham Lincoln’s Big Gay Dance Party*, which won Best of Fringe). He’ll head back to New York next spring to perform in Aaron Loeb’s *Ideation* at the 59E59 Theatre.

In the original production of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* in 2008, Mark played the Hyde we see the most, who has a relationship with Elizabeth Jelkes and sometimes appears surprisingly sympathetic. That kind of unexpected ambiguity is part of what makes Jeffrey Hatcher’s adaptation so interesting, Mark said: those moments when Hyde shows a soft underbelly, or when Jekyll fails to take the moral high ground.
The cast got to work closely with Hatcher, which Mark said was exhilarating. “He’s just so quick. He would come up with new lines on the spot and then we’d just keep moving on. The play was very fully formed when we first got there, but he sort of personalized it to us.”

With this production, Mark is making a special effort to draw out the human side of the story—including the human sides of all the Hydes. "It really is a horribly tragic story," he said. "I think that at the end feeling for Jekyll and Hyde is important, and for Elizabeth and all the people who come in contact with them, whose lives are changed forever."

‘JEKYLL AND HYDE’ IN POP CULTURE

The concept of Jekyll and Hyde has lurked everywhere in pop culture, from cartoons to comics to movies we’d like to forget. (If you’ve never seen the 1995 Tim Daly comedy Dr. Jekyll and Ms. Hyde, consider yourself lucky.) Here’s a sampling of some other ways that Dr. J. has made house calls in our world.

• The 1920 silent film Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, starring an acclaimed John Barrymore
• Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Mouse, a Tom and Jerry cartoon from 1947
• "Dr. Heckyl and Mr. Jive," a song released by Men at Work in 1983
• The 1994 film The Pagemaster, featuring Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, both voiced by Leonard Nimoy
• Several adult movies, including the 2003 straight-to-DVD flick Dr. Jekyll and Mistress Hyde
• A 1973 made-for-TV musical starring Kirk Douglas in the title roles, with music by Lionel Bart of Oliver! fame
• Jekyll, a 2007 high-tech BBC miniseries starring James Nesbit (Bofur in the Hobbit films)
City Lights Theater Company presents *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* from Sept. 17 through Oct. 18, 2015. Shows are Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. (no matinee Sept. 20), and one Wednesday (Oct. 14), at 529 S. Second St., San Jose. Details: cltc.org, 408-295-4200

**Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde credits**

Director: Mark Anderson Phillips*

Stage Manager: Charnnee’ Young

Assistant Stage Manager: Julianne Spence

Scenic Design/Production Manager: Ron Gasparinetti

Lighting Design: Nick Kumamoto

Costume Design: Melissa Sanchez

Props Designer: Miranda Whipple

Sound Design: George Psarras

Carpenters: Joseph Hidde, Steven Hennon

Painters: Alexandra Zvargulis, Ting Na Wang

Electricians: Alexandra Zvargulis

*Special thanks to: Paulino Deleal and Janny Cote*

**Cast**

Dr. Henry Jekyll: George Psarras*

Edward Hyde, Gabriel Utterson: Max Tachis


Edward Hyde, Dr. H.K. Lanyon, Police Doctor, Surgical Student: Adam Magill

Edward Hyde, Poole, Surgical Student, Maid: Lucy Littlewood

Elizabeth Jelkes: Kendall Callaghan

Orderlies: Caitlyn Slavich, Joseph Hidde

* Member, Actors’ Equity Guild