

JEKYLL & HYDE

by **Robert Louis Stevenson**

Adapted by Caroline Devlin | Directed by Marieke Audsley

15 October – 5 November
St Nicolas' Church, Guildford

Guildford Shakespeare Company (GSC) present an electrifying solo-actor adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's Victorian gothic horror, reworked for the evocative St Nicolas' Church, Guildford.

"I knew myself, at the first breath of this new life, to be more wicked, tenfold more wicked... and the thought, in that moment, braced and delighted me like wine."

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 discover the awful truth of what he has witnessed and to stay alive...

Robert Louis Stevenson's Victorian gothic masterpiece has fascinated readers and audiences for over 130 years. The riveting novella explores the respectable Dr Jekyll's association with a mysterious and violent 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 face to face with humanity's basest capacity for evil.

Especially for GSC and the evocative setting of Guildford's Victorian St Nicolas' Church, the award-winning **CAROLINE DEVLIN** has revisited her 2013 adaptation, which ingeniously places a **single actor** centre stage.

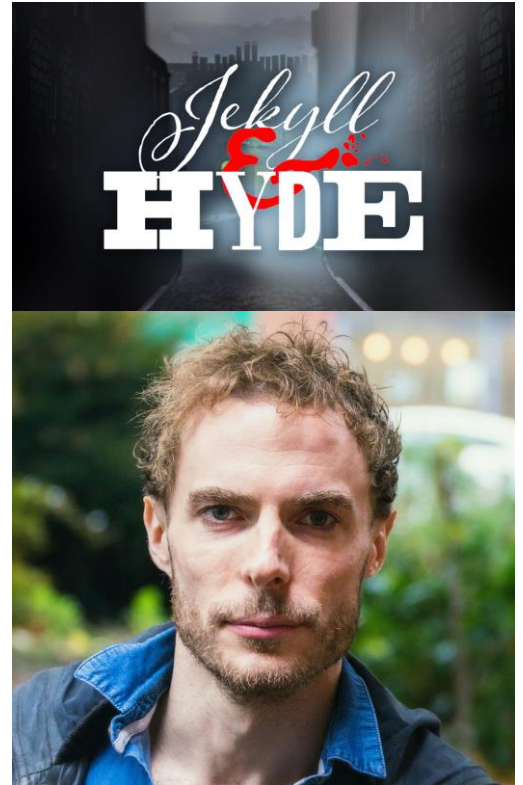
Actor **SAMUEL COLLINGS** will be playing all characters as well as the titular Jekyll and Hyde. Samuel most recently played Hector MacQueen in *Murder on the Orient Express* for Chichester Festival Theatre, His extensive credits include Shakespeare's Globe, RSC, Royal Exchange Manchester and Lyric Hammersmith; on radio he played Captain Berg in BBC Radio 4's *War & Peace* (2019); and on television the recurring character of Edmund Fanning in the hit series *Outlander*.

Director **MARIEKE AUDSLEY**'s previous work includes *Julius Caesar* for the RSC and *Sleight & Hand* by Chris Bush at Summerhall in Edinburgh (with Samuel Collings) which was broadcast to 30 Odeon cinemas nationwide and BBC iPlayer. As an Associate, Marieke has also worked on numerous RSC productions and with the Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company in the West End. This is Marieke's first time working with GSC.

CAROLINE DEVLIN: *"Stevenson's extraordinary tale caused shockwaves on publication, Victorians were outraged and tantalised in equal measure and in over 130 years, it has not lost a jot of its power to horrify and intrigue us. From an action as simple as seeing a man unlock a door, we're thrust into the twisted corridors of the human mind and forced to confront our deepest desires and secret fears... ultimately this blisteringly visceral story asks us - what would you do if you knew you could get away with it?"*

MARIEKE AUDSLEY: *"I am so excited to be bringing Jekyll & Hyde, this incredible novella, to the stage, in one of the most beautiful churches in Guildford, with one amazing actor... the perfect thing to watch on your dark autumnal evening".*

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Actor Samuel Collings



Press Release

Date: **31 August 2022** Use: **embargoed until 2 Sept**
GSC Honorary Patron **Brian Blessed OBE**

DATES & TIMES

15 October – 05 November

St Nicolas' Church, Bury Street, Guildford, GU2 4AW

Evenings 8pm

Matinees 4pm (Weds & Sats, not 15 Oct)

PRESS NIGHT TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 8pm

Running time 65 mins (approx.)

ACCESS PERFORMANCES

Relaxed Saturday 22 Oct 4pm

BSL Integrated Saturday 29 Oct, 4pm

Audio Description Saturday 5 Nov, 4pm

BOOKING & FURTHER DETAILS

www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk

PRESS

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TICKETS

Full £25

Concessions £23 (*over 65, students, Equity, Jobseekers, Reg Disabled*)

Children £16.50 (under 16)

Family tickets £75 (2 children, 2 full)

Schools £15 pupils (1 teacher free for every 10)

Previews 15, 17 October £18.50 (£16.50 children)

10 @ £10 tickets: 10 reduced price tickets available Mondays & Tuesdays for 16-25 yr olds/Universal Credit. Available via Box Office phone number only.

Autumn Principal Sponsors



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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. GSC has a site-responsive approach that places audiences right at the heart of the action, immersing them in the world of the play, enabling us to demystify the legend that theatre is for an elite, educated few but is immediate and accessible to everyone.

2022 will see the company produce its 50th production. Specialising in site-responsive interpretations of Shakespeare and other classics from literature, unique venues have included Guildford Cathedral, Watts Gallery, West Horsley Place and a Flemish Spiegel tent. In 2022 Freddie Fox played the title role in *Hamlet*, receiving wide-spread national acclaim and in 2015, Brian Blessed OBE played the title role in *King Lear*.

Its Education and Outreach works with some 15,000 people young and old every year through workshops, in-house drama clubs and free-to-access social inclusion programmes. GSC's mental health programme for families, has gone on to be used as a case study for Systemic Family Training at Tavistock and also the British Association of Dramatherapy.

GSC is a registered charity and one of the largest producers of home-grown theatre in the region. Their buildings are supported by Guildford Borough Council.