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audience reviews

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Sacramento City College (City Theatre)

Review: I Enjoyed it very much. Excellent Job!

Review: I saw this on preview night and loved it. It's a different take on J&H. It considers the idea expressed by Mr. Utterson that perhaps the human character is not a dichotomy but something more complex. It gives much less attention than one might expect to the goings on in the lab. Jekyll isn't even seen drinking the potion until the last time. But the absence of the most expected moments doesn't keep this from being an exciting, edge-of-the-seat play. Lots of moody fog, suspense, screaming and just enough violence. The presence of, not one, but four Mr. Hydes, all attractive and very sinister adds a nightmarish, surreal quality. There was one unintentional laugh due to blocking that required more suspension of disbelief than the audience was able to provide but otherwise it was a completely engaging production. Wonderful theater, beautiful set. The acting was very good. Some of the accents were a little ragged around the edges but nobody who was paying attention to the story would have been bothered by that. An intelligent horror story, this show will provide plenty of refrigerator talk.

Review: This was a great show. Not once did it ever lose my attention. The simplicity of the set and the grace between scenes truly helps the audience become fully involved in the story. This show was brilliantly directed and acted. This is a must see for all Theatre lovers!

Review: When I was told beforehand about different actors playing Hyde, I was a bit apprehensive. Worried that it would be hokey or confusing. I had no reason to fear, however, because the angles and storyline were well played out. The different portrayals of Mr. Hyde TOTALLY worked for me. I really enjoyed the staging and the actors told a very bold story. They used the space to their advantage. The fog and lighting added a deep element to the story. I was entertained. I was sucked into the story, even though I have seen various productions of Jekyll and Hyde and am quite familiar with the tale. Utterson, the main narrator, kept the story moving along. The leads were strong, and overall I say this is a great artistic viewpoint of a classic story. Thank you for a job well done!

Review: Excellent, entertaining. I highly recommend it!

Review: This play was so...boring. Now, don't get me wrong, there were plenty of good things about this

show, but the driving energy necessary to create the suspense for this story just wasn't there. I found the script a bit weak, but the convention of 4 Hydes had some strong points. City Theatre really needs to put a bit more effort into choosing their scripts. This is at least the 3rd poor text I've seen them produce in the past year, and I didn't even get to see all their shows last year. The strongest performances were those of George Sanford (Dr. Jekyll), Megan O'Laughlin (Mr. Hyde 1/Poole/Ensemble) and Ben Moroski (Mr. Hyde 3/Ensemble). A lot of the dialects needed work, but for the most part were ok. Some bad points: The lighting--too many shadows on faces (not in a dynamic way, just a distracting way), creating focus on the wrong people, cyc lighting when "dead" people exit...it was very distracting. The costumes--Elizabeth (Amelia Van Brunt) had a very fancy dress for a chamber maid. The rest of the costumes looked as though they were pulled because they vaguely fit the time period, and then not correctly fit to the actor wearing them. Too many extra people on stage--why were there people sitting onstage doing, well, nothing? This production certainly wasn't bad, but it wasn't anything great either.

Review: Very well done! The best show I've seen at a community college theatre in years, possibly ever. It is was short, sweet, and to the point, with lots of suspense, beautiful acting and smooth transitions. A very interesting exploration of the human nature that will have you on the edge of your seat.

Review: OH MY GOSH!! This was awesome. This had a high caliber of production. What an amazing experience. Violence, mayhem, and psychological thrills all wrapped up with a blood-red bow. All at once, you are transported to Victorian London, and you're freaked out that a top hat with a cape and cane will round the corner, and you'll be in it's evil way.

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