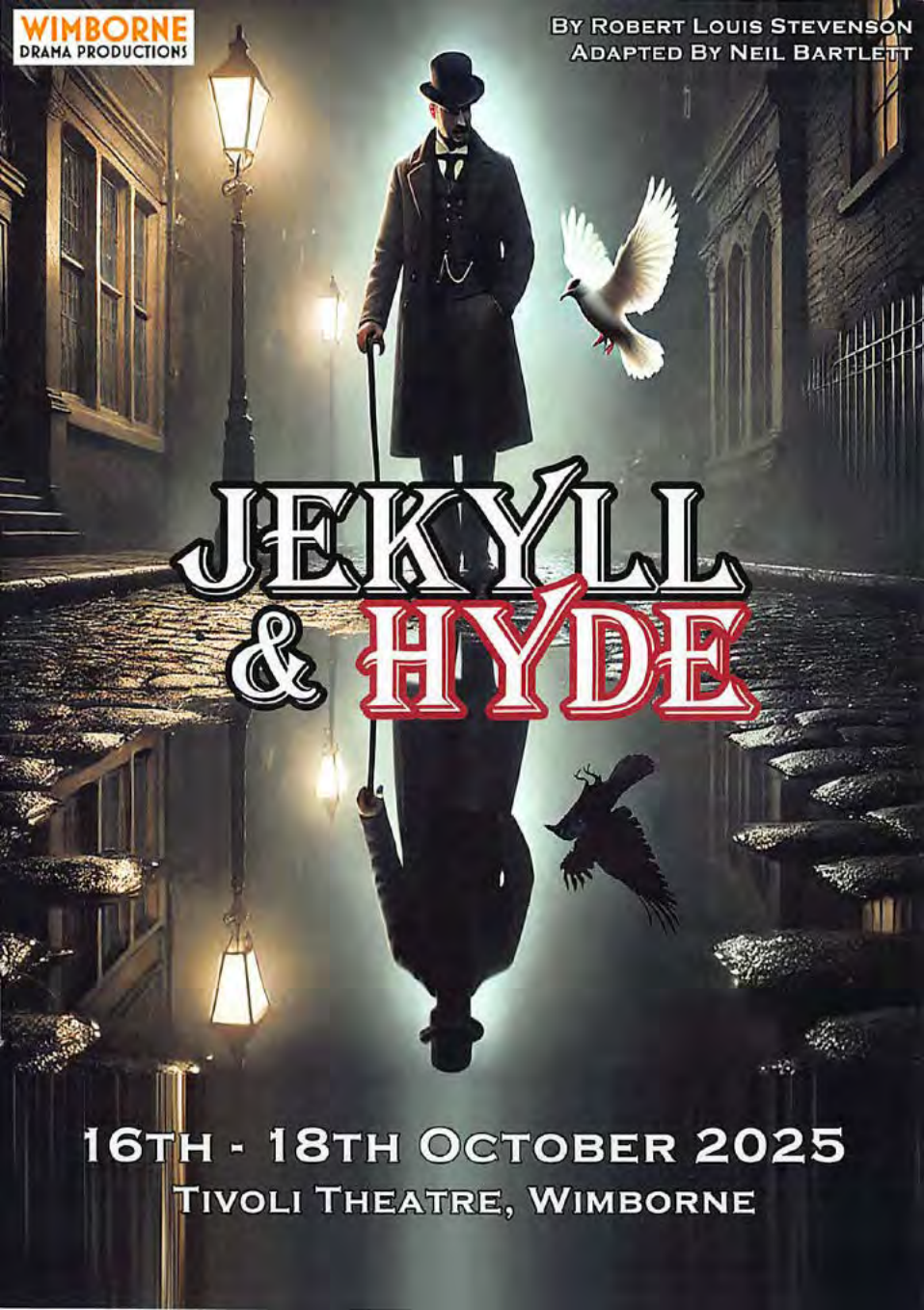


WIMBORNE
DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON
ADAPTED BY NEIL BARTLETT



JEKYLL & HYDE

16TH - 18TH OCTOBER 2025
TIVOLI THEATRE, WIMBORNE

Director's Notes

Meet the crew...



Michelle Barter
Director

There is something exhilarating - yet terrifying - about directing a play: the idea that you have the creative freedom to have people stand in a certain way and speak in a certain way. Yet all the time you are exposed: all that you are is laid bare. Other people will see this - stare into your inner soul, so to speak - and judge you. Knowing, all the way through this process, you're doing this just for the fun of it!

Here I am again, directing for Wimborne Drama Productions, baring my soul for all to see in my second production. My first was *Bedroom Farce*, which I so enjoyed doing. This one has taken a very different turn from your average, conventional, 'there's been a murder in the library' type affair, to a more 'strange case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde,' with a bunch of Gentlemen chorus representing aspects of male privilege and dual personality. It has been such a delight to work with a cast and crew of such wonderful talent and creativity, they have taken on board every odd and downright crazy idea that I've woken up at 3am thinking 'Hey, yeah, lets put that in to the show'. Not once has anyone taken me to one side with a cup of tea and told me to calm down; in fact, half of it is their fault as they've been so encouraging.

I wanted to acknowledge the difficult themes in this production, mainly of violence towards women and children. This, by no means, is acceptable. Neither is it exclusively women and children: men experience violence too, which is, more often than not, dismissed. Male privilege and the dismissive nature of men towards women, who should be treated as equals, is also a thread on which I pull. Considering the novel, from which this adaption is taken, was published in 1886 by Robert Lewis Stevenson (written in Westbourne) I have to acknowledge, unfortunately, not much has changed. I am a female writing this and also a psychotherapist. These are reoccurring themes that appear regularly in my training, and so never far from my thoughts. There have been huge amounts of public information, specifically about violence towards women and children, in the media. Government money has been pushed towards ending this. Ceaseless research, such as the work of Jane Monckton Smith, highlighting coercive

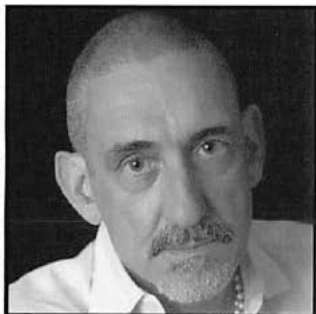
control and the murder of women, means that I have to remind myself that this is 2025, and nearly 140 years after this publication hit the mean streets of Old London Town. I could have set this play in modern times and I don't think anyone would blink! Such is the enduring normality of some of these themes.

Please don't let my soapbox rant stop you from enjoying what, I think, is a thrilling production: full of tension and drama, with perhaps a few laughs thrown in for good measure. Enjoy.

In case anyone needs information on services or groups in Dorset:
<https://www.helpandkindness.co.uk/search/dorset/domestic+abuse>

Neil Bartlett - Playwright

Neil Bartlett has been making rule-breaking theatre and performance since 1983. After a controversial early career he was appointed Artistic Director of the Lyric Hammersmith, with Simon Mellor as Chief Executive. Over a ten year period they transformed this previously run-down venue into one of the most respected theatres in London. The range of his directing work at Hammersmith and collaborations with other leading theatre makers of his generation deliberately confounded the categories of the experimental and the mainstream. In addition, he invited emerging new companies such as Kneehigh and Frantic Assembly to share the main stage with his own work. In recognition of this work at the Lyric, he was awarded the O.B.E. in 2000.

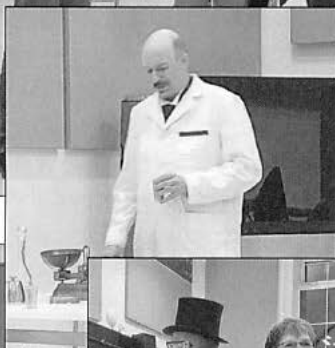
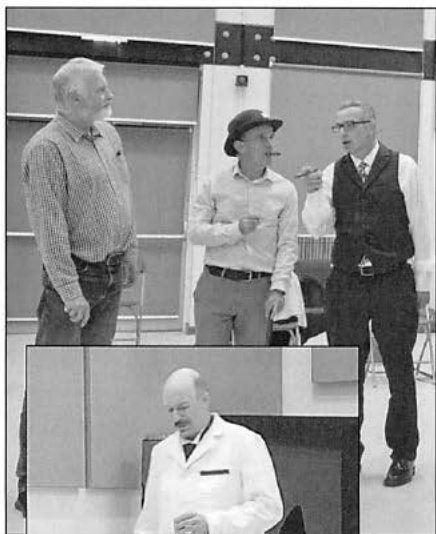
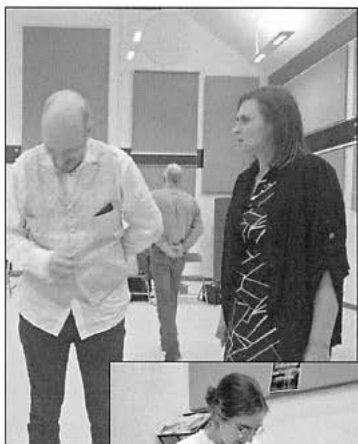


Bartlett left the Lyric in November 2005, and since then has resumed his career as an independent theatre-maker and author, creating work with leading cultural producers. His plays, translations and adaptations have been and are still performed widely across the English-speaking world. His adaptation of Jekyll and Hyde was written in 2022 and first performed at Derby Theatre & Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch. In addition Neil is also a director and an acclaimed author, with a whole shelf of novels, plays, adaptations and translations to his name.

Photo credit: Nick Hern Books

Rehearsal shots...





A Process of Illumination

Robert Louis Stevenson and the duality of human nature

By Suzanne Viney

Near the Isle of Tiree, 615 miles from Wimborne, Skerryvore Lighthouse (the tallest lighthouse in Scotland) nightly casts its life-saving beams into the darkness of the North Atlantic. It has done so since 1844. This iconic building is one of 82 lighthouses designed and built by the Stevenson family.

There is also another Skerryvore, much closer to home. In Westbourne, Bournemouth, lies the fading footprint of an impressive family home, destroyed by bombing during WW2. There is a garden, with a rockery adorned by a stone model of the beacon in the Hebrides. It was here, in 1885, that Robert Louis Stevenson, an invalid who rejected his family's lighthouse business, wrote *The Strange Affair of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. Just as his ancestors illuminated the night sky, Stevenson sought to shed light on the true nature of humanity. He used his novella to highlight the duality of mankind and the hypocrisy of Victorian society.

A sickly child, Stevenson was frequently bedridden, beset by chest complaints and fevers. Ironically, his debilitating – and ultimately fatal – illness was the source of his creative mastery. Stevenson suffered from febrile dreams, which caused bizarre hallucinations and terrifying distortions of reality. The demons of his pyrexia became the characters in his most famous work.

In *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Stevenson's contemporary, Oscar Wilde, wrote "sin is a thing that writes itself across a man's face. It cannot be concealed." Stevenson, it seems, was not in total agreement with this hypothesis. In his novella, the characters, with the exception of the trampled girl, are all men whose moral corruption is hidden by professional facades. Similarly, the name Hyde conveys a monstrous being who is concealed within the dark underbelly of Victorian society.

Jekyll, of course, is a scientist: an occupation viewed with suspicion by the Victorian public. Darwin's research and the publication of *The Origin of The Species* represented, for many, a contradiction of the Bible's version of creation and was considered blasphemous. However, Jekyll is not like Viktor Frankenstein, who "plays God" by manufacturing a monster. Jekyll's monster is part of himself; it is merely released from its veneer of respectability. Akin to the "Beast" in William Golding's *The Lord of the Flies*, which the boys acknowledge "is only us," Hyde embodies the animalistic urges that are thinly veiled by civilized society. As DH Lawrence wrote, "The most normal people have the worst subterranean selves" (*Sons and Lovers*). Stevenson's novella is a warning about allowing our inner beast to overwhelm our rationality.

Neil Bartlett's take on Jekyll and Hyde gives the story a 21st century slant. Bartlett creates the new character of Dr Stevenson, an avant garde female physician, who unravels the intricacies of this mysterious case. He also employs a chorus of "gentlemen" - this nomenclature is ironic - who demonstrate that civility and barbarism are part of the duality of human nature.

Ultimately, however, the final outcome is the same: Jekyll's life is torn apart by his inability to conquer his "dark and deep desires" (*Macbeth*, William Shakespeare). Interestingly, Stevenson uses the metaphor of "a dreadful shipwreck" to describe Jekyll's life. It's difficult not to view this image as a reference back to his father and grandfather building their huge lighthouses around the Scottish coast. His novella enlightens our view of human nature, to prevent our lives being dashed to pieces by our inner demons.

"Man is a double being and can take, now the God's-eye view of things, now the brute's - eye view." (*Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley). Perhaps it is time to consider which perspective we choose take.



Robert Louis Stevenson

JEKYLL & HYDE

The Cast

Jekyll / Hyde	ANDY GILL
Dr. Stevenson	SALI PIKE
Utterson	COLIN PILE
Enfield	ANDY SCOTT
Guest	CALUM HEARN
Dr. Lanyon	RICHARD NEAL
Newcome	RICHARD SCOTSON
Servant / Office Boy	DAVID BEDDARD-BANKS
Matron	HEATHER BIRCHENOUGH
Girl	SCARLET DIXON

Production Acknowledgements

This production would not have been possible without the generous help and support of Beaucroft College, Daisy Graphic, Anthony Cutler, Forest FM, Gullivers Bookshop, Victoria Park Amateur Drama Costume Hire, Radio Wimborne, Forest FM, Stour and Avon Magazine, Tivoli Theatre, Scene One and Viewpoint.

The Creative Team

Director	MICHELLE BARTER
Set Designer	COLIN PILE
Assistant Directors	SUZANNE VINEY PAUL SENITT
Properties/ASMs	DEE HAWES JUDY GARRETT
Sound	CAL PORTER
Costume Supervisor	KIRA BRADFORD
Prompt	BETH MORRIS
Stage Hands	JAMES TURRALL ROB CORDING-COOK
Publicity & Programme	BOO & TONY FELTHAM
For the Tivoli Theatre:	
Production Manager	KYLE BEST
Lighting	CHANDLER WHITELOCK

The play takes place in and around high society and the lowest places in Victorian London, 1886.

Running time is approximately 2 hours and 10 minutes including a 20 minute interval

Produced by Wimborne Drama Productions at the Tivoli Theatre, October 16-18, 2025. This amateur production of "Jekyll & Hyde" is presented by arrangement with Nick Hern Books.

Meet the cast...



Andy Gill
Jekyll/Hyde

Meet the cast...



Sali Pike
Dr. Stevenson

Meet the cast...



Colin Pike
Utterson

Did you know...

Robert Louis Stevenson was living on West Cliff Road, Westbourne when he wrote the novella of Jekyll & Hyde

Meet the cast...



Andy Scott
Enfield

Meet the cast...



Calum Hearn
Guest

Meet the cast...



Richard Neal
Dr. Lanyon

Meet the cast...



Richard Scotson
Newcome

Did you know...

Stevenson suffered from chronic tuberculosis-like illness and was often bedridden, yet he travelled widely seeking healthier climates.

Meet the cast...



David Beddard-Banks
Servant / Office Boy

Meet the cast...



Scarlet Dixon
Girl

Meet the cast...



Heather Birchenough
Matron

Meet the crew...



Michelle Barter
Director

Meet the crew...



Suzanne Viney
Assistant Director

Meet the crew...



Paul Senitt
Assistant Director

Did you know...

Stevenson reportedly dreamed the plot of J&H during a nightmare. His wife woke him, and he was annoyed because he wanted to know how it ended!

Meet the crew...



Dee Hawes
Props / ASM

Meet the crew...



Judy Garrett
Props / ASM

Meet the crew...



Cal Porter
Sound

Meet the crew...



Kira Bradford
Costume Supervisor

Did you know...

According to legend, Stevenson's wife criticized the first version for being too much like a fairy tale. He then burned the manuscript and rewrote it from scratch in only three days while bedridden with illness.

Meet the crew...



Beth Morris
Prompt

Meet the crew...



Rob Cording-Cook
Stage Hand

Meet the crew...



James Turrall
Stage Hand

About Wimborne Drama Productions

Established in 1928, we are a renowned, award-winning amateur theatre company producing plays at the Tivoli Theatre in Wimborne.

Join us!

Would you like to be part of a sociable, kind, inclusive group of friends? Our members have more than a shared interest in drama we also have a book club, host dinner parties, meet for regular evenings at the pub and go on theatre trips.

We stage three productions each year. We always welcome new members, with or without previous experience. As well as those with a liking for acting or directing, people with a keen interest in the less glamorous, but equally valuable backstage roles (set construction, properties, make-up etc) are warmly welcomed into the group.

We are actively seeking:

- Male and female actors in their 20s and 30s.
- Members interested in backstage roles such as:
 - * Stage Manager
 - * Assistant Stage Manager
 - * Sound
 - * Props
 - * Costumes
 - * Make-up
 - * Set Design and/or construction
 - * Prompt

Our current members can teach and mentor anyone new to a role. Backstage members are welcome to audition for acting roles and tread the boards, but are never put under pressure to perform.

The group members meet at 7.30pm on the last Wednesday of the month and rehearsals take place on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Membership costs £35 per annum, for more information contact Tracey Nicholls via email: secretary@wimboredramaproductions.com

Coming soon to The Tivoli

VON RIBBENTROP'S WATCH

A Dark Comedy

By Laurence Marks &
Maurice Gran

19 - 21 Feb 2026

Directed by
Paul Senitt

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

By Agatha Christie

14 - 16 May 2026

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WIMBORNE DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

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Malcolm Angel

Patrons:
Ron Bignell
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Robin Cook (H)
Joanna David (H)
Michael Evans
Edward Fox (H)
Mayor of Wimborne (H)
Carol Neal
Peter Neal
Tina Nicholls
Anthony Oliver (H)
Christine Oliver (H)
Al Pike
Nick Stevenson
Trevor Webb
(H signifies honorary)

To enquire about becoming a
Patron please email secretary@wimbornedramaproductions.com

**Membership costs £40.00 per
year and includes:**

1 complimentary ticket &
programme per Patron per
production (typically 3 per year)
and reserved seating for you and
your friends.

Visit us online at: www.wimbornedramaproductions.com

WIMBORNE
DRAMA PRODUCTIONS



VON RIBBENTROP'S WATCH

A Dark Comedy

From the writers of *Birds of a Feather*
Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran

19TH - 21ST FEBRUARY 2026
TIVOLI THEATRE, WIMBORNE

Evenings 7:30PM - £18.50, Saturday Matinee 2:30PM - £16.50

Box Office: 01202 885566 Online: www.tivoliwimborne.co.uk

An amateur production by arrangement with Stagescripts Ltd