

TWICE THE THERAPY

By Lauren Denson

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CHARACTERS

DR. GREENE

Male or female.

DR. HENRY JEKYLL/EDWARD HYDE Male, their voices should be different.

COSTUMES

DR. GREENE should be dressed for his profession as a psychiatrist, perhaps a sweater vest or even a white doctor's coat.

JEKYLL/HYDE should wear clothes that do not seem particular to a certain time period. He would be good in dark slacks, buttoned shirt, a jacket or trench coat, perhaps a hat. His clothes should be nice, but in disarray... as though Jekyll picked them out, but Hyde messed them up throughout the day.

PROPS

Two chairs will do, but a more elaborate set might consist of a desk for Dr. Greene complete with a phone, name plate and clip board.

Production history:

PRODUCTION NOTES

There should be a distinct difference in the voice used by Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, with Jekyll's voice being higher and "whiny," while Mr. Hyde's voice should be deep and gruff. To make it clear to the audience that Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde are two distinct personas, different mannerisms should be used for each character. Physical comedy, such as Dr. Jekyll's fall or Jekyll and Hyde fighting within this one body enhances the entire performance.

"Twice the Therapy" was first performed with a series of other short pieces in a nonprofit show at Fort Worth Christian School in August of 2005. The entire show was directed by Lauren Denson.

Dr. Greene
Jekyll/Hyde

Matthew Newell
Tristan Whalen

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AT RISE: *Stage is set with two chairs. GREENE enters holding a clipboard, adjusts the chairs and sits. HE makes the motion of pushing a button.*

GREENE: Miss Drake, is my four o'clock appointment here yet?...
Please send him in.

(After a moment, JEKYLL enters and approaches the chairs tentatively.)

GREENE: Oh, good, you've made it. *(checks his clipboard)* Henry, isn't it?

JEKYLL: Y-yes... Henry.

GREENE: Well, come on then, I'm sure you aren't paying fifty an hour to stand in a corner. Have a seat and let's get started.

JEKYLL: *(sits and clears his throat)* Thank you for seeing me... not many doctors will see me anymore, considering what happened to the last one.

GREENE: Yes. *(glances down again at notes)* Very regrettable, but that's why you're here, isn't it, to avoid anymore regrettable situations.

JEKYLL: I hope so... you must forgive me, I have an anxiety about visiting doctors.

GREENE: But unless my notes are wrong, you are a doctor yourself.

JEKYLL: Yes... but I do mostly research work *(secretly reaching into his pocket)*... much different than a psychiatrist.

GREENE: Yes, well, let's start by you telling me a little about why you are here.

JEKYLL: Well, you see, I have a lot of pent up anxiety and anger. I have so much trouble making new friends and I get so lonely sometimes.

GREENE: Do you get along with your parents, your siblings?

JEKYLL: Decently... I think my problems are more internal.

GREENE: All right, Henry... oh, just a minute, that's my phone. *(lifts phone to his ear)* Hello, this is Dr. Greene.

(Meanwhile JEKYLL, or rather, HYDE has taken a cell phone out of his pocket. HE twists around and using a different, more malicious and confident voice, speaks.)

HYDE: Dr. Greene, I have something to tell you about your patient. He's a raving lunatic!

GREENE: (*hangs up and gives JEKYLL a hard look*) Dr. Jekyll, I thought you paid for a one on one session.

JEKYLL: (*alarmed and apologetic at HYDE's presence*) I did, Dr. Greene and I am terribly sorry. It was not my intention that he join us, but he is so difficult sometimes. Edward Hyde, I told you I was coming here today, what are you doing?

GREENE: Well, Henry, maybe this will work out... maybe his presence will help us better understand what is troubling you.

HYDE: You see, there's the problem, everything is always about him.

JEKYLL: You are only a creation of my subconscious, with enhanced cognitive abilities due to an experimental drug... what do you know?

HYDE: So, you're saying that you are more important than me?

JEKYLL: That is exactly what I am saying.

GREENE: Gentlemen, please.

JEKYLL: Any discussion with him will be impossible, doctor. He's a thick-headed nincompoop.

HYDE: You created me, what does that make you?

GREENE: Okay, obviously there is a lot of unresolved conflict between the two of you.

JEKYLL: Conflict?! This man makes my life a living hell.

GREENE: Hyde, why don't you tell us how that makes you feel.

HYDE: (*puts his head down*) It hurts my heart.

GREENE: You see, Henry, see how your words can hurt him...

JEKYLL: I don't believe this.

HYDE: (*laughs*) To tell you the truth, Greeny... I don't give a crap what this guy says about me. He's always been jealous of me.

GREENE: That right there, the insincerity... that's what is keeping you two from actually achieving any progress. Now, Edward Hyde... why don't you tell me why you think you and Henry do not get along.

HYDE: Henry's a weasely, cross-eyed chump.

GREENE: Now, there has got to be a basic reason for this hostility. Henry, tell me what you think is the cause.

JEKYLL: It might have to do with the fact that I am pure good and he is pure evil, born from the inner demons I was hoping to destroy in my own being, but instead isolated and personified.

GREENE: No, no... I think it's deeper than that... but that was a good effort at brain storming, Henry.

HYDE: (*mocking*) That was a good effort at brain-storming, Henry.

JEKYLL: Oh be quiet, you homo!

GREENE: Wait... Mr. Hyde is homosexual? You didn't put that in your notes.

JEKYLL: No, not homosexual... homicidal.

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GREENE: Ah, I see. Care to shed some light on that Hyde?

HYDE: Everybody needs a hobby. Mine just happens to be murder.

GREENE: And how does that make you feel, Henry?

JEKYLL: Irritated. You can't imagine the embarrassment of being accused of murder and then trying to explain to the authorities that it was your alter-ego that did it. Hyde takes no responsibility for his actions... plus, he's messy.

HYDE: Messy?!

JEKYLL: Yes, you slob. Your half of the apartment looks like a hurricane blew through after an atomic bomb exploded in a junkyard.

HYDE: You're calling me messy? Just because I'm not a germ-phobic, neat-freak like you does not mean I am messy. Besides, Greeny, I'm not the one with the drug problem.

GREENE: What do you mean, Hyde?

HYDE: Jekyll has this whole lab in his basement where he-

JEKYLL: Now that isn't fair! The drugs were part of the experiment. I tested them on myself, sparing anyone else the terrible risk of consuming investigational drugs.

HYDE: Yeah, and nobody else was idiotic enough to do it. Who knows what kinds of poisons we have coursing through our veins because of you.

JEKYLL: Like you would know anything about it.

HYDE: Are you calling me stupid?

JEKYLL: No, just ignorant.

HYDE: That's it, I'm going to-

GREENE: (**breaking in**) Let's try not to use such nasty names when we are talking about our alter personalities... it isn't going to help things.

JEKYLL: Well, listen to him, doctor... there is no hope.

GREENE: Talking things out is good... and I think we need to do a little exercise that will help you two talk about the deeper issues at play here, without hurting the other's feelings.

HYDE: Like a game?

GREENE: Yes. Actually, I use this on couples with marital problems, but I think in your case it might be beneficial. Now what I am going to do is a little word association game. When I say a word or phrase I want both of you to say the first thing that comes to mind. understand?

JEKYLL: The first word or phrase? Now, what if we think of two things or-

HYDE: Jekyll, shut up! Just go with it. We're ready.

GREENE: Good. Okay, first word. Home.

JEKYLL: Laboratory.

HYDE: Bed.

GREENE: Good, good. Okay, Family.

JEKYLL: Love.

HYDE: Screaming.

GREENE: Friends.

JEKYLL: Fun, laughter.

HYDE: Murder... and you used two words. It's the first word, you idiot.

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