

Encore Productions
Jekyll and Hyde
October 2012

Jekyll and Hyde is a rollercoaster of a show where you're plunged in with Henry Jekyll desperately trying to convince the authorities to allow testing of his controversial experiments. Kit Phillips in the title role(s), Mr Hyde is murderous, immoral and a rampant sexual predator but his Dr Jekyll was a lot more warm and tame; an effective contrast thanks to his natural charisma and strong vocals. The tension mounted as Dr Jekyll tries to fight back in a battle which climaxes in the "Confrontation" as the two sides of the man literally go head to head on stage. This was thrilling stuff, which had you gripped to your seat and highlighted the natural talent of Master Phillips. I must admit, I thought twice about how a 23 year old could pull off such a demanding role. I would defy anyone who could claim to play this part better. Congratulations Kit.

We saw an excellent supporting cast with Rebecca Hatch who was as reliable as ever with superb acting ability and lovely vocals as Emma. "Once Upon A Dream" was a particular highlight for me. This girl exudes natural stage presence and is always a delight to watch.

Claire Cannon gave an outstanding performance as Lucy. This character was thoroughly thought through with the volatile side coming across very strong yet she played it with an equal amount of sadness and vulnerability that was so moving and with a voice that is seriously amazing. I have never heard 'Someone Like you' sound better – I am astounded that Claire is not performing in professional theatre.

"Jekyll's Plea" introduced us to the Board of Governors who all played their characters impeccably throughout, or at least until they met their demise.

Mark Farrent as loyal friend Gabriel, was another talent to add to the line, giving a credible performance and Bryan Higgins as Sir Danvers Carew was ideally cast.

Nick Cupit's creative eye and attention to detail once again paid off with heartbreaking scenes of emotion. The lighting was beautifully plotted which only enhanced what was already a stunning production.

MD Simon Pickup brought about some lovely harmonies amongst the company that were as clear as a bell and as always, flawlessly orchestrated. The company were as faultless and performed with heaps of energy which was a delight to watch. I'm sure they could have made a cast recording of this production and made a fortune – I know that my name would be on the list for the first copy!