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## Trump Plaza stage goes 'dark' for 'Jekyll & Hyde'

By SCOTT CRONICK  
At The Shore, (609) 272-7017



First, there was the nostalgic, feel-good blast-to-the-past of "Singin' in the Rain." Then, there was the contemporary, fast-paced "Footloose." Now, just in time for the Halloween season, comes the third installment of [Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino's](#) Broadway on the Boardwalk series, "[Jekyll & Hyde](#)."

The famous story of the brilliant doctor and his hideous alter-ego was made into a musical in the early '90s before moving to Broadway in 1997 for a successful four-year run.

The Trump Plaza's "Jekyll & Hyde," another Jersey Shore Entertainment production, should be a nice change of pace for the series, since this show is the most theatrical of the three. Directed by Elizabeth Lucas, who also lent her talents to the Plaza's "Footloose" show, "Jekyll & Hyde" will offer a dark, chilling experience.



"We said from Day One that Broadway on the Boardwalk was a missing link to the growth of the arts in Atlantic City," says co-producer Al Parinello. "We now have two shows under our belt - both selling to packed audiences - and it's now time to take a turn to a different direction, and 'Jekyll & Hyde' is definitely that."

"I think it's going to be better now that we cut it to a 90-minute version," adds Lucas, who has been watching horror films for a solid month for background. "It's more intense. When you take a show that is really like a psychological horror film, tweak it and take the intermission out, it's going to leave people at the edges of their seats for the whole arc of the story."

Lucas, who has directed other productions of "Jekyll & Hyde," says her experience and expanded resources for this all-Equity production - which means all of the actors belong to the professional actor's union - will result in a fantastic production.

**'It's a darker show for the fall that fits perfectly since the show closes on Halloween,' says Elizabeth Lucas, director of 'Jekyll & Hyde,' the new Broadway on the Boardwalk production at Trump Plaza. Performances of the musical run six days a week through Halloween night.**

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"It's physically a much nicer and more focused production than before," she says. "What didn't work last time is either out or we tweaked it to make it better. We really know what we're doing this time around."

The play's music was written by Frank Wildhorn ("The Scarlet Pimpernel") with the adapted story and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse. The original Broadway cast featured Linda Eder in the role of Dr. Jekyll's fiancée, Lucy. Eder was married to Wildhorn when the show was being written and conceived.

" 'This is the Moment' is the show's big song, but all of Lucy's songs are great because Frank Wildhorn was writing these songs for Linda Eder, the leading lady," Lucas explains. "Some of the most intense, big power-ballads belong to Lucy, including 'No One Knows Who I Am,' 'Someone Like You' and 'A New Life.' But there are also some very strong ensemble pieces."

The ensemble is something Lucas feels very strong about in this show.

"It's set in London at the end of the 19th century, which was a very crowded time with Jack the Ripper and industrialization and all of these major societal shifts," Lucas says. "So I want to tie into the sense of this overcrowded city by having our cast on stage as much as possible. It will also work well in the spirit of psychological horror to keep things claustrophobic."

Lucas thinks the casino audience will find "Jekyll & Hyde" different than what it may be used to, but also enjoyable.

"It all depends on what your expectations are," she says. " 'Singin' in the Rain' was a good, old-fashioned piece. 'Footloose' was well-received by the younger crowd who grew up with those tunes. And with 'Jekyll & Hyde,' it's a darker show for the fall that fits perfectly since the show closes on Halloween."

The story of "Jekyll & Hyde" familiar, even if it differs greatly from the original book.

"It is set in such a time of upheaval, and this story keys into all of those fears at the time: Fear of industrialization, science, drugs and a new kind of man-made evil that never existed. It's about a good man with a good fiancée, who lusts for prostitutes, and when his fiancée is away for six months, he takes a drug so he could be uninhibited with prostitutes. It's a chilling story."

One of the stars of the show will be the set, which is two-stories and features a spiral staircase that took a week to weld together. There will also be some special effects to keep things exciting.

"It's a great story," Lucas says. "Hopefully, it will be a little bit scary and engage people in the way that horror films and psychological thrillers are engaging."

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**WHERE:** Trump's Theater, Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino, Atlantic City

**WHEN:** 2 p.m. Tuesday; 2 and 8 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday; 8 p.m. Friday; through Oct. 31

**HOW MUCH:** \$25. Tickets available at Plaza box office or through Ticketmaster at (800) 736-1420 or Ticketmaster.com.

**WEB SITES:** [www.trumpplaza.com](http://www.trumpplaza.com),  
[www.jekyll-hyde.com](http://www.jekyll-hyde.com)