

The classic story of schizophrenia, Robert Louis Stevenson's novella, "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," has been adapted for the stage dozens of times, from scary dramas to sappy musicals. In a new twist, Jeffrey Hatcher's play splits the Jekyll-Hyde personality four ways. The highly dramatic, brilliantly staged effort by the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis opened over the weekend as the final show of the 2008-2009 season, to run through April 12th.

The Hatcher adaptation is illuminated in many ways by Thomas Hase's lighting, beginning with the blood-red door that might have opened onto Sweeney Todd's barber shop.

Anthony Marble is Dr. Jekyll, a London physician attempting to stretch the bonds of knowledge, and he is solid throughout. On the other side, Anderson Matthews, Scott Schafer, Kyle Fabel and Bernadette Quigley – yes, a woman – are Hyde at various stages of the story, and they portray other characters as well. Katie Fabel is strong as the good doctor's love interest. Ed Stern directs handsomely, with a hint of movement that often slides over the line into choreography.

Hatcher provides an interesting take on the character, and some may be disturbed by the writer's approach, emphasized by Stern. But I thought the idea – or gimmick, if you prefer – worked to make an old warhorse frisky as a colt. "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," closing the Rep season on a high note, through April 12th.