

THE DOCTOR'S SURGERY

BANNER ON BACK WALL;

SHAWE HALL SURGERY. DOCTORS JECKYL AND HYDE

Stage set with numerous chairs in rows. Small table and chair to left for receptionist

CAST

Receptionist – efficient, no nonsense

Mrs A – regular customer. Hypochondriac

Mrs B – only there because of a broken leg

Mrs C- slightly harassed

Child C- wearing a pan

Mr D – not a regular customer but enjoying himself

Misses Smith 1, 2 and 3 – fussy spinsters

MRS A – (enters holding a hanky, goes to receptionist) I've got an appointment with the doctor at 9 (sneezes and flaps hands) Oh don't anyone come near me. You don't want my germs

REC – Well actually there's nobody else here. Right I've booked you in. Why don't you take your usual seat. Doctor won't be long

MRS A – (moving to far chair) Oh I hope not. I should be in bed you know. It's cruel how they make you come to the surgery. I really needed a home visit. Course you can't get one of those unless you're dead and by then you don't really care one way or the other (carries on muttering quietly sneezing, coughing and blowing nose)

MRS B – (entering with crutches or a stick – leg in plaster or bandage – goes to receptionist) Hello I'm a bit early. My appointment 's not till 10 past 9.

REC – That's alright. Take a seat. Doctor won't be long

MRS A – (loudly) Oh don't come too near me. I'm full of germs (Mrs B sits down next door but one to her) Swine flu

MRS B – Pardon?

MRS A – Swine flu. I've got swine flu. Course the doctor's not confirmed that yet but he will. I know the symptoms. I've had it before. What are you here for?

MRS B (looking slightly non-plussed as the reason is fairly obvious)Fracture

MRS A – A what?

MRS B – A fracture. I've broken a bone

MRS A – Oh poor you. Which one?

MRS B – In my leg. That's why I'm strapped up

MRS A – Oh right. I did wonder. I've got swine flu

MRS B – yes you said

MRS A - I'm always getting it. I have it all the time

MRS B – Oh dear

MRS A – I'm a slave to it

MRS B – I can imagine

MRS A – Have you ever had it or do you just break things?

MRS B – No I don't make a habit of breaking things and no I've never had swine flu

MRS A – Think yourself lucky

MRS B – I'm beginning to. Are you sure you've not just got a cold?

MRS A – Oh no I never get colds. Course last year it was bird flu

MRS B – Really. How can you tell the difference?

MRS A – Oh you'd know if you'd had it

MRS B – (deadpan) You never know you might have got a bit of each. You might have started a new strain. Flying pig flu (receptionist laughs out loud)

MRS A – Flying pig flu. You could have something there. I'll ask Dr. Hyde (loudly) if I ever get to see him

REC – He won't be long

MRS B – Do you come here a lot?

REC – Every Tuesday

MRS A – Can I help it if I'm delicate. I should really have a home visit

MRS B – Does Dr. Hyde give you pills?

MRS A - Oh no. He just tells me to go home to bed and keep warm till it passes

MRS B – Then why come. Why don't you just do that?

REC – She likes to get her monies worth

MRS A – See how they treat you here. No respect. (loudly to receptionist) You'll be sorry when I'm dead

REC – I wouldn't put money on it

MRS A – What's the doctor going to do to you today?

MRS B Oh nothing I don't think. I think he wants to just see how I'm getting on. He sent for me

MRS A – He never sends for me

REC – He doesn't need to

MRS B – Perhaps you'd better try breaking something next time

REC – Don't give her ideas

MRS C – (entering with child with a pan on it's head – pushes child towards receptionist) Get in you. I rang earlier. You told me to come straight. It still won't come off (gives pan a tug – child squeals)

REC – No so I see. I'm not quite sure what the doctor will be able to do. You should have called the fire brigade

MRS C – I thought you told me to bring her in

REC – No. You said you were bringing her no matter what I said

MRS C – Well I'm here now and I'm not moving until I've seen a doctor. I'm not keep walking through the streets with her like this. You feel such a fool (sits down)

MRS A - I hope she's not going to be treated as a medical emergency. I was here first. The child's obviously not in any pain

CHILD – Oh yes I am. Tell her Mum

MRS C – If the doctor thinks she's an emergency then an emergency is what she is

MRS A – Well I think it's disgraceful. This surgery has gone to the dogs

REC – You are at liberty to change your doctor you know. Don't let us stop you

MR D – (enters – goes to receptionist) Morning. I'm here to see Dr. Jeckyl. He sent for me for my blood pressure check up

MRS B – (to Mrs A) Looks like you're the only one here who hasn't had an invitation

MRS A – Don't think it hasn't gone unnoticed. I shall be having a word when I get in that surgery. If I ever get in that surgery

REC- Doctor won't be long now (to Mr D) Right I've booked you in. take a seat please

MR D – (sits down behind Mrs C and child) What's up with her then?

MRS C – I would have thought it was obvious. She's got a pan stuck on her head (tugs at it and child squeals)

MR D – That was a bit of a foolish thing to do wasn't it?

MRS C – Funny you should say that. That's just what I thought

MR D – Can't you get it off?

MRS C – I wouldn't be here if I could would I?

MR D – No I suppose not

MES A – Is the doctor going to be much longer? All this noise is driving me mad.

REC – I know how you feel. It's driving me mad as well. I'm sure doctor won't be much longer

CHILD – Mum what time is it?

MRS C – (looks at watch) It's half past 9. Why?

CHILD – Can I take this pan off my head now?

Mrs c – What do you mean can you take it off? I thought it was stuck

CHILD – Only when I hold it down

MRS C – You mean all this time it wasn't stuck at all. Why did you pretend it was?

CHILD – Cos first lesson was history and I don't like history and I haven't done my homework

MRS C – Do you mean to tell me you rammed a pan on your head because you don't like history (stands up and pulls child to her feet and pulls pan off her head) I don't know what the doctor would have said

MRS A – Well really, some medical emergency that turned out to be

MRS C – Oh shut up (to child) Now get home my girl (starts to exit)
You've got some explaining to do when you get to school and I don't
know what your father will say when he gets home (both exit)

MR D – Never a dull moment here is there. It's better than the pictures

MRS A – If we have to wait much longer we'll still be here when it's time
for baby clinic and you know what that means

MRS B – We'll have to find ourselves a baby?

MRS A – Eh. No of course not. It means germs. Babies are full of them
and I've got enough of my own

MRS B – Babies?

MRS A – Germs. I don't want any more. I couldn't cope.

REC – I'm sure the doctor won't be long now. You're quite at liberty to
go home if you like. I can always cross you off the list

MRS A – No I'm staying put. I'll wait all day if necessary

REC – Yes that's what I was afraid of (enter the 3 Misses Smith all with
their left arm in a sling) Oh morning ladies. I heard you were coming in. I
don't know it's funny how you all do things together

MISS S 1 – Yes isn't it?

MISS S 2 – We've always been the same

MISS S 3 – Ever since we were little

REC – I bet you wore your poor mother out

1 – Yes we did

2 – Oh yes poor Mummy

3 – And daddy as well

REC – Are they broken?

1, 2 and 3 – What?

REC – Your arms. Are they broken?

1 – No, sprained

REC – How did you manage that?

1 – I did mine falling down the back step

2 – I did mine trying to pick her (points to 1) up

3 – And I did mine when I went to see what all the commotion was about. I fell over them both (Mr D laughs out loud)

MR D – I must come here more often. I haven't had this much fun for years

MRS B – You want to see about getting a block booking (points to Mrs A) she has (Mrs A looks affronted)

MRS A - (to receptionist) ~Do you think you could find out what's happened to the doctors. It's nearly 10 o'clock

REC – (looking a bit unsure of herself) Er.. yes I think I'd better. I can't think what's happened (exits)

1 – I do hope they won't be long

2 – Yes I wonder what's happened to them

3 – Perhaps they've been taken ill

MR D – Well they're in the right place then

1 – Not really

2 – There'd be no doctor to see them

3 – Not if they were both ill

MR D (pointing to Mrs A) Her over there could see them. She spends enough time here

MRS A - Can I help it I'm a martyr to my health?

REC (enters looking flustered) Er well I'm ever so sorry.....but er...
you'll all have to go.....er...home

ALL – WHAT?

REC – Yes..Dr. Jeckyl isn't feeling quite himself and has had to go home
(moves front centre – takes on a slightly sinister look) And (raises
eyebrows) Dr. Hyde is.....changing!!

C U R T A I N