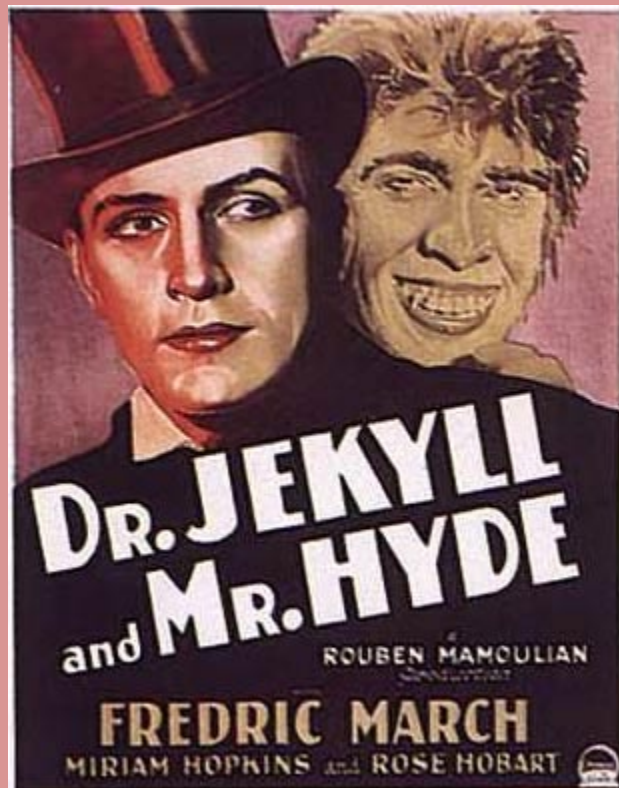


The Doctor Is Insane!

By Saul Alvarez

Saul Alvarez is a retired New York City Police Officer injured while working at the Ground Zero site after 9/11. Since then, he has been making a name for himself as a prolific garage kit artist. Saul has written a number of buildup articles for *Amazing Figure Modeler* and *Kitbuilders* magazines and he has done countless buildup projects for collectors all over the U.S. Saul documented his build-up of Black Heart's 1:1 scale Mr. Hyde kit for an article in an upcoming issue of *Kitbuilders* magazine. It is published here with the permission and cooperation of Dan Jorgenson and *Kitbuilders* magazine.

Robert Louis Stevenson, a name that will always be remembered to us horror fans as the creator of one of the iconic horror figures of our time and author of *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Stevenson's story has inspired a number of cartoons (Looney Tunes' Sylvester and Tweedie), movie comedies (Jerry Lewis and Eddie Murphy in *The Nutty Professor* films), theater plays and feature films, the most memorable of which is the *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1932) starring the legendary Frederick March. The Jekyll-to-Hyde transformation scenes were ahead of their time and, coupled with Mr. March's Oscar-winning performance, will never be forgotten. Who can forget the famous transformation in front of the mirror as we watched the good doctor turn into the evil Mr. Hyde right before our very eyes? When fully changed, he looked deep in the mirror and screamed, "FREE...FREE AT LAST!" His inner evil is at last free to roam the streets and make do with his wickedness.



Black Heart Enterprises hired the ever-talented Joe Simon to sculpt the malevolent Mr. Hyde. Mr. Simon captured this likeness beautifully. The detail and overall presentation is in a class of its own. Mr. Hyde is a 1:1 scale wall-hanger and saves a lot of shelf space for our ever-growing collections of masterpieces like this one. The kit comes in 3 resin parts (the face, the brim of the hat and the top part of the hat), and a length of ribbon for a realistic silk band to attach above the brim of Mr. Hyde's hat. It also comes with a 2-page full color profile of one of the most well-known characters of classic horror literature.

Black Heart's castings were excellent and required minimal cleanup and very little prep work.

Fredric March as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1932)



The first thing I do when prepping a kit for painting is to wash the piece with soap and water to remove any excess mold release from the casting process. You always want the surface to be clean and free of any dust or particles too.



Using my trusty Iwata airbrush I lightly spray Freestyle brand Pale Flesh paint.



Next, I start the shading process by spraying Freestyle brand Transparent Rich Brown along the deep crevices around the eyes, nose, forehead and beard line.



I then do the same with transparent mars red making sure to lightly spray it along the cheeks, nose, forehead, ears, lips, gums and under the eyes.

I wanted to enhance the shading so I came in with the rich brown once again and sprayed a bit heavier. Freestyle dusty pink was then sprayed around the wrinkles under the eyes to give the appearance of stress in that area.

I now mix Liquitex medium red, Americana spice brown and white to come up with a nice fleshy pink color. I use this mix to brush on a base coat to the gums and the inner parts of the eye lids and corner of the eyes.

For the deep indentations of the gums I sprayed transparent rich brown misting that particular area lightly.

The teeth were brushed with Americana ivory. I thinned down the ivory with water and brushed the teeth in thin layers for a subtle translucent look.

To age the teeth I sprayed transparent rich brown along the edges of each tooth, making sure to spray lightly and not over spray the whole section.

At this point I used Hydro-mist transparent gold toner which gives off a yellowy nicotine appearance and sprayed along the edges and the bottom sections for that old worn aged look.



Next, I concentrated on detailing the eyes. I started by brushing white to the eyeballs.



Using a small detail brush and the same mixture of liquitex red thinned down with water, I drew thin wiggly lines resembling veins. I lightly painted the veins along the corners of the eyes working my way towards the iris of each eye.



Using Hydro-mist transparent paynes grey I lightly airbrushed around the edges of the iris. This gives a soft edge to the outer circle of the iris.



Then again, with a small detail brush, I painted small irregular lines on the iris with dark brown, spice brown and yellow ocher. I finished it off by adding the center pupil with black.



At this point I wanted to tone down the whites of the eyes so I lightly sprayed transparent paynes grey and transparent gold toner along the outer edges and corners of the eye balls. This gives it a natural shadow along the eyes.



Next I base coated Hyde's hair, beard and eyebrows with Americana burnt umber. This dark brown color serves as a perfect dark undercoat for deeper shadows in the hair.

For the final step I dry brushed lighter browns, yellow ocher and grey to the hair for depth and natural highlights.



To finish off Mr. Hyde, I sprayed his top hat with *Freestyle Jet Black* and then lightly misted it with future floor wax for a light sheen. The silk ribbon that comes with the kit is already cut to size. So, I place around the brim with a small amount of white glue to hold it in place. It covers the seam where the two had pieces join. I painted the shirt collar with Americana acrylic linen which is an off white color and then did some light shading with *Freestyle transparent rich brown*. The tie was painted with *Freestyle pure white*. There you have it, the finished piece.

For any fan of classic horror, this is a must have for your collection. Highly recommended!



