

SEEING THE X FILM ONE SUNDAY.

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A BOY AND HIS DAD GO TO THE CINEMA TO SEE AN X FILM.



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It was late  
one Sunday afternoon  
when you must have been  
about 11 or 12

just before tea  
and Sunday bath  
and your old man said  
dress up in your best

long trousers and blazer  
and shirt and tie  
Iâm taking you  
to the cinema

to see an X film  
an X film?  
you said  
yes Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

he said  
but you have to be 16  
to get into see that  
you said

I know but if we get you  
all smartened up you may pass  
he said  
and so you put on

your best blazer  
and long trousers  
and white shirt  
and your old man

did up your tie  
in the Windsor Knot  
he was good at  
and off you went

to the cinema  
on the New Kent Road  
and he went to the kiosk  
and bought two tickets

and the old dame  
behind the glass panel

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looked at you  
but said nothing

and gave him  
the two tickets  
and you followed him  
to the twin doors

that led into the cinema  
and the usherette  
looked at you  
and said to your old man

follow me  
and you followed her  
as she showed the way  
to your seats

with her torch shining  
and you went down the aisle  
and along the row of seat  
to where her torch settled

and pulled down the seats  
and sat down  
there was a cartoon on  
loud and colourful

and people around you  
were laughing  
and you looked up  
at the screen

then at your old man  
and he was gazing  
at the screen  
like some worshipper

taking in the colour  
and noise  
and you settled back  
in your seat trying to look

taller and adult  
and laughed  
when the others laughed  
and then came

the intermission  
before the big feature film  
and he said

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do you want an ice cream?

yes please  
you said and off he went  
to the ice cream girl at the front  
with her tray of ice-cream

and sweets etc  
and you looked about you  
sitting up straight  
to make yourself look older

and gazed at your old man  
at the front  
then at your shoes  
then at the people

in front of you  
then he came back  
and gave you  
the ice cream tub

and wooden spoon  
then he sat down with his  
then the lights  
went out again

and the film began  
Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde  
and you sat there  
thinking of what Oâ Brien

would say at school next day  
when you told him  
youâ d got into see an X film  
o yeah heâ d say

I bet you did  
pull then other leg  
itâ s got bells on  
but it didnâ t matter

what Oâ Brien thought  
or said  
you were there  
in the dark

watching the X film  
at 12 years old  
o what a laugh  
you were there

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watching it  
not at home  
getting ready for bed  
after the Sunday bath.



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