

Sherlockian Theatrical Society

A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

Number 16

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"Sherlock's Veiled Secret"

By K. C. Brown
Abilene, Texas

On a blustery Sunday afternoon Uncritic #011, Tim Kline, made the solo trek to West Texas to the Abilene Community Theatre to attend one of only 4 performances of *Sherlock's Veiled Secret*. Yours truly, Uncritic #001 had family commitments so I am relating the report on his behalf. This 200 seat theatre was established in 1954 and 100% volunteer. This afternoon's performance was approximately twenty-five per-cent full.

What secret could be so dark, so deadly, as to arouse the sixty-six year old detective from retirement in Sussex? A secret leading to blackmail and murder. The Master (David Ainsworth) is brought together with Miss Violet Sheridan, (Janie Welch) to solve this complex and very clever mystery. Set in 1920, after Holmes' retirement to Sussex, where Ms. Sheridan thinks Holmes has invited her to commission a bust of himself. However, he reveals they have a close family connection. Directed by the capable hands of Stacey Love Smith and Pam Peraza, the audience is

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treated to a delightful journey with more twists and turns than a pretzel factory. According to Uncritic #011, Mr Ainsworth's performance was the highlight of the afternoon. In this Watsonless play, Irene Adler (Cecilia Goad) fills in the need for another familiar Sherlockian character. Set designer Larry Wheeler accomplishes brilliance with a minimalist's touch. As a non-judgmental critic, the only negative is that there were only four performances. Alas. One can only hope that the play will be performed again in an upcoming season. It is a shame more people cannot see this great event.

The secret that is veiled is slowly revealed to all. The thread is woven through each scene and when the Ah-Ha moment arrives, those on stage and in the audience must remember to close their dropped jaws. Nothing is given away too soon and there is never a lull. It was a delight from opening to close.

As a reminder, The Sherlockian Theatrical Society is a non-judgmental society. It is our belief that any play about Sherlock Holmes is worth attending. Even if the cast is dead and the play is staged in the morgue, there could be something positive to say, like 'Wow, even under the stage lights, the players never broke a sweat.' We love Sherlock Holmes and we love live theater, so nothing will deter us off of our chosen path.

Break a leg!!!

Flower Mound, TX
April 17, 2023