

# Sherlockian Theatrical Society

*A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society*

Number 11

Sept. 16, 2022

## "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery"

By Ken Ludwig

Abilene, KS

ON Friday morning, September 16, Uncritic #001 loaded up the Hansom Cab and headed north toward Oklahoma City. This is where he rendezvoused with Uncritic #02, Mr. Dean Clark, who had driven over from Tulsa, Oklahoma. After a quick repast, along with his non-Sherlockian brother, Vaughn, we continued our journey northward to the Great Plains Theatre, where we did not see any Alkali along the way. This theatre is located in beautiful downtown Abilene, Kansas, proud hometown of President Dwight D. Eisenhower and the site of our next Sherlockian adventure.

UPON reaching our destination, we were ushered to our seats. Our usher was a bit stunned after learning where we were both from and even more so when we explained the Sherlockian angle. This is the third time this year STS has attended this play. "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is written in such a way as to give the director great leeway in his/her way of presenting the play. Billy Eric Richardson does a fine job.

Sherlock Holmes (Joshua Steckelberg) and Dr. Watson (Bear Menescichi) are the two perfect fall guys for Actor 1 (Mary Pochatko), Actor 2 (Casey Andrews), and



Actor 3 (Jennifer Barnaba) who combine to play about forty other roles. The audience was rolling in the aisles during one scene where Jennifer Barnada was having an argument with herself as two different characters. She never missed a line and stayed in character even while changing hats with each different dialog switch. Sir Henry Baskerville was Texan instead of Canadian, same as the last time we saw this play.

**T**his play requires a multitude of costume changes, especially for Actors 1, 2 and 3. At the back of the stage were four tall shelves with all of the props and costumes. When the action was stage left or stage right, the other actors would simple change as needed in full view of the audience. The main scene locations are 221B Baker Street, Dartmoor, Baskerville Hall and the audience was guided from location to location with smoothness and ease. There are many similarities between the three versions we have seen this year but so many other unique moments that regardless of how many times this play is watched, there will be enough latitude to always keep it fresh.

**I**t is our (The Sherlockian Theatrical Society) sworn duty to go to as many Sherlockian plays as possible and as many theaters as we can. To members of our society (STS) seeing the same play over and over at different place is still very pleasing. Every interpretation has its own merits. Just for kicks, reread Newsletters #06 and #10 so you can compare the differences.

**A**s 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.

**B**reak a leg!!!

Flower Mound, TX  
September 18, 2022