

Sherlockian Theatrical Society

A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

Number 12

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"A Sherlock Holmes Christmas"

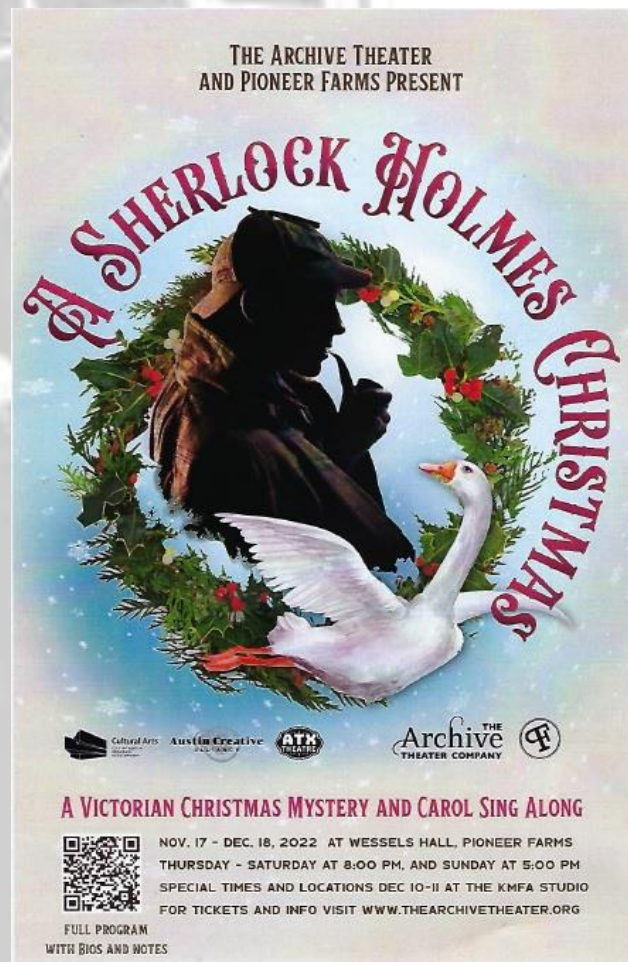
By Lynn S. Beaver

Austin, TX

Uncritic #001, yours truly, spent the Thanksgiving Holidays with his wife's family in Round Rock, TX. She likes to say that not everything is about Sherlock Holmes until she admits that it really is so. As fate would have it, The Archive Theater Company just happened to be staging a wonderful adaptation of "The Blue Carbuncle". Performances run Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 and Sundays at 5:00PM. The theater is part of Pioneer Farms, a living historic museum that interprets and preserves the histories and cultures of central Texas during the 19th century.

Steve Mason, Uncritic #004 has given talks regarding the histories of Central Texas in regards to the incident recorded in "The Adventures of the Five Orange Pips" but that will have to be for another time.

The Theater is located inside a large barn with an open stage, where I attended the night after Thanksgiving Day. On this cold and rainy evening, more than 100 people were in attendance. It is a little obscure finding the exact entrance so I did the unmanly thing and asked a total stranger for directions.



Once again, fate intervened. It was Sherlock Holmes' wife and mother. I did the gentlemanly thing by escorting his mother into the theater with my torch (flashlight) and broolly (umbrella).

Sherlock Holmes (Damon Brown) told me after the show that he just hoped he hadn't imitated Jeremy Brett. He had not although I could have lived with that. The bearded Dr. Watson (Amado Dehoyos) was not too Nigel Bruce in his interpretation. Many of the cast pulled off multiple roles with flair. Jerry Brown played Peterson/Landlord and it is too bad there was not a governor's role.

Robert Stevens was the landlord at the Alpha Inn and Mr. Henry Baker. Mrs. Hudson was the proper and properly played by Christine Humphrey. With all of these and the rest of the cast, I told Mr. Brown that it was the goose that stole the show. He winked and told me it happens every night. As understudy Adrianna Fontánez herded the goose around the stage, I kept waiting to hear "AFLAC". I did not.

Prior to the curtain, I noticed a youngster in his Inverness Cape, deerstalker and Calabash pipe (Fake, of course. He turned out to only be 12 years old). So I asked him about his outfit and his liking of Sherlock Holmes. Following some age old



From L. to R. Christine Bush, Amado Dehoyos, James Groh, Robert Stevens, Uncritic #001, Damon Brown, Nathan Daniels, Sullivan Brown.



James Groh's Halloween Costume

parental warning about talking to strangers, his eyes shifted towards dad. Getting the ok, 12 year old James Groh told me he had read some of the stories and really enjoyed them. We were now joined by his mom and she told me she had read the stories when she was pregnant with James. We deduced that he came by his love for the Master naturally. Sadly, the Austin Sherlock Holmes Society is no longer active but I put them in contact with Uncritic #004, Steve Mason who is also deeply involved with The Beacon Society.

The Beacon Society is a scion society of The Baker Street Irregulars, and serves as a link to other scion societies, providing teachers, librarians, children museums, and children theaters with local resources to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life. The society also has activities for Sherlockians of all ages.

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
Nov. 27, 2022

