

# Sherlockian Theatrical Society

*A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society*

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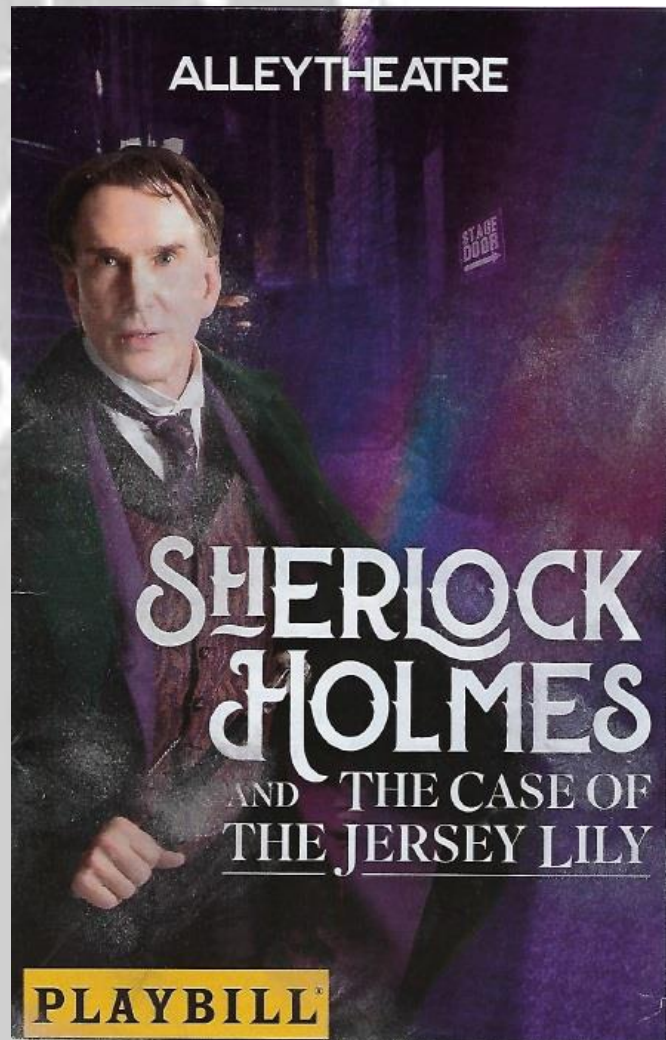
"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily"

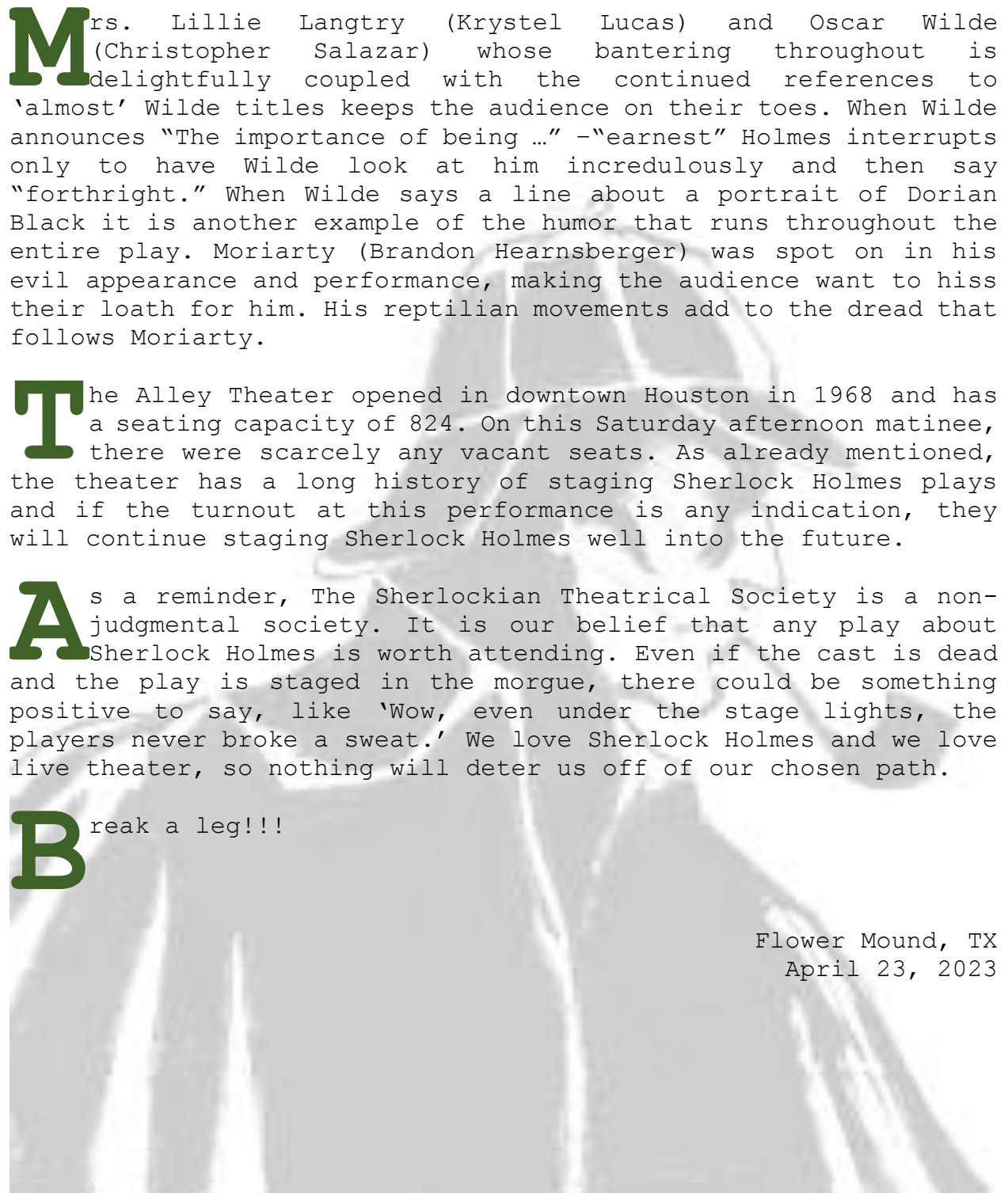
By Katie Forgette

Houston, Texas

**O**N a rainy Saturday morning, after fortifying ourselves with copious amounts of Mrs. Hudson's strong, black coffee our pack of Uncritics headed down to Houston. There we found the venerable Alley Theatre. Every season for the past 20 years, this theatre has staged a Sherlockian play. Just as reliable as the sun rising in the east, the Uncritics were there to show their support and give a sterling review.

**T**oday's production was staged in the Hubbard Theatre under the direction of veteran Brandon Weinbrenner. Here we have the wit of Oscar Wilde meeting the cunning mind of Sherlock Holmes that results in a comic twist on a classic sleuthing caper. Wilde's muse, actress Lille Langtry (a.k.a. the Jersey Lily) presents Holmes with what seems like an open and shut case. But we all know this will never be the case. The Importance of Being Ernest is nearly as important as being Sherlock Holmes. Holmes and Watson played wonderfully by Todd Waite and Orlando Arriaga respectively nail each scene with a comedic flair with perfect timing.





**M**rs. Lillie Langtry (Krystel Lucas) and Oscar Wilde (Christopher Salazar) whose bantering throughout is delightfully coupled with the continued references to 'almost' Wilde titles keeps the audience on their toes. When Wilde announces "The importance of being ..." -"earnest" Holmes interrupts only to have Wilde look at him incredulously and then say "forthright." When Wilde says a line about a portrait of Dorian Black it is another example of the humor that runs throughout the entire play. Moriarty (Brandon Hearnberger) was spot on in his evil appearance and performance, making the audience want to hiss their loath for him. His reptilian movements add to the dread that follows Moriarty.

**T**he Alley Theater opened in downtown Houston in 1968 and has a seating capacity of 824. On this Saturday afternoon matinee, there were scarcely any vacant seats. As already mentioned, the theater has a long history of staging Sherlock Holmes plays and if the turnout at this performance is any indication, they will continue staging Sherlock Holmes well into the future.

**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  
April 23, 2023