

# Sherlockian Theatrical Society

*A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society*

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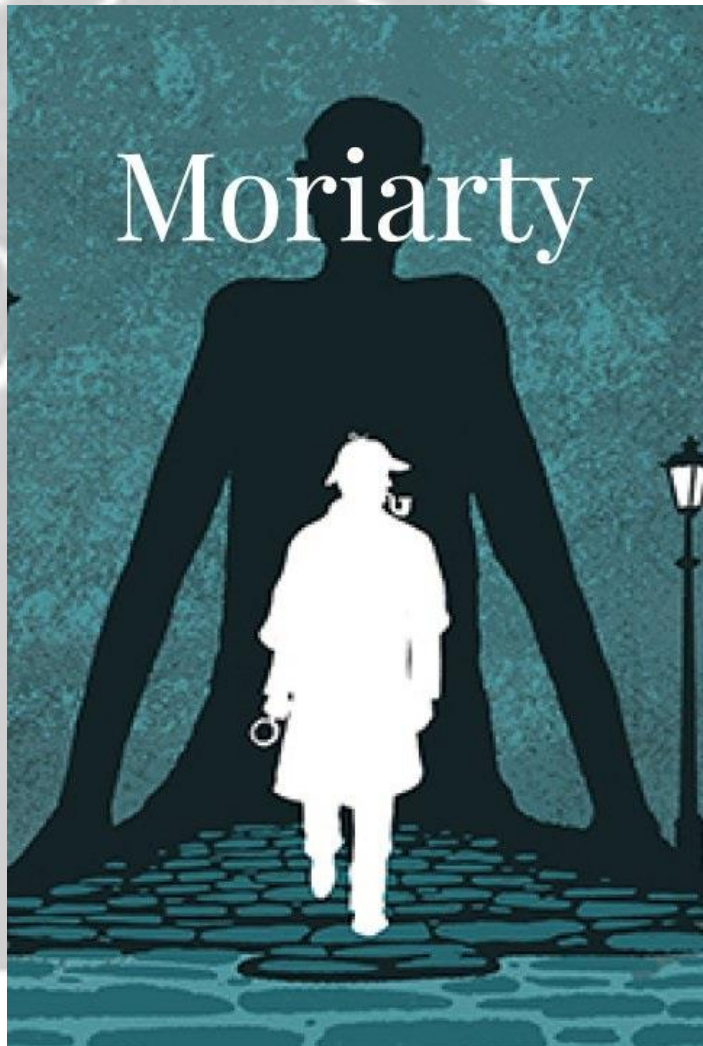
## "Moriarty"

By Ken Ludwig  
Cleveland, Ohio

**Y**ours truly, Uncritic #001, was offered this review by Sherlockian extraordinaire, Uncritic #003, **Peter E. Blau**. I do not know the exact number of nano-seconds that passed before I accepted Peter's kind offer but accept I did. His unique slant on all things Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian is always a delight. So without further ado, here is his review.

**I**'m not sure how to review Ken Ludwig's new play "Moriarty". Anyone who has seen any of his plays knows how much fun they are. Anyone who has seen his "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" knows how much fun he has had with his five-actor presentations of Sherlockian drama. So: for all of you, there's nothing more to be said than, "Let me recommend this play . . ."

**F**or everyone else, I'm happy to report that it was an easy six-hour drive to Cleveland to see the opening night of the world premiere of "Moriarty" at the Allen Theatre, which opened in 1921 as a movie theater, with more than 3,000 seats; eventually it closed and fell into disrepair, but was rescued, renovated, and



reopened in 1998 as a stage venue in Cleveland's Play House Square. Much of the original décor can still be seen, and it's a grand place to see a play.

**M**oriarty", like "Baskerville", is performed by five actors, with Christian Pedersen playing Sherlock Holmes, Nick Gaswirth as Dr. Watson, and three others (Jeffrey M. Bender, Talley Gale, and Olivia Gilliatt) as everyone else in the play (including Moriarty, Von Ormstein, Mycroft Holmes, Daisy, Mrs. Barabas, Hilda Kleb, Irene Adler, Mrs. Hudson, and Cartwright). The three actors as everyone else, with various accents and almost instant costume changes, were thought by some in the audience to have stolen the show, but all five actors easily handled the humor and drama in Ken Ludwig's script.

**K**udos also to directors Mark Brokaw and Michael Barakiva, scenic designer Chika Shimizu, the rest of the production staff, and of course to Ken Ludwig, whose script is faithful both to the Canon and to William Gillette's play, and at the same time thoroughly original. No spoilers here, except to say that Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are hard at work assisting Irene Adler in their joint battle against the evil Moriarty, and that there are twists and turns and surprises, right up to the finale.

**T**he evening, and the play, were delightful, and as I said at the beginning of this review, "Let me recommend this play..." The show's run ends on May 21, and if you can't see a performance in Cleveland, you can (and should) urge your local theater to license and perform "Moriarty". Concord Theatricals handles all of Ken Ludwig's plays, and the contact there is Amy Rose Marsh. amyrose.marsh@concord.com.

**A**nd if you would like to see the program for the play, it's conveniently on-line at:  
<https://www.clevelandplayhouse.com/shows/2022/ken-ludwigs-moriarty>

**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. We love Sherlock Holmes and we love live theater, so nothing will deter us off of our chosen path.

**B**reak a leg!!!

Bethesda, MD  
May 6, 2023