

# Sherlockian Theatrical Society

*A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society*

Number 21

Oct. 01, 2023

**"Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery"**

**By Ken Ludwig  
Lakeway, Texas**

**O**N Sunday, October 01, 2023, Uncritic #001 along with Uncritics #007 and #011 took another marathon trip to see the same play we have seen on numerous occasions. Familiarity breeds, well, familiarity. The hilarity that playwright Ken Ludwig reveals in "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" never fails to bring a smile to everyone in attendance.

**L**akeway, Texas, west of Austin, on Lake Travis, may soon need a name change. The lake is barely over 25% full and it is a stark reminder of the drought conditions in the Texas Hill Country. But I digress, we are here today to review the play. This is just the 7<sup>th</sup> different time to I have reviewed this play. Every time it is as much fun as the last.

**U**nder the marvelous direction of Rosalind Faires, the audience is transported back to London and then to Dartmoor where the cast's energy is palpable. Sherlock Holmes (Hollis L. Edwards, III) and Dr. Watson (Dane Parker) are perfectly cast for their dealings with Actors 1, 2, and 3 (Eva McQuade, Noah Alderfer, and Yunina Barbour-Payne, respectively). These three actors stole the show with their combined 30 or more different roles that include minimal costume

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A SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY**

Directed by Rosalind Faires  
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\*Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery\* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

changes, many different accents, and all of this is done in front of the audience. The open stage of TexArt allows the audience to see everything. The cast never leaves the stage during this 90 minute production. The sound effects, some mechanical but mostly from the cast members, ranged from eerie music, growling Hell-Hounds, baby wailing and creaking doors all to the delight of the 70+ in attendance. Once again, Sir Henry Baskerville comes to England from Texas, which brings along its own humor. In this production, Stapleton (McQuade) chases the elusive butterfly with an imaginary net. The butterfly in turn is a book carried by Ms. Barbour-Payne, opening and closing, appearing to actually flutter. A brilliant interpretation that was just one of many subtle actions throughout the entire play.

**T**he set design, again minimal (a few chairs, a rolling set of stairs and a curved reception desk, fingers for guns and folded raincoat as the dead hound) kept everybodys attention and was not the least bit distracting. The back of the stage was a wall of books, some real and some photographs but certainly not distracting. Of course there were plenty of costumes which the cast made the most of them. All of this combined to make for a wonderful afternoon at live theatre. So to quote one of Holmes' distant relatives, "c'est bon."

**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  
October 02, 2023