

Sherlockian Theatrical Society

A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

Number 24

Dec. 3, 2023

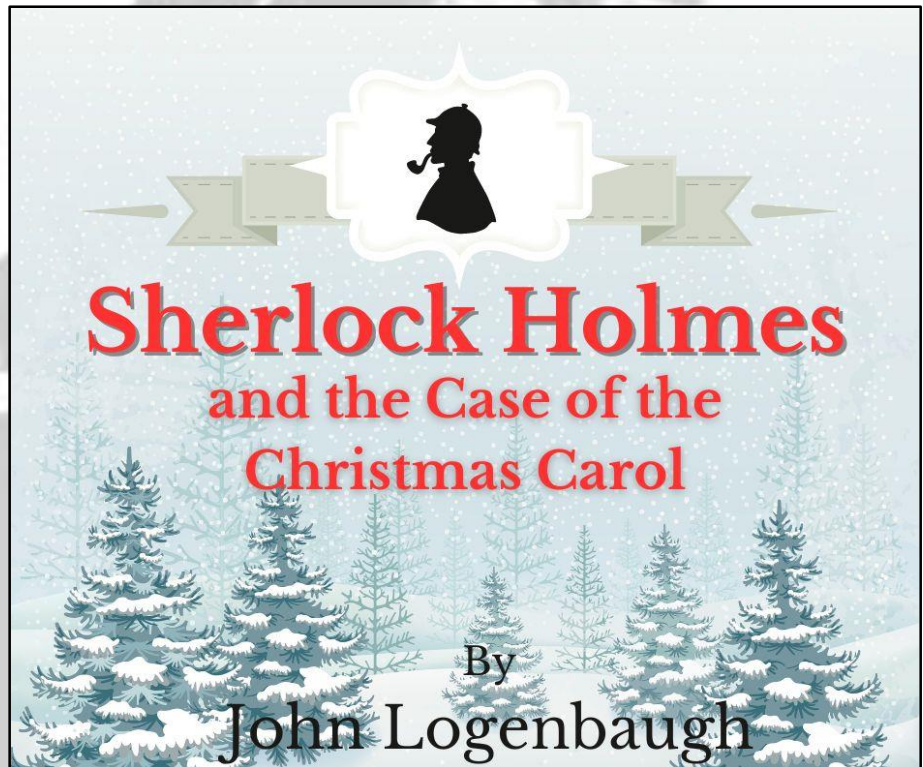
"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol"

By John Logenbaugh

Pasadena, Texas

ON Sunday morning, Uncritics #001, #007, and #011 headed south to lovely Pasadena, Texas, not that other one, to Pasadena Little Theatre where we were treated to a big time production.

The theatre opened in 1955 and in their 68 seasons, this might be their very first Sherlock Holmes play. I say might because in their 40th season, in 1995, they staged a play 'Without a Clue' but I am not sure if this is related to the 1988 movie of the same name. I asked several of the staff members, but they were not sure. The all-knowing Internet did not reveal any



hits for searches for E. Cope or H. J. Bird who are listed as the playwrights. The movie lists someone different. The theatre seats approximately 100 and on this Sunday afternoon it was nearly full. The seats form a horseshoe around the stage.

Director Jeff Merriman also plays several characters as do most of the other actors. Sherlock Holmes (Steve Harrison) plays the part with confidence and the right aloofness required for our hero and this was his first time playing Holmes. Dr. Watson (Danny Siebert) is right in line with the more recent

Watsons we have become used to. Nigel Bruces need not apply. His moustach alone was worth the price of admission. The play opens at 221b where Mrs Hudson (Pricilla Anderson) is in a tizzy due to a certain tenant's behavior. Holmes is at a crossroad. After the fatal events of Reichenbach Falls, he must come to grips with his killing of a woman - Moriarty (Renea Runnels). Her ghost visits Holmes with some unsettling news. Just like that other Christmas Carol, Holmes is soon visited by the Spirits of Christmas past (Rybecca Kirkpatrick), present and future (Vanessa Pearson). The two act play is supported with a full cast of actors who create a Yule-Time atmosphere that the audience could almost smell the holly and Yule log burning.

Stage Manager, Valerie Lerma Puente, and Lighting and Sound Tech Design, Kris McKay, squeeze the maximum useage from the small stage area. When Holmes is transported through the various Christmases the stage seems to magically expand far beyond its physical boundaries. The audience included a group of ladies from a nearby retirement center bringing a whole new meaning to 'The Little Old Lady from Pasadena'. This was the first time to see this play but it won't be my last. The play runs through December 17th and was well worth the drive south.

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

Break a leg!!!



Uncritic #001
Flower Mound, TX
Dec. 04, 2023