

Sherlockian Theatrical Society

A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

Number 25

Dec. 22, 2023

"A Sherlock Carol" By Mark Shanahan Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

ON the eve before the eve before Christmas Eve, Uncritic #001 and Uncritic #11 (Tim Kline) hopped aboard our Hansom Cab and ventured across the Red River. We were joined there by Uncritic #002 (Dean Clark) at the 3rd Act Theatre in Oklahoma City to see the penultimate production of "A Sherlock Carol". This play is similar yet dissimilar to "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" (Newsletter 24). This quaint little, 80 seat theatre, located inside a mostly deserted shopping mall was sold out for the evening's performance.

Stage manager Ms. Christine Jolly, did an excellent job with a minimalist set and produced an enormous amount of fun. Director Billie Thrash uses the six actors with a deft hand and the end results are a delight for the audience. With the exception of Mr. Don Taylor and Mr. Peter Fishaber, all of the actors took on multiple roles. Costume changes, sex changes and accent changes flowed seamlessly

A Sherlock Carol
By Mark Shanahan
Directed by Billie Thrash

SCROOGE & MARLEY

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during the entire evening. When an adult Dr. "Tiny" Tim Cratchet (Ford Filson) approaches Sherlock Holmes (Mr. Taylor) with concerns that the much changed Ebenezer Scrooge (Mr. Fischaber) has possibly been murdered, our hero refuses saying he does not believe in ghosts. When Wiggins' daughter (Rachel Schelen) pleads for Holmes to help her prove her father's innocence of the theft of the Blue Carbuncle, he again is not willing to help. When Dr. Watson (Ian Clinton) invites Holmes to join Mrs. Watson (Ms. Schelen) and himself for Christmas dinner, our hero lashes out at the good doctor. He shouts that he doesn't care about anybody or anything and simply wishes to be left alone.

The final actor, Denise Hughes, plays Irene Adler and a host of other characters, nearly shattered stage lights when she sang and hit her high notes. The play is a mash-up of several other stories from the Canon. *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*, *The Sign of Four*, *The Devil's Foot*, and *A Scandal in Bohemia* are some I picked out. Playwright Mark Shanahan blends these various components together and does not scare the Dickens out of the audience, by introducing *A Christmas Carol* into the olio. When Ebenezer Scrooge takes Holmes on a journey of Christmases past, present, and future, everyone enjoys the ride. Naturally Holmes has the epiphany we all hoped for and to all a good night.

The cherry on top of the cake was the swag offered by the theatre. They had a table with magnets, socks, Christmas ornament, pot-holder, jig-saw puzzles, tote-bags and posters for sale. Each featuring the images of the play's logo. Another brilliant idea that more theatres should consider.

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.

Break a leg!!!

Flower Mound, TX
December 22, 2023