

Sherlockian Theatrical Society

A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

Number 28

Feb. 10, 2024

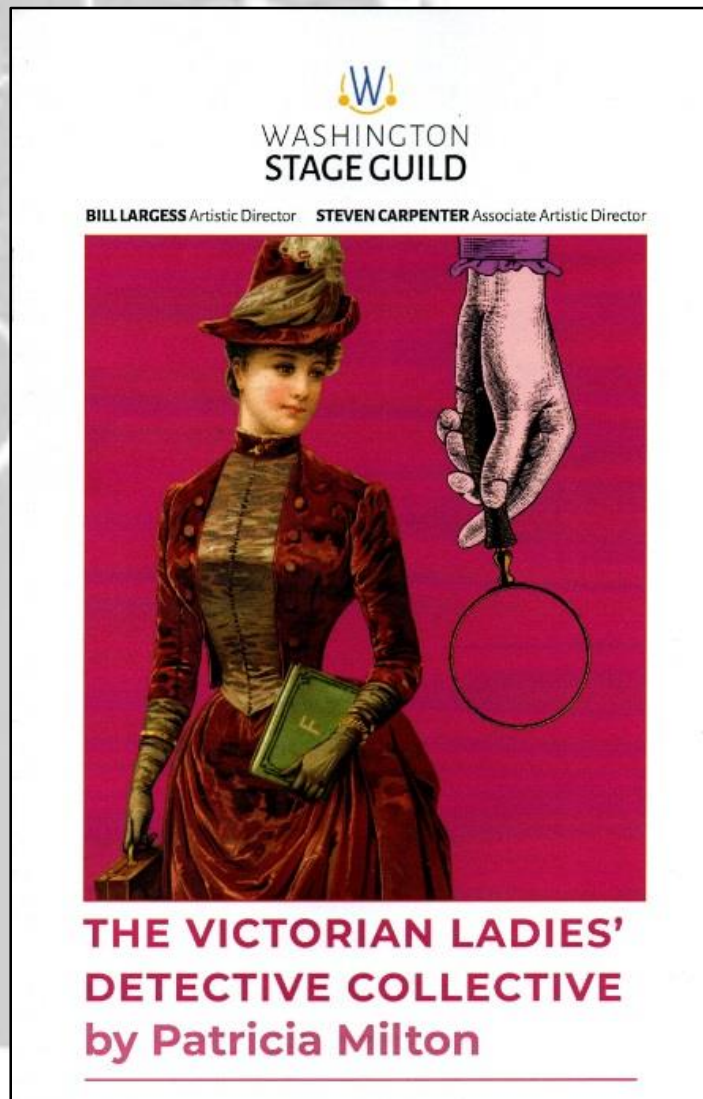
"The Victorian Ladies' Detective Collective"

By Patricia Milton

Washington, D. C.

The Victorian Ladies' Detective Collective" produced by the Washington Stage Guild at the Undercroft Theatre in downtown Washington, D.C., in February 2024, and an enthusiastic review in the Washington Post inspired Uncritic #003 to attend a matinee performance. It was the world premiere of Patricia Milton's two-act play, nicely directed by Morgan Duncan, about three women in Victorian London in the late 19th century who take on the task of tracking down a serial killer who may or may not be Jack the Ripper, back at work and murdering unfortunate women.

The play is written from a modern perspective, with the women devoted to proving that they can be just as effective as men in dealing with the world, and should not be relegated to home and family. Loveday Fortescue (played with energy by Jen Furlong) is the real detective, aided by her sister Valeria Hunter (Laura Giannarelli) and an American actress



(Katherine Smalls) who is, among other things, an expert in the Oriental art of fan-fighting self-defense. The fourth actor, Steven Carpenter, alternated as a police constable, a sleazy theatrical producer, and an unsavory cat-meat salesman, and all of them had fun with their roles.

The one-set women's sitting-room was well designed for the small theater, and the audience was enthusiastic and supportive. The play isn't really Sherlockian, except that at one point Loveday Fortescue does say firmly that Sherlock Holmes is a fictional character, but it was thoroughly entertaining.

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!!!

February 2, 2024

