

Sherlockian Theatrical Society

A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

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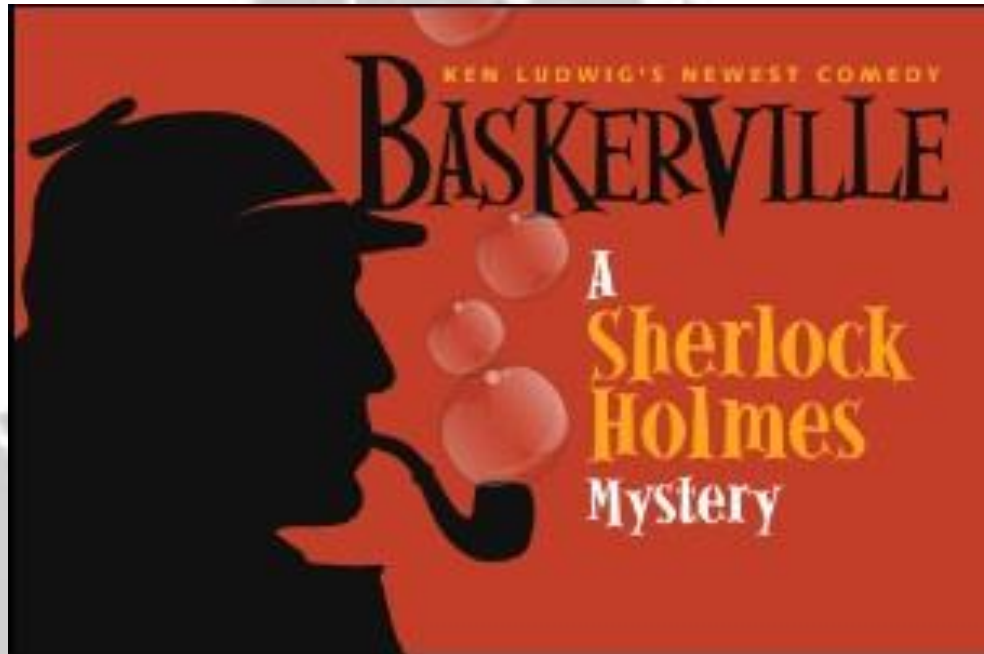
"Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery"

By Ken Ludwig

Wichita Falls, Texas

Once again

Uncritics #001 and 011 hit the road for an out of town adventure. Your dynamic duo of Uncritics traveled to Reichenbach Falls, Texas, er, I mean Wichita



Falls, to the Wichita Theatre. This is a dinner theatre, a first for these reviews. Stage 2, part of Wichita Theatre seat about 100 and tonight nearly every seat was occupied.

We were treated to the marvelous play **Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery**. This is about the umpteenth time the Sherlockian Theatrical Society has witnessed this gem. Needless to say, we will review it umpteen more times given the opportunity. This is a play that changes every time while remaining the same. Sounds like a bunch of existentialism BS, eh? But it's not. Each director applies his or her slant to it, making it uniquely theirs.

This is exactly what director, Nicholas Long did. His job was made much easier with Sherlock Holmes (Ian Kirkpatrick) playing the Master with self-assuredness while keeping Dr.

Watson (Chris Crow) within his canonical limitations. The audience was thrilled and kept on their toes with all of the character changes played brilliantly by Bethany Morgan (Actor 1), Max Trusler (Actor 2), and Nicole Rhoads (Actor 3). This production had a unique feature - a video wall, installed by Chris Roirdan.

The video wall unutilizes scenes, I was told later, from a video game. The scene changes from outside 221B Baker Street to the sitting room to Grimpen Mire (Ohhhh) to Baskerville Hall with the ease of a button being pushed. This allowed for the efficient usage of minimal stage props. For example, when Sir Hugo is chasing the damsel across the moors, he is riding a stick-horse that becomes the vicious hound tearing at his throat in one swift moment. The video wall is also interactive when the sitting room screen scene fills with smoke during Holmes' three-pipe problem, eventually obliterating the room with smoke. Same for moor screen filling with fog during the final encounter with the hound.

Actor's 1, 2 and 3 all played their multiple roles with zeal and never missed a line. Max Trusler (Actor 2) is just 16 years old but seemed far more seasoned than his age. His Sir Henry was outstanding. Nicole Rhoads (Actor 3) transitions from Mrs. Barrymore to Cartwright to Beryl Stapleton with amazing ease. The same for Actor 1 (Bethany Morgan) going from Stapleton to Lestrade to Mrs. Hudson. Another thoroughly enjoyable production but be aware of the Grimpen Mire (Ohhhh).

Technical Adviser, Nancy Trusler, arranged for us to meet the actors and the director at the evening's end. They were impressed with our attendance and offered us a tour of the main Wichita Theatre across the street where they were staging Mary Poppins.

Just 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!!!

Uncritic #001
March 8, 2024