

Sherlockian Theatrical Society

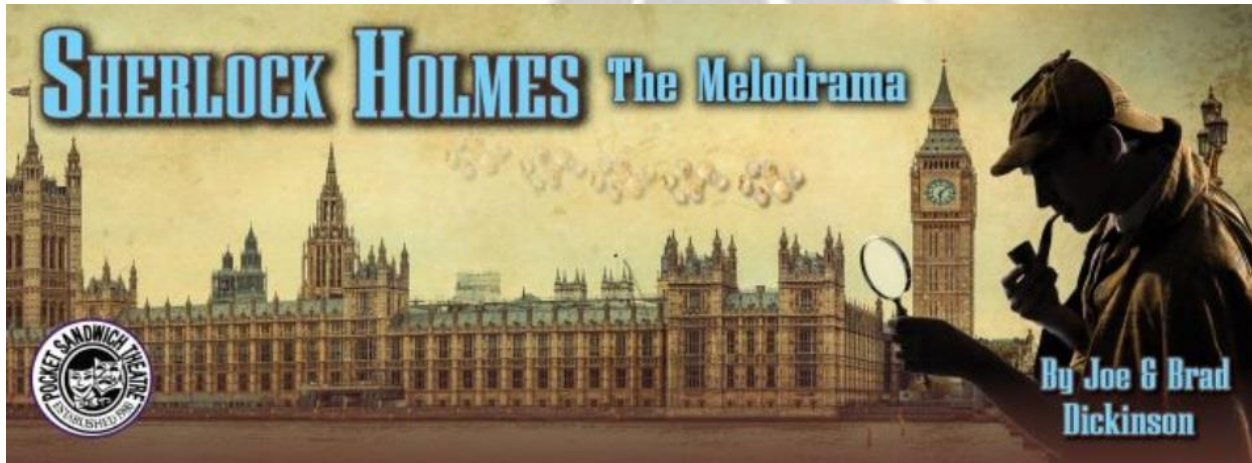
A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

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"Sherlock Holmes: A Melodrama"

By Joe and Brad Dickinson



One of the most enjoyable plays this Uncritic has ever seen is **Sherlock Holmes: A Melodrama**. This play had its opening premiere on March 31, 2000 and ran through May 13, 2002 at the Pocket Sandwich Theatre's original location near SMU in Dallas. The late playwright, Joe Dickinson and his brother Brad, did other Sherlockian melodramas but this one, his first, outshines all of the others. Lucky for us, it has returned to the Pocket Sandwich Theatre's new location in downtown Carrollton, Texas and the popcorn was flying.

The Sherlockian Theatrical Society (STS) attended en masse on Friday night and were delighted with what they saw. Watching Sherlock Holmes (Andrew Manning) verbally duel with Professor Moriarty (Dahlia Parks) or banter with Dr. John Watson (Bryan Brooks) and Inspector Lestrade (Bayley Owen) was worth the mountains of popcorn being hurled all around. The intentional emoting by The King of Bohemia, Ikey Banders (Patrick Douglass) was equally matched, by the intentional under-acting of the Prime Minister (David Huner) and voila, you have the ultimate melodrama evening experience. Throw in some forged Crown Jewels, a few murders, a missing treaty, and flirtatious/murderous Irene Adler

(Madyson Manning) and a soused Mrs. Hudson (Kellie Monahan-McElroy, what does one get? Two and a half hours of family fun.

One of the evening's running gags was the play on the line 'Elementary, Watson.' Holmes mentions a thread in his investigation sparking Dr. Watson to quip, 'Raimentary, Watson' or on the thought of putting Moriarty away, the good doctor says 'Penitentiary, Watson.' I won't spoil the others but needless to say, they were brilliantly done and added loads of laughter. Tip of the deerstalker to director Lauren Ashly Hearn.

The Pocket Sandwich Theatre is a venue where food and non-alcoholic beverages are served. Many time the server activities can be a distractions when trying to take in a play. This is certainly not the case here. The theatre's tiered seating allow the wait staff to glide effortlessly to the patrons. One never notices them until on occasion they will let go a barrage of popcorn to certain customers. A napkin is highly suggested to cover one's drink unless they like popcorn flavored iced-teas.

For those unfamiliar with a melodrama, each person is provided a tub of popcorn to hurl at anyone at any time. The audience is encouraged to boo and hiss at the bad guys, Ohh and ahh at the tender parts and loudly cheer and be raunchy to their heart's content. This evening's play began with a sing-along. They opted for "8 Days a Week" instead of "Aunt Clara" being more appropriate for all ages in attendance.

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!!!

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