

Sherlockian Theatrical Society



A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

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"Sherlock Holmes: The Timber Family File"

**By LatinX Project
Fayetteville, AR**

ON a warm June evening, Uncritics #001 and #011 hopped aboard our faithful Hansom Cab and ventured five-hours to Fayetteville, Arkansas to see a brand-new Sherlockian production at TheatreSquared. LatinX, for those not familiar with the term, it is a gender-neutral term referring to someone living in the United States who was born in or has ancestors from Latin America; it is an alternative to the masculine (Latino) and feminine (Latina). This was actually a reading by the eight cast members and was written collectively by the entire cast who are known as the LatinX Project. The LatinX Project advocates for social change by creating ensemble-made, multi-disciplinary performances that uplift and unite under-represented communities throughout Northwest Arkansas.

The play is a re-imagination of the Sherlockian mythos and is set in a barrio in the current time period. Sherlock Holmes (Sativa Vela) and Dr. Watson (Patricia Wheatley) are new at the art of detection but are on an upward learning curve when the theft of a bicycle they are investigating quickly evolves



into a murder. A local politician, Mr. Timber (Michael Del Rio), is running for re-election. His campaign slogan is "Remember to vote for me. Just say TIMBER!" The audience is shown his unsavory side (he is a politician), along with a host of other strange and unusual characters. The rest of the LatinX Projects actors (Yesenia De Loera, Damian Dena, Martin Garay, Gabriele Torres, and Patricia Rodriguez) each play multiple roles. This play had the audience (approx. 75) rolling in the aisles during scenes involving a marijuana dispensary/ fitness center. "One feels good when they workout and they feel good when they get high, so I thought why not combine the two," says character Roberto. There are references to an unseen person called "M" that seems to be behind all of the evil going on. Add three rap songs, a bike-shop, and neighborhood dive-bar all thrown in for good measure and one ends up with a very entertaining evening.

The playwrights began working on this play in September and it is still a work in progress. The audience were left with a cliffhanger, not knowing who committed the murder. They were told that the ending is complete but still being tweaked. We were promised the entire, completed, staged production would be available for next season. There was a half-hour question and answer session at the end of the reading. The cast said that the politician was based on Sebastian Moran and we all know that the "M" they referred to was not Mycroft. It was an unusual but entertaining evening. These two Uncritics will definitely make the five hour trek back to see the play once in production. There have been plenty of re-imagined Sherlockian productions such as *Elementary* and *Sherlock* that bent the boundaries of our hero. There will always be dissenters but not in the Sherlockian Theatrical Society, as our Mission Statement says.

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
June, 2024