

# Sherlockian Theatrical Society



*A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society*

Number 37

July 13, 2024

"Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure"

By Steven Dietz

Webster, Texas

**H**ave play will travel would be a great moniker for members of the Sherlockian Theatrical Society, considering that, that is exactly what we have been doing lately.



**A** number of Uncritics bought tickets for this play several months ago, long before the category 1 Hurricane BERY struck the Texas coast on Monday, coming ashore only miles away from Webster, Texas. The play was supposed to open on Friday the same week. Houston area suffered with more than 2 million customers losing power. The

Sherlockian Gods must have been watching out for the theatre temporarily housed in Webster Presbyterian Church due to their original location being turned into a parking (not storm related). The folks at the theatre called me on Wednesday to let me know they had sustained zero damage, they had air-conditioning and would be open for all productions.

**T**his play is a mash-up of several canonical tales, including SCAN and FINA with some other story elements thrown in for good measure. The opening scene finds Dr. Watson (Steven Sarp) lamenting the death of Sherlock Holmes (Sean DeFlora) at the hands of Professor Moriarty (Teddy Waddel). Then the audience is taken back in time to the events leading up to the opening scene. The King of Bohemia (Jonathan Grisham) needs to retrieve a compromising photograph of him and Irene Adler (Aisha Shields). In a plot twist, her new husband, Godfrey Norton (Derrick Davidson) is not quite as he seems. Most of the events follow SCAN other than Norton actually being James Larrabee, a minion of Moriarty. He is part of a wider plot to steal the photograph and blackmail the King. Here, the story takes on the elements of FINA, leading up to the events of Reichenbach Falls. Eight-year-old Jimmy Barkemeyer made his stage debut as the newsboy who delivers Dr. Watson the message that takes him away from Holmes at Reichenbach Fall, which leads to him being along to face Moriarty at the fall's precipice.

**T**his was the first show in temporary lodgings and director Michelle Robinson did a marvelous job overcoming several unforeseen obstacles. The theatre was three-quarters full with about fifty in attendance. Considering what Houston is going through, it was a successful evening. The tech crew including Aeyrn Lance, Tom Meek, Will McDaniel, Jeff Beckemeyer, and Sebastian Brown changed scenes flawlessly. The minimalist approach played largely in the play's success. The manager told me that they now have to find a new, permanent location by next season.

**A**s 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.

**B**reak a leg!!!

Flower Mound, TX  
July 13, 2024