

Sherlockian Theatrical Society



A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

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"The Hound of the Baskervilles"

By Tim Kelly
Richardson, TX

Seeing a production of the Hound of the Baskervilles without laughing or seeing more than 5 actors seems a bit out of the ordinary. I suppose it is because of seeing that other Baskerville play so many times recently. This was the serious play that the Repertory Company Theatre in Richardson, Texas chose to perform and it was worth every non-laughing moment. A nice way to open their 2024-2025 season. A gaggle of Uncritics chose the Saturday evening performance and soon, good reviews were coming from all directions.



Sitting in the theatre reminded me of the words of Monty Python, "Now for something completely different." That was what the audience saw - something totally different yet completely familiar. In both the silly and the serious Baskerville play, the opening act is always the same - Holmes and Watson making deductions about Dr. Mortimer's left-behind walking stick. In this production, director Debra Carter, places the entire play in the Great Room at Baskerville Hall. A new character, Lady Agatha Mortimer (Laura Davis) is awaiting

the arrival of Sherlock Holmes (Heath Bromley), Dr. Watson (Phillip Stay), and Sir Henry Baskerville (Jacob Waters). There were some troubling signs near the body of Sir Charles Baskerville that the police were unaware of and this is why Lady Mortimer has brought in our Hero. Plus there is a criminal running loose on the moors. Dr. Watson seems to be somewhat related to Nigel Bruce. Sir Henry is back being a Canadian instead of a Texan, as in *that other play*.

Another added character named Perkins (Lizzy Wolcott) is the housemaid who dim-wittedly helps Mrs. Barrymore (Sherry Etzel) and Barrymore (Nelson Wilson). The action that usually occurs on the moors is witnessed by the actors peering out into the audience as if looking through the 'windows' of Baskerville Hall. It was different watching Jack Stapleton (Michael Hammer) chasing butterflies through the Hall or when he confronts Sir Henry and his sister/wife Kathy (Katie Moyes Williams). The audience was not privy to why she became Kathy instead of Beryl. Seldon has no stage presence but Laura Lyons (Megan Liles) is there and still shocked as in *that other play* when she discovers that Stapleton is married.

The stage crew, made up mostly of the actors, did a marvelous job. Minimalism can be just as difficult as or maybe even harder than having a cluttered stage and many different scene changes. This new adaptation took a bit of getting used to but since the tale is so familiar, it was still a wonderful romp. The hound must have been house-broke because like Seldon, we never saw him in the house.

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
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