

# Sherlockian Theatrical Society



*A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society*

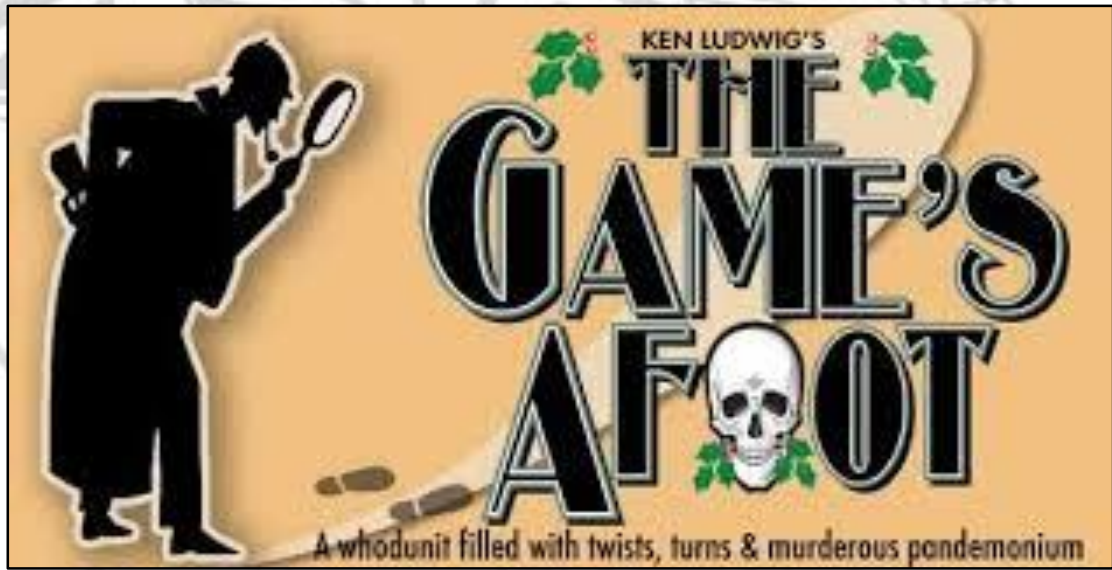
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**"The Game's Afoot: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery"**

**By Ken Ludwig  
McKinney, TX**

**T**he Sherlockian Theatrical Society started their holiday earlier than usual this year. This was due to the McKinney Performing Arts Center staging Ken Ludwig's *The Game's Afoot*. We were there on opening night but there were no signs of Opening-Night Jitters as the entire cast put on a near flawless



show. The theatre is the old municipal court building, where much of the original décor was preserved during the remodeling and conversion.

**T**he play opens in the middle of the final scene of the William Gillette play "Sherlock Holmes" where Gillette as Sherlock Holmes (Samuel Jack) is confronting Felix Geisel, playing Moriarty (Dennis Ryazanov) at Reichenbach Falls. As the actors appear on stage for their final bow, an unknown, unseen assailant shoots Gillette, wounding him. The audience is then transported a few weeks into the future, to Gillette Castle where we find Gillette being tended to by his doting mother, Martha Gillette (Terry Winkler) and preparing to

host a recovery party for himself. Of the five invited guests, four are actors and the fifth is a much despised theatre critic.

**T**he invited actors include Mr Geisel and his wife Madge Geisel (Cecil Powell) along with Aggie Wheeler (Chloe Ellison). We learn her first husband died on her honeymoon but the final invited actor Simon Bright (Niko Nelson) came to her rescue, to help comfort her and maybe her spend the millions she inherited. Upon their arrival, they announce they had just married which brings sad look to Gillette's face. The final invited guest is cruel theatre critic Daria Chase<sup>i</sup> (Teri Lynn Williams) who has written bad reviews about all of the actors including Gillette. There are shouting matches between everyone and Ms. Chase. It was unanimous, they all wanted her gone, one way or another.

**L**ow and behold Ms. Chase is found stabbed in the back and Police Inspector Goring (Kelsie Rodriguez) is on the scene to sort things out. Under the direction of Tatum Love, this play was performed brilliantly as tongue-in-cheek comedy, with over-the-top, emoting actors that were perfectly casted for their roles. Mr Gillette, unbeknownst to himself, morphs into Sherlock Holmes in order to help solve the case. I was seated on row 1 and was able see each subtle facial expression and the slightest movement. There were so many loud outbursts of laughter coming from the audience, that I lost count. Mother Gillette was hilarious in a scene where she had taken a few extra sleeping pills. One of my favorite crew members was Nathan Autrey. His title is Intimacy Choreographer. We were introduced to Teresa Miller, the costume designer. She told us that the set designer Olivia Hopkins based her design on the actual Gillette Castle in Connecticut.

**T**he members of the Sherlockian Theatrical Society all agreed that this was a special night. Ken Ludwig is one of their favorite playwrights and try to produce one each season. I suggested they look into doing Moriarty. 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.

**B**reak a leg!!!

Flower Mound, TX  
??. 2024

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<sup>i</sup> Mean critics are ineligible for membership the Sherlockian Theatrical Society