

Sherlockian Theatrical Society



A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

Number 42

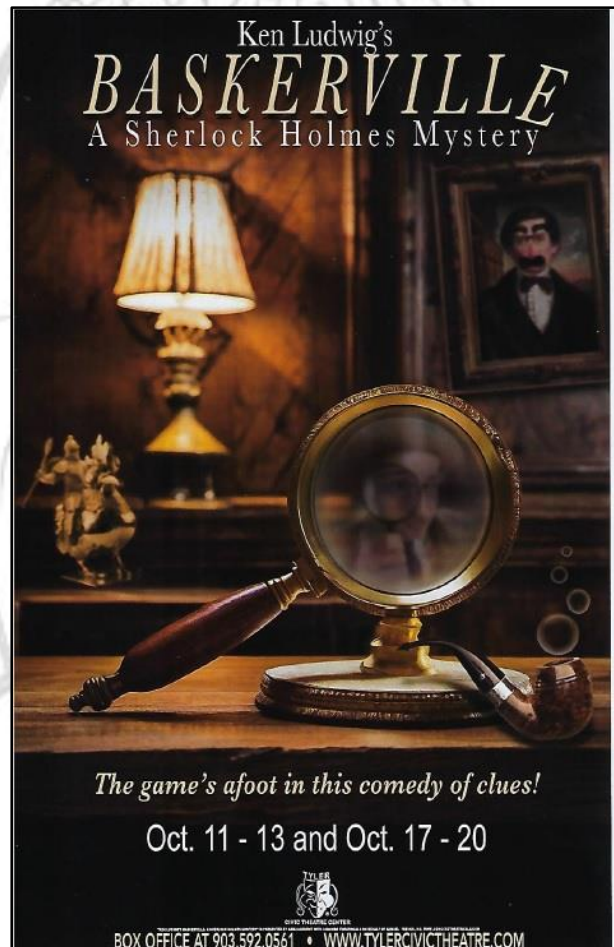
Oct. 11, 2024

"Baskerville: Sherlock Holmes Mystery"

**By Ken Ludwig
Tyler, Texas**

ON Friday night, The Sherlockian Theatrical Society was on the road once again, this time venturing out to see our favorite play. "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" by Ken Ludwig was staged at the Tyler Civic Theatre in Tyler, Texas - home of the world famous Tyler Roses. The theatre has about 250 seats and tonight it was at near capacity, including three older ladies attending, each supporting a deerstalker and a pipe. Another patron from the Red Circle of Washington, D.C. was in town visiting a friend and happened across the theatre. It is theatre in the round so the action came at the audience from all angles. This is the umpteenth time we have seen this play and we will see it umpteen more times, as long as there is a stage production, the STS will be there reviewing it. We were there opening night for the second play in a row. Just as the last time, thing couldn't have gone smoother.

As usual, the play opens in the sitting room at 221B Baker with Sherlock Holmes (Jack Ragland) and Dr. Watson (John Durbin) deducing facts concerning a walking stick left by Dr. Mortimer, actor 1 (Tristan Westmoreland). Actor 2 and actor 3, (Hailey Atteberry



and Johnny Bond, respectively) fill out the ensemble of 5. Having seen this play so many times, it is most enjoyable watching as each director places their mark with their interpretation. Director Bryan Knous was making his directorial debut and his love of Sherlock Holmes was present. Being the round, scene changes can cause unforeseen headaches but tonight's performance was as smooth as black-ice on I-35. With a slight deviation from the norm, the stage crew (Amanda Kattengell, Gregory Morris, Hannah Ragland, and Aubrey Sheffield) each had bit parts throughout the entire play. Some non-sequitur events such as a random bunny hopping across stage or a crew member lying on the floor with a banner that contained the cut-out message from the Times that Sir Henry (Actor 2) had received as a warning. Another fun scene to watch is how the butterfly-chasing Stapleton (Actor 1) is directed. This time, at first, the butterfly in question starts out on a stick attached to a string. Eventually, one of the stage crew dons wings and get chased around before actually being netted.

Another unique and quiet hilarious scene is when Dr. Watson and Sir Henry (Actor 2) are braving the strong gale-force winds as they walk through the village. Tonight, each actor was wearing a neck-scarf that was attached to a thin wire running off to the wings. The crew kept the wire taut and by moving them up and down gave to perfect illusion of the wind blowing them. There were scripted and unscripted wardrobe malfunction and scripted on-stage cues for actor 1, 2, or 3 to change characters. These always got huge laughs from the audience. Afterwards, there was the usual meet and greet with the cast and crew. They are always amazed and grateful that we traveled from afar to attend their production. Hey, one of STS's mottos is "Have Play- Will Travel (I just made that up). The night was well worth to 2 ½ hour drive (This one is true).

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
Oct.11, 2024