

Sherlockian Theatrical Society

A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

"An Evening with Sherlock Holmes"

By Jules Tasca

Theatre Suburbia, Houston, TX

Number 5

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On Sunday afternoon, March 13, 2022, The Sherlockian Theatrical Society had it's 5th meeting. We drove 245 miles south on I-45, to Theatre Suburbia, in Houston, Texas, where we met up with fellow Houstonian Sherlockians of the John Openshaw Society. Brian Clark and Ipek Bozkurt kindly extended an invitation for us to 'Come on down' and join them for a special afternoon together.

1 We gathered in this small but functional theater and we were delighted at what we saw. We watched as our dazzling duo, Holmes and Watson, tackled three demanding cases all in one evening. A disappearing wife, blackmail schemes, murder and to top it off, the riddle of the century fill two acts. So how does a person cope with their own demise? Will Holmes solve the case? One must attend, as we did, to find out the answers to these and other questions.

The triad of plays begins with "*The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor*", the tale of a British aristocrat, Sir Robert, who marries an American millionaire because his fortune has run out. However on the wedding day, his young wife disappears. Sir Robert calls on Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson to solve the mystery of her disappearance. The second piece, "*The Milverton Adventure*", pits Holmes and Watson against a nefarious blackmailer, Charles Augustus Milverton, who is blackmailing one of Holmes's clients, a woman who wrote several damning letters that could destroy her impending marriage. Holmes plans to burgle Milverton's house and retrieve the letters, but on the night of the burglary, Holmes's and Watson's attempt is interrupted by an unforeseen incident.

It is the original concluding play, "*The Disappearance of Adam*" that makes this evening with Holmes unique. Holmes must solve one of the existential mysteries. With its theme of life and death, the super sleuth must solve the riddle that has

puzzled the most brilliant mind in history! How does a person cope with this or her own demise? A not-to-be-missed climax!

This play is directed by Doris Merten and Glenn Dodson. It features Arnold Richie, Adrian Collinson, Jayne Anderson, Tony D'Armata, Keith Henson, Darius Hollis, Shirnekwa Dickson, J. F. Walsh and Alice Rhoades with Marylin Faulkner, Michele Richey and Julie Burks backstage and Leia Spialter in the tech booth. Whew, that is straight from the website. There were nearly 80 play-goers which tearfully overwhelmed the theater staff and brought a standing ovation from those 80 attendees.

As we were waiting the play to begin, we were approached by a lady that had noticed the hat worn by STS Member, Herb Linder. His hat featured the logo of the *Diogenes Club of Dallas*. The lady promptly told us she was married to Sherlock Holmes. When she saw our quizzical expressions, she explained that she was married to Arnold (Richie), the play's leading actor, Arnold Richie, a.k.a. Sherlock Holmes.

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Overall, the day was a total success. Plans were made for more joint Dallas-Houston Sherlockian events. They were aware of the upcoming conference in May 2023. The Alley Theater, another outlet, in downtown Houston stages a Sherlockian play every year or so.

Plan ahead, there are a couple of pending Sherlockian plays that The Sherlockian Theatrical Society are planning on attending. On March 26, 2022, we will be at the Runway Theatre in Grapevine, Texas to see "Baskerville." Then in April, Tim Kelly's adaptation of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" has been scheduled by the 3rd Act Theatre Company in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The play runs from April 8 through April 23, 2022.

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. Even if the cast is dead and the play is staged in the morgue, there could be something positive to say, like 'Wow, even under the stage lights, the players never broke a sweat.' 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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