

# Sherlockian Theatrical Society



*A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society*

Number 61

Feb. 15, 2026

**"Is Anybody Holmes"**

**By Heather Kork**

**Brentwood, MD**

**U**ncritic 003 traveled to Brentwood, Md., to see one of the three performances of an "original farce" written by Heather Kork and presented by the cast and crew of Thunderous Productions at the local fire station, which is a community center with an event hall, as well as the home of the local volunteer fire department.

**T**hunderous is an independent amateur local theater company, founded in 2008, and they did a fine job with the play, which was indeed a farce, involving Helms (Quezel Goff) and Westin (Tom Hardy) at 22-1B Baker Street, and four other characters: Rosemary (Molly Dunn), the Collector (Valerie Mikles), Evelyn (Julia Frank), and The Polliceman (DeAtley Barish).



**T**he cast's bios in the program were as much fun as the play. For example: Julia Frank is a long-time fan of detective fiction, delighted to be part of a new addition to "the cannon," as it shoots off in all directions; and Valerie Mikles, when she's not at the theater, fills her time writing novels, playing songs on her ukulele, learning new things, and vacuuming cat hair.

**T**he play was presented on a seriously open set, in front of two folding screens, with a couch, two chairs, a rug, and an umbrella stand that held, among other things, two wooden swords. The director, Penny Martin, was also credited as the combat choreographer, so of course one expected to see some swordplay, but there wasn't any. Needless to say, people who write farces don't play fair with the audience. It also was amusing to see actors make entrances and exits when the sets doesn't include any doors.

**A**s with all good farces, the plot didn't make much sense. A young woman calls on Helms, thinking he's Holmes, hoping he can find her missing brother, and then things get silly. Westin loses his trousers, and winds up disguised as The Policeman, who also loses her trousers, and there were lots of reminders of old-time vaudeville and silent films.

**I**t was an enjoyable afternoon, and only a fire alarm would have made things more interesting. That has happened, but all went well, with Helms finally solving the mystery of the missing brother. Sorry: no spoilers here.

**A**s a reminder, The Sherlockian Theatrical Society is a nonjudgmental 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!!!

Bethesda, MD  
Feb. 16, 2026

