

# Sherlockian Theatrical Society



*A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society*

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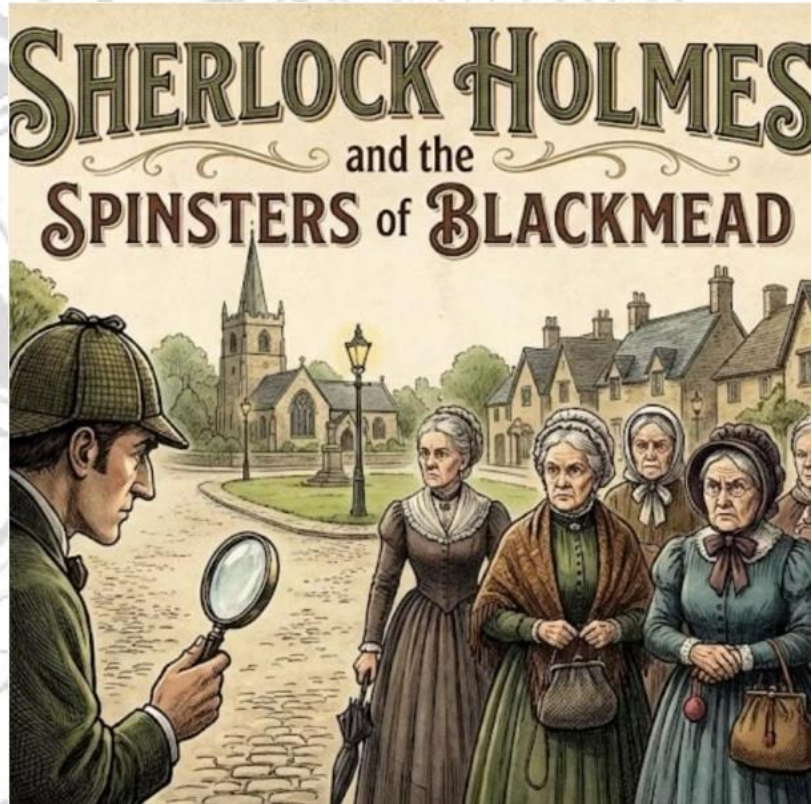
"Sherlock Holmes and the Spinsters of Blackmead"

By C. P. Stanich

Fleming Island, Florida

Since I will be retiring and moving into my daughter Macy's home in St. Augustine, Florida soon, we decided to break up the drudgery of a moving day by visiting The Island Theater, a local community theatre in nearby (about 30 miles) Fleming Island, Florida. The venue was presenting "Sherlock Holmes and The Spinsters of Blackmead" a stage play by C.P. Stancich.

Macy and I arrived to what was a sold out house of about 120 patrons. While visiting the restrooms before finding our seats Macy noticed an elderly gentleman attempting to enter the back door and kindly opened it for him. The bumbling man reminded us of Nigel Bruce, which later give us a laugh when found out he was the actual Dr. Watson performer.



The scenery was minimal, with a desk stage right with Holmes and Watson having a discussion in what one would assume was their Baker Street residence. Center Stage was a sofa and chairs representing

the inside of Blackmead Manor, with the back wall a mural representing the manor grounds. Stage left would be darkness with black cloaked spinsters and lightning flashing for a murder scene.

**T**he plot evolved around Sherlock Holmes (Jeff Bohischeid) and Dr. Watson (Steve Conrad) as they investigated murders amongst the community of Blackmead Manor. The case involves a dead servant and a missing community member, with potential involvement from a female relative of the deceased Professor Moriarty. Making things extra difficult for our duo is that they are not received well by the 'spinsters' an independent women's community who wish to handle matters internally.

**A**ll is not doom and gloom however as in one comedic scene at the manor Dr. Watson assumes a bearded visitor is Holmes in disguise, yanks on his beard and ejaculates Holmes you can't fool me!! This would lead to an attempt at a killing of the visitor by our mystery murderer, assuming they were killing the real Sherlock Holmes. Comedic scenes usually involved a Baker Street Irregular named Busby (Giselle Gereau), whose energy was quite electric, and the highlight of the scenes she was in.

**M**y daughter Macy commented that the 80 year old Steve Conrad (Watson), who had the most lines in the play, was outstanding. She marveled at how he could remember so much dialogue. Overall the play was a quite enjoyable outing for this father and daughter.

**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!!!

(Thanks to Uncritic #012, Howard Ostrom for this review)

St. Augustine, FL

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