

Sherlockian Theatrical Society



A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

Number 66

March 03, 2026

"The Game's Afoot"

By Ken Ludwig

Austin, TX

It is a family tradition for Uncritic #001 to spend Easter with family in the Austin area. This Easter was no different, and as an extra bonus "The Game is Afoot" just happened to coincide this year at The Stage Austin. Thus after our family dinner on Friday night, I headed south on I-35 to be with my other family - Sherlock Holmes. This is an enjoyable play within a play and like many other of Mr. Ludwig's play, the action is at a blistering pace. The Stage Austin is a whopping 35 - seat venue and was completely sold-out.

THE GAME'S AFOOT
BY KEN LUDWIG

MARCH 20TH -
APRIL 12TH, 2026

THURS. - SAT. 7:30PM
SUNDAY 2:30PM

DIRECTED BY
KAREN SNEED

THE STAGE AUSTIN
6134 E. HWY 290
AUSTIN, TX 78752

The play opens at the end of the William Gillette play "Sherlock Holmes" with the cast on stage for their final bow. The shocked audience witnesses a murder attempt but on whom was the attempt meant? The next scene is set inside Gillette Castle in Connecticut where Mr. Gillette (Darren Scharf) is recovering. There we meet his mother, Martha Gillette, (Andrea Littlefield) who is a true doting mother. There are the other cast members from the ill-fated play: Felix Guisel (Scot Friedman), Madge Geisel (Maddie Scanian), Simon Bright (Ty McLeod), and Angie Wheeler (Shanaya Dixon). There, everyone is obsessed with trying

to figure out who tried to kill whom. When the nasty, mean spirited critic (not like us) Daria Chase, (Suzanne Balling) joins the evening, things heat up. She has written terrible things about everyone in past reviews and surprise, surprise, she ends up with a knife in her back. Because of a raging storm, the electricity keeps going out of service. Everyone starts pointing fingers at each other. Eventually the police are called and Inspector Goring (Meredith O'Brien) arrives and she is as clueless as everyone else.

The Gillette Castle is the perfect place for a murder. It has hidden microphones and recording devices, a hidden room, and a laboratory. The action of hiding a body and having it soon become "unhidden", the dead body coming back to life but only for a second, had the audience in stitches. Director Karen Sneed did a marvelous job with the small stage which with she had to work. I discovered a nice touch during the 10 minute intermission. The lounge offered Sherlockian-themed drinks. The menu was "The Cocktail Casebook" and it featured The Watson Ward. This was a Bourbon drink - balanced, steadfast and dependable, much like Watson himself. If rum was what one desired, The Baskerville Shadow was for you. It is described as smooth and a little mysterious like the fog covered moors surrounding Baskerville Hall. The Baker Street Bramble was a gin concoction with a hint of crimson berry and citrus, perfect for a late night deduction. Finally if vodka was what one desired, The London Fog Caper was for you. It is steeped in mystery, worthy of a late-night stakeout on Baker Street. The black coffee I had was simply noir.

As 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.

Break a leg!!!

Flower Mound, TX
April 06, 2026