Sherlockian Theatrical Society

A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

"Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery"
By Ken Ludwig
Grapevine, TX

On Saturday night, March 26, 2022, The Sherlockian Theatrical Society held its 6th meeting. We gathered for a delightful Mexican dinner at Esparza's in Grapevine, Texas before heading a few blocks away to the Runway Theater located at 215 N. Dooley Street.

This is a quaint venue that seats about 120 patrons. We were treated to equal parts of comedy and adventure, where the indomitable Ken Ludwig took everyone's favorite literary detective and his most notorious case and added a whole new twist. Baskerville's fast-moving, pulse-pounding ride plays out in grand scale, filled with humor, horror, and plenty of stage magic as five actors play nearly forty roles in this kooky caper. Our Invernessed Caped-Crusader and Dr. Watson try to escape a dizzying web of clues, silly accents, disguises, and deceit. We found out how far from elementary the truth can be. If you don't believe me, just read the play's flyer which I have copied nearly verbatim.

John Grissom and Greg Kozakis play Holmes and Watson, respectively and they were the anchor for actors Valerie Armstrong, Tripp Jackson and Rae Harvil. These three remaining actors were like whirlwinds, changing costumes and roles as fast as Holmes' deductions. Our collective group of play-goers kept waiting for something really terrible to happen but no such events occurred. These feelings of despair were focused on the director of the play, Emily-Ann Moriarty-Phillips. Can a person with two-hyphens and two 'L's' in Phillips be trust. What did Moriarty have in store for the nearly packed theatre?

When he is not on stage portraying Sherlock Holmes, Mr. Grissom is a dentist. I seem to remember a dentist named Sherlock Holmes. Is this art imitating life or the other way around? Mr. Kozakis is a consultant when not on stage. Tripp Jackson (Actor 2) is a professional musician when not strutting his stuff on the

boards. He was certainly a trip in this production. Being the only other male actor, he flowed between a dozen different roles including Inspector Lestrade and Sir Henry Baskerville. Valerie Armstrong Actor 1) pulled off 13 male roles and 1 female role with such finesses that Governor Abbott would applaud. Rae Harvill (Actress 1) was introduced to Holmes via the *Wishbone* series and says playing so many characters is a fun challenge.

What she gave was just short of perfection. With more than a dozen Sherlockians in house, any issues with our heroes' mystique would have been glaring. This was just the second night the play ran and it was flawless. One could suppose Moriarty learned a lesson at Reichenbach Falls. In the program under Director's Notes it is simply signed "Moriarty" and this was the reason we were watchful and ready. After tonight's performance, Ms. Emily-Ann Moriarty-Phillips will be known as The Napoleon of Grapevine Theatre. We were thoroughly entertained.

This was our society's second venture out post-pandemic. It certainly felt good to have our collective seats back in a row. As the world slowly creeps out from the scourge of COVID-19, the S.T.S. will be hitting the theaters with hopefully more regularity. The next outing will be another road trip. The S.T.S. Hansom cab will be rolling again on April 10th. We are heading north on I-35 to Oklahoma City to see Tim Kelly's *Sherlock Holmes.* This play runs from April 8 through April 23, 2022 the 3rd Act Theatre. We will be attending the April 10th matinee.

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
March 27, 2022