Sherlockian Theatrical Society

A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

Number 78 **Oct. 11, 2026**

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

Uncrictic #011 traveled to McClennan Community College in Waco to see Ken Ludwig's Baskerville play on Sunday October 11, 2026. The play was sold out and started promptly at 2pm. I had barely taken my seat when the lights went out and the played started with Sir Charles dying and a glimpse of a giant paper mache' head of the Hound.

Then begins a scene at Baker Street discussing the left behind cane of Dr. Mortimor (Actor 1). In the course of the discussion of the cane Dr. Mortimor has been contacted and shows up. He reads the famous legend of the Baskerville curse and it is acted out by riders on horse sticks and the howling of the great hound with gnashing and ripping sound effects, as well while Sir Hugo's body is found dead on the moors. The play progresses with

the meeting of the new heir Sir Henry Baskervile (Actor 2) from Texas. When Sir Henry and Dr. Mortimor are followed back to the Northumberland Hotel it is again by a stick horse cab woman.

After the hotel meetings it is on to Baskerville hall where a train ride is very bumpy with the characters bouncing up and down on a bench to simulate train travel. We meet the Barrymores (Actress 1 and Emsemble member). Mr. Barrymore having a big bushy beard, hunched over to the extreme and an abnormally tiny right hand which brings many laughs throughout the play because it keeps flying of his person when someone shakes it for a greeting.

The stage is unique in that characters climb up ladders that cannot be seen by the audience and look over the top for scenes that involve an upstairs view as when Barrymore is shining his candle in the window to signal Sheldon the convict on the moor or when chasing the maid upstairs in one of the opening scenes. Another clever bit of the set is a portable fireplace on one side and a folding bed on the other for scenes when Holmes is reading letters from Watson and Watson is sitting on the bed writing them. It also doubles for a scene when Sir Henry is sleeping and Watson comes to get him to talk to Barrymore about the candle in the window. Stapleton provides humor by his color clothing and his running about the stage looking for butterflies. No actual butterflies appear and he is not wearing a hat with a butterfly attached this time as in other versions I have seen of this play. The meeting of Beryl and Sir Henry is magical as they stare deeply into each others eyes and fall in love. When Stapelton sees this he will have none of it and will do everything to keep them apart. Stapelton's heart soon softens and Sir Henry is invited to dinner.

Upon leaving dinner the fog rolls and Holmes (Cormac Spieres), Watson (Holden Rounds), and Lestrade (Actor 2) see Sir Henry and the giant paper Mache' Hound head appears and all three shoot and kill it. The end of the play is very unique as Holmes, Watson and the newly engaged Sir Henry and Beryl all go to the opera to see Falstaff by Giuseppe Verdi performed by the College Alumni opera singers. It is a 5 minute operetta with full costumes and voices straight out of a professionally performed opera.

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!!!

Plano, TX
Oct.12, 2026