

Sherlockian Theatrical Society

A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

Number 8

April 29, 2022

"The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"

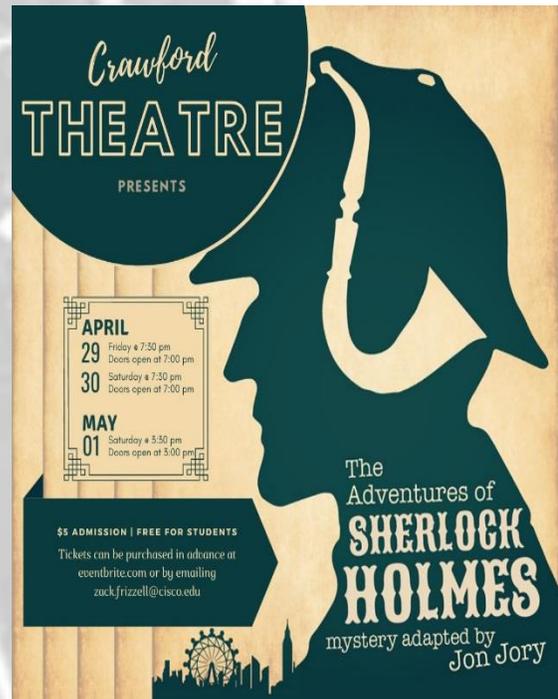
By Jon Jory

Crawford Theatre, Cisco, TX

ON Friday night, April 29, 2022, the Sherlockian Theatrical Society (STS) held their 8th official meeting. This included a drive of over 100 miles west of Fort Worth. Three STS members piled into our four-wheelers and hit the road. Our destination was Cisco, Texas and to Crawford Theater at Cisco College. However, we first stopped in Strawn, Texas at Mary's Café. They serve some of the best chicken-fried steaks in Texas. Since it was a mere 30 minutes from there to the theater it was a logical stop. After a grand artery-clogging meal, we were back on the road.

When we left Mary's my phone's GPS decided to have a go at self-awareness. It directed me to the same address as the college except in a different town. Luckily, this particular town was on our way to Cisco. Next, when I re-entered the college address, my GPS directed us to Abilene, Texas only a 100 miles in the wrong direction. When we finally arrived at the correct address at the correct college, in the correct town, there was a line of people, several hundred long. My first thought was what a great turn-out for the play. With more deductive reasoning, it was decided that this was graduation night and a local policeman confirmed our deductions and pointed us in the direction of the theater.

The Cisco Drama Department put on Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" at the Crawford Theatre located on campus. This is a quaint theatre with a seating capacity of about 120



people. The play was only a three-night run, so there were was a near-capacity crowd. According to the program, the game is afoot and the legendary friendship of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson is born, as they face a quartet of the most confounding crimes to ever cross the threshold of 221B Baker Street. Remember what they say, truth is stranger than fiction.

Jon Jory is no stranger to Holmes and Watson. Among his credits are the adaptations of *"The Hound of the Baskervilles"* and *"The Game's Afoot"*. *"The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"*, features four of the short stories. Act 1 Scene 1 - *"The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"* followed by Act 1 Scene 2 - *"The Five-Orange Pips."* In Act 2 Scene 1 we were treated to *"The Adventure of the Devil's Foot"* and then Act 2 Scene 2 was *"The Adventure of the Copper Beeches."* The cast features Vern Hamilton as Sherlock Holmes with his/her/their Boswell, Dr. JoAnne Watson played perfectly by Caelin Martin. Because this was a production of the Cisco College Drama Department, all of the cast and crew were students. Shamora Louise-Williams, aka "The Flower", performed excellently in several different role. Zack Frizzell, the Director of Cisco College, did a magnificent job of bringing this production to life, despite a noisy air-conditioning unit that seemed to miss every cue and woke up several times during the evening.

As a reminder, The Sherlockian Theatrical Society is a non-judgmental society and I am certainly not judging an air-conditioner, just pointing out that is was distracting. 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.

The next outing of the STS has yet to be determined. Anyone with information regarding Our Hero on the stage, please let us know. To date we have a 300-mile radius but are willing to expand. Our four-wheelers are always ready.

Break a leg!!!

Flower Mound, TX
May 1, 2022