

PREVIEW PROGRAMME

FESTIVAL THEATRE, JULY 24 TO OCTOBER 10

SHAW 21 FESTIVAL

TIM CARROLL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | TIM JENNINGS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DAMIEN ATKINS, RIC REID

and CLAIRE JULLIEN in

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RAVEN'S CURSE

by R. Hamilton Wright

based on the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

with JASON CADIEUX, KATHERINE GAUTHIER,

MARLA McLEAN, MIKE NADAJEWSKI,

CHICK REID and DONNA SOARES

Directed by CRAIG HALL

Designed by KEN MacKENZIE

Lighting designed by MICHELLE RAMSAY

Projections designed by CAMERON DAVIS

Original music and sound designed by JOHN GZOWSKI

Fights directed by JOHN STEAD

The Authors

R. HAMILTON WRIGHT, who has been a professional actor for nearly forty years, first partnered with his good friend and colleague David Pichette in a stage adaptation of James M. Cain's *Double Indemnity*, which had its world premiere at ACT Theatre in Seattle in 2011. This led to a commission from the Seattle Repertory Theatre to adapt Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, which received its premiere there in 2013. His original play *Sherlock Holmes and The American Problem* premiered there in the spring of 2016. It was recently produced at Vertigo Theatre in Calgary. His play *Greensward* was just produced in 2017 by MAP Theatre in Seattle.

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (1859-1930) is most famous as the inventor of Sherlock Holmes, but he had a varied career as a writer, journalist and public figure. He was born in Edinburgh into a prosperous Irish family and trained as a doctor, gaining his degree from Edinburgh University in 1881. He then settled in Portsmouth and divided his time between medicine and writing. Sherlock Holmes made his first appearance in *A Study in Scarlet*, published in *Beeton's Christmas Annual* in 1887. His Sherlock Holmes detective stories rocketed Conan Doyle to fame, taking time from the historical novels he would rather write, so in 1893 Conan Doyle "killed off" Sherlock Holmes in *The Final Problem*. His public, however, was outraged, so much so that in 1901, Conan Doyle resurrected Sherlock Holmes in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Holmes ultimately was featured in a total of fifty-six short stories and four novels, and Conan Doyle wrote a number of other novels, including *The Lost World*. His non-fiction works included a pamphlet justifying Britain's involvement in the Boer War, in which he served as a medical officer, and for which he was knighted, and histories of the Boer War and World War I, in which his son, brother and two of his nephews were killed. Conan Doyle also twice ran unsuccessfully for parliament. In later life he became very interested in spiritualism.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RAVEN'S CURSE is generously sponsored by



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PROPERTIES

We acknowledge and honour the land upon which we gather today as the historic and traditional territory of First Nations peoples. In particular, we recognize and thank the Neutral Nation, the Mississauga and the Haudenosaunee for their stewardship of these lands over millennia.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Director's Note

by Craig Hall

The original dynamic duo is back, and this time it's personal!

Sherlock Holmes and The Raven's Curse is the fourth Sherlock adventure that I have directed, and the second to be penned by playwright R. Hamilton Wright. The world's most famous fictional detective has become something of a cottage industry for Wright, who also wrote the adaptation of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* that the Shaw Festival produced in 2018, and *Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem* (another original Holmes adventure), which was produced by Vertigo Theatre that same year.

Wright has shown a particular flair for expanding on Conan Doyle's creations. He has honed in on some of the character's quirks and eccentricities, and has used them to make the master of deductive reasoning a little more human. His original adventures have also expanded on the Holmes and Watson partnership, and to me it is this relationship that is the key to the public's enduring love of these stories.

I have been describing *Raven's Curse* as Sherlock Holmes meets *Downton Abbey*, as I believe it will appeal to fans of both franchises. Besides the usual motley crew (Holmes, Watson, Mrs Hudson, Mycroft), the play features a wholly original character in Miss Fiona MacKenzie, Sherlock's adopted cousin. As Sherlock's intellectual equal and soulmate, Fiona offers the opportunity for us to see a whole new side of our usually cold and calculated hero, and thrusts a strong woman to the fore of the adventure. To me it is this kind of speculative adaptation that will keep this franchise relevant and entertaining.

Now sit back and put your detective hat on, because the game is afoot!

Production History

The world premiere of *Sherlock Holmes and The Raven's Curse* was at Vertigo Theatre, Calgary, on November 9, 2019, directed by Jenna Rodgers. Sherlock Holmes first appeared on the stages of the Shaw Festival in 1994 in William Gillette's 1899 play *Sherlock Holmes*, directed by Christopher Newton, with Jim Mezon as Holmes. More recently, in 2018, Holmes, played by Damien Atkins, returned to the Festival in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, adapted by R. Hamilton Wright and David Pichette, and directed by Craig Hall.

THE CAST *In Alphabetical Order*

Sherlock Holmes	DAMIEN ATKINS
Connor Ferguson	JASON CADIEUX
Lucy / Alice	KATHERINE GAUTHIER
Mrs Hudson	CLAIRE JULLIEN
Beatrice	MARLA McLEAN
Dr Angus Mowbray / Mycroft	MIKE NADAJEWSKI
Nanny Bull	CHICK REID
Dr John Watson	RIC REID
Fiona MacKenzie	DONNA SOARES

London and Scotland, December 1890.

ACT I

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Stage Manager	DIANE KONKIN
Assistant Stage Manager	ASHLEY IRELAND
Apprentice Stage Manager	KATIE FITZ-GERALD
Production Stage Manager	MEREDITH MACDONALD
Assistant Designer	KARA PANKIW
Assistant Lighting Designer	NICK ANDISON
Assistant Projection Designer	LAURA WARREN
Fight Captain	MARLA McLEAN
Voice and Dialect Coach	JEFFREY SIMLETT

For Artist photo and bio information, please go to shawfest.com/sherlock

UNDERSTUDIES

FIONA BYRNE, Lucy, Alice, Beatrice; PETER FERNANDES, Connor Ferguson;
ALEXIS GORDON, Mrs Hudson; MARTIN HAPPER, Dr John Watson;
CLAIRE JULLIEN, Nanny Bull; GABRIELLA SUNDAR SINGH, Fiona MacKenzie;
SANJAY TALWAR, Dr Angus Mowbray, Mycroft

Running time is approximately 2 hours and 35 minutes including one intermission