

KEN LUDWIG'S
BASKERVILLE
A SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY

By Ken Ludwig
Directed by
Theo Langason



PARK SQUARE
THEATRE

2017-2018 SEASON

JUN 15–AUG 5, 2018

Area Premiere / Proscenium Stage

*Made possible in part by Park Square Theatre's
Mystery Writers Producers' Club*

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PARK SQUARE THEATRE INFORMATION

CONTACT

Mailing Address:

408 St. Peter Street, Suite 110
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Street Address:

20 West 7th Place, Saint Paul, MN 55102

Ticket Office: 651.291.7005

Education: 651.291.9196

Donor Development: 651.767.1440

Audience Services: 651.767.8489

Group Sales: 651.767.8485

*Please visit parksquaretheatre.org
to view the following listings:
Staff, Board of Directors and
Educator Advisory Board.*

TICKET OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Saturday*

12:00-5:00pm

**Open Saturdays on performance days only*

Performance Days*

6:30-8:30pm for 7:30 evening performances

1:00-3:00pm for 2:00 matinee performances

**Hold times may be longer due to in-person customer
service before performances*

Proscenium Stage seats 348. Andy Boss Thrust Stage seats 203.
The Historic Hamm Building is a smoke-free facility.

Latecomers are seated at the discretion of the House Manager.

Restrooms and water fountains are on main floor and lower level.

Cameras/audio/video equipment and laser pointers are prohibited.



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These activities are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.

Dear Park Square Patron:

In 2003, I joined the board of Park Square Theatre. From my very first meeting, I was in awe of Richard Cook, the artistic director. I had never before been involved with an arts organization run by someone who had both a keen artistic sense and an innate awareness of the responsibility to run a financially stable organization.

Five years ago, after my board tenure had ended, my husband, John Clarey, and I were pleased to answer Richard's call to re-engage with the theatre by creating the Mystery Writers Producers' Club (MWPC) ... a group of friends (both old and new) who are interested in theatre in general, and the mystery genre in particular. Since its inception, the MWPC has contributed funds to allow Park Square to engage two wonderfully inventive playwrights – Jeffrey Hatcher and Joseph Goodrich – to bring us works featuring Sherlock Holmes and Nero Wolfe, and to produce *Murder for Two* and this production of Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*.

The group of 35 households (whose names are listed on page 4) gathers over dinners, cocktail parties, play readings and rehearsals, and in some small way helps to bring these plays to life. And, as importantly, we have fun while we are learning more about both the art and business of theatre. We would be pleased to have you (*yes you*) join us for future productions.

Thanks are due to Richard for finding a creative way for our group to have a voice in the making of theatre at Park Square ... and for the work he has consistently done throughout his years to make sure that this theatre reflects all of the voices of this community. It is important work, and he will be missed.

Speaking not only for John and myself, but for all of our fellow MWPC members, we hope you will continue to join in the fun (*yes, fun*) of supporting and growing Richard's extraordinary vision for future generations.



Gratefully,
Robyn Hansen



OUR MISSION is to enrich our community by producing and presenting exceptional live theatre that touches the heart, engages the mind and delights the spirit.

SYNOPSIS

The male heirs of the Baskerville line are being murdered one by one. To find their ingenious killer, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson must brave the desolate moors before a family curse dooms its newest heir. Does a wild hound of supernatural origin prowl the moors of Devonshire? Will our heroes discover the truth in time?

Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery is a humorous adaption of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

.....

THE PLAYWRIGHT



KEN LUDWIG is a two-time Olivier Award-winning playwright whose work is performed throughout the world in more than thirty countries in over twenty languages. He has written twenty-six plays and musicals, with six Broadway productions and seven in London's West End. His first Broadway play, *Lend Me A Tenor*, won two Tony Awards and was called "one of the classic comedies of the 20th century" by The Washington Post. He has received commissions from the Royal Shakespeare Company, The Old Globe and the Bristol Old Vic, and he is a Sallie B. Goodman Fellow of the McCarter Theatre in Princeton. His awards include the Charles MacArthur Award, the Helen Hayes Award, the 2017 Samuel French Award for Sustained Excellence in the American Theatre, the SETC Distinguished Career Award, the Edgar Award for Best Mystery of the Year, and the Edwin Forrest Award for Contributions to the American Theater. His book *How To Teach Your Children Shakespeare*, published by Penguin/Random House, won the Falstaff Award for Best Shakespeare Book of the Year, and his essays are published by the Yale Review. His newest play, *The Gods of Comedy*, will premiere at The McCarter Theatre and The Old Globe in spring 2019. He holds degrees from Harvard and Cambridge Universities. His plays and musicals are produced somewhere in the United States and abroad every night of the year. For more see www.kenludwig.com. *Read more about Ken Ludwig's thoughts about Sherlock Holmes in an interview on pages 12-13.*

This show was made possible in part by Park Square Theatre's

MYSTERY WRITERS PRODUCERS' CLUB:

Anonymous (2)
Steve & Nancy Apfelbacher
Clint & Sara Beckstrand
Linda Boss
John Clarey & Robyn Hansen
Michael & Sharon Conley
Ken & Gwen Crabb
Dick Crowell & Beth Brody
Tim & Susan Flaherty
David & Genny Freier
The Gallagher & Eversoll Family

Jewelie Grape
John W. Harris Family
David & Ann Heider
Robert & Lucille Ingram
Kaj & Meaghan Johansen
Wesley & Deirdre Kramer
Ray & Jan Krause
James & Mary LaFave
Liz Wall Lee
Ken & Diana Lewis
Jim & Sharon Lewis
Jack & Jeanne Matlock

Michael Monahan &
Molly O'Shaughnessy
Rosanne Nathanson
George Perez & Karna Peters
Steve & Deb Ragatz
Susan Rostkoski
Jim Rustad & Kay Thomas
Dan & Emily Shapiro
Jim & Miriam Stake
Paul Stembler & Mary Ebert
Fred Wall
Robert & Barbara Wieman

The Mystery Writers Producers' Club is a fun and devoted group of Park Square Theatre donors who help support our mystery show each season and stay connected to the production year round. Next year the group will produce *Agatha Christie – Rule of Thumb*.

Learn about joining this group, the Future Audiences Club (*The Agitators*) or the Premiere Club (*Marie and Rosetta*) by contacting Mackenzie Pitterle:

651.767.1440 / pitterle@parksquaretheatre.org

KEN LUDWIG'S
BASKERVILLE
A SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY

ARTISTIC STAFF

Director	Theo Langason
Scenic Designer	Eli Sherlock
Costume Designer	Mandi Johnson
Lighting Designer	Michael P. Kittel
Sound Designer	Peter Morrow
Properties Designer.....	Sadie Ward
Dialect Coach.....	Keely Wolter
Assistant Director.....	Ashawnti Sakina Ford
Stage Manager.....	Laura Topham*
Assistant Stage Manager	Samantha Diekman*

CAST

Sherlock Holmes	McKenna Kelly-Eiding
Doctor Watson.....	Sara Richardson*
Dr. Mortimer, Milker, Barrymore, Stapleton and others	Ricardo Beaird
Sir Henry Baskerville, Inspector Lestrade and others	Eric "Pogi" Sumangil*
Mrs. Hudson, Cartwright, Mrs. Barrymore, Miss Stapleton and others	Marika Proctor*

TIME & SETTING London & Devonshire. The late 1890s.

PERFORMANCE TIME The show will run approximately
2 hours, 20 minutes including a 20-minute intermission.

Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery was originally produced by
McCarter Theatre Center, Princeton, NJ / Emily Mann, Artistic Director, Timothy J. Shields, Managing Director
and Arena Stage, Washington, DC / Molly Smith, Artistic Director, Edgar Dobie, Executive Producer

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As a courtesy to our actors and those around you, please
DEACTIVATE all PHONES and ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States
Park Square Theatre is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.



RICARDO BEARD

Dr. Mortimer, Milker, Barrymore, Stapleton and others

Park Square Dot,
Sons of the Prophet

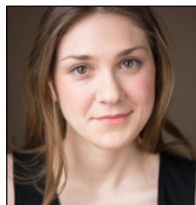
Representative Theatre Yellow Tree Theatre: *Clybourne Park*; Pangea World Theater: *Conference of the Birds*; Theater Latté Da: *Peter and the Starcatcher*; Walking Shadow Theatre Company: *21 Extremely Bad Breakups*; Public Theatre of MN: *Much Ado About Nothing, I and You*; Nebraska Shakespeare Festival: *The Tempest* **Training** B.A., Theatre and Marketing, Middle Tennessee State University; additional training with the Nashville Shakespeare Festival
Upcoming Ten Thousand Things: *Scapin*



McKENNA KELLY-EIDING

Sherlock Holmes
Park Square Debut Representative
Theatre Jungle

Theater: *The Wolves*; Workhaus Collective: *Lasso of Truth*; Epidemic: *Dangerous Productions*; Shakespeare on the Vine: *The Taming of the Shrew*; Montana Shakespeare in the Parks: *Macbeth, You Never Can Tell, Richard III, Comedy of Errors* **Training** B.F.A., Acting, University of Minnesota/Guthrie Actor Training Program



MARIKA PROCTOR*

Mrs. Hudson, Cartwright, Mrs. Barrymore, Miss Stapleton and others

Park Square Debut Representative Theatre Actors Theatre of Louisville: *You Across From Me* (42nd Humana Festival), *Hardware, A Christmas Carol*; Yellow Tree Theatre: *One Man, Two Guvnors*; Savage Umbrella: *June*; Classical Actors Ensemble: *The Tempest, Twelfth Night, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Two Gentlemen of Verona*; Market Garden Theatre: *Public Exposure* **Training** Professional Training Company, Actors Theatre of Louisville **Other** Bakken Museum: *Mary and Her Monster*



*Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. Actors' Equity Association (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American actor unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For information, visit www.actorsequity.org.

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**SARA
RICHARDSON***

Doctor Watson
Park Square *The Liar* **Representative Theatre** *Jungle*

Theater: *The Night Alive*; Mu Performing Arts: *You for Me for You*; Pillsbury House Theatre: *Buzzer*; Torch Theater: *Boeing Boeing*; Children's Theatre Company: *Mercy Watson to the Rescue!*; Gremlin Theatre/Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival: *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur* **Film** *Rough Tender*; *Per Bianca* (Cannes shorts 2011) **Training** École Jacques Lecoq **Other** Sara-Richardson.com


**ERIC "POGI"
SUMANGIL***

Sir Henry Baskerville,
Inspector Lestrade
and others
Park Square

Macbeth, *Flower Drum Song* (Co-produced with Mu Performing Arts), *The Realistic Joneses* **Representative Theatre** Mu Performing Arts: *Twelfth Night*; La Jolla Playhouse: *The Seven*; Children's Theatre Company: *The Monkey King*; Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: *Altar Boyz*; Jungle Theater: *The Oldest Boy*; Ten Thousand Things: *Park and Lake* **Training** The Actors Workout; B.A., Communication; B.A. Asian Studies, St. John's University **Accolades/Other** Many Voices Fellow 2009-10, 2010-11, Playwrights' Center; 2002 Fil-Minnesotan Association Excellence in the Arts Award; ericpogisumangil.com


THEO LANGASON

Director
Park Square As Assistant Director: *A Raisin in the Sun*; As Actor: *Hamlet*,

A Raisin in the Sun, *The Snow Queen* **Representative Theatre** Sandbox Theatre: *Queens* (at Park Square Theatre), *The Little Pilot* (Director), *Killer Inside*, *This Is a World to Live in*; 7th House Theater: *Hair*; Frank Theatre: *Citizen* **Training** B.A., Theatre Arts, Rutgers University – Camden

SAMANTHA DIEKMAN*

Assistant Stage Manager

Park Square *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Hamlet*, *Might As Well Be Dead*, *Amy's View*, *The Curious Case of the Watson Intelligence*, *The Soul of Gershwin*, *The Liar*, *Love Person*, *Great Expectations*; As Run Crew: *Flower Drum Song*, *Sons of the Prophet*, *The Snow Queen* **Representative Theatre** CLIMB Theatre: Blue Company 2017-18 Season; Illusion Theatre: Jeffrey Hatcher's *Hamlet*, Artistry: *Phantom TV/Film* Touch for a New Generation, Illusion Theatre (Production Assistant) **Training** B.F.A. Theatre Design/ Technology, Minnesota State University, Mankato **Other** Ordway: *Annie* (Child Supervisor), Flint Hills Festival (Liaison)

(Artistic Staff continued on page 10)



a highly caffeinated comedy

Newly announced!

Triple Espresso is coming to Park Square's Andy Boss Thrust Stage
NOV 5 - JAN 13
Tickets on sale soon—watch your email.



2018-2019 SEASON

INNOVATIVE, THOUGHT-PROVOKING, AND SURPRISINGLY TIMELY



Andy Boss Thrust Stage

SOMETIMES THERE'S WINE

Sept 14 – Oct 14, 2018 Comedy

By Shanan Custer and Carolyn Pool

Directed by Angela Timberman

When there's wine, the stories flow...from the team of Two Sugars, Room for Cream.



Proscenium Stage

THE AGITATORS

SEPT 21 – OCT 28, 2018 Historical Drama / Regional Premiere

By Mat Smart; Directed by Signe V. Harriday

Changemakers Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass were friends, allies, and sometimes, adversaries.



Proscenium Stage

MARIE AND ROSETTA

NOV 23 – DEC 30, 2018 Play with Music / Regional Premiere

By George Brant; Directed by Wendy Knox

Fierce guitar playing and gospel music set the stage for the story of two women whose music laid the foundation for rock 'n' roll.



Andy Boss Thrust Stage

ANTIGONE

FEB 1 – MAR 3, 2019 Greek Tragedy

By Sophocles; Adapted and Directed by Meagan Kedrowski

Created with the Ensembles

A wounded family and a woman's need for civil disobedience lie at the heart of this classic Greek tragedy.



**All shows on sale now –
Packages available starting at \$75**



Proscenium Stage

THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH

Park Square Presents Theatre in Residence Girl Friday Productions

FEB 7 – MAR 3, 2019 *American Classic Comedy*

By Thornton Wilder; Directed and Designed by Joel Sass

An optimistic tribute to the invincibility of the human spirit...did we mention the dinosaur?



Andy Boss Thrust Stage

MARJORIE PRIME

Park Square Presents Theatre in Residence PRIME Productions

APR 19 – MAY 19, 2019 *2015 Pulitzer Prize Finalist, Drama*

By Jordan Harrison; Directed by Elena Giannetti

What would we remember, and what would we forget, if given the chance?



Proscenium Stage

HEAVEN

Park Square Presents Theatre in Residence Flying Foot Forum

MAY 31 – JUN 23, 2019 *Drama / Music / Dance*

Created and Directed by Joe Chvala; Music by Chan Poling

Friendship, love and painfully beautiful moments in this dance/theatre mash up set in the Bosnian War.



Andy Boss Thrust Stage

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP SPARKLING JUNIOR TALENT PAGEANT

JUN 14 – JUL 28, 2019 *Musical / World Premiere*

Book, Music and Lyrics by Keith Hovis; Directed by Laura Leffler

A brand-new musical satirizes the quirks of small town life and explores what it means to “win” in the 21st century.



Proscenium Stage

AGATHA CHRISTIE - RULE OF THUMB

JULY 12 – AUG 25, 2019 *Mystery / Twin Cities Premiere*

By Agatha Christie; Directed by Austene Van

Three masterful one-act mysteries including The Wasp's Nest, featuring Hercule Poirot.

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ARTISTIC STAFF

ASHAWNTI SAKINA FORD

Assistant Director

Park Square Debut Representative

Theatre History Theatre: *A Crack in the Sky*; Sandbox Theatre: *In the Treetops*; Guthrie Theater: *Iraqi Voices* **TV/Film** *Empire* (FOX) **Training** B.F.A., Theatre-emphasis in Acting, Viterbo University **Accolades/Other** Arts and Cultural Partnership Grant from Minnesota State Arts Board to work in partnership with Exposed Brick Theatre to write *EDGES: a play on hair* **Upcoming** *EDGES: a play on hair* (Playwright); Traveling to Liberia to teach social justice theater

MANDI JOHNSON

Costume Designer

Park Square Doubt Representative

Theatre Four Humors Theater: *The Importance of Being Earnest*; Sandbox Theatre: *Big Money*; Transatlantic Love Affair: *The Privateer*; Theatre Pro Rata: *The Minotaur*; Mixed Blood Theatre: *Vietgone*; Live Action Set: *Crime and Punishment* **Training** B.A., Technical Theatre, College of St. Catherine; Millinery Training, Arts University Bournemouth, UK **Upcoming** Sandbox Theatre: *Houdini, The Golden Record Project*

MICHAEL P. KITTEL

Lighting Designer

Park Square Over 180 productions (as Resident Lighting Designer) including *Hamlet*, *The Color Purple*, *Red*, *Ragtime*, *Grey Gardens*, *Democracy*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Rock 'n' Roll* **Representative Theatre** Ordway, Frank Theatre, Stages Theatre Company, Steppingstone Theatre, Mu Performing Arts,

Bloomington Civic Theatre **TV/Film** tpt: The St. Olaf Christmas Festival **Training** University of Wisconsin-River Falls **Accolades** Ivey Award for *The Pillowman* (Frank Theatre); *Lavender Magazine* Best Lighting Design 2008 & 2009

PETER MORROW

Sound Designer

Park Square Debut Representative

Theatre New Native Theatre: *Native Woman The Musical* (Sound Designer); Stages Theatre Company: *The Hobbit* (Composer and Sound Designer); Red Eye Theatre: *While You Were Out* (Sound Designer); Guthrie Theater: Solo Emerging Artists (Sound and Video Designer); Theatre Latté Da: *Lullaby* (Sound Designer and Music Director) Brokentalkers: *In Real Time* (Composer)



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and Sound Designer) **Training** M.A. Music and Media Technology, University of Dublin, Trinity College

ELI SHERLOCK

Scenic Designer

Park Square *The Liar* **Representative**

Theatre Theater Latté Da: *Assassins*; History Theatre: *Lord Gordon Gordon*; Artistry: *Follies*; 7th House Theater: *The Passage*; Yellow Tree Theatre: *Violet*; Walking Shadow Theatre Company: *The Coward* **Training** B.F.A., Theater Design and Production, University of Michigan **Upcoming** Lyric Arts Main Street Stage: *Guys and Dolls*

LAURA TOPHAM*

Stage Manager

Park Square *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Hamlet*, *Might as Well Be Dead*, *The Realistic Joneses*, *Calendar Girls*, *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *33 Variations*, *The Red Box*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Mary T. & Lizzie K.* **Representative Theatre** Artistry: *Follies*; Ordway: Flint Hills Children's Festival; Theater Latté Da: *Beautiful Thing* **Training** B.A., Theatre Arts, University of Minnesota

SADIE WARD

Properties Designer

Park Square *A Raisin in the Sun*; *Nina Simone: Four Women*; *Murder for Two*; *The Other Place*; *2 Sugars*, *Room for Cream*; *33 Variations*; *Behind the Eye*; *Of Mice and Men* **Representative Theatre** Theatre in the Round, The Phipps Center for the Arts, Lyric Arts,

Theatre Unbound, Theatre Pro Rata **Training** B.A., Theatre Studies; B.F.A., Arts Administration **Other** Human Resources Generalist at the Guthrie

KEELY WOLTER

Dialect Coach

Park Square *Amy's View*, *Calendar Girls* **Representative Theatre** Jungle Theater: *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, *Lone Star Spirits*, *Le Switch*, *Constellations*; Old Log Theater: *Guys and Dolls*, *Savannah Sipping Society*, *Million Dollar Quartet*; Theater Latté Da: *Five Points*, *Assassins*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *All is Calm*, *Ragtime*, *Lullaby*, *Sweeney Todd*; Artistry: *Noises Off*, *The Secret Garden*, *Blithe Spirit* **Training** M.A., Voice Studies, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama; B.A., Theatre Performance, Viterbo University

Production Staff & Crew

Master Electrician: Michael P. Kittel

Electricians: Kyia Britts, Kyla Moloney, Courtney Schmitz, Brittany Pooladian, Karin Olson

Technical Director: Ian Stoutenburgh

Associate Artistic Director: Laura Leffler

Master Carpenter: William Bankhead

Carpenters: Madi Smith, Brittany Pooladian, Charlotte Deranek, Maya Simon

Scenic Charge:

Mary Montgomery-Jensen

Painter: Nicole DelPizzo

Run Crew: Kyla Moloney, Haley Walsh

Wardrobe: Mary Farrell

Sound Board Op: Charlotte Deranek

THE ROMANCE of *SHERLOCK HOLMES:*

Q & A WITH KEN LUDWIG

Linda Lombardi, Literary Manager at Arena Stage talks with the playwright of *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*.

The interview was originally published on Stage Banter: the Arena Stage Blog.



What is it that makes Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson so popular with both writers and audiences?

There is something romantic at the heart of Sherlock Holmes that touches all of us. He is quixotic, cerebral, dashing and inspiring. But there is also something dark and dangerous about Holmes, and we admire him for the courage with which he fights his demons. He broods, he plays Beethoven, he revels in danger and experiments with drugs. At times he frightens us, and that is part of his allure.

Meanwhile, Watson creates a resonance of his own. He is steady, stalwart and wonderfully earthbound. Together they are Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. They are Ariel and Caliban. They are fire and earth. These roots plant them firmly in our shared mythology, and we respond to them as we respond to all mythological characters, not just through the brain, but also viscerally and through our hearts.

Sherlock Holmes is one of the most famous characters to be portrayed in literature, in film and on TV. What attracted you to him and, in particular, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*?

Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson have been a staple of our culture since the 1890s, but they have recently reentered our world in a more muscular way. For some reason, it seems to be just the right time for Holmes and Watson. Perhaps these days we crave a hero who succeeds despite, or perhaps because of his quirks, his obsessions and his near-fatal flaws.

Also, it is easy to dismiss Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as a writer of mere genre literature. After all, say the critics, he wrote only mysteries and adventure stories. But the man had a touch of genius about him. Certainly his genius was different in kind from that of, say, Jane Austen or Henry James. It was not as deeply personal or psychological. But genius comes in many shapes, and Conan Doyle inhabited one of them.

To begin with, he virtually invented the entire mystery genre as we know it. There would be no Agatha Christie without Conan Doyle, no Dorothy Sayers, no Raymond Chandler, and no detective movies or television shows. The detective and his sidekick, the locked-room mystery, the clues, the red herrings, the bungling policeman and the grateful client—he virtually invented all of it.

In addition, in the characters of Holmes and Watson, he somehow plumbed the depths of our immortal souls—and his audience recognized this from the beginning. Think about the number of times in the history of literature that there have been people literally waiting in line for a novel or story. I can think of Charles Dickens; I can think of J.K. Rowling; and I can think of Conan Doyle, whose myriad fans would wait on the dock in New York for the latest installment of Sherlock Holmes in *The Strand Magazine*. The public realized instantly that Holmes and Watson were not just for an age but for all time.

As for *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Conan Doyle wrote it with his usual instinct for a whopping good story. Again, in the history of English literature, how many truly great adventure stories have been written—stories of depth and quality that create mythologies

and yet keep you turning the pages while you hold your breath. I would include *Treasure Island* and *The Hobbit*. *Kidnapped*, perhaps, and *The Prisoner of Zenda*. And preeminent among them is *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Like *Treasure Island*, it contains a villain who reaches deeply into our subconscious. And like *Treasure Island*, it touches on the darkness in all of us. The very image of the hound brings out the danger that lurks in the depths of our souls. The hound is mysterious and unknowable, and so are we. He is frightening and difficult to control. There is a hound in all of us.

Why write a play about Sherlock Holmes at this moment in time?

There is a great tradition of melodrama in our theater, both English and American. In melodramas, we sit on the edge of our seats watching exciting stories where anything can happen. There are villains, there are mysteries, there are fortunes lost and reputations regained. These are the plays that defined our theater for over two hundred years, and the literary icons we most revere, like Jane Austen and Charles Dickens, loved to act in them and write about them.

There should be a bigger place in our lives for these kinds of plays. They needn't be a steady diet, but they shouldn't disappear, either. Beginning in the 1930s, this genre was subsumed by Hollywood movies, and the theater was poorer for it. And while I yield to no one in my love for Errol Flynn in *Robin Hood* and Kirk Douglas in *Spartacus*, I think that adventure stories are just as good, and maybe even better, when they're presented on a live stage with actors you can touch.

My hope is that *Baskerville* is about the theater as much as it is about Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson. I want it to succeed not only as a tale of fellowship and courage, but also as an adventure in itself. I'd love us to return, at least now and then, to nights at the theater when we feel the way we do in the movies watching *Indiana Jones*

and the *Temple of Doom*: sitting breathless in the dark, mesmerized by the action, munching bags of popcorn.

***Baskerville* is a cast of five. Three of the actors play over 40 characters. What is that like in your development process, as far as writing these very distinct characters, knowing that one actor will be playing these ten roles, another these ten, another these ten?**

Writing for this many characters in a single play felt joyous; and knowing that they'd be played by only three actors felt like a breath of fresh air. It was liberating.

Classical theater has always been filled with doubling and tripling, and it is often a source of theatrical joy. Shakespeare's company had between 12 and 15 actors in it, but his plays contain as many as 25-35 characters.

One of my favorite authors, J.B. Priestley, said something about theater that I like very much: he reminded us that when we go to the theater we feel two things at the same time. First, we see characters who tell us a story. Second, we're conscious that professional actors are playing those characters and telling the story on a small wooden stage.

When actors double, triple—and, in the case of *Baskerville*, play dozens of parts—we're reminded of this duality. Characters may die, but the actors are, reassuringly, still standing at the curtain when they take their bows. I believe that this knowledge can enrich the experience of seeing a play, and reminds us that play-going is not merely life, but life enhanced.

Are you more a Holmes or a Watson?

I think I'm a Watson but I wish I were a Holmes.

Finally, a question I ask all our playwrights...what's your favorite word?

"Fadge." In *Twelfth Night*, at the first great turning point in the play, Viola sums up the story and then asks, "How will this fadge?" meaning how will it all turn out in the end. What a simple, and simply breathtaking word.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE HISTORIC HAMM BUILDING

Their investment of \$12,000,000 in donated rent and use of facilities over our 40-year tenure creates a vibrant cultural life in downtown Saint Paul.

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Joseph Anderlik
Linda Boss
The John W. Harris Family
Richard & Nancy Nicholson
Gayle & Timothy Ober

DIRECTORS \$10,000+

Suzanne Ammerman
Barb & Fran Davis
Nancy Feldman
Peter & Sara Ribbens
David Robinson & Janet Ekern
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Lawrence Hendrickson
Edward Fox
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Karen Heintz
Peter Maye & Betsy Cobb
Dick Morrison
Benedict & Rita Olk
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Celita & Eric Levinson
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Paul & Tara Mattessich
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Norris Peterson
Susan Rostkoski
Kari Ruth & Tom Park
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Anonymous (2)
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John & Barbara Balfanz
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Richard Crowell
Paul & Tina Casey
Casey & Rachael Crabb
Jill Irvine Crow
Tom & Mary Lou Detwiler
Mary Finnerty &
Patrick Esmonde
John & Karen Larsen

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Sharon & James Lewis
Rosanne Nathanson
Edwin & Jennifer Ryan
Emily & Dan Shapiro
Mark & Susan Stutrud
Gail Ward & John Smith
Sheri Zigan

GUARANTORS \$1,000+

Anonymous
Lynne Beck
Tim & Sara Beckstrand
Daniel Boone
Christopher & Kristin Boylan
C.C. & Dawn Clawson
Michael & Sharon Conley
The Crabb Family, Ken, Gwen,
Casey & Rachael
Fran Davis
Joan Duddingston
Lucas Erickson
Tim & Susan Flaherty
John Gillen in memory of
Lawrence E Pierson
Douglas R. Heidenreich
David & Ann Heider
Robert & Lucille Ingram
Heath & Elyse Jensen
Kaj & Meaghan Johansen
Bruce Jones & Joann Nordin
Ray & Janet Krause
James & Mary LaFave
Carol Millar
Robert Milligan & Sharon Danes
Richard & Joan Newmark
Ford & Catherine Nicholson
Robert & Megan O'Leary
Molly O'Shaughnessy &
Michael Monahan
Douglas & Carol Ogren
Michael-jon Pease &
Christopher Taykalo

George Perez &
Karna Johnson Peters
Diane Pike & Stephen Willett
Mackenzie Pitterle &
Steve Romenesko
Steve & Deb Ragatz
Ken & Nina Rothchild
Summer Seidenkranz &
Clark Schroeder
Art & Jan Seplak
Miriam & James Stake
Sarah Stevenson
Irene Suddard
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Martha Turner
Robert & Barb Wieman

BENEFACTORS \$500+

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William Randall Beard
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Cory & Pam Biladeau
Thelma Boeder
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Gissell Castellón
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Joseph Robillard
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Noel Schenker
Jackson Smith
David & Ann Smith
Missy Staples Thompson &
Gar Hargens
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Elizabeth Andrews
Karen Asphaug & John Anderson
Lynn & Kendra Atkinson
Marcia J. Aubineau
Kay C. Bach
Robert & Mary Beck
Laura & Jon Bloomberg
Carol Bossman
Jerry & Cathy Brennan
Arnold & Judith Brier
Richard Bruns
Ute & Chuck Buehler
Lois Carolan & Ronald Marquis
Cecil & Penny Chally
Ronald & Kathy Colby
Steve Colton
David Colwell

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Evelyn Coslett
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Teri Cuddy
Jody Dahl
Jenni & Doug Devens
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Samuel Dudley
David Dudycha &
Dorothy Vawter
Trudy Dunham
Sheila Faulkner
Margot Fehrenbacher Lair
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† In Remembrance

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