

NOVEMBER 14 - DECEMBER 17, 2017 | QUADRACCI POWERHOUSE

Holmes AND Watson

By Jeffrey Hatcher | Directed by Joseph Hanreddy

Play
Guide



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Holmes AND Watson

By **Jeffrey Hatcher** | Directed by **Joseph Hanreddy**

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Play
Guide

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Mark Clements
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Chad Bauman
MANAGING DIRECTOR

PLAYGUIDE WRITTEN BY
Nicole Sterling
Education Intern

Eddie Ahrenhoerster
Education Intern

Amanda Garrigan
Lauren Sagendorph
Education Programs Manager

PLAYGUIDE EDITED BY
Jenny Toutant
Education Director

Hope Reed-Johnson
Associate Education Director

Lisa Fulton
Chief Marketing Officer

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Jeff Meyer, Eric Reda

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In a struggle with criminal mastermind Moriarty, Sherlock Holmes tragically tumbles over the Reichenbach Falls to his supposed death. Sherlock's close friend, Dr. Watson, is left to deal with the loss for three years. On a spring day in 1894, the doctor receives an unexpected letter requesting his aid in identifying the true Sherlock. Three men have come forward with very convincing Sherlock identities, and it is up to Watson to determine which one is his friend, solving the mystery that hides behind this case of mistaken identity.

synopsis

cast



Mark Corkins
EVANS



Grant Goodman
PATIENT



Ryan Imhoff
PATIENT/FONESCA



Maggie Kettenring
MATRON/THE WOMAN



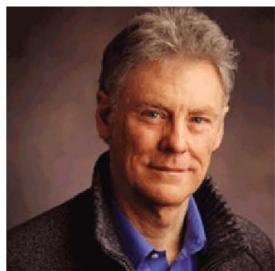
Norman Moses
WATSON



Eric Damon Smith
ORDERLY/INSPECTOR/MORIARTY



Rex Young
PATIENT/THE CLIENT



Joseph Hanreddy
DIRECTOR

Bill Clarke
SCENIC DESIGNER

**Karin Simonson
Kopischke**
COSTUME DESIGNER

Michael Chybowski
LIGHTING DESIGNER

**Rob Milburn &
Michael Bodeen**
SOUND DESIGNERS

Mike Tutaj
PROJECTION DESIGNER

Ben Kahre
FIGHT & STUNT DIRECTOR

Clare Arena Haden
DIALECT COACH

Frank Honts
CASTING DIRECTOR

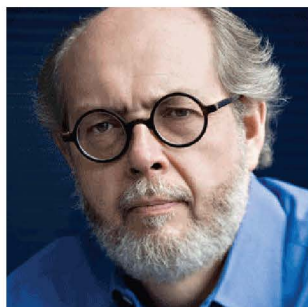
creative team

Sarah Dening-Henes
STAGE MANAGER

Rebekah Heusel
STAGE MANAGEMENT FELLOW

Sophiyaa Nayar
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

playwright



Jeffrey Hatcher's high school theater and drama teacher, Glenda Dunlope, greatly inspired his interest in theater. He took his inspiration to New York University where he spent a brief period acting, before quickly moving to writing for theater. From New York, Hatcher moved to Minneapolis to participate in a fellowship offered to him by the Playwright's Center. Since then, many of his plays have been performed on Broadway, and he has since received countless awards. The Broadway production *Never Gonna Dance* was first a book written by Hatcher, as well as the screenplay for the movie *Stage Beauty*. Other successes include adaptations of well-known literature, such as *Murder by Poe*, *Pierre* and *Fabulous Invalid* based off Herman Melville and Kaufman's novels, respectively. He has been a member of Writers Guild of America, The Playwright's Center, the Dramatists Guild, and many other organizations. In 2009, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* won Hatcher the Edgar Award for Best Play. The world premiere of Hatcher's *Holmes and Watson* was the closing event of the 2016-2017 season at The Arizona Theatre Company.

character descriptions

WATSON - A former military field doctor and friend of Sherlock Holmes. He used his experience on the field to help Holmes solve crimes. As the person closest to Holmes, Watson has to discredit three convincing Sherlock Holmes imposters.

DR. EVANS - The man who has taken it upon himself to solve the case of the three Sherlock impersonators. Dr. Evans is the one who requests the aid of Watson.

PATIENT 1 - The first of the imposters, Patient 1 looks exactly like the real Holmes, seemingly unchanged by the time that has passed. Patient 1 assumes the original Holmes' harsh demeanor and is rather forward with Watson. He wears the uniform of an asylum patient.

PATIENT 2 - The second imposter takes on a very convincing, albeit disheveled, appearance of Sherlock Holmes. His manner is both restless and skeptical. Unlike the other two imposters, Patient 2 wears a straightjacket.

PATIENT 3 - The third imposter looks incredibly

similar to the original Holmes, but has a shaved head. He does not speak, nor can he hear. His appearance is the most shocking, as his head is shaven, eyes glazed, and his face pale. Like the first imposter, Patient 3 wears the uniform of an asylum patient.

ORDERLY - One of Dr. Evans' assistants. He wears a white uniform, presumably something similar to what a doctor would wear.

MATRON - Dr. Evans' other assistant. She carries a chilly, almost robotic demeanor.

THE WOMAN - A beautiful and mysterious woman, The Woman performs under Signor Fonseca.

MORIARTY - Sherlock's nemesis and the suspect of the incident at Reichenbach Falls. He is an older man with a dark, quizzical personality.

PRINCE OF WALES - A bearded man who spectates a play in which The Woman performs. He takes a liking to The Woman and pursues his lewd interests.

SIR DIGHTON - Acts as a sort of assistant for the Prince of Wales. He has a white mustache and hair.

SIGNOR FONSECA - A jealous Italian man with a curly black mustache. He performs in and is manager of the same play the Prince of Wales spectates.

THE INSPECTOR - Once a comrade of Sherlock's, The Inspector is the man who investigates a possible incident at the theater. He has notable black muttonchops.

Hatcher's history with the character of Sherlock Holmes goes back to 2011. His first play set in the Holmes universe is *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventures of the Suicide Club*, which premiered at the Arizona Theatre Company. In the play, Holmes joins the Suicide Club, a group of the richest men in Europe who are unhappy with their lives and wish to put themselves out of their misery. However, it is unclear to the other men in the group why Holmes has decided to join them.

Hatcher also wrote the screenplay for the 2015 film *Mr. Holmes*; Bill Condon (*Dreamgirls*, *Twilight: Breaking Dawn parts 1 and 2*, *Beauty and the Beast* (2017)) directed. The movie is based on the novel *A Slight Trick of the Mind* by author Mitch Cullin. It stars Sir Ian McKellen as a 93-year-old Holmes who lives with a housekeeper and her son. Holmes is struggling to remember details of his final case as a detective because his memory is becoming worse with age.

Holmes and Watson had its world premiere at Arizona Theatre Company, during the company's 50th Season in spring of 2017. The production was directed by David Ira Goldstein.

production history



about our production

Interview with director, Joseph Hanreddy
Interview by Lauren Sagendorph

SAGENDORPH: What do you find interesting about the show *Holmes and Watson*? What about this play made you excited to step into the role as a director?

HANREDDY: A few things – I like the genre! I worked on two other “Holmes” plays spaced decades apart. Ten years ago, I directed a Holmes and Watson piece here at Milwaukee Rep and coincidentally it was based on the same two short stories as Jeffrey’s play, *Holmes and Watson*. That was called *Hounds: The Final Adventure*. It used the stories of “The Final Problem” and “A Scandal in Bohemia.” The previous play also married yet another source in it which was an old play on Sherlock Holmes. Jeff’s play is subsequent to those stories and is a new play, whereas the other one was more of an adaptation of those three stories.

I was intrigued by [the story] and I had also worked quite a bit with the playwright and particularly on some nineteenth century stories and adaptations. I love Jeff’s writing, and he is particularly well-versed and well-suited to Sherlock Holmes; he loves poems, he loves puzzles, he’s a very clever writer, the plots are delicious, and this one was no exception. I worked on several pieces over my career here – about four or five – with Jeff.

SAGENDORPH: How do you contend with so many examples of these two iconic characters in the Sherlock Holmes canon? Is this production using these archetypes as inspiration, or staying away from them?

HANREDDY: This piece is unique in that it has unique circumstances [and] takes place three years after Holmes’ supposed death at the Reichenbach Falls. Rather than the three characters being the archetypes of a “Holmes personality,” they are shaped by whatever we are lead to believe are the circumstances after The Falls. More than anything else, we delve into this particular text, its particular problems, its particular world, and its setting. Certainly, we are all informed in some way by all of the writings as well as all of the different Holmes characterization from Basil Rathbone to Jeremy Brett to Benedict Cumberbatch, and I think I can say we are all fans! It can’t help but inform the work.

The wonderful thing, I think for me that defines *Holmes and Watson*, is sort of this battle as human beings between the head and the heart. So many stories from *Jane Austen* and on, are about that conflict. Between [Holmes and Watson] you have one complete human being: Holmes has got a mind like a steel trap and processes things like a hard drive on a computer, but has a certain lack of empathy. Whereas Watson is as smart as anybody who is watching the play but yet has sentiment and feeling and heart.

SAGENDORPH: What is your favorite part about this particular production? Is there something that you are the most excited about?

HANREDDY: Jeff has crafted a lot of surprises in the play. One of the pleasures of watching a stage version of Sherlock Holmes is that the audiences’ wit is matched with the writer’s. When you come in to see these plays, you know it is going to be a trope, a maze, and hopefully you are going to be surprised, and you are going to be guessing at what the end is. The fun for us is to try to craft a compelling story that has a few tricks to it.

SAGENDORPH: What do you hope the audience can take away from seeing *Holmes and Watson*? What do you want them to leave the theater thinking about or feeling?

HANREDDY: “Yeah, that was a good time!” would be key. Plays that require acute listening are always a drill, but they are fun. It is on us [as a creative team] to make that listening a pleasure and to make it intriguing and interesting and surprising enough that you’re leaning into to it. The play is only ninety minutes long, so hopefully you are leaning into it for the whole time.

A HISTORY OF ARTHUR CONAN-DOYLE'S WORK



Arthur Conan-Doyle was born on May 22, 1859 in Edinburgh, Scotland and passed away from a heart attack on July 7, 1930. His mother's vivid storytelling helped inspire his own interest in writing stories, which became his solace while suffering through cruel punishment and bullying at Hodder Place, a boarding school in England.

Doyle went on to follow a career in medical studies, where he met the inspiration for Sherlock Holmes. Dr. Joseph Bell served as Doyle's mentor while he was studying medicine, unknowingly fueling the young man's imagination. Bell had a knack for making astute observations and deductions, features that would become distinct attributes of the detective character. It was not long before Doyle realized the possible successes of writing after completing his first two short stories, "The Mystery of Sasassa Valley," followed by, "The American Tale." His ensuing travels and religious experimentations greatly influenced many of his successful stories.

In 1887, Conan Doyle's first novel, *A Study in Scarlet*, introduced (arguably) the most famous detective of the entertainment industry: Sherlock Holmes.

Holmes was the protagonist in sixty of Doyle's novels and debuted alongside Watson in *A Study in Scarlet*, finally earning Doyle his recognition. Around the same time, Doyle began writing about his interests in the Spiritual movement, while also writing several historical novels—including *Rodney Stone*.

During a dinner in August of 1889, Lippincott's Monthly Magazine agent J. M. Stoddart requested Doyle to write something for his publication. Doyle wrote the next chapter of Sherlock's tales "The Sign of Four", and was quickly inspired to continue the detective's story after seeing his success in the magazine. However, over time Doyle decided that his hero detective demanded too much of his time, killing Sherlock off in the 1893 release of "The Adventure of the Final Problem." It wasn't until eight years later that Doyle brought the detective back, first in "The Hound of Baskerville," which took place before Holmes' death, and later in "The Adventure of the Empty House," which served as a resurrection and continuation of Sherlock Holmes.

The Strand Magazine went on to publish Doyle's writings on Sherlock Holmes in a series called "The Return of Sherlock Holmes." In the meantime, Doyle started to focus his writing on other stories and plays—some successful while others flopped—only returning to Sherlock Holmes for brief periods. After 125 years, Sherlock Holmes is still the most popular detective in the world of fiction, long after Doyle's own death. Today many famous actors depict Holmes and Watson: Sir Ian McKellen (Holmes), Robert Downey Jr. (Holmes) and Jude Law (Watson), Benedict Cumberbatch (Holmes), and Martin Freeman (Watson), among many others.

"I remember in my delight taking the handkerchief, which lay upon the coverlet in my enfeebled hand, and tossing it up to the ceiling in my exultation. I should at last be my own master."

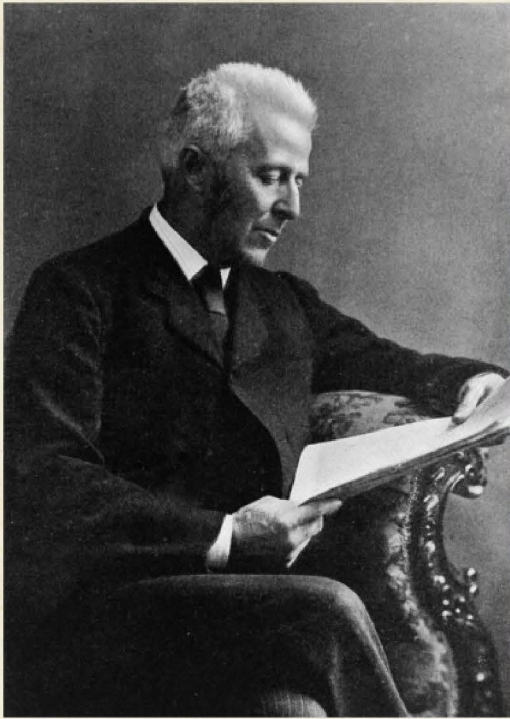
--Conan Doyle renounces his medical career and pledges himself fully to his writing.-- (arthurconandoyle.com)



THE STRAND

The Strand was a monthly British magazine, first being published and distributed in 1891. George Newnes Ltd. was the magazine's publisher with Herbert Greenhough as the editor from 1891 to 1930, and Douglas Edward Macdonald Hastings taking over from 1930 to 1950 when the magazine closed. With families being the target audience, the magazine published a blend of factual articles, comics, and short stories. During its time of publication, *The Strand* had published over 711 issues--Conan Doyle contributed 121 short stories, 70 articles, 9 novels, 2

SHERLOCK HOLMES CHARACTER AND CANONIZATION



Joseph Bell in London, 1914.
Photo Credit: wikimedia.org

“When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth” -*Sherlock Holmes (Conan Doyle)*

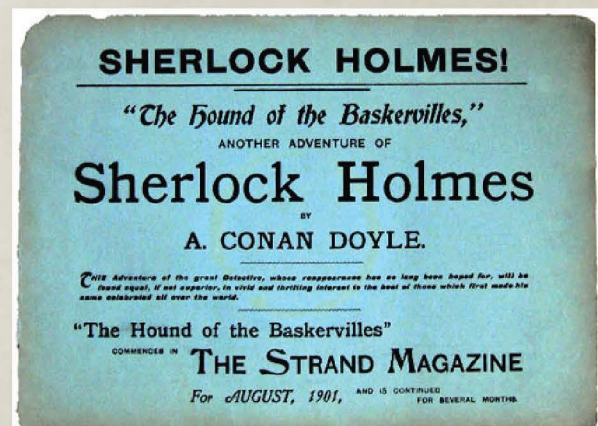
Dr. Joseph Bell inspired Doyle's character of Sherlock Holmes both in terms of physical appearance and personality. Dr. Bell was described by Doyle as, "...a thin, wiry dark man. With a high-nosed acute face, penetrating grey eyes, and angular shoulders. He would sit in his receiving room...and diagnose the people as they came in, before they even opened their mouths. He would tell them details of their past life; and hardly would he ever make a mistake" (arthurconandoyle.com). Bell also spent time helping police with investigations—a rumor suggests involvement on the "Jack the Ripper" case—prompting Doyle to dedicate his series to Bell.

Doyle depicts Holmes as an obsessive man consumed by his cases. While on the job, he is often found wearing his infamous moleskin hat, smoking a pipe. When not working, he goes into a state of depression, finding solace in drugs to keep his mind busy. The detective is also musically inclined, and busies his mind by playing the violin. He famously resides at 221B Baker Street where Dr. Watson lives with him for stretches of time. The two find that their lines of work complement each other, and they begin investigating crimes as a dynamic duo. Their story is all in Watson's writings on their crime solving, expressing the bafflement that both he and readers feel about Holmes' work ethic and his surprising deductive abilities.

Though there is certainly character development, the roles of the characters remain the same throughout the Sherlock Holmes canon. The canon consists of 4 novels and 56 short stories, which are part of another five-book collection. The first four novels are *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Sign of the Four*, *The Hounds of the Baskerville*, and *The Valley of Fear*. *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, *His Last Bow*, and *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* make up the five-book collection. It still remains a discussion whether some of Doyle's other works, in the form of Sherlock Holmes parodies, should be included in the canon. As suggested in NPR's article, "The Enduring Popularity of Sherlock Holmes," the still thriving popularity of Sherlock Holmes is an attribute to the character's adaptability across periods. Holmes' investigative techniques were often ahead of his time, making it incredibly easy to work him into present-day crime solving with little alteration to his character and his practices. Though some fans may argue with the direction that certain adaptations take, most can agree that mystery will forever be relevant, and as will Sherlock Holmes.

“A monthly magazine costing sixpence but worth a shilling.”

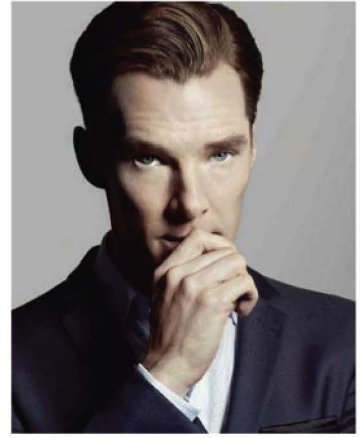
interviews, and 1 poem, making him one the most published people in the magazine. In fact, *The Strand's* climb in success is due to the publication of Doyle's third Sherlock Holmes short story, "A Scandal in Bohemia." Other well-known authors during *The Strand's* publication include H.G. Wells and P.G. Wodehouse. Unfortunately, World War II paper rationing hit *The Strand* hard and forced it to close its doors in 1950. Today, a new version of *The Strand* has emerged, first releasing in 1998 and still running today.



Sherlock Modernized

In the theater world, playwrights like Jeffery Hatcher and Ken Ludwig keep the spirit of Sherlock Holmes alive. In the cinema, Jeffery Hatcher also adapted a screenplay from Mitch Cullin's novel *Mr. Holmes* starring Ian McKellen, which told the story of a retired Sherlock and his struggle with early dementia.

Today we see many works across mediums, from board games to theater, all inspired by the Sherlock Holmes collection. Some of these works have appeared as parodies to the original, such as the *British Comedy Without a Clue* (1988); Canadian series *The Adventures of Shirley Holmes* (1996-1999); and the more current series *Psyche* (2006-2014). Different yet are those adaptations that are not so much about crime, but still mysterious, such as *House* (2004-2012). Here, Dr. House uses his incredible deduction skills to solve mysterious medical cases while, like Sherlock Holmes, secretly battling an addiction to prescription drugs. House also finds solace in playing music, though his outlet is through the piano, guitar, and harmonica. House even has that one close friend in which he can confide—Dr. James Wilson, House's Dr. Watson. Other references to Sherlock Holmes are present throughout the show, some more obvious while others may slip past viewers. The show *Elementary* is a more straightforward adaptation of the detective series, but with Watson depicted as female character Joan Watson.

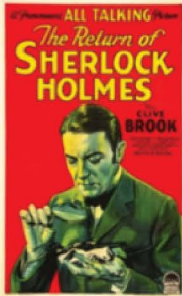


Sherlock Holmes has had a huge revival in television and film, reaching out to both old and new fans, thanks to the modernization of the insightful detective. Guy Ritchie's *Sherlock Holmes* film series, starring Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law, is set for its third movie, which has begun shooting and has a tentative release for 2019. The BBC has recently completed its own television series starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman as the detective duo.

Other Film Adaptations



William Gillette was the first to portray Sherlock Holmes on stage, playing the character about 1,300 times. His first portrayal was in 1899.



The Return of Sherlock Holmes was the first Sherlock film with sound (1929).



Basil Rathbone played Sherlock in the 1939 film *The Hound of Baskervilles*, which is regarded as one of the best adaptations.



Ronald Howard starred as Sherlock Holmes in the 1954 television series. It aired a total of 39 episodes.



Lost for decades, this silent film portrayal of Sherlock Holmes resurfaced in the 1970s. John Barrymore played Holmes and Richard Young played Watson.

glossary

Asylum: An institution in which the mentally ill, and sometimes criminals, receive special care.

Deus ex machina: “God from the machine.” A machine that lowers or lifts actors on and off stage. In this context, it refers to a sort of disappearing act.

Ferry: A ship that carries people or vehicles across a small body of water.

Journal de Geneve: One of the better daily newspapers in Geneva, Switzerland.

Khalifa: A name or title meaning “successor”, “deputy”, or “steward”, typically referring to a Muslim leader.

Khartoum: The Capital of Sudan.

Matron: In this context, the woman in charge of domestic affairs at the asylum.

Reichenbach Falls: A cluster of waterfalls in Switzerland, reaching a total drop of 820 feet.

Reuter: An international news agency.

Scotland Yard: The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) of London.

Skiff: A small boat piloted by a single person.

of Sherlock Holmes:



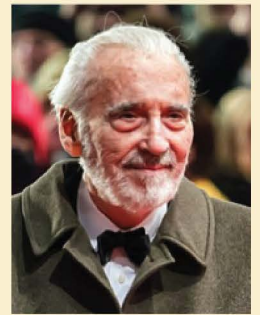
Roger Moore played Sherlock Holmes in the 1977 film *Sherlock Holmes in New York*.



Peter O'Toole voiced Sherlock Holmes in the 1983 animated series *Sherlock Holmes and the Sign of Four*.



Michael Caine and Ben Kingsley played Holmes and Watson in the comedic 1988 film *Without a Clue*.



In 1991, Christopher Lee played an elderly Sherlock in the film *Incident at Victoria Falls*.

featured artist

Holmes and Watson Stage Manager, Sarah Deming – Henes

BY LAUREN SAGENDORPH

Stage Managers are an integral part of making a production run smoothly. You may not always physically see the stage managers, as they work their theater magic from the Stage Management booth or backstage. *Holmes and Watson* Stage Manager, Sarah Deming-Henes gave an inside look at her role in this production.

Sarah is a member of the Actors' Equity Association union and has been for eleven years now; she has been working at The Rep since 2011. She enjoys "work[ing] here because at the Rep we are all trying to make the best show possible and, with the talent on staff for each specific show, we really do have a shot at each production being the best it can be".

Sarah told us that she is ecstatic to be the Stage Manager for the Midwest Premiere of *Holmes and Watson*, considering she is a "huge Sherlock Holmes fan", and is looking forward to collaborating with playwright Jeffrey Hatcher and director Joseph Hanreddy. Sarah says that she "loves working on plays that offer unexpected delights – and this play does have surprises in store".

Holmes and Watson is ninety minutes of crime-solving drama, surprises, twists, and turns! This genre is unique, and for this production, focus and commitment are definitely a priority. **"This genre craves quick and concise transitions, which means that everyone (the actors, the backstage crew, the lights and sound board operators and myself) need to plug into each moment and be ready to move as one"**, Sarah explains, "our show has no intermission so we are prepared for the whole rollercoaster ride when we start". Some of these surprises involve physical movement from the actors in which Sarah has to focus on the "higher safety stakes with some of the theatrical tricks in our play... anytime you could actually hurt an actor or crew person you need to take lots of care and safety precautions as you build those moments". This falls under her duties as Stage Manager. She makes sure that the creative team is feeling safe and supported even in a fast-paced, plot-twisting story.

When asked what her specific duties as a Stage Manager were, I was blown away at truly how time consuming and detailed-orientated her work has to be. She walked me through some of her responsibilities,

"During rehearsals I am responsible for helping the Director craft the show he wants in the time we have available. I do this by creating each day's schedule based on what the Director wants to work on, managing time/resources during each rehearsal, writing down all the blocking of the actors, writing a report each day that communicates everything we worked on and what specific information each department (props, scenic, lights, sound, costumes, projections) may need to know. Thank goodness, I have a great assistant stage manager, Rebekah Heusel, helping make up the stage management team on this one! During performances, my duties shift to being in charge of the whole show. The Director leaves after opening and it becomes my responsibility to watch each performance and see how the show is living within the framework and direction the Director wants. I also 'call' each show, verbally cueing lights, sound and projections to 'go' at each point the Director and Designers place a cue, while Rebekah helps keep the backstage running smoothly. After the show, I check in with all the actors, discussing what went well or might need adjusting for the next performance, check in on all the technical elements and write a report of how each performance went."

For a show of this caliber that rehearses 45 hours a week, has an upwards of 25 costume changes, and no intermission, it is truly up to the collaboration between Stage Manager, cast, and creative team to make sure the production runs smoothly. Sarah describes Stage Management as **"a wonderful mix of organization and artistry. There is nothing like the rush of joy of that comes from being in the moment with the actors so that a cue falls perfectly."**

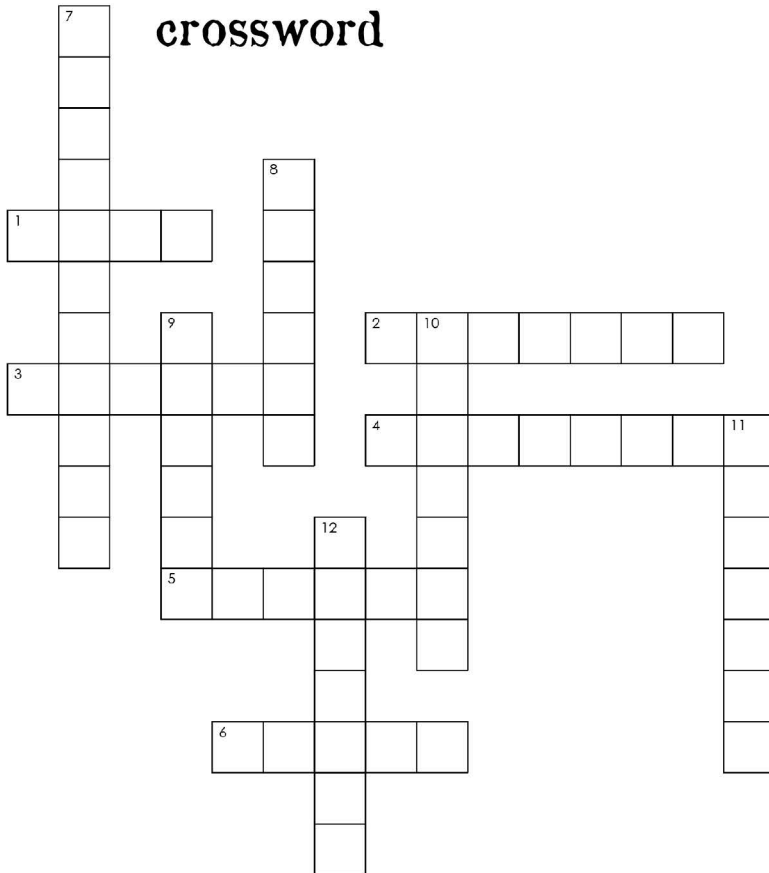
word fun

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E O S L F D S D J M U R D E R Q R M
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ASYLUM
DETECTIVE
DOCTOR
ELEMENTARY
EVANS
FERRY
HOLMES
IDENTITY
INSPECTOR
MATRON
MORIARTY
MURDER
MUSTACHE
MYSTERY
ORDERLY
REICHENBACH
REVOLVER
SKIFF
STRAND
WATSON

crossword



Across: →

1. Real-life inspiration for Holmes; Joseph
2. Director of play; Jeffrey
3. Sidekick of Holmes
4. First actor to be Holmes on stage; William
5. Female assistant of Dr. Evans
6. Ship that carries people or vehicles

Down: ↓

7. Star of TV show "Sherlock"; Benedict
8. Magazine that first published Holmes
9. Institution for mentally ill
10. State that first premiered the play
11. Birthplace of Holmes
12. Male assistant of Dr. Evans

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VISITING THE REP

Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Patty and Jay Baker Theater Complex is located in the Milwaukee Center downtown at the corner of Wells and Water Streets. The building was formerly the home of the Electric Railway and Light Company.



The Ticket Office is visible on the left upon entering the Wells Street doors. The Quadracci Powerhouse is located on the second level and can be accessed via the escalator or elevator.

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- ★ Maintain our commitment to audiences with special needs through our Access Services that include American Sign Language interpreted productions, captioned theater, infrared listening systems and script synopses to ensure that theater at The Rep is accessible to all;
- ★ Educate the next generation of theater professionals with our Emerging Artist Program which gives newly degreed artists a chance to hone their skills at The Rep as they begin to pursue their theatrical careers.

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