

NEWS RELEASE

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***Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure* by Steven Dietz, adapted from the original 1899 play by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and William Gillette, opens at Portland Stage Friday, October 28 at 7:30 pm.**

Reviewers are invited to attend the opening weekend performances, Friday, October 28 through Sunday, October 30, 2022 performance.

PORTLAND, MAINE - *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure* by Steven Dietz, adapted from the original 1899 play by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and William Gillette, opens at Portland Stage Friday, October 28 at 7:30 pm. This adaptation follows Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson on two of the detective's most daring cases: "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Final Problem." In Act One, while securing a compromising photo of the King of Bohemia and Irene Adler, Sherlock discovers he has met his match in Adler. In Act Two, Sherlock discovers that his fiercest rival, the Napoleon of Crime, James Moriarty, will not be caught, and Holmes' meddling will end with someone's life on the line.

This play features disguises, daring chases, and desperate circumstances for Holmes and his allies (as well as a few of Moriarty's cronies), leading to the iconic Reichenbach Falls. While many adaptations have taken a camp or humorous look at Holmes, Dietz remains faithful to the original stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, sure to delight those new to the consulting detective and well-versed fans alike.

Ezra Barnes is playing Sherlock. Barnes was the Founding Artistic Director of Connecticut's Shakespeare on the Sound and led the company for 13 seasons. His Off-Broadway appearances include the acclaimed New York premiere of Fraser Grace's *Breakfast With Mugabe* (which he also produced), which received a Best New Play nomination by the Off-Broadway Alliance and a critics pick for the *NY Times* and *Time Out*. As an 11-year-old child obsessed with Sherlock, Barnes' parents took him to see the Royal Shakespeare Company Broadway production of Sherlock

Holmes. While recalling that memory, Barnes added, "John Wood was playing Sherlock, and I still remember a couple of moments from that production. It was so astounding, I even knew it as a kid. It is fascinating how formative that experience was. I ask myself. Can I be that graceful, that elegant, that incisive, that direct, that brilliant? One can be. But will I be?"

The eight-member cast has multiple ties to Maine. Brian Lee Huynh (Dr. Watson) grew up on Munjoy Hill until moving and graduating from Gorham High School. Amongst the actor's multiple Off-Broadway and regional show credits, Huynh has appeared in *War Horse* at the Lincoln Center Theater on Broadway. This will be the seasoned actor's professional debut in Maine. Also making his Portland Stage debut is new local Michael Grew in the role of James Larrabee. Grew has performed at Kennedy Center in *The Brand New Kid*, among many other roles on stage and screen. Irene Adler and Moriarty will be performed by local equity actors Isabelle Van Vleet making her Portland Stage debut, and Tom Ford. The latter has filled many roles at Portland Stage, most recently starring in *Last Ship to Proxima Centauri* by Greg Lam, directed by Kevin R. Free. Free is also directing this production of *Sherlock Holmes: The Last Adventure*.

Portland Stage's production previews on October 26 and 27 and will run from October 28 through November 20, with a digital-on-demand version streaming from November 9 through December 4.

Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure is the second of six Mainstage productions in the 2022-23 Portland Stage season, which also includes *A Tuna Christmas* by Ed Howard, Joe Sears, and Jaston Williams; *Sweet Goats and Blueberry Señoritas* by Richard Blanco and Vanessa Garcia; August Wilson's *How I Learned What I Learned*, and *The Cake* by Bekah Brunstetter.

CAST & ARTISTS

Sherlock Holmes Ezra Barnes*

Dr. Watson Brian Lee Huynh*

Professor Moriarty Tom Ford*

The King of Bohemia Nicholas Mongiardo-Cooper*

Irene Adler Isabelle Van Vleet*

James Larrabee Michael Grew*

Madge Larrabee Laura Darrell*

Sid Prince Zion Jang

Director Kevin R. Free

Scenic Designer Anita Stewart**

Costume Designer Shireen Unvala

Lighting Designer Weston Wilkerson**

Sound Designer Seth Asa Sengel

Stage Manager Meg Lydon*

*member Actors' Equity Association

**member United Scenic Artists]

***Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

QUICK INFO

Live In-Theater Dates: Oct. 26 - Nov. 20, 2022

Digital-on-Demand Dates: Nov. 9 - Dec. 4, 2020

Conversation to enhance your experience:

Artistic Talkback Sun, Oct. 30 • Following the show

Curtain Call Sun, Nov. 6 • Following the show

Run Time: 2 Hours and 20 Minutes including a 15-minute intermission

Box Office Hours: Tuesday through Saturday • Noon to 5 pm and 2 hrs before performance time

Box Office Phone: 207.774.0465

Box Office Email: boxoffice@portlandstage.org

Tickets Online: <https://www.portlandstage.org/show/sherlock-holmes-the-final-adventure/>

PRICES In-Person: \$20-\$70. Discounts for seniors 65+ and students.

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN TICKETS AVAILABLE: Find rules and restrictions on the website.

RUSH35 Tickets: \$15 at the door for registered participants ages 35 and under.

ABOUT PORTLAND STAGE COMPANY

49th season

Portland Stage offers Mainstage performances, New Works, and Education programs.

The 2022-23 Mainstage season includes one co-production musical with Maine State Music Theatre in August 2022 and, six Mainstage productions, staged readings of its commissions, and Studio Series productions. PS promotes and celebrates the creation of new plays with an environment that supports the region's playwrights, builds bridges between its theater and national writers, and develops awareness of theater with three exciting initiatives: the Clauder Competition, the Little Festival of the Unexpected, and From Away, a festival in collaboration with the International Writing Program (IWP) at the University of Iowa. This year, Portland Stage also celebrates its 12th season of the Susie Konkel Theater for Kids and the 100,000 student experiences it has provided in the last decade through its education programs. Subscriptions to Portland Stage are available. More than just a seat in the house, subscribers gain insider access, significant savings, and flexibility. Visit portlandstage.org to learn more.