



Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

Summer 2024 Staged Reading Series at LaVal's Subterranean

Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Missing Mystery

Written and Directed by Tyler Scott Null

When not attempting to slide immature jokes into a beloved character's canon, **Tyler Scott Null** is Exec Director at Tomorrow Youth Repertory, where he directs, produces, (and sometimes writes) plays with young performers. This is Tyler's first time directing or writing for adults in quite some time. And woah, this cast is awesome! As an actor, Tyler performed with Actors Ensemble in Summer 2023 for *A Room With A View* and is a big fan of the company and their commitment to providing so much art and positive community.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

While I do not claim to be a Sherlock scholar in any way, I've loved the character and the mythology of Sherlock and Baker Street for as long as I recall. But what I've reflected on as I've gotten older is how oddly 'individualistic' a lot of the mythology around Sherlock is. We're aware of the larger world of characters to varying degrees, but it's Sherlock's individual brilliance that we focus on when we think of the stories.

I think there is something really familiar about that, because for some reason all of us seem to gravitate toward the aggrandizement of individuals. In the arts, we call our favorite film a "Steven Spielberg" film or our favorite album a "Beyonce" album. And we think of these individuals as the sole 'creators' of these things and put them on pedestals. And of course, the same aggrandizement of the front man is found in the business world, in politics, and just about everywhere. But in truth, all the art we love is built by humongous teams of people. And their contributions are vital. Businesses rely on every person within - not just a CEO. Because however brilliant one individual may be, we are stronger as a community. And I'm acutely aware of this right now as I effectively stand on the shoulders of fantastic actors.

And so, I figure, the same rule must apply to Sherlock. And while I continue to love the character, and would never want to take away his brilliance, I'd like to get in the habit of celebrating the team, and not just the most visible member. And appreciating that recognizing and valuing each other does not lessen us - it strengthens us. Actors Ensemble feels like the absolute perfect group to tell such a story with, and I'm so grateful to them for embodying that message.

CAST

SHERLOCK HOLMES - Francis Serpa
DOCTOR JOHN WATSON - Paul Bisesi
MARY MORSTAN - Sophie Ruf
MRS. HUDSON - Shelly Lynn Johnson
THOMAS UNDERTOOTH - Keith Jefferds
EVIE TAWDRY - Virginia Poole
IRENE ADLER - Miranda Blumstead
WIGGINS, POLICE, SUPERFAN - Kat Cruz
LURA, POLICE, SUPERFAN - Joan Legaspi
INSPECTOR LESTRADE - Mark Shepherd
LT. DAWDLER - Izzy Iqbal
LORD BURWELL - Jeff Trescott
JUDITH BLOWTELL, REPORTER - Flannery Mays
HORACE BLOWTELL, REPORTER - Patrick Avila
PROFESSOR JAMES MORIARTY - Greg Paroff

Actors Ensemble is the longest-running theatre organization in Berkeley, founded in 1957. We aim to produce quality theatre emphasizing the ensemble, with a community flavor.

Upcoming works in the Series:

Greenwood: A new work by Stuart Bousel (and Shakespeare), Fri. August 30th 8 p.m.

Our second production of 2024 in the John Hinkel Park Amphitheater:

***The Imaginary Invalid*, Saturdays and Sundays plus Labor Day Monday, Aug. 24th-Sep. 8th, 4 p.m.**

We are a 501(3)c organization!: **Donate:** www.aeofberkeley.org/donate