



ST. MARTIN'S PLAYERS



present

from the classic thriller of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, adapted and dramatized by Tim Kelly,
directed and produced by Steve Morley and Paul Rendle



HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

at the Huxtable Hall, St Martin's Church, Erith Road, Bexleyheath
www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk

Friday 30 September 2016
7:30pm

Saturday 1 October 2016
2:30pm 7:30pm

PROGRAMME 50p

This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

THE DIRECTOR WELCOMES YOU

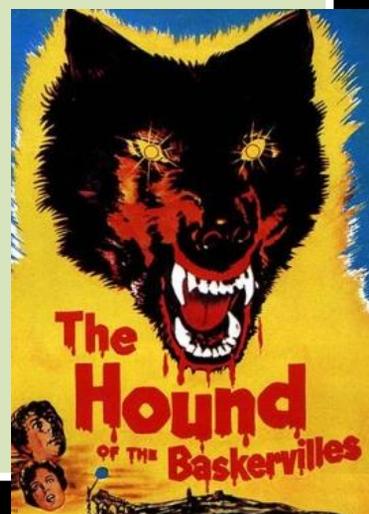


Our last production, 'Key For Two', was a hilarious production, so when selecting our next play, I decided to avoid a comedy, so returned to the thriller genre. Having set the right tone when I had worked on other period pieces ('Jekyll And Hyde' and 'The Ghost Train'), and that 'Hound Of The Baskervilles' had previously been suggested to me, the time was right to 'let the dog out'.

With the confidence that Dave and Barry would work hard to provide an excellent set, and Monica's keen eye for costumes and décor, and a cast suited to their roles, I was confident that this would be a brilliant production. Except, one problem remained – the butler!

We were one man down from the start, and while a potential new member was very keen to play the part of Barrymore, his studies prevented him from continuing. Therefore Paul and I wish to offer our deepest gratitude and thanks to Lindsey for stepping into the role like a natural – and with just a few weeks to go.

It has been a pleasure to work with a number of talented people – not just on stage, but those who always demonstrate their technical abilities to make each production special. I sincerely hope that you enjoy the performance, and look forward to seeing you at future productions. SDM



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR RAFFLE

As usual, we will hold a raffle for charity at each performance.

Tickets will be on sale at the rear of the hall before the performance and during the interval.

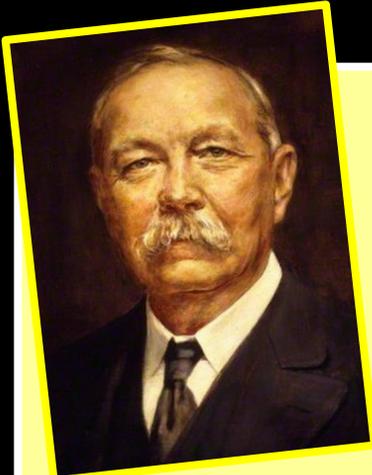
The draw will take place during Act 2, and the winning numbers will be displayed at the end of the performance.

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



To coincide with The World's Largest Coffee Morning, we have selected Macmillan Cancer Support as our charity for this production. Founded in 1911, Macmillan is one of the UK's largest charities, dedicated to supporting those affected by cancer.

THE WRITER AND THE PLAY



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh in 1859; he attended the university there to study medicine. Later, as he moved around the country establishing new practices, he engaged in further studies, including botany and ophthalmology. While studying, Doyle also started to write short stories, publishing his first work featuring Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson, 'A Study In Scarlet' in 1886, during the quieter times at his Southsea practice.

'The Hound Of The Baskervilles', written in 1901, was the third full novel featuring the detective, and is often regarded as the most famous of his works. Originally serialised over nine months in 'The Strand Magazine', this is was the first work featuring Holmes for eight years, after there was public outcry following the deaths of Holmes and Professor Moriarty in 'The Final Problem'. Many film and stage adaptations have since been produced; our script was adapted from the original works by Tim Kelly, an American playwright, in 1976, and designed to be adaptable to almost any era.

'Sir Henry has become heir to the Baskerville fortune, a legacy that comes complete with a family curse – death at the fangs of a living horror prowling the English moor. Only Sherlock Holmes can stop the beast from striking again. While mysterious lights signal Baskerville Hall, and the hound terrifies the countryside, the sleuthing begins and suspicion falls on sinister servants, butterfly collectors, ladies in distress, and escaped convicts'.

**Our production is set in the Edwardian era;
the action takes place in the sitting room of Baskerville Hall,
a manor house on the moor, in the west country of England.**

The play comprises two acts
of three scenes each;
there will be a short interval
after Act 1, when refreshments
will be available in the small hall.

Act 1 Scene 1 – Early afternoon
Scene 2 – A few days later
Scene 3 – Still later in the week, night
Act 2 Scene 1 – Two days later
Scene 2 – That night
Scene 3 – The following evening

THE CAST

VAL COATES as LADY AGATHA MORTIMER

Val first joined in 2008, debuting in 'Murder In Play', and to date, is our only female panto dame, having played an Ugly Sister in 2012, and her favourite role, Widow Twankey, earlier this year. Sometimes her roles are very active, sometimes they are not – strangely, she enjoyed sleeping on a hard wooden table throughout the second half of 'The Ghost Train'.

VICTORIA JAMIESON as PERKINS

Having played child roles for many years, Vicky has moved into a wide range of 'grown-up' parts (not always as a serving maid!). Her dad, Mark, also performs with the group, and they enjoy performing together. Favourite roles including Simple Simon in 'Robin Hood' (while Mark played her mother), and when he had to smash bottles over her head in 'Jekyll And Hyde' (or any fragments remaining after he touched them!)

MARION BIRAM as MRS. BARRYMORE

Joining the group in 2008 to keep Val company, Marion has taken a number of key roles, from Mole in 'Toad Of Toad Hall', to Mr Hyde's female companion, and even won an award for the role of Karen in 'Crazy Capers Dodgy Deals'. Marion has also helped backstage on many occasions, and enjoys sourcing and making props.

JULIE EXELL as KATHY STAPLETON

A lady-in-waiting in our first production of Aladdin, Julie remembers the scary experience of waiting for the sound effects at the opening of her first play, 'Post Horn Gallop' – they didn't come (aah! the early days of technology!) Julie works closely with Monica to ensure all of the cast are well dressed, also bringing glamour to her own parts – wearing a long fur coat throughout 'Outside Edge' – that must have been rather hot on stage!

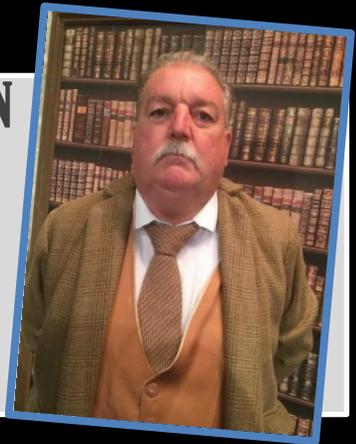
RAE CALNAN as LAURA LYONS

Another long-standing member, first appearing in 'Play On', Rae is our makeup expert. There have been numerous creations, from dames to villains to monsters, and even transforming herself into her favourite character, Nobby the Panda in 'Aladdin' this year. One strong memory that remains is half an hour of ad-libbing with the audience to keep them occupied in the power cut during 'Cinderella' in 2012.

Thank you to the well-known detective, Richard 'Holmes' Percival, for his research into the group's 26-year history and assistance with some of the facts we couldn't remember!

DAVID BARNETT as DR. JOHN WATSON

A veteran of our original production of 'See How They Run', Dave had the pleasure of stepping into the same role ten years later – the dashing L/Cpl. Winton. A three-time Abanazar, Dave is appearing on our stage in his 60th production; additionally, he directs, builds and decorates, but surely it's a coincidence that, as our Treasurer, he always seems to take expensive holidays straight after a production!



RICHARD PERCIVAL as SHERLOCK HOLMES

Since joining us in 1999 for our one-act play 'Pride And Joy', Richard is currently our group's Chairman. He has had many memorable panto roles, from Bluebeard (in which he died his own beard blue), to Tinkerbell (being pulled on by a rope through the window). While there have been many more serious roles in mysteries and thrillers, and has murdered a few times on stage, the Tinman remains his favourite



SIMON WATKINS as SIR HENRY BASKERVILLE

'Seamlessly playing 25-year-olds, 25 years later' claims Simon! He has been with us since 'Keeping Down With The Joneses'. His favourite role is Idle Jack, having played the part in both productions of 'Dick Whittington'. Many of us still remember Simon falling off the stage in one play many years ago – and bouncing straight up again out of fear!



LINDSEY CLAYTON as BARRYMORE

Lindsey is our newest member, first appearing as Wishee Washee in this year's production of 'Aladdin', and then as Anne in 'Key For Two' in May. She has shown her enthusiasm for the Players by always being ready to throw herself into helping with every production – and dragging her family onto the stage for the panto community song.



BARRY GAVIN as JACK STAPLETON

Barry first appeared as a baby in a pram in the 1995 panto. Since then, he has appeared in 'See How They Run!' twice, with last year's appearance as Lionel Toop (in just his underwear) being his favourite role. While Barry is another key builder of sets and unusual set pieces, he is now appearing in his 40th production – just don't ask him to sing, otherwise you might fall off your chair laughing, just like our directors do!



THE CREW

Prompt	DARYL O'SULLIVAN
Stage Manager	LISA SCUTT
Properties	LINDSEY CLAYTON LISA SCUTT
Wardrobe Additional Costumes	MONICA CANE STAGE COSTUME (Dartford)
Make-Up	RAE CALNAN
Set Construction	DAVID BARNETT BARRY GAVIN
Backdrop Artist	DAVID BATCHELOR
Sound and Lighting	DAVID BATCHELOR CHRIS SUGGITT
Box Office	RICHARD PERCIVAL
Front-Of-House	SUE ADAMS, WENDY BARNETT, ANN HAZELTON, ANNE RAWLINGS, GORETTI STONE, MARTIN STONE
Refreshments	ANN BATCHELOR et al
Poster and Programme	STEVE MORLEY

THE SMALL PRINT... Please note that smoking is not permitted anywhere in the building. As a courtesy to those on stage and in the audience, please turn off your mobile 'phone and refrain from using flash photography. Fire exits are located at either side of the stage and at the rear of the hall; in the unlikely event of an emergency, please leave the hall by the nearest safe exit and assemble in the car park. Thank you.

COME AND JOIN US!

When I first appeared with the Players in 'The Roses Of Eyam', I was just a teenager from the Scout Group next door helping to make a crowd scene: back then, I never thought that twenty years later, I would be directing my third production for the group. However, it does have its challenges – especially when holidays and work commitments limit the number of members reading for parts. There's no getting away from it – **WE NEED NEW MEMEBRS!** Particularly men – for both this production and the last one, we have had to make alternative arrangements so we could continue to put on a show.

To inspire any 'new blood', I have included some pen portraits in this programme, the first time we have done this for many years, and we have certainly enjoyed reminiscing to give you a snapshot of our greatest memories, so you can see how much fun we have treading the boards. My own memories from the stage include being almost drowned when having 'soup' thrown in my face in 'How The Other Half Loves', a role in our first musical production 'The End Of The Pier Show', and the audience cheering for me as the villain in 'Jack And The Beanstalk ('09). But I have had just as much fun backstage – making unusual props and stage managing (setting up the Mad Tea Party in just one minute comes to mind!)

I have made some great, inspirational friends over the years, and would recommend coming along to our auditions, speaking to one of us, or contacting us on Facebook to learn more. We are more than happy to welcome anyone, whether they want to try for a major role, hang back in the chorus, or support the production without performing – so come along!

SDM

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

BEAUTY and the BEAST

*Directed and Produced by
Barry and Debra Gavin*



27-28 January & 3-4 February 2017

*Readings and auditions will take place in the Small Hall, on
Friday 7 October and Wednesday 12 October, at 8:00pm*

OUR PAST PRODUCTIONS

1991

**Sleeping Beauty
See How They Run!**

1992

**Snow White And The Seven Dwarves
Virtue Triumphant**

1993

**Cinderella
Continental Quilt
Surprise Package**

1994

**Aladdin
Laugh! I Nearly Went To Miami
Post Horn Gallop**

1995

**Babes In The Wood
Keeping Down With The Joneses
Play On!**

1996

**Dick Whittington
When We Are Married
The Roses Of Eyam**

1997

**Jack And The Beanstalk
Pardon Me! Prime Minister
Murder In Company**

1998

**Puss In Boots
Pull The Other One
Blithe Spirit**

1999

**Mother Goose
Bedroom Farce
Pride And Joy
Last Tango In Barnehurst**

2000

**Peter Pan
See How They Run!
My Friend Miss Flint**

2001

**Treasure Island
Shock Tactics
Outside Edge**

2002

**Cinderella
The Murder Room
Running Riot**

2003

**King Arthur
Party Piece
No Time For Fig Leaves**

2004

**The Sleeping Beauty
Kindly Keep It Covered
The End Of The Pier Show**

2005

**Bluebeard
A Murder Is Announced**

2006

**Aladdin
How The Other Half Loves
Noah's Animals**

2007

**The Three Musketeers
Murder Weekend
Out Of Focus**

2008

**Little Red Riding Hood
Murder In Play
Toad Of Toad Hall**

2009

**Jack And The Beanstalk
The Day God Died
Barbecues 'R' Murder
Lady Lollipop
Jekyll And Hyde**

2010

**Dick Whittington
And Then There Were None
Over My Dead Body**

2011

**Snow White
Alice In Wonderland
Murder At The New Vicarage**

2012

**Cinderella
Panic Stations**

2013

**Robin Hood
Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals
The Ghost Train**

2014

**Mother Goose
Henry The Tudor Dude
Murder Backstage**

2015

**Sleeping Beauty
The Wizard Of Oz
See How They Run!**

2016

**Aladdin
Key For Two**



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