

Group: The Grayshott Stagers
Show: The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes
Venue: Grayshott Hall
Date: Thursday 24th May 2018
Director: Heather Legat
Musical Director: Lizzie Hales



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The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes– Holmes finds himself facing an old-but-new enemy who is thoroughly determined to outwit and destroy him just as Professor Moriarty, Holmes's arch-enemy, does in their final confrontation. The cat-and-mouse games which ensue on both an intellectual and eventful basis between these two larger-than-life figures form the exciting centrepiece of this original musical based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's characters. The production was first produced at the Bristol Old Vic in 1993, starring Robert Powell as Sherlock Holmes and Roy Barraclough as Dr Watson, before embarking on a national tour. Formerly known as "Sherlock Holmes - The Musical".

Front of House: A warm welcome by members of the committee. A lovely buzz as the audience arrived.

Theatre Ambience: The seating afforded a good view of the stage.

The Programme: The programme was very interesting to read with pen pictures, cast photos, rehearsal photos on location together with interesting information about the local links with Sir Conan Doyle. An interesting selection of advertisements for other local shows.

Scenery/Set/Properties: The stage crew gave us a most interesting set with fixed scenery at the back representing the Reichenbach Falls and subsequently particularly flexible rotating trucks and other scenery which transported us from rooms to markets and even a morgue. All very creative. The props added to each scene but did not give the cluttered effect so often seen in room scenes. Set changes were very smooth and the principals were able to continue without disruption. Congratulations.

Lighting & Sound: Both lighting and sound were good and most effectively covered all areas of the stage.

Make Up/Hair/Costume: The Wardrobe Mistress and her team are to be congratulated on their attention to detail.

Music/Orchestra: The orchestra were well balanced and suitably supported the cast. The drums were a little loud if you happened to be sitting in that corner of the auditorium. The balance created between each of the principals was very good and the ensemble items very crisp.

The Production: A most enjoyable evening was spent being entertained by this very talented cast and crew. The casting for this show was well balanced with Sherlock Holmes very ably played by Tony Carpenter showing his versatility in dealing with the hesitant Dr Watson (Ian Wilson-Soppitt), the dour Mrs Hudson (Abigail White), pompous Inspector Lestrade (Ellis Nicholls) and the evil Moriarty played by David Gow who in various roles popped up later. Alexandra Yates, as Bella Spellgrove, the adversary of Sherlock Holmes, did indeed "ooze intelligence and elegance" as she states in her bio. Wiggins, Mossop and Clark provided the supporting roles in a very forthright style but with such conviction and enthusiasm. The chorus complemented the principals very effectively and added that extra to the ensemble numbers which were all well-choreographed with some interesting movement around the stage.

Congratulations to the director for giving this production a real lift. (The show itself is too long and could do with some thinning out in places.) The dialogue moved at a swift pace and the scene changes were particularly seamless. The cast came together extremely well and created a very believable story set in the early 20th century particularly in the way they heightened the suspense.

Kay Rowan
NODA South-East Councillor