

2023
mar 17-april 8

program



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Ken Ludwig's
BASKERVILLE
A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

March 17 -
April 8, 2023



Directed by Susan Stangl
Produced by Myron Klafter, Howard Male & Michele Selin

Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
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Ken Ludwig's

BASKERVILLE

A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

DIRECTED BY Susan Stangl

PRODUCED BY Myron Klafter, Howard Male & Michele Selin

Set Design

George Kondreck
& Susan Stangl

Costume Design

Kim Peterson
& Doug Vasquez

Lighting Design

Bruce Starrett

Sound Design

Susan Stangl

Stage Manager/ Asst. Director

Valerie Sullivan

"Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" was originally produced by McCarter Theatre Center, Princeton, NJ; Emily Mann, Artistic Director; Timothy J. Shields, Managing Director; and Arena Stage, Washington, DC; Molly Smith, Artistic Director; Edgar Dobie, Executive Producer.

CAST

Sherlock Holmes

Aaron Frank

Doctor John Watson

Zachary Macias

Dr. Mortimer, Baron Scarpia,
Man with Black Beard, Lucy, Milker,
Castilian Desk Clerk, Train Conductor,
Trap Driver, Barrymore, Stapleton,
Victor, Doctor McCann, Country Farmer,
Sir John Falstaff

Chris Morrison

Mrs. Hudson, Maiden, Shepherdess,
Floria Tosca, Cartwright, German Maid, Baby,
Mrs. Clayton, Mrs. Barrymore,
Miss Stapleton, Nurse Malloy, Winnie,
Nurse MacKeeble, Laura Lyons

Mikkel Simons

Sir Charles Baskerville, Daisy,
Sir Hugo Baskerville, Bradley the Tobacconist,
Sir Henry Baskerville, Wilson, Inspector Lestrade

John O'Brien

SETTING:

London and Devonshire

TIME:

The Late 1890s

INTERMISSION:

*There will be one 15-minute intermission
between Act I and Act II.*

About the Author

KEN LUDWIG HAS HAD SIX SHOWS ON BROADWAY, seven in London's West End, and many of his works have become a standard part of the American repertoire. His 28 plays and musicals have been performed in over 30 countries in more than 20 languages and are produced throughout the United States every night of the year.

Lend Me a Tenor won two Tony Awards and was called "one of the classic comedies of the 20th century by The Washington Post. *Crazy For You* was on Broadway for five years and won the Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Musical.

In addition, he has won the Edgar Award for Best Mystery of the Year, two Laurence Olivier Awards, two Helen Hayes Awards, and the Edwin Forrest Award for Contributions to the American Theater. His plays have starred, among others, Alec Baldwin, Carol Burnett, Tony Shaloub, Joan Collins and Hal Holbrook.

His stage version of *Murder on the Orient Express* was written expressly at the request of the Agatha Christie Estate, and his latest play, *Dear Jack, Dear Louise*, won the 2020 Charles MacArthur Award for Best New Play of the Year and is optioned for Broadway.

His book *How To Teach Your Children Shakespeare*, published by Penguin Random House, won the Falstaff Award for Best Shakespeare Book of the Year, and his essays are published in the Yale Review.

He is a graduate of Harvard and Cambridge and is a frequent guest speaker for groups as varied as The Oxford-Cambridge Society, The Jane Austen Society of North America, The Folger Shakespeare Library, and The Baker Street Irregulars.

For more information, see his website at www.kenludwig.com

Director's Note



WHEN I FIRST ENCOUNTERED THIS PLAY, I was looking for something that would appeal to a wide range of theatergoers that was also a fun and challenging piece. It has mystery, suspense, comedy, love, hate, silliness, absurdity, a familiar hero and his sidekick, and a genuine love of the theater and everything that makes us say, "Let's pretend." As I continued to work on the play, especially after seeing and hearing it take shape with this talented, committed, and hard-working cast of actors and designers, I could hardly wait to share it with an audience. You are an essential part of this show, as so much of it depends on your imagination to flesh out what we have created.

So join us now and "Let's pretend" together.

— Susan Stangl

Meet the Cast



Aaron Frank (Sherlock Holmes)

Aaron is a local musician and neuroscientist. By day, he searches for the cure for ALS as a Cedars-Sinai researcher. By night he might be found on a street corner of Santa Monica, singing and acting for myriad passersby. His inaugural performance with the Kentwood Players brings Aaron to the stage for the ultimate demonstration of the Holmesian science of fighting crime.



Zachary Macias (Doctor John Watson)

Zachary is delighted to make his Kentwood Players debut with such a fun show. Zachary received a BA in Political Science and a BFA in Acting from UC Santa Barbara, where some of his stage credits include Azdak in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, Jack Worthing in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Kindly Soul in *Bernhard*, and Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Santa Barbara Independent Award for Outstanding Performance). Before the pandemic, he had also performed professionally with The Rubicon Theatre in *King Lear* and *South Pacific*. Since moving to Los Angeles, Zachary has performed in/created Indie films, web series, and short films while also touring to thousands of schools with Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre, performing about conflict management in elementary schools, and various mental health topics in high schools.



Chris Morrison (Dr. Mortimer, Baron Scarpia, Man with Black Beard, Lucy, Milker, Castilian Desk Clerk, Train Conductor, Trap Driver, Barrymore, Stapleton, Victor, Doctor McCann, Country Farmer, Sir John Falstaff)

Chris is excited to return to the Kentwood Players stage alongside this ridiculously hilarious cast. Recent roles include Vanya (*Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*), Peter (*Surf's Up!*), and the voice of Stan Jennings (*The Prisoner of Second Avenue*). Before moving to Los Angeles, Chris spent his time on several Chicago stages, including the Goodman Theatre and Victory Gardens Theater. Highlights from his younger days include productions of *The Prince and the Pauper*, *The Dining Room*, *Chicago*, *As You Like It*, and *Till the Fat Lady Sings*. Chris is also an award-winning Mentalist, having been recognized by the Society of American Magicians four times. Chris is a graduate of the Goodman School of Drama in Chicago.

Meet the Cast



Mikkel Simons (Mrs. Hudson, Maiden, Shepherdess, Floria Tosca, Cartwright, German Maid, Baby, Mrs. Clayton, Mrs. Barrymore, Miss Stapleton, Nurse Malloy, Winnie, Nurse MacKeeble, Laura Lyons)

Mikkel is an actor, writer, and comedian from the San Francisco Bay Area, now based in LA. She holds her BA in Drama from San Francisco State University, is a Second City Hollywood Conservatory Alumni, and has trained with many fantastic studios throughout California. Mikkel has performed in numerous stage productions, including Isabella in the World Premiere of Cynthia Wands' *The Lost Years* (Contra Costa Civic Theatre), Marci in *Almost, Maine* (Solano Repertory Theatre), and Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet* (Solano College Theatre), to name a few. Currently, you can catch Mikkel performing stand-up comedy throughout LA. Soon, she will release *Unusual Company*, a comedy web series Mikkel both acted in and produced with her creative partner, Thomas Ross. For more about Mikkel, please check out www.mikkelsimons.com and follow her on IG. She thanks you for supporting live theatre and hopes you enjoy the show!



John O'Brien (Sir Charles Baskerville, Daisy, Sir Hugo Baskerville, Bradley the Tobacconist, Sir Henry Baskerville, Wilson, Inspector Lestrade)

John O'Brien is based in Venice Beach, California. Born and raised in Long Island, New York, O'Brien trained at the William Esper Studio from 2016-2018. O'Brien moved to Los Angeles in 2018 and began training at The Groundlings. O'Brien is thrilled to be cast in *Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* and to be a part of the Kentwood Players.

A CRY OF HOUNDS

Did you know that a group of hounds is called a “Cry?”
You need only live next door to a beagle
to understand this origin.

Meet the Crew

Susan Stangl (Director, Sound Designer)

Susan last directed and performed at Kentwood Players as Cassandra in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, our first post-lockdown play. Here at KP, she directed Becky's New Car and Moliere's *The Imaginary Invalid* and performed in *I Remember Mama*, *The Elephant Man*, *Blood Brothers*, *Rain*, *Sordid Lives*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *Good People*. Susan has designed sound for over 120 theatrical productions, more than 50 of them here at KP, and has directed, acted, and composed music at several other Southern California theaters. She also plays and sings with the Country/Blues/Rock band Dreamers and Drifters.

Valerie Sullivan (Asst. Director and Stage Manager)

Valerie is usually one of the actors on stage but decided to switch things up this time and work backstage for a change. She recently played Sonia in Kentwood's production of *Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike*. Other favorite roles include the Reverend Mother in *Nunsense*, Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, Ruth in *Blythe Spirit*, M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias*, Rose in *Rose Bowl Queens*, Abby in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Charlotte in *Moon Over Buffalo*.

Myron Klafter (Co-Producer)

Myron is elated to again work with Director Susan Stangl. Previously, he co-produced *Vanya, Sonya, Masha and Spike* under the direction of Susan. *Baskerville* presents a different challenge, and he looks forward to participating in this production. Myron is grateful to Kathy Dershimer for giving him his first opportunity to assist in producing *Dial M for Murder*.

Howard Male (Co-Producer)

Howard is delighted to work with Susan, Michele, and Myron as a member of the *Baskerville* production team! He has been a Kentwood Players member since 2021 and operated the Kentwood tech booth for *Clue*. Before relocating to Los Angeles, Howard enjoyed tech, backstage, and front-of-house roles at live-theatre venues in Northern California and Central Florida. He commends the cast and crew for their hard work and hopes everyone enjoys the show!

Meet the Crew

Michele Selin (Co-Producer)

Michele is thrilled to be working with Susan again, now as part of her production team with friends Howard and Myron. The first time was when Susan cast her as "Toinette" in Moliere's *The Imaginary Invalid* at Kentwood in 2017. She also helped produce last year's comedy *Clue* and has acted in several Kentwood shows, most recently as "Appleby" in last year's thriller, *Night Watch*. There's nothing like live theatre, have a howling good time!

Margaret Harrington (Stage Crew)

Margaret is a long-time live theatre fan and a recent Kentwood Players member. She is a resident of Westchester and is having a great time being part of the Baskerville family!

Kyle Lukas (Stage Crew)

Kyle is delighted to be joining the company of *Baskerville!* After working in the booth for Kentwood Players' productions of *9 to 5* and *All My Sons*, she is excited about this new and exciting opportunity. In addition to working with Kentwood, Kyle spends her summers working on the crew of Torrance Theatre Company. Previous TTC credits include *Beauty and the Beast*, *Nunsense*, and *The Addams Family*. Many thanks to Susan for inviting her to the team, to Valerie, Michele, Myron, Howard, and the entirety of the Baskerville family for their guidance and opportunity, to Cary Jordahl for instilling Kyle's love for technical theatre, and to Jon Sparks for introducing her to Kentwood. Kyle thanks you, as an audience member, for your continued support of the arts. You make this possible!



Crew List

Master Builder	George Kondreck
Poster/ Art	Joanne Reich
Set Decoration/ Scenic Painter	Janine Anderson
Costumes Asst.	Daniel Kruger
Wigs	Jon Sparks
Props	Sheldon Cohen
Props Construction	Robby O'Donnell
Booth Crew	Alison Boole, Howard Male
Dialect Coach	Gail Bernardi
Script Supervisor	Valerie Sullivan
Audition Desk	Anne Klafter, Myron Klafter
Photography	Gloria Plunkett
Lobby Design	Michele Selin, Janine Anderson
Stage Crew	Grace O'Neill, Kyle Lukas, Margaret Harrington

SPECIAL THANKS

Theatre Palisades, Robby O'Donnell, Kathy Dershimer,
Brian Wells, El Camino College Theatre Department



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WORK SUNDAY

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KentwoodPlayers.org

Upcoming Productions

May 12 – June 17, 2023

RENT

by Jonathan Larson

Directed by Marcus S. Daniel

Musical Direction by Gabrielle Maldonado

Produced by Alison Boole and Elizabeth Bouton Summerer

July 21 – August 12, 2023

MOON OVER BUFFALO

by Ken Ludwig

Directed by Gail Bernardi

September 15 – October 7, 2023

AN INSPECTOR CALLS

by J.B. Priestley

Directed by Jesse Saywell

November 10 – December 9, 2023

A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER

Book and Lyrics by Robert L. Freedman

Music and Lyrics by Steven Lutvak

Directed by Catherine Rahm

January - February, 2024

PRIVATE LIVES

by Noel Coward

MAGNIFY THIS!

Did you know that Sherlock Holmes was the first fictional sleuth to use a magnifying glass?

A Study in Scarlet was the first work of fiction to incorporate the magnifying glass as an investigative tool.

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2022

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2022

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2022

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the Pritzker Foundation; Wayne Sult; James & Lynette Vandever

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Shelley Salk & Allan Ozersky

SUPPORTERS: (up to \$250)

2022

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Kevin and Gemma Ellsworth; Michelle Estrada; Gypsy & Vada Foster;
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Nancy Joujon-Roche; Ken Kofman; The Lukas Family; Alice Lunsford;
John & Anna Lee Martin;

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FRIENDS: (up to \$100)

2022

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COMING SPRING 2023

RENT

Music, Lyrics, and Book by
Jonathan Larson

Directed and Choreographed by **Marcus S. Daniel**

Produced by **Alison Boole & Elizabeth Summerer** • Musical Direction by **Gabrielle Maldonado**

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May 12 thru June 17, 2023