



Arizona Theatre Company

THE STATE THEATRE

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"THE GAME IS AFOOT" IN ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY'S WORLD PREMIERE, *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE FINAL ADVENTURE*

Before the crime-solving squads on "C.S.I." and "Law and Order," who was the man who solved mind-boggling mysteries with almost psychic powers of keen observation? Why, it's elementary-the one and only Sherlock Holmes! Visit 221b Baker Street with Arizona Theatre Company's *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*. This world premiere by Steven Dietz, based on the original 1899 play by William Gillette and Arthur Conan Doyle, is directed by ATC Artistic Director David Ira Goldstein and runs in Tucson from March 4 through 25 at the Temple of Music and Art. The 2005-2006 season underwriters are I. Michael and Beth Kasser.

Commissioned by ATC from one of America's leading playwrights, this new Holmes adventure starts as Holmes and Watson investigate a chilling mystery involving a kidnapped opera diva, a stack of scandalous letters from the King of Bohemia and the seamy underworld of Victorian crime. Racing through London and other European cities, Holmes matches wits with the brilliant, alluring Irene Adler and comes face to face with the Napoleon of evil, Professor Moriarity. Disguises are created, safes are cracked, and subterfuge abounds as Holmes put his deductive genius to the ultimate test.

On adapting such a classic and familiar piece of literature, playwright Steven Dietz commented, "This world is so rich, so varied, so wonderfully complex and contradictory, that it makes for a very thrilling dramatic palette to work from . . . It's my avid hope that I have done justice to both Mr. Conan Doyle and his legion of admirers."

Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure is a co-production with Pasadena Playhouse where it will run from May 9 - June 11.

Steven Dietz is the author of twenty-plus plays which have been seen at over one hundred regional theatres in the United States, as well as off-Broadway. International productions have been seen in England, Japan, Germany, France, Australia, Sweden, Russia, Slovenia, Argentina, Peru, Singapore and South Africa. His work has been translated into seven languages. This is the sixth play by Mr. Dietz to premiere at ATC, following *Private Eves*, *Rocket Man*, *Inventing van Gogh*, *Dracula* (adapted from Bram Stoker) and *Over the Moon* (adapted from P.G. Wodehouse). Mr. Dietz received the 2002 Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays Award for his play *Fiction*, produced off-Broadway by the Roundabout Theatre Company; the PEN USA West Award in Drama for *Lonely Planet*; and the Yomuri Shimbun Award (the Japanese

"Tony") for his adaptation of Shusaku Endo's novel, *Silence*. Other widely produced plays include *God's Country*, *The Nina Variations*, *Still Life with Iris*, *Trust*, *Halcyon Days*, *Ten November*, and *Handing Down the Names*. His award-winning stage adaptations include *Force of Nature* (from Goethe), *The Rememberer* (from Joyce Simmons Cheeka), *Paragon Springs* (from Ibsen) and, with Allison Gregory, *Go, Dog. Go!* (from P.D. Eastman). His latest play, the Pulitzer-nominated *Last of the Boys*, ran earlier this season at Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago.

David Ira Goldstein is directing his eighth world premiere of a play by Steven Dietz. (*Painting it Red*, *God's Country*, *Dracula*, *Private Eyes*, *Rocket Man*, *Inventing van Gogh*, *Over the Moon*, *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*). Mr. Goldstein has been artistic director of Arizona Theatre Company since 1992, and he has directed over thirty mainstage productions for ATC ranging from classics to new plays to musicals. As artistic director, he has produced over 130 other mainstage plays, workshops and presentations including two acclaimed appearances by the Royal National Theatre of Great Britain.

Playing the inimitable Sherlock Holmes is **Mark Capri**, who was last seen at ATC as Morrell in *Candida*. Recent credits include Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady* (McCoy Rigby Entertainment), *Sleuth* (Falcon Theatre), and *A Perfect Wedding* (Kirk Douglas Theatre). Other credits include *Arcadia* and *Terra Nova* (Japanese Tour) for the Mark Taper Forum, *Light up the Sky* and *Equus* (Pasadena Playhouse), *Die! Mommy! Die!* (Coast Playhouse), *Titanic* (South Bay C.L.O.), *An Enemy of the People* and *On Approval* (Theatre World Award) (Roundabout Theatre Company), *The Play's The Thing* (Intiman Theatre), *Henry V* (The Old Globe), *Noises Off* (Marine's Memorial), *Private Lives* and *Woman in Mind* (McCarter Theatre Center), *Cyrano* in *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Pioneer Theatre), *Cymbeline* and *Undiscovered Country* (Hartford Stage), *An Ideal Husband* (Seattle and Berkeley Repertory Theatres and South Coast Repertory), *M Butterfly* and *Present Laughter* (TheatreWorks), *Chee Chee* (Actors Theatre of Louisville), and *Man and Superman* with The Royal Shakespeare Company, London.

Holmes' companion and chronicler, Doctor John Watson, is played by **Victor Talmadge**, an actor, playwright and director whose roles have ranged from Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* to Scar in the Los Angeles production of *The Lion King* and The King in the Broadway National tour of *The King and I*. Mr. Talmadge boasts extensive film and television credits. He has worked with such notable directors as Francis Ford Coppola, William Friedkin, David Fincher, Michael Apted and Chantal Ackerman, among others. His play, *The Gate of Heaven*, was awarded The Nakashima Peace Prize and has been produced at The U.S. Holocaust Memorial, The Old Globe, Ford's Theater, and The Annenberg Center, and other venues around the country. Mr. Talmadge was the artistic director of The Victory Project, a collaborative event with the NYC school system, Columbia University graduate theater students, and professional theater artists, created as a response to the tragedy of 9/11.

Returning to ATC is **Laurence Ballard** (Professor Moriarty), who was last seen at ATC as Jaques in *As You Like It*. His other ATC credits include *M. Butterfly*, *Shadowlands*, and *The Old Matador*. Nationally, he has worked at ACT Theatre, Arena Stage, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, The Empty Space Theatre, Eureka Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Joyce Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Portland Center Stage, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, StageWest, and The Group, among others; and **Roberto Guajardo** (Sid Prince) who most recently appeared at ATC in *Macbeth*. Other ATC productions include Steven Dietz' *Over the Moon*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Wit*, *As You Like It*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Shadowlands*, *One Crazy Day*, *The Tempest*, *You Can't Take It With You* and *The Matchmaker*.

Making their ATC debuts are **Erin Bennett** (Madge Larrabee) who recently appeared in the world premiere of *Open Window* at Pasadena Playhouse, directed by Eric Simonson. Other Los Angeles theatre credits include the US

Premiere of Noel Coward's *Star Quality* (Pasadena Playhouse), *The School for Wives* (A Noise Within), *Snoopy!!!* (Falcon Theatre), and *The Real Thing* at International City Theatre; **Preston Maybank** (King of Bohemia) who most recently appeared in the world premiere of *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabbler* at South Coast Repertory where other productions include *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Two Gentleman of Verona*, *Terra Nova*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *The Little Prince* and *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency*; **Kenneth Merckx, Jr.** (James Larrabee) whose credits include Brick in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at Contemporary American Theatre Company, *House of Yes* at the Magic Theatre, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Portland Center Stage, Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet* for A Noise Within, D'Artagnan in *Three Musketeers* at Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts Theaterfest and *Bus Stop* at the Illinois Repertory Theatre; **Libby West** (Irene Adler) whose favorite roles include Roxane in *Cyrano*, Cathy in *Wuthering Heights*, Tourvel in *Dangerous Liaisons*, Madge in *Picnic*, and Lady Macbeth. Off-Broadway she has appeared at The Promenade Theatre and The Public Theater. Regionally, she has appeared at the Mark Taper Forum, American Conservatory Theater, Denver Center Theatre Company, The Old Globe, The Shakespeare Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, among others; and **H. Michael Croner** and **Jonathan Hicks** (Ensemble).

The designers of this globe-spanning production are **Bill Forrester** (Scenic Designer), who designed ATC's productions of *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Oh Coward!*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *My Fair Lady*, *Art*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Valley Song*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, *The Convict's Return*, *Dracula* and *Shadowlands* as well as designs at ACT Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Geva Theatre, The Empty Space Theatre, Denver Center Theatre Company, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Portland Center Stage, Tacoma Actors Guild, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Honolulu Theatre for Youth, Yale Repertory Theatre, Utah Festival Opera and Utah Shakespearean Festival; **David Kay Mickelsen** (Costume Designer), who is designing his 44th production at ATC, his first being *Journey's End* in the 1982-83 season. Last season he designed *Macbeth*, *For Better or Worse* and *The Immigrant*. He has designed over 200 productions in regional theatres across the country; **Dennis Parichy** (Lighting Designer), who returns to ATC having designed lighting most recently for *Talley's Folly*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *A Moon for the Misbegotten*. Mr. Parichy's Broadway credits include *Talley's Folly* (Tony Nomination), *Crimes of the Heart*, *As Is*, *Burn This*, *Penn & Teller: The Refrigerator Tour*, *Redwood Curtain* (Tony Nomination), *Coastal Disturbances*, *The Water Engine*, and *Fifth of July* (Tony Nomination); **Roberta Carlson** (Composer), whose extensive composing credits at ATC include *Macbeth*, *Over the Moon*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Inventing van Gogh*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Dracula*, and as musical director for *Dirty Blonde* and *Scapin*; **Brian Jerome Peterson** (Resident Sound Designer), who celebrates his 20th season and 49th sound design for ATC; and **Glenn Bruner** (Production Stage Manager).

Tickets range from \$26 - \$44 depending on date and section choice and are available at www.arizontheatre.org or by calling the ATC box office at (520) 622-2823. Discounts are available for students, seniors and active military. Half-price student rush tickets are available for balcony seating for all performances one hour prior to curtain (subject to availability; must show ID). For discounts on groups of eight or more, call (520) 884-8210 ext 8204.

ATC will offer a Pay What You Can performance in Tucson on March 7 at 7:30 PM. A limited number of tickets will go on sale at the Temple of Music and Art box office at 11 AM that day. Purchases are limited to two tickets per order with a suggested donation of \$5 per ticket and are sold on a first come, first served basis. The tickets must be purchased in person and with cash only.

ATC offers audio-described performances for patrons who have low vision or are blind on March 22 and 23 at 2 PM. Interested patrons may request a tactile tour one hour prior to curtain. Braille and large-print playbills are available upon request from the house manager. An American Sign Language-interpreted

performance is offered on March 18 at 8 PM. Patrons who are deaf or hard of hearing will receive a biography of the interpreters, a description of the play and name signs of each character. An open-captioned performance is offered on March 23 at 2 PM. As the play progresses, those in open-captioned seating will be able to read the play's dialogue in large green letters on an LED. The service is for patrons with mild to severe hearing loss who may not be ASL-literate. Tickets for all performances are available through the ATC box office at (520) 622-2823. TTY access for the box office is available via Arizona Relay at (800) 367-8939 (TTY/ASCII).

For ticket information for the Phoenix run of *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*, call (602) 256-6995 or visit www.arizonatheatre.org.

***Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure* Fact Sheet**

For more detailed information about Arizona Theatre Company's *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*, please check out the Fact Sheet.

[Click here to be directed to the *Sherlock Holmes* fact sheet](#)