



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Magic and mystery await in *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*

Olympia, WA – October 29, 2019 – Harlequin Productions presents Seattle playwright John Longenbaugh’s Holmesian twist on the Dickens classic, *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*, November 29th through December 31st at the State Theater in downtown Olympia. Artistic Director Aaron Lamb will direct.

Presumed dead for three years, a hardened Sherlock Holmes resurfaces, turning his back on the people who need him most. After an ominous warning from his nemesis Professor Moriarty, three unexpected callers arrive on Christmas Eve uncovering clues from the detective’s past, present and future. Can they save Holmes and his world from a dire end? Seattle playwright John Longenbaugh deftly steers us through this magical holiday mystery, one clue at a time.

Of the challenge he faced in creating the piece, Longenbaugh writes, “It’s an odd practice for a writer, taking someone else’s character and giving them a new story...But pastiche, I would argue, is a different matter. It’s not about making the characters do what you want them to do, but instead trying to let them do what they might in such different circumstances as you’ve created. And what well-written characters do so often is surprise us, acting in ways that defy your expectations and desires...adapting a character as well-loved, and well-known, as Holmes to an original story felt to me like a real artistic responsibility.”

Terry Edward Moore will star as the Great Detective. Moore, who has played Sherlock Holmes for this piece twice before with Taproot Theater, and has played Scrooge for ACT three times, reflected on the differences between the two roles in an interview with Longenbaugh.

“It’s got all the things that make *Christmas Carol* fun, plus all the things that make Sherlock fun...the problem of playing Scrooge on stage is that Marley really should be enough, right? So you have to keep inventing ways to not reform too soon. But it’s not a problem with Sherlock, because with his immense intellect and immense pride, he’s better informed on his misanthropic position. Scrooge’s position is ultimately emotional. Sherlock’s is also emotional, though he would be reluctant to admit that, but it’s fortified by his intellect.”

Speaking to the challenge of playing the iconic detective, Moore adds, “In any role, you have to find the way it resonates in your chest. If you can find that, all the pyrotechnics that the playwright may have given you, the workings of a brilliant mind, the disdain, it is all rooted in something real.”

This production marks the beginning of a new tradition of holiday shows at Harlequin. Beginning in 1994, almost every Harlequin season began with a new addition to the *Stardust* canon, a series of original musicals featuring classic tunes from the 1940s - 1950s. They were a unique

and beloved part of the South Sound holiday season. Speaking to the change, Artistic Director Aaron Lamb says, "After 22 original musicals, we put the bookend on the *Stardust* series last year by doing the original show that inspired all the subsequent productions. While we love *Stardust*, the series was a product of the creativity and ingenuity of our founders and former artistic leadership, and not something we feel we can replicate. But tradition is important, especially around the holidays. That's why I want to find a tradition during my tenure that capitalizes on my strengths as a director and a storyteller and offers a great story to the community." With its endless opportunities for invention, *A Christmas Carol* is a natural fit with Lamb's bold, innovative directorial style.

A Christmas Carol is at its heart a ghost story, and the best productions are famous for their ingenious thrills, chills and special effects. Lamb hints that this production will have some surprises in this vein. "A *Christmas Carol* has been called one of the greatest ghost stories of all time, and it has been called multiple times over the greatest redemption story of all time. We don't want to get in its way. Because it's a great ghost story, and because it's Christmas, we want to lean in to all the magic."

What does he mean by magic, you may ask?

"You know...Ghosts!"

Aaron Lamb is the Artistic Director of Harlequin Productions. This past season, Lamb directed *The 1940s Radio Hour*, *Love and Information*, *A Doll's House*, and *Man of La Mancha*. In eleven seasons as an actor and director with Harlequin he has also directed *I Am My Own Wife*, *Three Days of Rain*, *Ruthless!*, *August: Osage County*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Time Stands Still*, *Middletown*, and *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*. As an actor, he most recently appeared in the 2018 season, as Gary Essendine in Noel Coward's *Present Laughter*. Lamb has worked in Seattle for Village Theatre, Taproot Theatre, Book-It Repertory Theatre, and Seattle Shakespeare Company, and has worked regionally throughout the country. He holds an MFA in Acting from California State University, Fullerton, a BA from Washington State University, and is a member of the Actor's Equity Association.

Terry Edward Moore* is delighted to make his Harlequin debut as Sherlock Holmes. He has played Sherlock before, in the world premiere of *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol* at Taproot Theater, and in *Sherlock's Veiled Secret* at the Bathhouse—and he has also played Scrooge three times at ACT. Terry has performed at most of the professional theaters in the Pacific Northwest, including Seattle Repertory Theater, Book-It, 5th Avenue, Intiman, the Village, Seattle Children's, and Seattle Shakespeare. His performances as Billy in *Billy Bishop Goes to War* at the Bathhouse and in *Howards End* at Book-It were deemed "stellar performances" in their respective years by the *Seattle Times*. In his spare time, Terry is Producing Artistic Director of Thalia's Umbrella (thaliasumbrella.org) a small professional theater company in Seattle.

Returning to Harlequin in the cast of seven are **Russ Holm** (40 Harlequin credits including *A Doll's House*, *August: Osage County* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*), **Pat Sibley** (*The Language Archive*, *Richard III*), **Elise Moore** (*The Women*, *Ruthless!*, *First Date*), **Kate Anders** (*The Women*) and **Xander Layden** (*The 1940s Radio Hour*, *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, *Present Laughter*). Making their Harlequin debuts are **Terry Edward Moore*** in the role of Sherlock Holmes and **Enrique Bravo*** as Moriarty.

WHAT: Harlequin Productions presents *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*, a Holmesian twist on the Dickens classic, directed by Aaron Lamb.

WHEN: November 29 – December 31, 2019

WHERE: State Theater, 202 4th Ave East, Olympia, WA 98501

TICKETS: Tickets are available online at harlequinproductions.org, by phone at **360-786-0151**, or in person 12-6 pm, Tuesday-Friday and 2 hours before performances at the Harlequin Box Office in the State Theater.

General admission tickets are \$50

Senior 60+/Military \$48

Student/Youths Under 25 \$25

Rush Tickets (half-hour prior to showtime) General \$30; Senior/Military/Student/Under 25 \$20

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:

Preview: Wednesday, November 27 at 7:30 pm **

Tickets to the Preview are \$20 General Admission

Opening Night: Friday, November 29, 2019 at 7:30 pm**

Pay-What-You-Can: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 7:30 pm**

Ladies' Night Out: Friday, December 6, 2019 at 7:30 pm**

Post-show Talkback: Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 2:00 pm

Pride Night: Friday, December 13, 2019 at 7:30 pm**

CATEGORY: Holiday

AGE RECOMMENDATION: All ages with guidance

CAST:

Terry Edward Moore*	<i>Sherlock Holmes</i>
Russ Holmes	<i>Dr. Watson/Ensemble</i>
Pat Sibley	<i>Mrs. Hudson/Ensemble</i>
Eleise Moore	<i>Inspector Lestrade/Ensemble</i>
Enrique Bravo*	<i>Moriarty/Ensemble</i>
Kate Anders	<i>Becky/Ensemble</i>
Xander Layden	<i>Young Holmes/Ensemble</i>

* Indicates membership in the Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

** Beginning with *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*, all evening performances will begin at 7:30 pm.

Harlequin Productions is a professional not-for-profit theater company in Olympia, WA. We seek to invigorate, educate, and empower our community and all people to feel more, think more, play more, and judge less through the mirror of real live theatre.

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