



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Madcap hijinks are de rigueur in Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville*

Olympia, WA – January 9, 2023 – Harlequin Productions presents *Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* by Ken Ludwig, January 27 – February 11, 2023 at the State Theater in downtown Olympia, WA. Corey McDaniel will direct.

Get your deerstalker cap on — the play's afoot! Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery transforms Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic "The Hound of the Baskervilles" into a murderously funny adventure. The male heirs of the Baskerville line are being dispatched one by one, and Sherlock Holmes is on the case. To find their ingenious killer, Holmes and Watson must brave the desolate moors before a family curse dooms its newest heir. Watch as our intrepid investigators try to escape a dizzying web of clues, silly accents, disguises, and deceit as five actors deftly portray more than forty characters. Does a wild hellhound prowl the moors of Devonshire? Can our heroes discover the truth in time? Join the fun and see how far from elementary the truth can be.

Why this production? Says Director Corey McDaniel, "I believe that Harlequin has chosen to kick off the 2023 season with this piece because we want to launch the year with a true crowd-pleaser and lots of joy and laughter. This selection allows us to introduce a year of pure entertainment. The 2023 season holds the most musicals and comedies ever produced in a single year by Harlequin and *Baskerville* represents what audiences have been asking for as we all attempt to relieve ourselves of the stress and anxieties of the past several years."

Of the five actors playing a total of 37 roles in this high-energy romp, only one is a Harlequin newcomer: Russell Matthews, who plays Sherlock Holmes. Of the production, he says, "*Baskerville* is a fantastic marrying of comedy and mystery. You're taking everything you love about your favorite Sherlock Holmes story, 'The Hound of the Baskervilles', and you're putting in a madcap comic energy with a lot of gags, a lot of fun. We're taking the material seriously, but not *too* seriously, so we've got something in there for everybody."

What excites him about tackling this piece and what does he think audiences will respond to the most? McDaniel says, "This play is just PURE FUN! Aside from having

37 characters, it also has 30 brief and fast-moving scenes. I think that audiences are going to love the actors' choices about all their characters. All the characters are turning out to be fully realized individuals with histories and rich personalities, with quirks, flaws, and relatable humanity. I also anticipate that audiences are going to love the atmosphere of the design elements which will take us to that eerie, shadowy darkness of a true murder mystery."

[Click here for publicity photos for the production, which include photography and actor credits.](#)

Production Information

WHAT: Harlequin Productions presents [Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery](#), an irreverent, madcap staging of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" by Ken Ludwig, directed by Corey McDaniel.

WHEN: January 27 – February 11, 2023

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 12-5:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday at the Washington Center, and beginning 2 hours before performances at the State Theater.

General admission tickets \$43

Senior 60+/Military \$40

Student/Youths Under 25 \$28

Rush Tickets (half-hour prior to showtime) General \$22.50; Senior/Military \$20,

Student/Under 25 \$14; Teens/Under 20 \$5

****Of note:** *During Opening Weekend of Baskerville, January 27 – January 29, tickets to this production and all other productions in the season will be available at a 25% discount online, over the phone or in-person with code **RealLive25***

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:

Preview: none

Opening Night: Friday, January 27 at 7:30 pm

Pay-What-You-Can: TBA prior to Opening

Closing Night: Saturday, February 11 at 7:30pm

CATEGORY: Comedy Mystery

AGE RECOMMENDATION: All ages with guidance

CAST:

Russell Matthews

Sherlock Holmes

Nick Hall	<i>Doctor Watson</i>
John Serembe*	<i>Player</i>
Eleise Moore	<i>Player</i>
Xander Layden	<i>Player</i>

SELECT BIOS:

Corey McDaniel (*Director*) returns to Harlequin after recently appearing as Christmas Present in *A Christmas Carol*. His directorial work has been seen on the Harlequin stage with *Murder for Two* in 2022, *Tenderly*, *The Rosemary Clooney Musical* in 2021, *Noises Off* in 2020 and *I Ought to be in Pictures* in 2019, and he was seen on-stage in Harlequin's production of the one-man show *I Am My Own Wife* in 2018. Corey was the founder and producing artistic director of Seattle's Theatre22 during their ten years. As an actor, he has worked throughout the US and internationally and his performance credits have placed him in such reputable arenas as the Fox Theatres, the Hollywood Bowl, Teatro Sistina in Rome, and the Metropolitan Opera House of NYC. Some of Corey's more recent director credits include *Nonsense and Beauty*, *White, Burn This*, *The Pride*, *Wizzer Pizzer*, and *The Hours of Life* for Theatre22, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* with Wooden O/Seattle Shakespeare Company, *Treasure Island* with Book-It Repertory Theatre, *Sister Act the Musical*, *Bonnie and Clyde*, and *Good Kids* at Cornish College of the Arts, *Julius Caesar* with Island Shakespeare Festival and *The Wild Party* for Sound Theatre Company (Gregory Award for Best Musical).

Russell Matthews (*Sherlock Holmes*) was last seen in Theatre22's production of *Nonsense and Beauty* as Bob Buckingham. Other recent roles include SecondStory Rep's production of *St. Joan* as King Charles VII, Dan in *Next to Normal* with Twelfth Night Productions, Cassio in Fern Shakespeare's *Othello*, and various roles in *Richard II* with GreenStage. Russell has performed on the East Coast at The Lost Colony, The Candlelight Theatre, and with the Nebraska Theater Caravan on seven national tours of *A Christmas Carol*. Recently Russell voiced multiple characters over two seasons on the podcast *The Horned Moon Presents*. Russell currently lives in Lake Tapps with an adorable newborn and beloved spouse.

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

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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