

HARLEQUIN

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Kate Hamill's *Holmes and Watson* is a 'fast femme farce' to kick off 2025

Olympia, WA – December 30, 2024 – Harlequin Productions presents *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B* by Kate Hamill, January 24 – February 9, 2025, at the State Theater in downtown Olympia, WA. Makaela Milburn will direct.

A modern-day Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson emerge from the pandemic fog, solving mysteries and kicking butts, until they come face to face with a villain who seems to have all the answers.

A fast-paced romp that re-examines the classic adventure stories you love, through a bold new female lens.

Why this production to start Harlequin's 2025 "Hope and Heroes" season? First-time Harlequin director Makaela Milburn says, "This show definitely fits the bill of a hero we know revealing a new side — Sherlock is an iconoclastic hero of the mind who we have seen interpreted in many ways and many cultures. Kate Hamill's version brings things into a right-now American way of sharing this story that has a lot of energy."

By imagining both Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson as female characters, playwright Kate Hamill shifts a few expectations that audiences may have of this classic duo. One of these is the turn on a "buddy" comedy. Says Milburn, "Similar to the turn taken on the cop-buddy movie in *The Heat*, this take lets us laugh at the trope AND understand it better. It makes space for revealing the anti-social brilliance of Sherlock, the incredible power of intuition, and the need for tangible connection with the world around us. In the end, it playfully reminds us that no matter who you are or what gifts you have, what gets people through are our friends."

Asked about the experience she hopes to deliver with the piece, Milburn says, "It is fast-paced femme farce fun! This play delivers a triple punch of a good mystery to solve, something beloved made new, and a great friendship formed. This night in the theater is the kind of warmth and silliness you need on a cold winter night."

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

Production Information

WHAT: Harlequin Productions presents *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B*, a fast-paced farce by Kate Hamill cheerfully desecrating the stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, directed by Makaela Milburn.

WHEN: January 24 – February 9, 2025

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 State Theater Box Office, 202 4th Ave E. *The Washington Center is no longer selling Harlequin tickets.*

General admission tickets \$48

Senior 60+/Military \$45

Student/Youths Under 25 \$33

Rush Tickets (2 hours prior to showtime) General \$25; Teens/Under 20 \$5

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:

Opening Night: Friday, January 24 at 7:30 pm

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

Closing: Sunday, February 9 at 2:00pm

CATEGORY: Comedy Mystery

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 11 and older with guidance for strong language, theatrical blood and gore, gunshots, haze and strobing lights.

CAST:

Lindsay Welliver

Ms. Sherlock Holmes

Karin Terry

Ms. Joan Watson

Pilar O'Connell*

Irene Adler, Mrs. Hudson, & Others

Morgan Gwilym Tso

Inspector Lestrade, Elliot Monk, & Others

SELECT BIOS:

Makaela Milburn (*Director*) is both a director and program leader, specializing in stylized plays and new play development. Locally, her work has been seen on the stages of ArtsWest, Strawberry Workshop, New Century Theatre Company, Seattle Shakespeare, 5th Avenue, Book-It Repertory, Village Theatre, Washington Ensemble Theatre, Seattle Public, Intiman. As a program leader, she supported the building of 5th Avenue's New Works Program and produced their first-ever festival; At Seattle Shakespeare, she developed and implemented artistic practices to center human needs

as Casting & Associate Artistic Director. Directing favorites include: *The Bed Trick* (premiere), *The Big Meal*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Tartuffe*, *Gloria*, *Legally Blonde*, *Figaro* (new musical), *Twelfth Night*, *Godspell*, *Love Horse*. Directing MFA: Brown/Trinity.

Lindsay Welliver (*Ms. Sherlock Holmes*) joins Harlequin for the first time in this dream of a role! Favorite past local credits include Elinor in Kate Hamill's *Sense and Sensibility* (Village Theatre), Sylvia in *Tribes* (ACT), Don John in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Seattle Shakespeare Company), and, most recently, Macbeth in Lucky Panda Productions' wild and free, immersive debut production of *Macbeth*. Away from home: appearances with American Players Theatre in Wisconsin and Deaf West Theatre in Los Angeles. Offstage, Lindsay works in non-profit development, freelances as a sign language interpreter, and holds the distinction of being a proud 2nd place *Jeopardy!* contestant.

* 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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