



NEWS RELEASE

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COMMONWEAL THEATRE COMPANY OPENS 31ST MAINSTAGE SEASON WITH MYSTERY THRILLER

LANESBORO, MN — The Commonweal Theatre Company is pleased to announce the opening of its 31st season of producing professional, live theatre in historic Lanesboro, MN. Following a highly successful 2018 season, the Commonweal Theatre is poised for the next thirty years of furthering its mission and providing the region with high quality entertainment to engage hearts, minds and souls of all ages. The company will once again provide a schedule of five productions over a ten-month time period with something to offer a wide variety of audiences.

First on the stage in 2019 is the mystery thriller *Holmes and Watson* by Minnesota playwright and screen writer, Jeffrey Hatcher. The production begins April 5th and plays through July 6th. Commonweal audiences will recall that Mr. Hatcher created the adaptations of eight of the works of Henrik Ibsen during the company's twenty-year commitment to producing the plays of Ibsen. In *Holmes and Watson*, Hatcher crafts a twisting, tantalizing "whodunit" set three years following the apparent death of Sherlock Holmes. The mystery begins when Dr. John Watson receives a telegram alerting him to the fact that three patients in a mental asylum are claiming to be the late detective Holmes.

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"In celebrating our 31st season," says Cropp, "the journey we will take together is full of mystery and adventure, laughs and love. The first stop on the epic trek," states Cropp, "reunites us with the world's most formidable detective as he confronts a danger yet to be revealed."

The company is pleased to welcome Twin Cities based theatre artist Peter Moore as director of the production. The cast is comprised of Commonweal professional resident ensemble members and includes Jeremy van Meter as Dr. Watson and Hal Cropp, Ben Gorman and David Hennessey as the three patients each claiming to be Sherlock Holmes. Remaining cast members include Elizabeth Dunn, Eric Lee and Brandt Roberts.

Stage Manager Bailey Otto leads the production team consisting of designers Nicole DelPizzo (set), Janis Martin (costumes), Josiah Laubenstein (sound) and Lauren Schulke and Gabriel Peñaloza-Hernandez (props).

Operational funding for Commonweal Theatre's programming is provided in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature, a grant from the McKnight Foundation, Mayo Clinic and private funders. Additional support is provided by F&M Community Bank for special weekday matinee performances for school groups at only \$5 per person, which includes a pre-show workshop with Commonweal actors and a post-performance discussion with members of the cast.

All performances of *Holmes and Watson* are at the Commonweal Theatre, 208 Parkway Avenue North, in downtown Lanesboro. Ticket prices are \$35 with discounts available for students, seniors and groups of ten or more. Employees and residents of Fillmore and Houston Counties are offered free admission to the County Free Night performance on Thursday, April 11th. For ticket reservations or information about any Commonweal event or program, call 800-657-7025. Tickets may be reserved and purchased online at www.CommonwealTheatre.org.

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