

## ***A Deeper Look***

**WHICH IS THE REAL SHERLOCK HOLMES?**



# **HOLMES AND WATSON**

by Jeffrey Hatcher

COMMONWEAL THEATRE COMPANY

presents

# HOLMES AND WATSON

by Jeffrey Hatcher

Directed by Peter Moore

Stage Manager ..... Bailey Otto  
 Set Design ..... Nicole DelPizzo  
 Costume Design ..... Janis Martin  
 Lighting Design ..... Thomas White  
 Sound Design ..... Josiah Laubenstein  
 Props Design ..... Lauren Schulke  
 and Gabriel Peñaloza-Hernandez

## CAST



Hal Cropp  
Sherlock 2



Elizabeth Dunn  
The Woman



Ben Gorman  
Sherlock I



David Hennessey  
Sherlock 3



Eric Lee  
Dr. Evans



Brandt Roberts  
The Orderly



Jeremy van Meter  
Dr. Watson

## Jeffrey Hatcher — Playwright



Jeffrey Hatcher is one of Minnesota's premier playwrights. His Broadway/Off Broadway credits include *Three Viewings* and *A Picasso* at Manhattan Theatre Club, *Scotland Road* and *The Turn of the Screw* at Primary Stages, *Tuesdays with*

*Morrie* (with Mitch Albom) at The Minetta Lane, *Murder by Poe* and *The Turn of the Screw* at The Acting Company, *Neddy* at American Place, and *Fellow Travelers* at Manhattan Punchline.

Regionally, his plays have been performed at Yale Rep, Old Globe, South Coast Rep, Seattle Rep, Intiman, Florida Stage, The Empty Space, CTC, Madison Rep, Illusion, Denver Center, OSF, ASF, Milwaukee Rep, Repertory Theater of St. Louis, Cincinnati Playhouse, Cleveland Playhouse, ATL, Philadelphia Theater Company, Coconut Grove, Asolo, City Theater, Studio Arena and dozens more in the U.S. and abroad. He is a member and/or alumnus of The Playwrights' Center, the Dramatists Guild, the Writers Guild, and New Dramatists.

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# HOLMES AND WATSON

by  
Jeffrey  
Hatcher

Presented by the  
Commonwealth Theatre Company  
April 5 - July 6, 2019

## The Characters

**WATSON**—A former military field doctor and friend of Sherlock Holmes. He used his experience in the field to help Holmes solve crimes. As the person closest to Holmes, Watson is engaged to discover which of the three convincing Sherlock Holmeses is the real one.

**DR. EVANS**—The man who has taken it upon himself to solve the case of The Three Sherlock Holmes. Dr. Evans is the one who requests the aid of Watson.

**PATIENT 1**—The first of the three Holmes to arrive at the asylum and to be interviewed, Patient 1 presents the demeanor we expect of Holmes; he is brusque and rather forward with Watson. He wears a jacket, vest and slacks.

**PATIENT 2**—The second Holmes is disheveled, restless and exhibits the skeptical nature of Sherlock Holmes. He wears a straitjacket.

**PATIENT 3**—The third Holmes also looks similar to the Holmes Watson remembers, but his head is shaved. He does not speak, nor can he appear to hear. His gaze is always forward, as he is in a catatonic state.

**ORDERLY**—One of Dr. Evans's assistants. He wears an asylum employee uniform.

**MATRON**—Dr. Evans's other assistant. She wears her own version of the employee uniform, with her hair in a bun.

## Doyle and Holmes by Richard J. Roberts



Scottish physician and writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was born in 1859 in Edinburgh, Scotland, and educated at a Jesuit preparatory school in Lancashire, England. He studied medicine at Edinburgh University, where he was inspired by the

brilliant deductive skills of his mentor, Joseph Bell. While in school, Doyle worked as a ship's doctor and later ran his own practice in Portsmouth, England.

During these years of study and practice, Doyle wrote and submitted several short stories to the literary magazines of the day.

In 1887, Doyle first penned his most famous creation, Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street. By 1891, Holmes stories had become a fixture of *The Strand Magazine*.

Other fictional detectives had appeared before Holmes, including characters created by Edgar Allen Poe ("The Murders in the Rue Morgue") and Emile Gaboriau ("L'Affaire Lerouge"). But Holmes captured the public imagination like few other literary figures have ever done. Doyle himself, however, quickly became tired of his creation and killed him off in "The Final Problem" in 1893. After eight years of pressure from his readers, Doyle wrote *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, set before Holmes's death. This masterpiece only whetted the public's appetite, and two years later Doyle resumed the series with "The Adventure of the Empty House," explaining that Holmes had faked his own death at Reichenbach. Ultimately, Doyle wrote a total of four novels and 56 short stories featuring Sherlock Holmes.

From 1899 to 1902, Doyle served as a physician in the Boer War. Upon his





## Sherlock Modernized

In the theatre world, playwrights like Jeffrey Hatcher and Ken Ludwig keep the spirit of Sherlock Holmes alive. In the cinema, Jeffrey Hatcher also adapted a screenplay from Mitch Cullin's novel *Mr. Holmes* starring Ian McKellen, which told the story of a retired Sherlock and his struggle with early dementia.

Today we see many works across mediums, from board games to theatre, all inspired by the Sherlock Holmes collection. Some of these works have appeared as parodies to the original, such as the British comedy *Without a Clue* (1988), the Canadian series *The Adventures of Shirley Holmes* (1996-2000), and the more current series *Psych* (2006-2014).

Other takes include adaptations that are not so much about crime, but still mysterious, such as *House* (2004-2012). Here, Dr. House uses his incredible deduction skills to solve mysterious medical cases while, like Sherlock Holmes, secretly battling an addiction to prescription drugs. House also finds solace in playing



Hugh Laurie as Dr. House, a Holmesian character in a hospital setting.

music, though his outlet is through the piano, guitar and harmonica. House even has that one close friend in which he can confide—Dr.



Martin Freeman and Benedict Cumberbatch as Watson and Holmes in the BBC series.

James Wilson, House's Dr. Watson. Other references to Sherlock Holmes are present throughout the show, some more obvious while others may slip past viewers. The show *Elementary* is a more straightforward adaptation of the detective series, but with Watson depicted as a female named Joan Watson.

Sherlock Holmes has had a huge revival in television and film, reaching out to both old and new fans, thanks to the modernization of the insightful detective. Guy Ritchie's *Sherlock Holmes* film series, starring Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law, is set to release its third movie, which has begun shooting and has a tentative release date [in 2021]. The BBC also recently completed its own television series starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman as the detective duo.

From Milwaukee Repertory Theatre *PlayGuide*, Jenny Toutant, ed.

## Doyle and Holmes by Richard J. Roberts (cont'd.)

return, he wrote *The Great Boer War* (1900) and *The War in South Africa: Its Causes and Conduct* (1902), for which he was knighted.

Although Holmes might be considered the literary icon of empiricism, Doyle was profoundly interested in spiritualism. This irony cultivated many of Doyle's mystic beliefs, such as fairies, psychic powers, and communication with the dead. He wrote several books on the subject, including *The Coming of the Fairies* (1921), *The History of Spiritualism* (1926), and *The Edge of the Unknown* (1930), where he argued that his friend Harry Houdini had supernatural powers.

Doyle died in 1930 from heart disease at his home in Sussex. The first of many Sherlock Holmes societies was founded in 1934, and such organizations still actively debate the finer points of the detective's work. Whole books have treated Holmes and Watson as actual historical figures, filling in gaps and calculating dates from clues in the stories. Nearly 100 actors have portrayed Holmes in more than 300 films and television programs. Dozens of authors since Doyle have written their own Holmes stories, novels, films, and plays.



## The Originals & Adaptations of Sherlock Holmes

**William Gillette** was the first to portray Sherlock Holmes on stage, playing the character about 1,300 times. His first performance was made in 1899.

*The Return of Sherlock Holmes* was the first Sherlock film with sound (1929).

**Basil Rathbone** played Sherlock in the 1939 film *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, which is regarded as one of the best film adaptations.

**Ronald Howard** starred as Sherlock Holmes in the 1954 American television series. It aired a total of 39 episodes.

Lost for decades, the 1922 silent film portrayal of Sherlock Holmes resurfaced in the 1970s. **John Barrymore** played Holmes and **Roland Young** played Watson.

**Roger Moore** played Sherlock Holmes in the 1977 film *Sherlock Holmes in New York*.

**Peter O'Toole** voiced Sherlock Holmes in the 1983 animated series of several Holmes

stories.

**Michael Caine** and **Ben Kingsley** played Holmes and Watson in the comedic 1988 film *Without a Clue*.

In 1992, **Christopher Lee** played an elderly Sherlock in the TV film *Sherlock Holmes: Incident at Victoria Falls*.

**Robert Downey Jr.** took on the role of Sherlock in the 2009 [and 2011] film[s], that helped reboot interest in the character.

From Milwaukee Repertory Theatre *PlayGuide*, Jenny Toutant, ed.



American actor William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes (c. 1890s).

### The Original Sherlock Holmes Stories by Arthur Conan Doyle

*A Study in Scarlet* (novel)

*The Sign of the Four* (novel)

*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (short stories)

*The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* (short stories)

*The Hound of the Baskervilles* (novel)

*The Return of Sherlock Holmes* (short stories)

*His Last Bow* (short stories)

*The Valley of Fear* (novel)

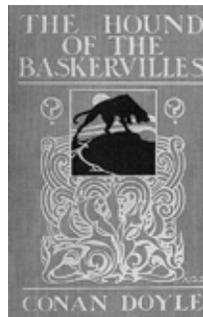
*The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* (short stories)

### Selected Holmes Film & TV Adaptations

*The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1959): British film adaptation of Doyle's novel starring Peter Cushing as Holmes; Cushing played Holmes in several other films as well.

*Sherlock Holmes* (1984-1994): Granada Television series starring Jeremy Brett as Holmes; Brett's performance is often considered the quintessential portrayal of the detective.

*Elementary* (2012-): CBS television series starring Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu as Holmes and Watson in modern-day New York City.



*Mr. Holmes* (2015): British film starring Ian McKellen as an elderly Holmes thinking back on his past; written by Jeffrey Hatcher, playwright of *Holmes and Watson*.

### Other Mystery Books

"The Murders in the Rue Morgue" by Edgar Allan Poe, the short story that introduced literature's first great detective, C. Auguste Dupin.

*The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin. A young-adult novel about a group of contestants competing to solve a mystery and win a large fortune.

*Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie. A classic whodunnit with a brilliant twist.

*When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead. A young-adult novel about a teenage girl solving a mystery in 1970s New York.

*The Maltese Falcon* A 1930 detective novel by Dashiell Hammett, later the classic 1941 film starring Humphrey Bogart. The quintessential hardboiled detective thriller.

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon. A young-adult novel about an autistic boy who attempts to solve a murder case. Later became a popular stage play.

From Indiana Repertory Theatre *Study Guide*, Richard J. Roberts, ed.

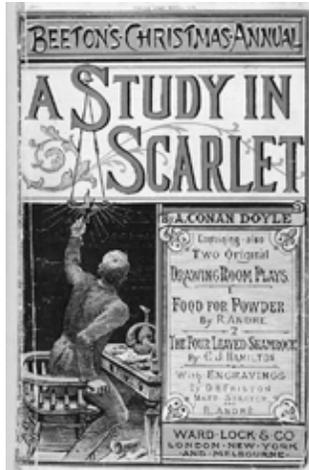


## Inspiration: Four Stories

*Holmes and Watson*, although a unique story, might seem a little familiar to you. This is because the playwright, Jeffrey Hatcher, was loosely inspired by four of Holmes' most famous adventures: *A Study in Scarlet*, "A Scandal in Bohemia," "The Adventure of the Final Problem," and "The Adventure of the Empty House."

*A Study in Scarlet* is split into multiple parts. Part I begins with Dr. Watson's return to London after his discharge from the Second Anglo-Afghan war due to a shoulder injury. He tells his friend, Stamford, that he needs a place to live and is introduced to Holmes, at work in a lab; his quick analysis of his prospective roommate fascinates Watson and the pair move in together. Holmes is sent a telegram asking for help at an abandoned house. Once there, he investigates the murder of Enoch Drebbler and goes to meet his secretary, Joseph Stangerson, but he was also murdered. The word "RACHE", which has been determined to be the German word for revenge, was left at the scene of both crimes. They also find two pills, one of which is poison. The scene is interrupted by a Baker Street Irregular who summoned a cab as requested by Holmes. The cabbie enters and Holmes handcuffs him, declaring him Jefferson Hope, the murderer.

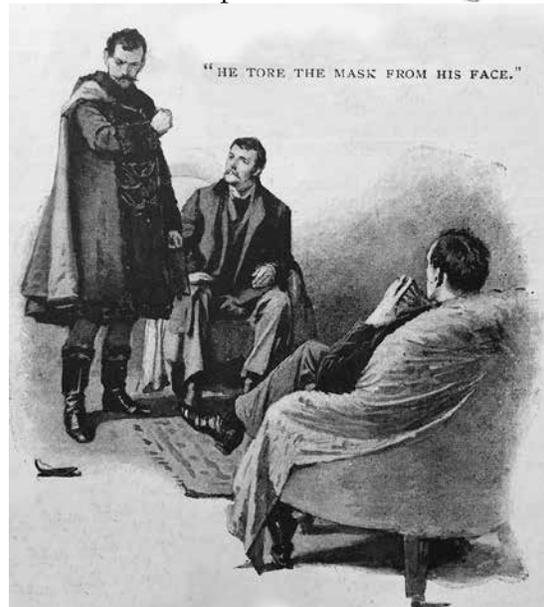
Part II occurs years before in Salt Lake Valley where a man named John and little girl Lucy are rescued from imminent death by a group of Latter-Day Saints who offer them sanctuary if they live under their faith; he adopts Lucy and, later, she falls in love with Jefferson Hope. The elders disapprove as they want her to marry either Joseph Stangerson or Enoch Drebbler, who are both



Mormon. John tells Hope about the plan but after he throws out the suitors, a countdown to her marriage day is left around his farm. Hope returns to the farm to see John's grave and no sign of Lucy. In Salt Lake City, he learns Stangerson killed John and Lucy was wed to Drebbler; she dies shortly after of a broken heart. As his enemies flee to London, so does he.

Back at Baker Street, Hope tells the story to Holmes and company and recounts their murders. The day before his trial, Hope dies of an aneurysm as a result of a long-standing medical condition.

In "A Scandal in Bohemia," Holmes is visited by the disguised King of Bohemia. He reveals that, due to his upcoming engagement, he is worried about the damage that may be caused by the scandal surrounding his previous relationship with Irene Adler, an American opera singer. Thus, he hopes Holmes will recover her evidence of the affair. He sneaks to her wedding, in disguise, but ends up being forced to witness the wedding which ends with the couple splitting ways. Holmes returns to Baker Street to collect Watson. As Adler pulls up to her home, Holmes leaps in to protect her in the midst of a fight and is invited into her home. At his signal, Watson throws a smoke bomb with the hope that Adler will



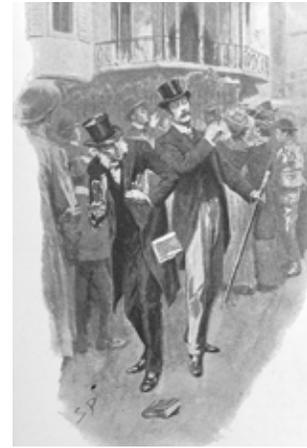


rescue her precious item – the photograph. The next morning, Holmes and the King go to the safe, but Adler has replaced the picture with one of her in a dress and a note revealing that she is only keeping the letter to protect herself. Holmes keeps the letter and Watson reveals that Holmes has continued to call her “the woman.”

“The Final Problem” begins with Holmes visiting Watson’s house and telling him he survived three murder attempts that day as Moriarty wants him off his trail. Watson, following his instructions, meets a disguised Holmes on the train. As the train pulls away, they see Moriarty on the platform and their attempt to escape intensifies. Now in Strasbourg, Holmes learns Moriarty’s accomplices have been arrested and he tells Watson to go, but he refuses. Now in Switzerland, they head up to Reichenbach Falls. Watson is given a letter by a boy requesting his expertise at the hotel. Despite knowing it is a trap, Holmes sends Watson back. Upon his return, there is a set of footprints and note from Holmes telling his friend he is about to fight Moriarty. Watson sees the sign of a struggle and an implied fall to the death – both Holmes and his nemesis are no more.

Written three years after Holmes’ supposed death, “The Adventure of the Empty

House” concerns the murder of the Honorable Ronald Adair. The man had no enemies and was found in his locked sitting room with an open window above a 20-foot drop, surrounded by papers and money; the police learn he won a lot of money in working with



Paget for “The Empty House”

Colonel Sebastian Moran. The corpse was found with a soft-point bullet at the back of his head but no one is sure from where the gun was fired. On the way there, Watson runs into an elderly book collector who is revealed to be Holmes! He explains to a joyous Watson that he was able to throw Moriarty over the waterfall yet caught himself and was able to pull himself back up. He explains what he was doing during the past three years, but the conditions of Adair’s murder intrigued him, and thus he returned. Holmes, convinced that Adair was killed by Moriarty’s cohort Colonel Sebastian Moran, places a wax bust at the empty house across from Baker Street which Moran shoots, thus revealing his involvement in Adair’s murder.

## The Joy of Mystery

by Risa Brainin

What is it about mysteries that we love so much? There is something so satisfying about solving a mystery, right? It is fun, it is challenging, and when you reach the end, you feel a sense of accomplishment. Sherlock Holmes is the great icon of mystery stories in modern fiction. Since the character was born in 1887, he has been brought to life in literally thousands of ways, including novels, short stories, plays, radio dramas, TV shows, films and even video games. He holds the Guinness record for “most portrayed movie character in history.”

Whether you have read the books or not, we all have an image of the character. In fact, the character is so specifically etched in our

minds, that some people even believe that he was a real person! I recently went to the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London, which is a replica of Holmes’s house on Baker Street, complete with wax figures of characters. It was a bit strange to be there in the “home” of a fictional character! There are enormously long lines—every single day—to get into this museum. The fan base is extraordinary.

So, with all of the zillions of portrayals out there, how does one tell a new tale about this very old and beloved character? Leave it to Jeff Hatcher to figure that one out. Hatcher has taken the period of time between Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s “The Final Problem,” where Holmes is supposedly “killed” by his arch nemesis Moriarty, and “The Adventure of the Empty House,” when he returns. In that moment, Hatcher





hypothesizes a wonderful mystery.

I've always been a huge fan of Jeffrey Hatcher's work, and have enjoyed directing several of his plays over the years. What I love most, and something most evident in this piece, is his ability to weave a complex story with humor and pathos. You get all of the fun of solving a Sherlock Holmes mystery, and you get a little bit more. With his ironic (and

sometimes sardonic) sense of humor, he is a master of dramatic tension and release. Oh, how I adore anything Hatcher! He knows that if you are here tonight, you likely know and love Sherlock Holmes. If you do, get ready to enjoy a new classic tale. If you are new to Mr. Holmes, we hope you'll enjoy stepping into his world tonight to solve the mystery.

## Glossary

### Blackjack

A small, easily concealed club made from a weight wrapped in leather attached to a coil spring. It features a strap or lanyard by which to carry the weapon on the non-weighted end.

### Braces

Another term for suspenders.

### Calling card

Personal calling cards were immensely popular among the upper classes during the Victorian era: similar to business cards, calling cards were presented when making social visits or enclosed when sending gifts.

### Colloquies

Conversations.

### Cutter

A small, lightweight boat designed for speed rather than to hold many passengers.

### Derringer Pistol

This term refers broadly to any small handgun that is not a revolver or semiautomatic pistol. The term comes from a misspelling of the name of Henry Deringer (1786-1868), inventor of a small handgun.

### Deus ex machina

This Latin phrase literally means "god from the machine" and is used to describe a plot device wherein an apparently unsolvable problem is suddenly resolved by the unexpected intervention of a new character, object, event, or ability.

### Garotte

A wire, cord, or other apparatus used for strangling; widely used in the 17th and 18th centuries as assassination devices.

### Hypnotic State

The Victorian practice of hypnotherapy was a popular treatment for a variety of ailments, endorsed by the British Medical Association in 1892.

### Inspector

In the British police force, inspector is the second supervisory rank, senior to a sergeant, but junior to a chief inspector.

### Lake District

A mountainous region in northwest England with 20 major lakes, famous for its beautiful landscape.

### Mass delusion

A condition in which a group of people share the false belief that they are all some famous figure. The Napoleon Delusion is a popular stereotype of the beliefs of delusional patients.

### Mendelssohn's lieder

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) was a renowned German composer, pianist, and conductor. *Lieder ohne Worte* (Songs without Words) includes eight volumes of six short lyrical piano pieces each.

### Penny dreadful

Cheap, sensational popular literature produced in Britain during the 19th century. Costing only a penny per installment, these serial stories featured lurid tales about criminals or the supernatural.

### Plumber's rocket

A smoke bomb that creates a thick cloud of smoke. Victorian plumbers used smoke rockets to release smoke into pipes as a way of testing for leaks.

### Schooner

A small sailing vessel with two or more masts. The schooner's speed and ability to sail in shallow waters once made it a popular choice for both pirates and recreational boaters.

### Scotland Yard

The headquarters of the Metropolitan Police Service in London. The name comes from the location of the original headquarters, which had a rear entrance on a street called Great Scotland Yard.

### Shallop

A light sailboat typically used for coastal fishing; can carry roughly a dozen individuals.

### Skiff

A shallow, flat-bottomed boat with a sharp bow and a square stem, easily handled by one person.

### Stiletto

A thin dagger with a long, needlelike point, primarily used for stabbing, dating back to 15th century Italy.

### Strychnine

A highly toxic, colorless, bitter alkaloid frequently used as a pesticide. When inhaled or swallowed, it causes poisoning that results in muscular convulsions and eventual death via asphyxiation.

### Subliminal

Subconscious, something that is present but of which a person is not fully aware.

### Superintendent

Superintendent is the fifth-highest rank in the British police force. A superintendent ranks higher than an inspector or a chief inspector.

### Truncheon

A short, thick stick carried as a weapon by law enforcement or security personnel.