



**SHERLOCK
HOLMES
& THE DEATH
ON THOR BRIDGE**

**Arthur Conan Doyle
Adapted by Sandra Bass**

Director's Note

As a long-time fan of the Sherlock Holmes stories, the opportunity to direct a stage adaptation was both exciting and daunting.

The principal pleasures that I find in the stories are: the genius of Sherlock as he deduces a client's profession or lifestyle from the merest glimpse of walking cane or boot sole; the vivid depiction of late Victorian London, with its cobble-stones and horse-drawn carriages; the melodramatic and often bizarre cases themselves.

But how well do these cerebral pleasures translate on to the stage? This will be for audiences to judge. Certainly, I am grateful to Sandra Bass for the clever adaptation that is *Death on Thor Bridge*. Sandra, a Genesian life member who played Mrs Hudson just last year, has added elements of a whodunnit more in keeping with an Agatha Christie than a Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. She has also introduced more filmic flashbacks, a good deal of humour and, notably, chosen to adapt a short story unique in the Sherlock canon in having female protagonists.

This adaptation has presented practical challenges, not least of which being, how does one fit a bridge on to the small Genesian stage? I will remain forever grateful for the brilliance and hard-work of this production's highly experienced and talented crew in the face of such challenges. Equally, my sincerest thanks to the cast for their enthusiasm and talent in helping to collaboratively bring a new script to the stage.

Carlin Hurdis
Director

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 - 1930) was a British writer. He created the character Sherlock Holmes in 1887 when he published *A Study in Scarlet*, the first of four novels and more than fifty short stories about Holmes and Dr. Watson. The Sherlock Holmes stories are generally considered milestones in the field of crime fiction.

Synopsis Of Scenes

Act One

Scene One: The bridge at Roger Gibson's estate, Thor Place, in Thorbury, Hampshire. After 9pm, May, 1891.

Scene Two: Sherlock Holmes' residence, 221B Baker Street. The next morning.

Act Two

Scene One: Thor Bridge, that afternoon.

Scene Two: Drawing room at Thor Place. Same afternoon.

CARLIN HURDIS - Director Carlin has served as assistant director at the Genesian on two productions: *Towards Zero* (2019) and *Travelling North* (2018). He also served as assistant director on an independent production of *Elephant Man* (Exit Game Productions). He has acted in three productions at the Genesian, and has also performed with the Pymble Players, Sydney University Dramatic Society, Players in the Pub, and in improvised theatre. His next role will be in a production of *In Duty Bound* at the Theatre on Chester (Epping) in April and May. He has operated lights and sound at numerous shows at both the Genesian Theatre and the New Theatre.

EMMA WHITEHEAD - Assistant Director Emma's UK theatre degree was clearly not as fascinating as the railway industry, and the latter led her recently to Sydney. Back home, she carved out a very enjoyable niche for comedy roles in community productions such as Nancy in *Nell Gwynn*, and a few originally written for men (she won Best Supporting Actress for the roles of the abrasive Stan and the misogynist Cortina Man in musical *Made in Dagenham*, which included a solo song in an Elvis wig with four backing dancers - a fine moment indeed). She finds the Genesian to be a very welcoming company with some great characters (on and off stage!)

TOM BANNERMAN - Set Design Seeing that St Genesius, patron saint of actors, will soon draw the curtain across the stage of this small yet sparkling gem of a theatre on Kent Street, it seemed fitting to Tom that the set-design should acknowledge the humble theatre itself, saluting this proud institution now shrouded by New Babel's lengthening shadows. Tom's association with this theatre began over a quarter of a century ago with *And a Nightingale Sang* and *The Dresser*; his body-of-work now totals 268 set-designs. Recent designs include *Endgame*, Hunter Drama; *Mark Colvin's Kidney*, Drill Hall Mullumbimby; *The Grapes of Wrath*, *My Night with Reg*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Marat/Sade*, and *When the Rain Stops Falling*, New Theatre; and co-designed *Penelope*, Siren.

SUSAN CARVETH - Costume Design Susan has worked as the designer/costumier on dozens of Genesian productions - a few favourites being: *Ladykillers*, *Persuasion*, *Figaro*, *Under Milkwood*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Far From the Madding Crowd*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Hay Fever*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Richard III*, *Frankenstein*, *Twelfth Night*, *39 Steps*, *Forsyte Saga*, and *Blood Wedding*. She has also worked for Opera Australia, the ABC and BBC as a costume coordinator, and costume maker for *Tall Poppeas* (Ondine Productions), *Opera Bites* and *Deadhouse* (Blancmange Productions).

MICHAEL SCHELL - Lighting and Sound Design Michael has been a member of the Genesian Theatre for over 40 years. A professional Sound and Lighting Designer, his Genesian credits include *Great Expectations*, *St Joan*, *The 39 Steps*, *Terra Nova*, *Frankenstein*, and *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*. Other recent Genesian sound design credits include *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Mousetrap*, *Crown Matrimonial*, *Spider's Web*, *Three Sisters*, *Our House*, and *Dracula*.

NICK LEE - Composer Nick first started studying and playing music in year 11. He was completely taken with it and knew that this was what he wanted to be doing. Since then Nick has gone on to complete a Cert IV of Music in 2013 and a Bachelor of Music Performance (Contemporary Guitar) at the Australian Institute of Music in 2018. He began composing shortly afterwards; realising he could combine his love of video games, television, and films with his passion for music. He drew inspiration from his favourite composers: Alan Silvestri, Michael Giacchino, and Jeremy Soule, and has now written music for dance, film, musicals, and plays.



PATRICK MAGEE - Sherlock Holmes This is Patrick's fourth production on the Genesian stage, following *The Lion in Winter* (2004), *The Forsyte Saga* (2005) and *Richard III* (2013). Beyond the confines of Kent Street, he has spent the last few years playing Sherlock Holmes in the popular improvised mystery show *The Game is Afoot!*, which he also created. His favourite story of the canon is *A Scandal in Bohemia* and his favourite Holmes is the late lamented Jeremy Brett. After this season has finished, he has booked a relaxing holiday to go and experience the waterfalls of Switzerland.

NICK FITZSIMMONS - Dr John Watson This is Nick's second show with the Genesian Theatre Company. Although the mystery of Thor bridge is not one of Sherlock's more famous cases, Nick hopes you find our interpretation of this story compelling and not elementary in the slightest. Nick has appeared in shows such as *Persuasion*, *Guys and Dolls*, *One Man Two Guvnors*, and *Stories In The Dark*. Nick won the Theatresports Schools Challenge back in 2018 and was also a finalist in the Cranston Cup that same year.



JOANNE COLEMAN - Grace Dunbar Joanne is an Australian Institute of Music Bachelor of Performance 2014 graduate. She has performed various stage roles including Catherine in *Henry V* (Salt House Theatre), Ophelia in *The Tragedy of Hamlet* (Bard on the Beach), and Sabine in *The Three Musketeers* (Genesian Theatre). She has a keen interest in Theatre for Education and has performed throughout Australia and New Zealand with Blue Whale Theatre's historical play *A Bright Light in the Darkness*. Joanne is excited and honoured to be part of *The Death on Thor Bridge*.

KRASSY ALEXANDROVA - Senhora Sofia This is Krassy's first role with the Genesian Theatre and her first role on the Australian stage. Hopefully her theatre career lasts longer than her life in this play. Originally from Bulgaria, Krassy took her first ever drama class in French while living in Paris. Later, during a stint in London, she played some of her favourite comedic characters, performing as Helena in *Midsummer Night's Dream* and Phoebe in *As You Like It*. Since moving to Sydney six years ago, Krassy focused on her funny side with training in improvised comedy, clowning and stand-up at Improv Theatre Sydney and could be seen at Sydney Fringe and Comedy Festivals, RAW Comedy and various comedy nights around town.



SHANE BATES - Anne Moffat Shane has been a member of the Genesian Theatre for over twenty years. This will be her 36th production: 21 as an actor, 8 as Assistant Director, and 7 as a Director. She has recently been made a Governor of the Theatre and is thrilled to have been involved with the unique challenge of working on a new script. Her last appearance on stage was as Roxanne in David Williamson's *Nothing Personal* and she directed *What Santa Does Other Days of the Year* at Christmastime in 2018.



MYLES WADDELL - Detective Philips After graduating with distinction from a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Acting) in his hometown of Toowoomba, Myles relocated to Sydney to pursue his dream. He toured the country for two years performing educational children's theatre with Brainstorm Productions, and has played leading roles in *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Hedda Gabler*, and *The Poor Kitchen*. This is his first production at the Genesian and he feels honoured to be a part of this world premiere at this beautiful venue. Good luck guessing the culprit!

KATE SMYTHEMAN - Maisie Jones Kate is a recent design graduate and artist wanting to branch out into acting and theatre this year. Having previously trained at Art Umbrella and ATYP, Kate makes her debut on stage with *The Death on Thor Bridge*. As a long time patron of the Genesian Theatre, coming since she was a child with her grandparents, Kate has been looking forward to being a part of the theatre's season at Kent Street.



DEAN TUTTLE - Roger Gibson On stage, Dean recently played Lee in *True West* for KAKTUS; other productions include *Macbeth*, *The Rehabilitation of God*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, and *Love Play* for Factory Space Theatre; *Spiral of Love* at the Old Fitz; *Transactions* by Victor Kline at Short and Sweet, and *Confusions* at the New. Dean toured with Brainstorm Productions, the Queensland Arts Council and his own company, Cyber Rites, performing a 'multi-media' style *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* as well as an original show, *Dave and Ringo's Transdimensional Surf Safari*. On screen, Dean has appeared in the SFS short, *All's Faire*, as well as roles in *Cedar Boys*, *Gangs of Oz*, *Wanted*, *Home and Away*, *Water Rats*, and *Farscape*.

VICTORIA HELEN - Mrs Turner Victoria made her debut on the Genesian stage in *The Ladykillers*, appearing as an old woman with a refined appreciation for string ensembles. She is again looking to satisfy her thirst for theatre by attempting to stage manage *Sherlock Holmes and the Death on Thor Bridge*. Victoria's early performance experience was in dance and music, but she fell in love with theatre and film during high school. She has since performed in amateur theatre, improvisation and film, training at institutes such as NIDA, ATYP, and Screenwise. Victoria continues to seek professional experience, while immersing herself in all areas of the entertainment industry.



Production

Director

Assistant Director

Set Design

Costume Design

Lighting and Sound Design

Composer

Dramaturg

Production Manager

Set Construction

Costume Assistant

Set Detailing

Props Assistant

Portuguese language and accent advisor **Cris Bocchi**

Photography

Graphic Design

Ticketing

Transport

Audition Assistants

Audition Readers

Acknowledgements

Crew

Stage Manager

Lighting and Sound Operation

Cast

Sherlock Holmes

Dr John Watson

Grace Dunbar

Senhora Sofia

Anne Moffat

Detective Philips

Maisie Jones

Roger Gibson

Mrs Turner

Carlin Hurdis

Emma Whitehead

Tom Bannerman

Susan Carveth

Michael Schell

Nick Lee

Elizabeth Munro

Barry Nielsen

Garry Bates, Grant Fraser, Peter

Curtis, Michael Dengler, Rodger

Wishart, John Farndale, Grace

Bondoc, Jacob Greenhow, Members

of the Company

Mia Flokis

Helen Kohlhagen

Ella Monti

Craig O'Regan, Grant Fraser

Trudy Ritchie, Tom Massey

Tom Massey

Mark G Nagle

Lindsey Graham, Wilfrid

Schafhauser, Janice McLeay, Sahn

Millington

Jess Davis, Tom Southwell, Tim

Bennett, Sandra Bass, Mark G Nagle

New Theatre, Tom Southwell

Victoria Helen

Mia Flokis, Ella Monti

Patrick Magee

Nick Fitzsimmons

Joanne Coleman

Krassy Alexandrova

Shane Bates

Myles Waddell

Kate Smytheman

Dean Tuttle

Victoria Helen

About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company celebrated our 75th year as a company in 2019! For 65 years we have been operating from our home at 420 Kent St in the Sydney CBD. We boast among our alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre and film such as Angela Punch, Bryan Brown, Baz Luhrmann, Coral Lansbury, Judi Farr, John Bell, Peter Carroll, and Nick Enright. We are also just as proud of the hundreds of other talented actors, directors, stage managers, set and costume designers, lighting and sound specialists, stage and production staff who have contributed to Sydney's unique little theatre. We are particularly proud of all our members who volunteer their time to work Front of House to help you enjoy your visit to the Genesian Theatre.

Over the years the company has developed into a theatre providing a training ground for young theatre professionals and a place where those who love the theatre can meet, share, and extend their knowledge of the performing arts. The Genesian Theatre Company is one of Sydney's most active theatre companies. In addition to six main stage productions each year we run classes, workshops, and many other activities.

The building which houses the Genesian Theatre Company was originally St John's Church, and dates from 1868. It served as both a church and a poor school until 1932 when it became the Kursaal Theatre, housing the Sydney Repertory Company. In 1938 it became the first Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of the Genesian Theatre Company which was formed in 1944.

The Genesian Theatre Company acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the land our theatre stands on.

Membership

If you're interested in acting, directing, stage management, sound, lights, publicity, admin, etc, or if you just want to experience being a member of the group, we would welcome you as a member. You don't need to be experienced, we can provide training and can cater to different levels of involvement. Please see our web site for further information.

Coming next...

