

SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE CASE OF THE JERSEY LILY



By Katie Forgette

Director's Note

In her play writer Katie Forgette gives legendary detective Sherlock Holmes and his legendary companion Dr John Watson clients of commensurate brilliance: legendary actress Lillie Langtry and uber-legend Oscar Wilde. This not being the best of all possible worlds, these fabulous four find themselves up against legendary foe and psychopath, Professor Moriarty. Will goodness, sweetness, playfulness and charm triumph over implacable greed?

"The good end happily, the bad unhappily - that is what fiction means"
Miss Prism, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Oscar Wilde.

Director
John Grinston

Katie Forgette Katie Forgette is an American actor and writer, with long-time connections to the Seattle Repertory Theatre, where she has appeared in plays by – amongst others - Moliere, Pirandello, Eugene O'Neill and Oscar Wilde. Her plays include *The O'Conner Girls*, *Evidence of Things Unseen*, *Everybody's A Critic*, and *Incident at our Lady of Perpetual Help* and have played in cities including New York and Los Angeles. With *Sherlock Holmes and the ... Jersey Lily* she forges a link to the world of high comedy and verbal wit introduced to us by writers of Restoration comedy and later made delightfully familiar by Shaw, Stoppard and Oscar Wilde. Her Sherlock is still the <sleuth par excellence>, but also someone who - if he let himself follow the yellow brick road to Shropshire - might feel right at home with 'bunburying', cucumber sandwiches and girls called Cecily and Gwendolyn.

The action of the play unfolds in 1890s London.

Act 1

Scene 1: Saturday night.

The dressing-room of actress Lily Langtry at a London theatre.

Scene 2: Afternoon, a few days later.

The Baker Street home of Sherlock Holmes, a detective.

Scene 3: Evening of the same day.

The Pont Street home of Mrs Langtry.

Scene 4: A few days later.

Underground office of 'Professor' Moriarty, a formidable criminal

Scene 5: The following evening.

A public park.

Act 2

Scene 1: Later that same night.

A gas works.

Scene 2: Deepest night.

Baker Street.

JOHN GRINSTON - Director As an actor John has worked with New England Theatre Co; Kinetic Energy Co; with Olivia Brown Theatre in Education Co; at New Theatre; at the Stables, Old Fitz and Genesian Theatres; at Theatre Royal; with Pop Up Theatre (Sydney and Melbourne seasons) and with Sport for Jove. Television work includes *A Place to Call Home* and *Michael Willessee's Australians*. For Genesian theatre he has directed *Three People*, *A Murder Is Announced*, *Thermidor*, three short plays by Noel Hodda, and *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*. In 2012 his performance in the short film *Magnum Opus* won the Sydney Film School 'Best Actor of the Year' award.

BARRY NIELSEN - Assistant Director Barry translated and directed the Lorca tragedies *Blood Weddings* and *House of Bernarda Alba* for the Genesian Theatre, and has the dubious distinction of directing the Genesian Theatre's biggest ever hit, *The Mousetrap*. It was the writing that was dubious. Barry has also appeared on stage (most recently in 2020's *The Ladykillers*) and also in *Complete Works of Shakespeare*, the triple-gendered role in *Sylvia*, and *Speaking in Tongues* to name a few. Being a vet, teaching at TAFE, and maintaining bonsais takes up a lot of his spare time.

TOM FAHY - Set Design Tom has been involved with Set Construction at the Genesian Theatre for the last five years. This is his fifth foray into Set Design following *Towards Zero* in 2019, *Home Chat* in 2021, and *Lady Windermere's Fan* and *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* in 2022. He has worked, particularly in musical theatre, as an actor and director in Toowoomba, Queensland for many years.

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*, *Forsythe Saga*, and *Blood Weddings*. 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).

MEHRAN MORTEZAEI - Lighting and Sound Design Mehran has been involved in numerous shows as a writer, director, designer, stage manager, and actor in Iran, NSW, QL, and Denmark. Recent light and sound designs were for and at *Dark Voyager* at the Pavilion Theatre, *Necrophilia* in Limelight Theatre, *My Night with Reg* and *Pygmalion* at The New Theatre, and *Persuasion* and *William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play* at the Genesian Theatre. Mehran started his theatre journey while he was in high school and then continued it by doing B.A. and M.A. in Theatre and Performing Arts at the University of Tehran. He is a lighting design tutor at Excelsia College, and Technical Manager at The New Theatre and Actors Centre Australia. Genesian was Mehran's first theatre home in Australia and he comes back home anytime he has a chance.



CARLIN HURDIS - Dr John Watson Carlin is appearing on stage at the Genesian for the seventh time. He has also been among the cast and crew at Pymble Players, New Theatre, Chester Street and the Sydney University Dramatic Society. In 2020, Carlin directed the Genesian's production of *Sherlock Holmes and the Death on Thor Bridge*. It is his second appearance as Dr Watson.

NEILSON BROWN - Sherlock Holmes This is Neilson's first appearance at the Genesian theatre. Previously he has appeared as Judge Hathorne in *The Crucible* (2017), Clyde Thestorsen in *Helen of Sparta* (2017), Malcolm in *Macbeth* (2021), Mr Smith in *Coming of Age* (2022), and Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet* (2022).



MOLLY HADDON - Lillie Langtry Molly began acting at an early age, but now predominately works behind the scenes in film, so she is always thrilled to tread the boards when she can. Molly has performed at the GTC in *Towards Zero*, *Figaro*, *A Murder is Announced*, *Murder on the Nile* and in 2021 directed *The Secret of Chimneys*.

NATHAN MOSS - Oscar Wilde An actor with both stage and screen credits, Nathan Moss is a bold and exciting stage presence. Trained at Sydney's Screenwise and the AMAW Actors Workshop, this is Nathan's first appearance in a Genesian Theatre Production.





GUNJEET SINGH CHATTHA - Abdul Karim Gunjeet is a versatile actor who trained at DramaTech and The Actor's Pulse, learning Meisner technique. Other performances: *A Passage to India* (2020), *Forbidden Love Story* (2017), *Foreign Star of Bengal* (2018) *All in the.... timing*, (2019) *Taj Mahal* (2019). Other than that, he practices sword fighting, learning to fly, horseback riding, and cooking.

MEG GIRDLER - Mrs Tory This is Meg's second production with GTC following *Poirot's First Case* in 2022 (which she performed in and Stage Managed). Meg has experience acting in community theatre productions around Sydney and Wollongong, received professional on-camera and acting training in Colorado (USA), and performed in a professional short-play festival in Denver.



LIAM O'CARROLL - John Smyth After studying at Sydney Acting Studio, Redfern, Liam is making his second appearance with the Genesian Theatre after the recent season of *My Family and Other Animals*. He is having a great time playing one of the bad guys. Finally acting on the stage for Liam has been a childhood dream come true.

IGOR BULANOV - Professor Moriarty Igor Bulanov commenced his career in the performing arts at the age of 19. After immigrating to Australia in 2013, he studied the Stanislavsky Method and the Michael Chekhov technique under Natela Dzuliashvili. He went on to graduate from the Academy of Film, Theatre & Television in 2021.



Production

Director

John Grinston

Assistant Director

Barry Nielsen

Set Design

Tom Fahy

Costume Design

Susan Carveth

Lighting and Sound Design

Mehran Mortezaei

Production Manager

Barry Nielsen

Set Construction

**Tom Fahy, Peter Curtis, Paul Gilbert,
and Members of the Company**

Fight and Dance Consultant

Ali Bendall

Props Assistant

Meg Girdler

Wig Assistant

Sandra Bass

Photography

Craig O'Regan

Graphic Design

Tom Massey

Ticketing

Tom Massey

Transport

Barry Nielsen

Audition Assistants

**Ali Bendall, Jane Thorpe,
Janice McLeay, Lois Marsh,
Liz Grindley, David Stewart-Hunter**

Crew

Stage Manager

Susan Duchâteau

Assistant Stage Manager

Aurélie Kenigsberg

Lighting and Sound Operation

**Mark Berriman, Grace Bondoc,
Paul Adderley, Cian Byrne,
Chris Dunwell, Paul Uhrig**

Cast

Dr John Watson

Carlin Hurdis

Sherlock Holmes

Neilson Brown

Lillie Langtry

Molly Haddon

Oscar Wilde

Nathan Moss

Abdul Karim

Gunjeet Singh Chattha

Mrs Tory

Meg Girdler

John Smyth

Liam O'Carroll

Professor Moriarty

Igor Bulanov

About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company celebrates our 78th year as a company in 2022! For 68 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...

