



Sherlock Holmes
and the
**Speckled
Band**

by Arthur Conan Doyle
adapted by Max Gee

7th April - 12th May

Director's Note

I have long been a fan of Sherlock Holmes and have read the short stories and novels numerous times over the years. *The Adventure of the Speckled Band* has always been a favourite tale to revisit with its spooky atmosphere and inexplicable death.

When the Genesian was looking for a Sherlock Holmes play to produce I knew that *Speckled Band* would be a great fit to make use of the atmosphere of our historic premises at Kent Street before we move to an exciting new venue.

On the web I located reviews of an exciting new adaptation that had been produced in England just a few years ago. I contacted the playwright via Twitter and asked if we could produce her script. She said yes and so after months of hard work we can bring you this story tonight.

I would like to thank the wonderful group of actors and the strong production team who have together worked so hard to bring this production to the Genesian stage. I would particularly like to thank my Associate Director Roger, my Stage Manager Alexis, and my parents for supporting me in my theatrical endeavours.

I hope you enjoy our production of one of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's most loved short stories. The game's afoot!

Tom Massey
Director

Synopsis

Act I - The rooms of Mr Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson at 221B Baker St

Act II - The country estate of the Roylott family, Stoke Moran

The events of the play take place in 1883

TOM MASSEY – Director Tom trained at AADA in the 90's, and has worked in all aspects of theatre. Tom appeared in the Australian premiere of Parsley's adaptation of *Brideshead Revisted* for RGP. His most recent of several stage appearances was as Andrey in *Three Sisters* for the Genesisian. He has also worked behind the scenes on many productions. For the Genesisian he has directed *Noises Off*, *Dead White Males*, *The 39 Steps*, and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*. In 2012 Tom trained at Atlantic Acting School in NYC. Tom has also worked as stage manager for independent theatre companies, including Sure Foot, Eclective, subtluance, and the New. His most recent project as SM was working with Gale Edwards for Pacific Opera, and in the bio box for Lex Marinos for the Greek Festival.

ROGER GIMBLETT – Associate Director Roger is the current Theatre Director of the Genesisians and has directed 13 major productions for the company including *Great Expectations*, *The Tempest*, and *Our House*. He has also directed theatre in England and his native New Zealand and has undertaken short courses with RADA and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Although he had to desert his post 10 days before opening for an overseas commitment he has thoroughly enjoyed the chance to work with Tom and the fantastic cast during the rehearsal process on this new adaptation.

OWEN GIMBLETT – Set Design Owen has over 25 mainstage Set Design credits to his name at the Genesisian alone and countless more in his native New Zealand. Over a 50 year career he has worked on plays, ballet, and major musicals, and enjoys the challenges of Genesisian's intimate stage with *The Tempest* and *Great Expectations* being particularly memorable designs. In a change of hat, Owen directed *Pygmalion* and *Pride and Prejudice* for the company.

SUSAN CARVETH – Costume Design Susan Carveth has worked as designer and costumier for *Figaro*, *Under Milkwood*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *Appointment with Death*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Our House*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Dead White Males*, *Crown Matrimonial*, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, *By Jeeves*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Hay Fever*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Star Child*, *Morning Sacrifice*, *Richard III*, *Frankenstein*, *Twelfth Night*, *Forsyte Saga*, *The 39 Steps*, *Blood Wedding*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Go Back for Murder*, and *Travelling North*. She has also worked for Opera Australia, ABC and BBC as costume co-ordinator and costume maker for Tall Poppeas, Ondine Productions, and Opera Bites.

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



CHRIS BUTEL – Sherlock Holmes Chris Butel is thrilled to be back at the Genesis Theatre after appearing as Mr Collins in *Pride and Prejudice* (2014) and as Jeremy Warrender in *Spider's Web* (2014). Since this time Chris has completed multiple courses focusing on technique, text analysis, screen acting, and improvisation at NIDA, The Hub Studio, and Improv Theatre Sydney. When not acting, Chris works as a director and video producer. He has recently launched a YouTube channel and

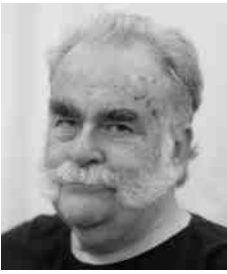
podcast dedicated to the craft of filmmaking and storytelling called "Stories Through The Camera" which has more than 50,000 views and over 1000 subscribers. Chris is also currently developing an independent feature film that will move into the pre production phase later in the year. Chris is excited to step out from behind the camera and on to the stage to take on the mantle of the iconic character of Sherlock Holmes.

KIERAN GILKES – Dr John Watson Dr. John H. Watson, MD, is Kieran's first role at the Genesis Theatre. However, he has appeared in a number of different shows. For the last five years, Kieran has appeared as a member of the Eastwood Uniting Church Musical Society; his shows with that company include *Kiss Me, Kate* (as Gangster #2), *Annie Get Your Gun* (Foster Wilson), *Ruddigore* (Old Adam Goodheart), *Narnia* (Mr. Beaver), and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Mr. Gatch). Moving into a show which requires no singing or dancing represents a new challenge, but Kieran hopes that his portrayal of Watson will enliven and enrich your viewing experience.



DANICA BURCH – Helen Stoner Danica Burch is a graduate of the Australia Academy of Dramatic Art (AADA). After graduating from the Academy, she performed in and worked behind the scenes on a few independent theatre productions around Sydney. She also devised and produced a show with Brave New Word Theatre Company before moving to London for a few years. In 2016, she was delighted to spent some time studying at the Stella Adler Studio in New York City. Most recently, Danica was part of

the performance art installation *Don't Go To This Show* by The Leftovers Collective. *Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band* is her first stage production since returning to Sydney late last year. Other stage credits include *Pygmalion*, *Empire: Terror on the High Seas*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Skriker*, *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, *The Vagina Monologues*, and *Before/After*.



MARTY O'NEILL – Dr Grimesby Roylott Plucked from obscurity (hand-knitting on South Uist Island in the Outer Hebrides) by Tom Massey in 2010 to play Col Judd in *Dead White Males* for the Genesian Theatre, Marty O has simply not looked back: it would be too embarrassing! From scooping dead leaves out of the cracks of his holiday house in *Money & Friends* to blind-bobbing in the boats off Llareggub in *Under Milk Wood*, he has stretched both the credulity and patience of theatre goers ever since! Will this be his

Swan Song at Kent St? Or will he become the ghost of actors past!

DOMINIQUE PURDUE – Julia Stoner Dominique has trained in Manila, Sydney, New York, and London. She was heavily involved in the International School of Manila's performing arts program, in drama and dance. After high school, she trained at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute and the New York Film Academy in New York City. She has also trained at the Actors Centre Australia here in Sydney and at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. She has also acted in numerous short and feature films and plays in Manila, Sydney, New York, and London; she was most recently featured in a Top 80 play for the Short and Sweet Festival in Sydney. This is her second play with the Genesian Theatre Company and she is very excited to be working with them again. Dominique is represented by Suzie Steen Management.



NATHAN STEEL – Charles Augustus Milverton Nathan is a young, and aspiring actor, specializing in character acting. This is his first production with the Genesian Theatre. Last year, he worked with the Arts Theatre Cronulla and the Sutherland Theatre Company on *Butterflies Are Free* and *A Good Man* respectively. He's currently getting a Bachelor's Degree of Creative Arts at the University of Wollongong. There, he is also an executive of the Dramatic Society and is working on a production with them coming out in August. What intrigues Nathan most about *Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band* is the direction. Translating the pages of a Sherlock Holmes story into a visual medium is not always easy, but what Tom Massey is looking to do as a director is ambitious and something Nathan's very excited about. *The Speckled Band* is a cautionary tale about paranoia, a feeling captured by the gothic atmosphere of the play.

Production

Director	Tom Massey
Associate Director	Roger Gimblett
Set Design	Owen Gimblett
Costume Design	Susan Carveth
Lighting and Sound Design	Michael Schell
Set Construction	Tom Fahy, Grant Fraser, Paul Gilbert, Members of the Company
Set Detailing	Debbie Smith
Lighting Rigging	Ian Whalan
Photography	Craig O'Regan
Graphic Design	Patrick Magee, Tom Massey
Ticketing	Shane Bates
Transport	Debbie Smith
Acknowledgements	Shane Bates, Barry Nielsen, Timothy Bennett, Melanie Robinson, Douglas Rumble, Massey family, Hunters Hill Theatre Company

Crew

Stage Manager	Alexis Worthing
Lighting and Sound Operation	Amy Roberts

Cast

Sherlock Holmes	Chris Butel
Dr John Watson	Kieran Gilkes
Helen Stoner	Danica Burch
Dr Grimesby Roylott	Marty O'Neill
Julia Stoner	Dominique Purdue
Charles Augustus Milverton	Nathan Steel
Gypsy	Susan Carveth

About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company celebrated our 70th year as a company in 2014. For over 60 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
to the Genesisian...



The Importance of Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde

26th May - 30th June

