



2010

Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars

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Olson, Thomas. *Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars*. Plays for Young Audiences, 2009. ISBN and price: Contact Publisher. 75 p.

Reviewer: Rebeca Wallin

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Adventure Plays; Detective and Mystery Plays, Humorous Plays;

Subject: Sherlock Holmes—Juvenile drama; The Baker Street irregulars—Juvenile drama; Giant rat of Sumatra—Juvenile drama; Plays—Reviews;

Theme: Paying attention to details yields results.

Production Requirements: Extensive set and some lighting; several locations; period costumes and props.

Acts: 2

Run Time: 90 minutes

Characters: 7 female, 14 male

Time Period: early 1900s

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson go up against an evil professor who has kidnapped Princess Victoria and is threatening to destroy London. While solving the case, Holmes must also deal with the effects of a bite from a giant, poisonous rat. To his aid come Prince Edward and a famous actress as well as a group of young boys—the Baker Street Irregulars. As everyone works together, and with the help of Holmes' brilliant deduction skills, the Princess is found, the city is saved, and Holmes recovers from the poison.

This play joins attempts made by other authors to tell the story of the “Giant Rat of Sumatra” which is referenced in Doyle's *The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire* as a “story for which the world is not yet prepared.” The script is written well and in the style of a Sherlock Holmes mystery. However, not much is done to adapt it for young audiences; they will likely be confused throughout the performance. The inclusion of the Baker Street Irregulars characters seems to have an attempt to make it a TYA piece. The play includes a large cast covering a variety of ages and is suitable for a community or family theatre to produce. The production requirements are somewhat extensive as the play takes place in many different locations.

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