



2011

Communication No. 304

The Pleasant Places of Florida



Booooo! Hisssss! We have to wait until "autumn" for the next set of shows from BBC1 of Holmes & Watson. And guess what? Again - just 3 shows!

SPEAKING OF RETURNING.....

For over ten years, players have donned the hat and magnifying glass of the world's greatest detective, in a dozen games for PC and handheld systems. This year, Sherlock Holmes returns, but not just for PC. This fall the world's greatest detective will also be appearing on the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360.

The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Testament of Sherlock is playable with a gamepad in a third person view with revamped controls that suit the console. The title will attempt to immerse gamers in 1898 London as they conduct an investigation. All of the evidence suggests that our hero is the main suspect in a case involving theft, fraud and double-crossings. Unable to prove his own innocence, Holmes is rapidly losing London's trust as doubt spreads throughout the city. Even Doctor Watson's faith in his friend begins to waver, as the famous detective flees Scotland Yard and raises further suspicion. Is Holmes capable of murder?

<http://www.avault.com/news/sherlock-holmes-returns-fall/>



Any fan of 30 *ROCK* will recognize Sherlock Homey from one of the many movie posters in character Tracey Morgan's dressing room.

HE'S EVERYWHERE

On a recently show of *FACT OR FAKED: PARANORMAL FILES*, the team investigates The Beast of Dartmoor. No conclusion was reached. They thought it might perhaps be a hybrid. To view footage, go to <http://xfinitytv.comcast.net/tv/Fact-or-Faked%3A-Paranormal-Files/106803/1564783113/Beast-of-Dartmoor/videos> In the meantime, locals explain that it is one of the dogs sent by the devil to take souls back to hell. Gee, I didn't think Sir Charles was all that bad... In the play *The Ruling Class*, one of the characters signs a legal document as Mycroft Holmes ... On the 4/25 airing of the TV show *Hawaii 5-0*, Steve McGarrett is seen in his office reading *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. Within the same show, he translates a code left by his father of dancing stick figures... Martin Freeman (BBC Sherlock) is set to play Bilbo Baggins in the upcoming Peter Jackson film *The Hobbit*... Go to www.picsearch.com/pictures/books%20and%20comics/comics/comics%20s-st/sherlock%20holmes.html for pictures of Holmes... If you have some time, you might like to browse through the astounding website Tim Johnson of Sherlock Holmes Special Collections has put up here: <http://umedia.lib.umn.edu/assets/Sherlock%2520Holmes?keys=Sherlock%20Holmes&sc=keyword>... Allan Foster, a tour operator in Edinburgh, has published *Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle Locations*, a guide of places throughout Scotland and England... The Ha Ha boys toured England recently with their "elementary comedy thriller" *Ha Ha Holmes! The Beast of the Blistervilles* ... Mantelpiece Theatre recently performed *Sherlock Holmes and the Royal Wedding*, a spoof based loosely on *SCAN* and inspired by the royal wedding on BBC Gloucestershire... Imagine a world where Sherlock Holmes is King. It's coming in October as a BBC radio drama *The Rivals*. (cont. on page 2)

SHERLOCK HOLMES SEQUEL NEWS

Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law are currently hard at work on the sequel to Guy Ritchie's *Sherlock Holmes*, and *Entertainment Tonight* has been kind enough to share the first behind-the-scenes look at the film's progress.

ET cameras paid a visit to the set recently, where they were greeted by an unsettling sight: star Robert Downey Jr. in drag. Too bad Ricky Gervais didn't know about this -- he could have worked it into his comments at the Golden Globes.

RDJ and his co-star sit down and elaborate on why they've reunited with director Guy Ritchie to make a sequel (they had so much fun making the first film that they felt the need to come back for more) and the nature of their characters (they're as co-dependent as ever). We get a look at new co-star Noomi Rapace in action too.

Speaking of Rapace, both Downey Jr. and Law are effu-

sive in their praise -- going so far as to say that the *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* star is probably tougher than both of them, which makes the action scenes in the new film quite intriguing. Her character certainly doesn't look like Lisbeth Salander.

The sequel finds Holmes and Watson unraveling new mysteries and confronting the evil Professor Moriarty while brawling their way around town. The *ET* segment features footage of the duo hiding out on a train and being forced to traverse the cars in a rather dangerous fashion as well as engaging in a forest fistfight. Things look to be shaping up nicely.

Sherlock Holmes 2 is set to hit theaters Dec. 16 and is currently in post production.

<http://www.popeater.com/2011/01/19/robert-downey-jr-in-drag/>



The Unmissable Sherlock Spoof!

"HA HA HOLMES!"

The BEAST Of The BLISTEVILLES

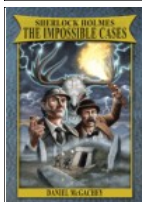
Following the hit national tours of Ha Ha Hamlet! and Ha Ha Ha Hitler!...by jove... its Ha Ha Holmes!

In this exciting and hilarious new show, from theatre's funniest parodists, Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson embark on their most dangerous adventure yet. Throughout history Blisterville Hall has been embroiled in dark mystical legend of a supernatural creature that haunts the nearby moors...

Has the Beast bitten off more than it can chew? Will Fanny and Willy ever come together? Will Holmes find his Deerstalker and will the Deer be happy when he does?

In a thrilling race against time Holmes and Watson try and solve the mystery in this most gripping comedic thriller. The Ha Ha boys always offer a great night out, with mad-cap, knockabout humour. Don't miss them.

It's elementary my dear Watson!



SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE IMPOSSIBLE CASES

Softcover book, Dark Regions Press, 2010, by Daniel McGachey

This book is a collection that was originally titled by the Publisher as *Holmes and Watson versus the Supernatural*. Wiser counsels seem to have prevailed. The author has successfully resisted the temptation to write of vampires, werewolves and mad black magicians in favor of a number of well-crafted tales that skirt the edges of the supernatural. Purists may find only unsubstantiated claims of uncommon beings in series of events with perfectly rational explanations. Knowledgeable persons may realize that the Universe is larger and stranger than we could possibly imagine and strict Sherlockians may chant, "no ghosts need apply."

The format of this collection consists of a lengthy foreword by the editor, a short preface by Dr. Watson titled *The Case of the Confounded Chronicler* and four novellas, followed by "Story Notes" by the editor, that explain some of the references in the text.

Watson's preface reveals to us the Dr. Watson who wrote the Canon, not the genial bumbler whom he portrayed therein. This sensible and thoughtful man appears in each of the stories and is a very pleasant companion. He notes that these tales are never to be published while he and Holmes survive as they might encourage inquiries by the lunatic fringe. This comment, and others, lead to questions of how much Doyle realized that his interest in and fixation with the Supernatural was a product of his own grief at his son's death in The War.

The four novellas are each well-crafted and carefully arranged to allow rational persons a reasonable alternative to Demonic intervention or magical curses. *The Adventure of the Unknown Worm* explores the problem of Isadora (sic) Persano and his "unknown worm" as cited in THOR. The explanation offered is ingenious and plausible, given the circumstances described. It carefully avoids a rational villain and describes a reasonable assault upon sanity based on a simple chemical need. In addition, it is a true horror story.

The Voice in the Smoke offers all the thrills of a séance and dark

(cont. from page 1) Want to buy some original (translation: expensive) material? Check out www.SherlockHolmesPosters.com and www.SherlockHolmesCollectibles.com ... The Cambridge Deer Stalkers' Guild has started "an online Gentleman's clubroom." Check it out at <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/deerstalkers/> if you're interested in Holmes or Victoriana....

unknowns thirsting for vengeance. It is resolved into a tale of jealousy, hatred and cruelty that can be explained by memory, shock and trauma. The circumstances are complex and the resolution is reminiscent of the best of Holmes' Canonical investigations. Even his touch of jealousy is forgivable. *The Adventure of the Red Barrow Horror* is a true mystery that spans centuries. It tells the tale of the Addleton Tragedy cited in GOLD. This tale approaches the supernatural more closely than all the others, but can be attributed to Watson's imagination as well.

The final tale, *The Adventure of the Pallid Mask* is firmly based in Victorian Literature fads and presents a viewpoint that gave rise to the growth of Spiritualism and interest in the esoteric that was popular into the 20th Century. Mycroft appears actively and tries to manipulate Sherlock and Watson while struggling with a looming World War.

The whole collection are well-written and intriguing stories that may, with few exceptions, be attributed to "real" causes. They are also truly horrible narratives of dark and fearsome events.

Reviewed by: Philip K. Jones, February, 2011

CALENDAR SHERLOCKIANA 2011

June - Aug. - Miracle Theatre Co. tours U.K. with *The Death of Sherlock Holmes*, a new play by Bill Scott. Check out www.miracletheatre.co.uk

June 29 - July 1 - *Malice Domestic Mystery Convention 23* at the Hyatt Regency, Bethesda, MD. www.malicedomestic.org Note: Panel discussion: *Game's Afoot: SH influence on modern sleuths.*

Sept. 18 - *Buchercon Convention*, St. Louis, MO bouchercon2011.com

Oct. 13-14 - *The Friends of Arthur Conan Doyle Collection Symposium*, Toronto.

Nov. 3 - *Gasfitters' Ball*, The Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Queen Victoria. South Pasadena Women's Club. Contact Chrys & Jerry Kegley ccobsla@social.rr.com or cfkovacic@aol.com

Nov. 11-13 - *From Gillette to Brett* conference, Indianapolis, IN.



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theatre
CoMpany

MIRACLE THEATRE
APRIL NEWSLETTER

WWW.MIRACLETHEATRE.CO.UK



Hello – we're back!

Sorry it's all been a bit quiet on the Miracle news front - new team members have joined and as you can imagine with summer just around the corner they have had LOTS to catch up on! Hopefully the wait will have been worth it as we can now announce – TA-DAH! - summer tour dates are now online for *The Death of Sherlock Holmes*.

Dear Friends

It is not long before the big pink van sets off on another foolhardy expedition around the British countryside, packed with waterproof scenery and intrepid actors, prepared for the occasional night of shouting their words through horizontal rain - but looking forward to those balmy moonlit evenings when performing outdoors becomes a truly magical and rewarding experience.

So, this year we will be conjuring up the world of Sherlock Holmes: well-travelled territory you may think but - fear not! - this incarnation of the great detective will produce laughter, amazement and confusion in unexpected ways, without sacrificing any of the tension of the classic 'whodunnit'. Prepare to be thrilled!

The Death of Sherlock Holmes, is touring to over 40 venues across south west England and Wales, from 1st June to 29th August and tickets are now on sale.

More about the show

It's a dangerous time for Sherlock Holmes: preparing for his final battle with the criminal mastermind Moriarty, he stumbles upon a most ingenious crime.

Faced with a web of questionable motives, bizarre weapons and devilish disguises, Sherlock and Watson head off at breakneck speed on a trail which leads from 221b Baker Street, via the Swiss Alps, to a suburban séance

bursting with paranormal goings on.

Written and directed by Bill Scott, we're stirring up all the ingredients of the best Sherlock Holmes mystery with a large measure of comedy to bring you a period thriller with a sting in its tail!

The Team

We are so pleased with this summer's production team. Jim Carey is back with us writing the musical score, we have innovative design by Alan and Jude Munden and - even if we say it ourselves - a corker of a cast! Steve Jacobs, Ben Dyson, Catherine Lake, Wesley Griffith and Rebecca Rowe – are all now busy rehearsing the mind-boggling 'whodunwhat' that will push your detective skills to the limit!

**Steve Jacobs as
Sherlock Holmes.**



Neat looking Holmesian statue, right? **WRONG!!**

New from The Living Statue Company, this pewter silver Sherlock Holmes Living Statue is the latest and most exciting addition to their collection. Custom made for a performance in Indonesia, LSC's version of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's quintessential detective stands magnificently surveying all around him.

Carefully investigating with his magnifier, Sherlock will inspect all your event's guests, who knows what he might find!

<http://www.thelivingstatuecompany.com/sherlockholmeslivingstatue2.html>



The Pleasant Places of Florida

(founded in 1972)

Rev. Leslie Marshall, B.S.I. 1972-1977
Dr. Benton Wood, B.S.I. 1977 - 1988
Bill Ward, B.S.I. 1988 - 1989
Dr. Benton Wood, B. S.I. 1989 -1996
The Last Court of Appeals 1997 - present

For the Record:

THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS

David McCallister, *Master of the House*,
most gatherings, host of the annual Wessex Cup)

(Master of Ceremonies at

Carl Heifetz, *Representative (both with the Servants and with the Tradespeople)*,
(Correspondent)

Wanda & Jeff Dow, *The Papers on the Sundial*,
and Bookkeeping)

(Communications

Mike Bryan, *The Unopened Newspaper*,
Wood Fund)

(The Marshall

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The Pleasant Places of Florida

U.S.A.

