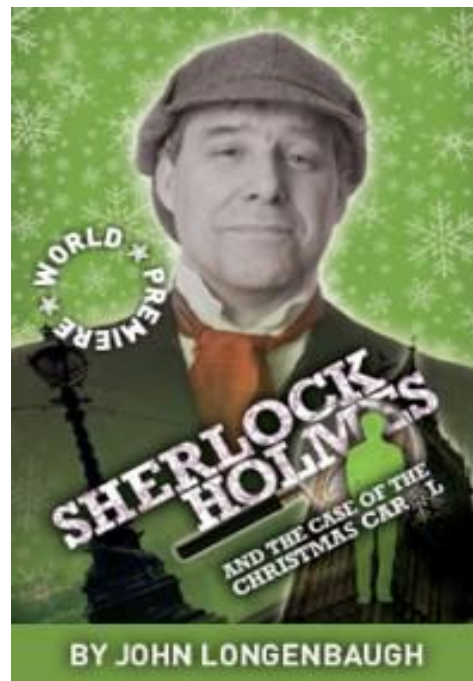

**SHERLOCK
HOLMES
and the
Case of the
Christmas Carol**



A Guide to the Show

Table of Contents

Play Synopsis	1
The Playwright	2
The Set	3
The Costumes	4
The Cast	5
The World of Sherlock Holmes	6-7
Notes & Discussion Questions	8-9

Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol

A Guide to the Show

Created by
Sonja Lowe

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Karen Lund	Associate Artistic Director
Mark Lund	Design Director
Anne Hitt	Production Stage Manager
Sarah Burch Gordon	Costume Shop Manager
Pam Nolte	TTC Ambassador/Co-Founder
Rick Rodenbeck	Finance & Operations Director
Nikki Visel	Marketing Director
Daytona Strong	Communications Manager
Sonja Lowe	Marketing Assistant
Zach Brittle	Director of Development
Anne Kennedy	Development Associate
Jenny Cross	Patron Services Manager
Sarah Madson	Box Office Manager
Marty Gordon	Custodian
Sara K. Willy	Director of Education
Nathan Jeffrey	Director of Outreach
Suzanne Townsend	E & O Associate
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Laura Bannister	Patron Representative
Alysha Curry	Patron Representative

TAPROOT THEATRE

C O M P A N Y

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*We value faith. We respect people
We celebrate theatre.*

Sherlock Holmes

and the Case of the Christmas Carol

A World Premiere by John Longenbaugh

Directed by Scott Nolte

Play Synopsis

Three years ago Sherlock Holmes and his arch nemesis, Professor Moriarity fought with each other at the top of Reichenbach Falls and fell together over the edge. Both were presumed dead. Now, however, during the Christmas season of 1894, Holmes has re-appeared in London. His old companion Dr. Watson, his landlady Mrs. Hudson, the policeman, Lestrade and many other former compatriots are prepared to welcome Holmes back with open arms, but the Holmes that has returned to them is much different than the Holmes they used to know.

Although still brilliant, this Holmes is bitter, angry and has no time for people. He has decided to devote his days to the solitary study of chemistry where the table of elements is always exact, accurate results can be predicted, and there are no annoying demands from “whining humanity.”

But on Christmas Eve Holmes has an encounter with some ghosts. First there is the spirit of his old enemy Professor Moriarity who warns Holmes that his life needs to be reformed and that three spirits will visit him during the night. Then, *The Ghost of Christmas Past* takes Holmes on a journey to his boyhood and we see the friendships, the first love and the choices that made Holmes who he is. *The Ghost of Christmas Present* takes Holmes to the London police station and shows him innocent people who have been wrongly accused of crimes because without Holmes’ deductive skills the police have jumped to the wrong conclusions. *The Ghost of Christmas Future* shows Holmes scenes from WWI and introduces him to a brilliant professor of chemistry. The Professor has invented powerful toxic gases to be used in the war and has no guilt about the death and suffering that his inventions will cause. With a shock, Holmes realizes that “The Professor” is himself.

As the terrible visions from the future fade away, Holmes returns to the present. It is Christmas morning in 1894 and Holmes has some choices to make that will determine the shape of his future.

The Playwright

Spotlight on John Longenbaugh



John Longenbaugh has been writing and directing plays here in Seattle and elsewhere for over 20 years. A graduate of London's Central School of Speech and Drama, he's been the artistic director of Ursa Major Theatre and Theatre Babylon, and has written nearly a dozen full-length plays and a lot of shorter ones. Favorites include *Scotch and Donuts*, *Little White Pill*, *The Man Who Was Thursday* (staged at Taproot in 2002), *How to be Cool*, and the collected evening of shorts *Arcana*, recently staged at Open Circle Theatre. He is a proud member of The Dramatist Guild and The Sound of the Baskervilles. (photo by Eric Stuhaug)

Notes from the Playwright

What do I want for Christmas? As I get older, that's a harder question to answer. What I really want, along with health, peace, and my friends and family around me (for a week or two, anyway!) are a couple of holiday traditions with a few surprises thrown in.

I decided to write a play as a Christmas present to myself—one I might actually enjoy watching as an alternate to *Christmas Carol*, which I've seen over a dozen times, most often in ACT's superb adaptation. Dickens' classic never fails to provide the right amount of humor, drama, and emotion, from that first growling encounter between Scrooge and poor Bob Cratchit to the redemption of the old skinflint, dancing about in his nightshirt. But surprises? Not so much.

And so, enter Sherlock Holmes. Conan Doyle had already given his hero a Christmas story of his own, "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle," in which a Yuletide goose conceals a priceless jewel. But though Holmes in this story reveals a streak of Christian forgiveness and an affable acceptance of the holiday, it doesn't dispel the impression that he doesn't like people very much. Without the friendship of loyal Watson, Holmes is a solitary figure, aloof, unattached and given to perilously dark moods. He's the last person you'd find at a holiday party.

Of course this is as it should be. A warm and sociable Holmes, full of good cheer and bonhomie, isn't really Holmes at all, is he? But what if the already dark turn of his intellect were to turn...just a little darker?

So two classic Victorian stories meet, Dickens' tale of a crabbed but redeemable old miser and Conan Doyle's immortal character, a brilliant man with some very dark demons. I'm grateful to Taproot, Scott Nolte, and Terry Moore for bringing my idea to the stage. We believe that you will find this story a pleasingly familiar Christmas concoction—with a few surprises added to give it some extra kick!

--John Longenbaugh

The Set



The Setting

Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol opens in Holmes' study at the famous 221B Baker Street. Over the course of the play however the Christmas Ghosts take Holmes all over England and all through history. A play like this, with several different locations, always presents a challenge for a set designer. Mark Lund has designed a versatile platform for the directors and actors to work with as they tell the story. The upper part of the stage is recognizable as 221B Baker Street, but the lower platforms are non-descript cobblestone streets that can serve to represent any location that the script calls for.

What to Watch For

During the scenes that take place outside of 221B Baker Street what clues are given in the lighting or the use of props to indicate the location?

Production Team	
Director	Scott Nolte
Scenic Designer	Mark Lund
Sound Designer	Mark Lund
Costume Designer	Sarah Burch Gordon
Stage Manager	Britney Smallwood
Lighting Designer	Jody Briggs
Dramaturg	Judy Naegeli
Dialect Coach	Shanna Ridenour

The Costumes



Characters and Quick Changes

With the exception of Terry Edward Moore (playing Sherlock Holmes) each actor in *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol* plays at least two or three different characters. For example Actor Pam Nolte needs costumes for her roles as Mrs. Hudson, The Ghost of Christmas Past and a WWI professor (see design sketches above). Each of these costumes needs to be distinctive to the character, but they can't be too complicated or the actor will not have time to change backstage before their next scene.

What to Watch For

See if you can identify the same actor returning as a different character. What costume pieces (wigs, mustaches, hats, coats etc) are used to make each character different?



The Cast



Spotlight on Terry Edward Moore

In *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol* playwright John Longenbaugh wrote the role of Sherlock Holmes with Seattle actor, Terry Edward Moore, in mind.

"Terry's got the particular aspects you're looking for in Sherlock," the playwright says. "He's got that lean look about him. And the quality of an actor seeming to be the smartest, quickest-thinking man in the room."¹

Terry Edward Moore has a long history of performing in Dickens- and Conan Doyle-related productions.

1982-1984: *A Christmas Carol* at Indiana Repertory Theater in Indianapolis, in an adaptation by Tom Haas. "I played Young Scrooge," Moore recalls, "and one of the narrators. In the third year, I added Fred."

May 1994: He was Sherlock in *Sherlock's Veiled Secret*, a world premiere by K.C. Brown at the Bathhouse Theatre.

2003, 2004 and 2006: Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* at ACT

2005: Moore played Marley in *A Christmas Carol* at ACT

For past couple of years, Moore's voice has also been heard in Imagination Theatre's radio productions of the *Classic Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (Mycroft in "The Greek Interpreter" and "The Bruce-Partington Plans"; Blessington in "The Resident Patient"; and Stackhurst in "The Lion's Mane")

From Page to Stage

When *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol* went into rehearsals in October 2010, playwright John Longenbaugh commented on the watching his words come to life as the actors took on their roles.

"I sat in on a rehearsal on Saturday and it was an intense pleasure to see how the cast, led by Moore, has already mined more ore out of the script than I consciously knew was there. Lucky me, to have such wonderful actors and such a great company as Taproot willing to take a chance on a world premiere..."

John Longenbaugh, "Longenblog" Posted Oct 31, 2010



¹ Berson, Misha. "Why is Sherlock Holmes Still So Popular? Is Elementary." *Seattle Times*. Published Saturday October 30, 2010.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/television/2013275881_sherlock31.html.

*Top picture: Terry Edward Moore/Bottom Picture: LtoR Aaron Lamb, Jesse Notehelfer and Terry Edward Moore

The World of Sherlock Holmes

A Glossary of Terms from the Play compiled by dramaturg Judy Naegeli



Baker Street Irregulars: A group of street urchins who occasionally gathered information for Holmes. The head of the group was called Wiggins. Holmes paid them a shilling a day, with a guinea prize for an important clue. The Irregulars appeared in the very first Sherlock Holmes story, *A Study in Scarlet*.

Baritsu: Probably a reference to *bartitsu*, a form of self-defense developed in England that included elements of judo, boxing, French savate, stick fighting, and jujutsu.

Christmas, 1914, at the Western Front: The Christmas Truce, an actual historical event about which books have been written and movies made.

Crimean War: October 1853–February 1856. A war fought on the Crimean Peninsula in which Britain and France supported the Ottoman Turkish forces against the Russians.

Ethyl bromoacetate: Tear gas

Frohliche Weihnachten: “Merry Christmas” in German, pronounced “FRO-lick-uh VIE-knock-ten”

Isaac Atkinson: A highwayman who specialized in robbing lawyers and was hanged in 1640.

Jerries: The name for all German soldiers. Similar to “Yanks” for Americans, “Frogs” for Frenchmen, and “Japs” for Japanese. Possibly slightly derogatory, only because of connotation, but not offensive.

Lestrade: The Scotland Yard inspector whom Holmes worked with on several occasions in the Conan Doyle stories.



Meerschaum: The name of the mineral used to make a specific type of tobacco pipe.

Moriarty: Holmes’ arch-nemesis and a criminal genius. In the Conan Doyle stories Holmes refers to Moriarty as “The Napoleon of Crime”.

Mrs. Hudson: The landlady at 221B Baker Street, not mentioned in all of the Sherlock Holmes stories, but prominent in the novels. From “The Adventure of the Dying Detective”:

Mrs. Hudson, the landlady of Sherlock Holmes, was a long-suffering woman. Not only was her first-floor flat invaded at all hours by throngs of singular and often undesirable characters but her remarkable lodger showed an eccentricity and irregularity in his life which must have sorely tried her patience. His incredible untidiness, his addiction to music at strange hours, his occasional revolver practice within doors, his weird and often malodorous scientific experiments, and the atmosphere of violence and danger which hung around him made him the very

worst tenant in London. On the other hand, his payments were princely. I have no doubt that the house might have been purchased at the price which Holmes paid for his rooms during the years that I was with him.



Mycroft Holmes: Sherlock Holmes older brother, mentioned occasionally in the Conan Doyle stories, was a consultant for the British government. Mycroft was even smarter than Holmes but he didn't possess the energy to put his intellect to work:

...he has no ambition and no energy. He will not even go out of his way to verify his own solutions, and would rather be considered wrong than take the trouble to prove himself right. Again and again I have taken a problem to him, and have received an explanation which has afterwards proved to be the correct one. And yet he was absolutely incapable of working out the practical points...(Sherlock Holmes, speaking of his brother in "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter")

Newgate Calendar: A book which recounts the careers of various English criminals, from shoplifters to poisoners.

From the "Ex-Classics Website" <http://www.exclassics.com/newgate/ngintro.htm>:

"The Newgate Calendar was one of those books, along with a Bible, Foxe's Book of Martyrs and the Pilgrim's Progress, most likely to be found in any English home between 1750 and 1850. Children were encouraged to read it because it was believed to inculcate principles of right living -- by fear of punishment if not by the dull and earnest morals appended to the stories of highwaymen and other felons."

Pea-soup fogs: A nickname for the dense polluted air in London caused by the perfect storm of stagnant cold air and the overuse of coal burning as a source of heat. Also called a "pea-souper."

Princess Mary boxes: The British government sent a Christmas package to every soldier in the trenches during WWI. The 'Princess Mary box' was a metal case engraved with an outline of George V's daughter and filled with chocolates and butterscotch, cigarettes and tobacco, and a picture card of Princess Mary. It also contained a facsimile of George V's greeting to the troops, 'May God protect you and bring you safe home.'

The seven percent solution: A reference to Holmes' habit of using cocaine. In the Victorian era cocaine was considered a fairly harmless, non-addictive stimulant. Conan Doyle, however, had knowledge of the drug's effects and in his stories, Dr Watson admonishes Holmes about his dangerous habit:

"But consider! Count the cost! Your brain may, as you say, be roused and excited, but it is a pathological and morbid process, which involves increased tissue change, and may at least leave a permanent weakness. You know, too, what a black reaction comes upon you. Surely the game is hardly worth the candle. Why should you, for a mere passing pleasure, risk the loss of those great powers with which you have been endowed? Remember that I speak not only as one comrade to another, but as a medical man to one for whose constitution he is to some extent answerable" (Dr. Watson in The Sign of Four).

The Silent System: The form of imprisonment in Victorian England and Wales that required all inmates to remain silent at all times, enacted in most prisons around 1835.

Stradivarius: A type of violin made by an Italian violinmaker in the 17th century. He made over 1,100 instruments, but only 650 survive today.

Trench foot: Trench foot is a fungal infection of the feet brought on by long exposure to damp and cold. Soldiers during WWI commonly suffered from Trench foot.