

BOSTON AND BEYOND/ART & ENTERTAINMENT

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By Susan Mulford

THROUGH APRIL 22: *MISS HOLMES*



Brittany Rolfs, Damon Singletary, Marge Dunn
Photo by Nile Scott Shots

Greater Boston Stage Company in Stoneham presents Christopher M. Walsh's gender bending comedic drama that takes you on a sleuthing journey from the drawing-rooms of London, to its main streets and back alleys, to Scotland Yard, Holmes' flat, the hospital and more due to the exceedingly clever Scenic Design and Projection created by Katherine Monthei. Based on Arthur Conan Doyle's famous characters, the play surrounds the intensely observant and famously fictional British detective, Sherlock Holmes, who utilizes forensic science and an absurdly acute talent for logical reasoning, joined by the ever-present faithful friend, assistant and keenly astute flat mate who is designed to keep the often-sociopathic Holmes' moral compass in check, Dr. Watson.

The production's story-line is as spell binding as any of Doyle's classic novels, with one unique alteration under the pen of playwright Walsh. This crime fighting team have been cleverly transformed into women who fearlessly battle crime while juggling the sharp edge of societal prejudice accorded women in the Victorian era. Miss Holmes, played by Marge Dunn, cryptically observes seemingly hidden clues to "who done it" or "not" ...and manages to spew them out in a crisp, staccato like British accent. She is joined by the kind, cool, gun-toting physician, Dr. Dorothy Watson, performed by Brittany Rolfs, in perfect balance to the character of Holmes.

The feminine duo holds fast to the strengths of their original male namesakes, while allowing the audience a peek into the subjugated world of women in the 1880s. Other original Sherlock characters are Miss Holmes's brother, Mycroft, performed by Alexander Platt and Mrs. Hudson, Holmes' often flustered and frustrated land lady, performed by Boston favorite, Cheryl McMahon. She also artfully segues between the characters of Endora Featherstone and Dr. Anderson. In addition, the strong cast features Daniel Berger-Jones (Thomas Chapman), Shelley Bolman (Inspector Lestrade), Monica Giordano (Lizzy Chapman/ Peggy/ Martha), Damon Singletary (Edwin Greener/ Superintendent) and Patrick Varner (Dr. Michael Stamford/ Reginald). "The game is afoot," and the audience is treated to a story filled with twists and turns that provide for a fun and entertaining ride in the theater. Directed by Weylin Symes, come see "The World's Greatest Detective" as you have never seen "HER" before! For tickets to this engaging show visit www.greaterbostonstage.org.