

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ENDGAME IS AFOOT IN THE LATEST CHAPTER OF THE SHAW'S *SHERLOCK HOLMES* SERIES

- *Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart* in previews July 24 -

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (July 23, 2024) – Craig Hall returns to direct the world premiere of [Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart](#), a new play from reclusive playwright **Reginald Candy**. Holmes's most challenging case yet will keep even seasoned mystery fans guessing until the final curtain. This thrilling cat-and-mouse game begins previews tomorrow at the Festival Theatre.

When bodies start turning up across London with their hearts expertly removed, legendary Baker Street detective Sherlock Holmes (**Damien Atkins**) suspects a case finally worthy of his attention. But even with the support of longtime allies, Dr. Watson (**Ric Reid**) and Mrs. Hudson (**Claire Jullien**), Holmes finds his investigation thwarted at every turn. Worse, the deaths seem to form part of a grisly message taunting the renowned detective. A deadly battle of wits ensues as Holmes races to unmask the enigmatic culprit and stop the murders before it's too late.

Rounding out the cast of *Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart* are **Deborah Castrilli***, **Rais Clarke-Mendes***, **Nehassaiu deGannes**, **Sochi Fried**, **Michael Man****, **Johnathan Sousa**, **Sanjay Talwar**, **Sophia Walker** and **Kelly Wong**.

The Shaw's production of *Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart* features atmospheric set design by **Ken MacKenzie**, period-inspired costume design by **Hanne Loosen**, immersive lighting design by **Bonnie Beecher** and haunting original music and sound design by **John Gzowski**. The production team includes stage manager **Leigh McClymont** and assistant stage managers **Becca Jorgensen** and **Sang-Sang Lee**.

On stage at the [Festival Theatre](#) (10 Queen's Parade) from July 24 to October 13 (available for review beginning August 15), *Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart* is recommended for audience members 12+/Grade 7+. Running time is approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes, including two intermissions.

Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart is generously sponsored by **Hummel Properties Inc.** The Festival Theatre's season is supported by the **Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund (OCAF)**.

Cast:

Damien Atkins
Deborah Castrilli*
Rais Clarke-Mendes*
Nehassaiu deGannes
Sochi Fried
Claire Jullien
Michael Man**
Ric Reid
Johnathan Sousa
Sanjay Talwar

Sherlock Holmes
Sarah/Ensemble
Amelia Lestrade/Ensemble
Mrs. Allstrüd/Ensemble
Miss Mary Sutherland/Ensemble
Mrs. Hudson/Ensemble
Mr. James Ryder/Ensemble
Dr. John Watson
Mr. Hall Pycroft/Ensemble
Inspector Lestrade

Sophia Walker
Kelly Wong

Miss Vespertine Hunter/Ensemble
Mr. Jabez Wilson/Ensemble

Creative & Production

Craig Hall
Ken MacKenzie
Hanne Loosen
Bonnie Beecher
Cameron Davis
John Gzowski
Geoff Scovell
Peter Fernandes
Ximena Pinilla
Aurora Judge
Jeff Pybus
Nathan Bruce
MacKenzie Cornfield
Kelly Wong
Ausar Stewart
Leigh McClymont
Becca Jorgensen
Sang-Sang Lee
Kim Charleen Smith

Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Projection Designer
Original Music and Sound Designer
Fight Director
Assistant Director
Assistant Set Designer
Assistant Costume Designer
Assistant Lighting Designer
Assistant Projection Designer
Projection Design Mentee
Fight Captain
Voice and Dialect Coach
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Production Stage Manager

* The Baillie Cohort is generously supported by the Baillie Family Fund for Education.

** 2024 Christopher Newton intern, Michael Man, is generously sponsored by Marilyn and Charles Baillie.

The Shaw Festival's 2024 season runs through to December 22, with a playbill featuring [Lerner and Loewe's My Fair Lady](#), [One Man, Two Guvnors](#), [Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart](#), [Agatha Christie's Witness for the Prosecution](#), [The Secret Garden](#), [The Orphan of Chao](#), [Candida](#), [The House That Will Not Stand](#), [Snow in Midsummer](#) and [A Christmas Carol](#). The Spiegeltent's season features [The Shaw Variety Show](#), [The Roll of Shaw](#), [Kabarett](#), [Cotton Club](#), [Coffee Concerts](#), [Footlights](#), [Speakeasies](#), [What's In Your Songbook](#) and [Gospel Choir](#).

Direct bus service from Downtown Toronto and Burlington to Niagara-on-the-Lake is available on the [Toronto-Niagara Shaw Express](#). Luxury buses are standard size wheelchair accessible, offer free Wi-Fi and have an on-board host. \$34 return per person. Ticket to a 2024 performance is required. Please pre-arrange with the Box Office. Schedule is subject to change. Please confirm dates and times with the Shaw Festival Box Office. For more information or to purchase tickets or a seat on the Toronto-Niagara Shaw Express, please contact the Shaw Festival Box Office at 1-800-511-SHAW or visit [shawfest.com](#).

Mask use at The Shaw: Masks are not currently required in our theatres. Though wearing a mask is optional, it is recommended; however, the choice remains at the discretion and comfort of the individual. The Shaw continues to maintain its [Duty of Care](#) measures. Patrons are also requested to refrain from attending any performance or event if presenting COVID-19 symptoms.

The Shaw Festival wishes to acknowledge and honour the land upon which its patrons and company members gather as the historic and traditional territory of First Nations peoples. Recognition and thanks are extended to the Neutral Nation, the Mississauga and the Haudenosaunee for their stewardship of these lands over millennia.

About the Shaw Festival

Inspired by the spirit of Bernard Shaw, the Shaw Festival creates unforgettable theatrical encounters. The Shaw Festival is a place where people who are curious about the world gather to share the unique experience of live theatre and to create a deeper human connection with the artists, the beauty and abundance of Niagara and with each other. For more information, please visit shawfest.com.

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