

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 disembodied human hearts start turning up across London, 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.

The Festival Theatre's season is supported by the **Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund (OCAF)**.

Cast:

Damien Atkins	Sherlock Holmes
Deborah Castrilli*	Sarah/Ensemble
Rais Clarke-Mendes*	Amelia Lestrade/Ensemble
Nehassaiu deGannes	Mrs. Allstrüd/Ensemble
Sochi Fried	Miss Mary Sutherland/Ensemble
Claire Jullien	Mrs. Hudson/Ensemble
Michael Man**	Mr. James Ryder/Ensemble
Ric Reid	Dr. John Watson
Johnathan Sousa	Mr. Hall Pycroft/Ensemble
Sanjay Talwar	Inspector Lestrade
Sophia Walker	Miss Vespertine Hunter/Ensemble
Kelly Wong	Mr. Jabez Wilson/Ensemble

Creative & Production

Craig Hall	Director
Ken MacKenzie	Set Designer
Hanne Loosen	Costume Designer
Bonnie Beecher	Lighting Designer
Cameron Davis	Projection Designer
John Gzowski	Original Music and Sound Designer
Geoff Scovell	Fight Director
Peter Fernandes	Assistant Director
Ximena Pinilla	Assistant Set Designer
Aurora Judge	Assistant Costume Designer
Jeff Pybus	Assistant Lighting Designer
Nathan Bruce	Assistant Projection Designer
MacKenzie Cornfield	Projection Design Mentee
Kelly Wong	Fight Captain
Ausar Stewart	Voice and Dialect Coach
Leigh McClymont	Stage Manager
Becca Jorgensen	Assistant Stage Manager
Sang-Sang Lee	Assistant Stage Manager
Kim Charleen Smith	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.

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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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