

## 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.

*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](http://shawfest.com).

### **Connect with the Shaw Festival**

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