



Ineffable Twaddle

"It is my business to know what other people don't know."

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Stuart Davies Has New Play


Huddersfield Daily Examiner
March 6, 2008

Sherlock Holmes has kept Huddersfield writer David Stuart Davies very busy over the last decade. His award-winning play about Arthur Conan Doyle's Victorian sleuth is still touring, nine years after its premiere at Salisbury Playhouse in 1999 with Roger Llewellyn.

Now he has another Holmes play about to delight theatregoers. **The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes**, once again starring Roger Llewellyn, premieres at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford tonight. It then goes on tour, including a trip to Belfast, and will have a two-week season in Edinburgh during the city's festival in August.

It's a subject which has interested David since he was a student at Leeds University and wrote a guide to films featuring the fictional detective. But he also has another hero to focus on—Johnny Hawke, better known as Johnny One Eye. Sure enough, he's a detective and a private one at that. But the time period has moved on to WWII.

Davies, a member of the national committee of the Crime Writers' Association and editor of its monthly magazine, *Red Herring*, admits to being not very hands-on with his play, although he did travel to Surrey to see a rehearsal. "My work is with the words. Once the script is finalised, it's over to the actors, although I might be asked for comments from time to time," says David.

He has vowed in the past to move away from Sherlock Holmes—but it is a subject which keeps returning. "Holmes has supplied me with a lot of material and I have met a lot of people through him, for instance travelling to New York every January for a convention over there...He's a character that fascinates people, so I suppose I shall never give him up completely." 

Old News, Part Deux

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)
February 16, 2006 Thursday

Report Urges Better Use of Sidney, B.C. Facility


Sherlock Holmes just might be the man to give the Mary Winspear Centre a jumpstart. Among the 42 recommendations for the community meeting place on Sidney's Beacon Avenue is the notion that it should host a series of festivals—with an annual Sherlock Holmes-inspired gathering topping the list.

"There are hundreds of Sherlock Holmes clubs around the world," said Michael Wicks, author of an 80-page report on the centre, commissioned by the Town of Sidney. "We certainly believe that there's huge mileage in that. There's all sorts of things one could tie in with it."

"Basically what we're saying is it's an incredibly wonderful facility that's not really quite making the most of it. There's an opportunity there to do great things."

One step would be for the nonprofit Memorial Park Society, which runs the centre, to take more of an "entrepreneurial" approach, Wicks said. "It just needs to become a little bit more commercial-minded."

Wicks said the presence of the 310-seat Charlie White Theatre sets the Mary Winspear Centre apart from many other community centres. "One of the points we made was that with a facility like that, it's very easy to run it just as if it was a community centre, and really it's more of a multiplex facility."

A March 2008 visit to the Centre's website shows that recent and/or upcoming events include an evening of New Orleans music; musical performer Lorne Elliott; dancer and mimist Christian Swensen; the play "Hockey Mom Hockey Dad"; a performance by the Victoria Chamber Orchestra; the Peninsula Players presentation of "A Shot in the Dark"; a concert by Johnny Bagpipes; the Gilbert & Sullivan Society's presentation of "Patience"; and the Four Seasons Musical Theatre presentation of "The Little Mermaid", but alas nothing at all Sherlockian! 

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