



## Audition Packet

# *Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*

### **Director: Justin Peck**

Justin Peck is a Duluth-based actor who appeared most recently in *Mamma Mia!* and *Our Town* on the NorShor stage, and in *1984* at The Underground. Justin studied Film at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and helps coordinate the NorShor Classic Film Series and the SLAC Art of Film series. He studied improv at the Brave New Workshop, and has been involved in performing, writing, directing, and producing theater regionally for the past decade. Justin has been a Sherlock Holmes fan ever since he read the Illustrated Classics Edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in kindergarten, and he is very excited to collaborate on bringing this story to life on the Underground stage.

### **Audition Information**

AUDITIONS: 10am – 12pm, July 14, 2018

CALLBACKS: 5pm, July 15, 2018

- Please sign up for a 5-minute audition slot by stopping by or calling the Playhouse office: 218-733-7555
- Auditions will be held at the NorShor Theatre Rehearsal Studios, 211 East Superior St, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (skywalk level); *If you cannot make these auditions, please contact Justin Peck to arrange another time.* ([justinpeck@gmail.com](mailto:justinpeck@gmail.com), 952.818.9238)
- Read the Script. Available for checkout at Playhouse office (\$5 deposit, 3 days)
- Bring a picture and resume. Sample picture resumes are available on our website ([duluthplayhouse.org](http://duluthplayhouse.org) under 'auditions' tab).
- The Duluth Playhouse and Underground auditions are open to all actors and actresses, including those who may be auditioning for the first time and professional or Equity actors and actresses.
- WHAT TO PREPARE:
  - Please prepare all audition sides included at the end of this document
  - Side 1: Be prepared to read both Holmes and Watson
  - Side 2: Be prepared to read LeStrade
  - Side 3: Be prepared to read Miss Stapleton

### **Rehearsal and Performance Information:**

**Rehearsals** begin August 20<sup>th</sup> and will run Mon–Fri 6:30pm–9:30pm. Times during tech week may vary.

**Performance Dates:** October 5-7 & 12-14 @ 7:30pm ... Performances will be in The Underground

# ***Baskerville: Synopsis and Character Breakdown***

## **SYNOPSIS**

Put on your deerstalker cap, the play's afoot! Comedic genius Ken Ludwig (*Lend Me a Tenor, Moon Over Buffalo*) transforms Arthur Conan Doyle's classic, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, into a murderously funny theatrical adventure. The male heirs of the Baskerville line are being dispatched one by one, but Sherlock Holmes is on the case! A dizzying web of clues unravels as five actors deftly portray more than forty characters. Does a wild hellhound prowl the moors of Devonshire? Can Holmes and Watson discover the truth in time? Join the fun and see how far from elementary the truth can be.

## **CHARACTER BREAKDOWN**

**Sherlock Holmes:** Highly intelligent, confident, charismatic, quick-witted, obsessive. Thinks very highly of his close friend Watson. A sophisticated mind who savors adventure and an intriguing mystery, and has a manic gleam of mischief in his eyes. A mind that works overtime.

**Doctor Watson:** Smart, grounded, full of heart and wonder, lives to have adventures and assist his close friend Holmes. We see the play through his eyes. He is the heart and soul of the play.

**Actor One:** Must show great versatility and nimbleness physically and vocally (including multiple dialects). Plays multiple roles (over 10), including Stapleton (seemingly geeky butterfly lover who conceals a psychopath within), Barrymore (mournful caretaker of Baskerville Hall), Milker (scrappy Dickensian urchin boy), Lucy (loving wife of Wilson), and Dr. Mortimer (elegant, friendly, passionate).

**Actor Two:** must show great versatility and nimbleness physically and vocally (including multiple dialects). Plays multiple roles, including Sir Hugo Baskerville (a brutal, cruel Cavalier), Wilson (exuberant, hearty head of messenger office), Sir Henry Baskerville (young Texan relation to Baskervilles, open-hearted, earnest, ready for adventure and to fall in love), and Inspector Lestrade (cocky police inspector).

**Actress One:** Must show great versatility and nimbleness physically and vocally (including multiple dialects). Plays multiple roles, including Miss Stapleton (Stapleton's initially secretive, scared "sister" who passionately falls in love with Sir Henry), Cartwright (scrappy Dickensian urchin boy), Mrs. Barrymore (severe, humorless Swedish caretaker of Baskerville Hall), Mrs. Hudson (older, maternal housekeeper for Holmes).

**Audition Side 1**  
**(Holmes and Watson are examining a cane)**

**HOLMES**

The inscription says right here on this metal band: “To Doctor John Mortimer: good luck from his friends at the CCH, 1894.” What do you make of it, Watson?

**WATSON**

Well applying your methods, Holmes, though I’m sure I can never equal them, I’d say that because the stick is scratched on the bottom, the man likes to take long walks and he lives in the country. Therefore, CCH stands for “Country Club Hunt.” And because such a gift is generally given upon retirement, I’d say that the fellow’s a successful, elderly medical man who has lived in the country his entire life and is obviously well-beloved by his friends.

**HOLMES**

Excellent, Watson. Truly remarkable.

**WATSON**

Am I correct then?

**HOLMES**

No, you’re completely wrong.

**WATSON**

Really, Holmes –

**HOLMES**

But you inspire me, Watson. Like John Falstaff, you are not only witty in yourself, but the cause that wit is in other men. In point of fact, as the cane tells us, our Doctor Mortimer is a young man under thirty who used to work at Charing Cross Hospital – “CCH” – here in London. He has lived in the country for the past five years, and he is amiable, unambitious, absent-minded, and the possessor of a favorite medium-sized dog.

## Audition Side 2

(Holmes is meeting Detective Inspector LeStrade at the train station)

**LESTRADE**

Well? Anything good this time, or is it just some Majaraja's missin' knickers?

**HOLMES**

It's the biggest thing in years. Are you armed?

**LESTRADE**

Does a duck piss in a pond?

**HOLMES**

Thank you for such a vivid metaphor. Did you bring the warrant I asked for?

**LESTRADE**

Does a bear go into the woods and –

**HOLMES**

*Thank you.* I need someone to arrest the most *singular criminal mind* I have ever come across.

**LESTRADE**

Well, what are we waitin' for? Let's go get the bugger and slam 'im to rights!

## Audition Side 3

(Miss Stapleton races up to Watson, clearly distraught)

**MISS STAPLETON**

Go back! Go straight back to London instantly!

**WATSON**

Wh-why should I go back?

**MISS STAPLETON**

I can't explain. But for God's sake, do what I ask you.

**WATSON**

But I've only just arrived.

**MISS STAPLETON**

Oh, can't you tell when a warning is for your own good?! Start tonight! Get away from this place at all costs! Shh! Jack is coming. Not a word of what I've just –

*(all sweetness and light: )*

Hahahaha! Would you mind getting that orchid for me amongst the moor-tails yonder? And oh, just look at that rabbit, isn't he adorable!

# Playhouse Audition Form

Please bring this completed form with you to the audition along with a **resume** & current **photo or headshot**. The photo/headshot can be in an upper corner of the resume or attached separately.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address (Including Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Hair Color \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a particular role in the show you are most interested in? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you accept another part if not offered any listed above? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not get a part, would you be interested in working on tech crew or backstage? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you sing, dance, play piano or have other special talents? If so, please explain level of skill: *(Please list any musical instruments that you play and skill level)*

Do you have **ANY** conflicts with the rehearsal/performance schedule? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list ALL conflicts below (be as specific as possible to dates, times). Additional conflicts after being cast may not be accepted.**