

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Executive Producer Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Greta Hays
press@arenastage.org, 202-600-4056

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WORLD PREMIERE OF KEN LUDWIG'S
BASKERVILLE: A SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY
BRINGS MYSTERY AND MAYHEM TO ARENA STAGE
JANUARY 16-FEBRUARY 22, 2015

*** Directed by Amanda Dehnert and featuring five actors who portray over 40 characters ***

(Washington, D.C.) The play's afoot! Sherlock Holmes battles one of his greatest mysteries to date at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater in **Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery***, a world-premiere adaptation from Tony Award-winning playwright Ludwig (Broadway's *Lend Me a Tenor*). Adapted from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's beloved *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, this fast-paced comedic tale of murder, intrigue and a wild hound is directed by **Amanda Dehnert** (Arena Stage's *The Fantasticks*) as part of Arena Stage's 65th anniversary season. A co-production with McCarter Theatre Center, Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* runs **January 16-February 22, 2015 in the Kreeger Theater**.

Gregory Wooddell (Broadway's *The Lyons*, Shakespeare Theatre's *As You Like It*) stars as the famous 19th-century detective Holmes, with **Lucas Hall** (Manhattan Theatre Club's *Tales from Red Vienna*) as his trusty sidekick Doctor Watson. The cast also features **Stanley Bahorek** (Broadway's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*), **Michael Glenn** (Arena Stage's *Good People*) and **Jane Pfitsch** (Broadway's *Cabaret*), who together portray over 40 characters.

"A Sherlock Holmes mystery is the perfect foil for the winter doldrums," shares Artistic Director **Molly Smith**. "Ken Ludwig has worked his magic again and I'm looking forward to seeing our Washington audiences enjoy his storytelling. It's also a pleasure to have a co-production partner in McCarter Theatre and to know that this new play will have eager audiences in two cities—and then maybe more."

"In *Baskerville*, I've tried to stretch the genres of comedy and mystery by taking a story that plays out on a large scale—on London streets, in railway stations and on the bleak, mysterious moors of Devon—and creating it with five actors playing more than 40 roles," says **Ludwig**. "My hope is that the play will speak to the raw, creative joy of being in a live theater and telling a compelling story in a wildly new way. I'm enormously grateful to Arena Stage and McCarter Theatre for making this adventure possible."

"I'm very excited to be working on such a fresh, funny thriller with a playwright as inspiring as Ken and two theaters I deeply admire, Arena and McCarter," adds **Dehnert**. "*Baskerville* is a new play providing one of those rare opportunities to create suspense, excitement and mystery in an overtly theatrical way. I hope people enjoy it as much as we will enjoy creating it."

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Ken Ludwig (*Playwright*) is an internationally acclaimed playwright who has had numerous hits on Broadway, in London and throughout the world. His first play on Broadway, *Lend Me a Tenor*, won two Tony Awards and was nominated for seven. He has also won two Laurence Olivier Awards (England's highest theater honor), two Helen Hayes Awards, the Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America and the Edwin Forrest Award for Services to the American Theatre. His work has been commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Bristol Old Vic and his plays have been performed in over 30 countries in more than 20 languages. His play *Shakespeare in Hollywood* premiered at Arena Stage and won the Charles MacArthur Award for outstanding new play. He has written over 20 plays and musicals, including *Crazy for You*, which won the Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Musical, *Moon Over Buffalo* starring Carol Burnett and Lynn Redgrave, *Twentieth Century* starring Alec Baldwin, *The Fox on the Fairway*, *Leading Ladies* and *The Beaux' Stratagem*. In Washington, Ken's plays have been produced at the Kennedy Center, as well as The Shakespeare Theatre, Signature Theatre, Ford's, Round House, Olney and Adventure Theatres. His latest book *How To Teach Your Children Shakespeare* is published by Random House. Ken is a Sallie B. Goodman Fellow of the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, and he holds degrees from Harvard, where he studied music with Leonard Bernstein, Haverford College and Cambridge University.

Amanda Dehnert (*Director*) returns to Arena Stage after directing *The Fantasticks* (2009/10 season). In Washington, she also directed the staged reading of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona: A Rock Opera* for the Shakespeare Theatre Company. Other regional credits include *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Julius Caesar* and *Into the Woods* for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, *Richard III* for the Public Theatre mobile Shakespeare unit and *Cabaret* for the Stratford Festival. She has written and composed *The Verona Project*, (world premiere, California Shakespeare Theatre) and *Peter Pan: A Play* (Lookingglass Theatre Company). Her production of *My Fair Lady* has been performed at Trinity Repertory Company, Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Cleveland Play House, Virginia Stage Company and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Amanda has served as both associate and interim artistic director at the Trinity Repertory Company in Providence, RI, where she directed over 20 productions. She is an associate professor of theatre at Northwestern University.

Cast Biographies

Gregory Wooddell (*Sherlock Holmes*) makes his Arena Stage debut. He is an Affiliated Artist with the Shakespeare Theatre Company where he has performed over the past 15 years, including productions of *As You Like It*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Twelfth Night*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Othello*, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Cyrano*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Don Carlos*, *Richard II*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Country Wife* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Gregory's Broadway credits include *Cymbeline* and the world premiere of Nicky Silver's *The Lyons*. Regional highlights include the world premiere of Terrence McNally's *Some Men* (Philadelphia Theatre Company), the world premiere of David Grimm's *Miracle at Naples* (Huntington Theatre), the American premiere of Peter Whelan's *School of Night* (Mark Taper Forum) and the title role in *Henry VIII* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater). TV highlights include *Person of Interest*, *30 Rock* and *The Good Wife*. Gregory is a graduate of The Juilliard School.

Lucas Hall (*Doctor Watson*)'s off-Broadway credits include *Tales From Red Vienna* (Manhattan Theater Club), *Beyond the Horizon* (Irish Rep), *The Merchant of Venice*, *Othello* and *All's Well That Ends Well* (Theater For a New Audience), *Edward the Second* (Red Bull Theater) and *The Hasty Heart* (Keen Company) Regionally, he has performed across the country in world premieres and classics at The Goodman, The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, Chicago Shakespeare Theater and Westport Country Playhouse, among others. TV credits include *Elementary* (not playing Watson) and the upcoming untitled Steve McQueen pilot for HBO.

Stanley Bahorek (*Actor One*) makes his Arena Stage debut with *Baskerville*. Broadway/off-Broadway he has appeared as Leaf Coneybear in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Benjamin Britten in *February House* (The Public), *Queen of the Mist* by Michael John LaChiusa and *See Rock City* (Transport Group), *Inventing Avi* (Abingdon Theatre) and *The Explorers Club* (Manhattan Theatre Club). In D.C., he has performed at The Kennedy Center and Ford's Theatre (DeafWest's *Big River*). Other highlights include Mozart in *Amadeus* (The Alley), *Candide*

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in *Candide* (5th Avenue) and recently the new musicals *Amazing Grace*, *Honeymoon in Vegas* and *Nerds* (Barrymore Nomination). He made his NYC directing debut with the new play *Act Normal* and this past year wrote and directed his first film, *Honey, I'm Home*. Stanley is a founding member of Broadway in South Africa and a teacher for TDF's Accessibility Program. Graduate of The University of Michigan.

Michael Glenn (*Actor Two*) returns to Arena Stage, having previously appeared in *Good People*. Michael is a D.C.-based actor who has performed on dozens of stages in the Washington area. A few favorite past productions include *Cat's Cradle*, *The Hothouse* and *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* (Longacre Lea); *Clybourne Park* (Woolly Mammoth); *THIS* (Round House Theatre); *Henry VIII*, *Arcadia* (Folger Theatre); *Absolutely [Perhaps]* and *A Flea in Her Ear* (Constellation) and *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (Signature Theatre). Michael also does work on audio books for Graphic Audio, where he has performed as The Flash, Sinestro and Namor, as well as a host of cowboys, outlaws, mutants and magicians. Michael can be seen next in Studio Theatre's *Jumpers for Goalposts*.

Jane Pfitsch (*Actress One*) makes her Arena Stage debut with *Baskerville*. She appeared on Broadway in the current revival of *Cabaret* with Alan Cumming, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* at Roundabout Theatre Company and in the 2007 Tony Award-winning revival of *Company*, directed by John Doyle. Off-Broadway credits include *Allegro* at Classic Stage Company, *The 39 Steps* at New World Stages and *Pumpgirl* at Manhattan Theatre Club. Other collaborations with John Doyle include *Merrily We Roll Along* at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and *Ten Cents a Dance* at Williamstown Theatre Festival and McCarter Theatre Center. She received an IRNE Best Actress nomination for *Educating Rita* at Huntington Theatre Company and has worked at many other regional theaters, including Actors Theatre of Louisville, San Jose Rep and the Alley Theater in Houston, TX. Film and TV credits include *27 Dresses* and *Elementary*. Jane studied at the Brown/Trinity MFA program.

The creative team for *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* includes set designer **Dan Ostling**, costume designer **Jess Goldstein**, lighting designer **Philip Rosenberg**, sound designers **Joshua Horvath** and **Ray Nardelli**, dialect coach **Gillian Lane-Plescia**, fight director **Thomas Schall**, New York casting director **David Caparellotis**, stage manager **Alison Cote** and assistant stage manager **Kurt Hall**.

Full company bios and images available upon request. Please e-mail press@arenastage.org.

Post-Show Conversations

Connect with our shows beyond the performance at a post-show conversation with artists and staff. January 27, February 4 and February 11 following the noon performance; February 10 following the 7:30 p.m. performance and February 12 following the 8:00 p.m. performance.

Post-Show Discussion with Playwright Ken Ludwig—Saturday, January 24 following the 2:00 p.m. matinee

Join us after the matinee on Saturday, January 24 for a post-show discussion with playwright Ken Ludwig about his process of bringing Sherlock Holmes—one of the most famous literary characters ever written—to life on stage in his fast-paced world premiere.

Production Information

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

Directed by Amanda Dehnert

A co-production with McCarter Theatre Center

January 16-February 22, 2015 in the Kreeger Theater

ABOUT: Get your deerstalker cap on—the play's afoot! From the award-winning mastermind of mayhem, Ken Ludwig (*Lend Me a Tenor*), comes a fast-paced comedy about everyone's favorite detective solving his most

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notorious case. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson must crack the mystery of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” before a family curse dooms its newest heir. Watch as our intrepid investigators try to escape a dizzying web of clues, silly accents, disguises and deceit as five actors deftly portray more than 40 characters. Does a wild hellhound prowl the moors of Devonshire? Can our heroes discover the truth in time? Join the fun and see how far from elementary the truth can be.

CAST:

Sherlock Holmes: Gregory Wooddell
Doctor Watson: Lucas Hall
Actor One: Stanley Bahorek
Actor Two: Michael Glenn
Actress One: Jane Pfitsch

CREATIVE TEAM:

Director: Amanda Dehnert
Set Designer: Dan Ostling
Costume Designer: Jess Goldstein
Lighting Designer: Philip Rosenberg
Sound Designers: Joshua Horvath and Ray Nardelli
Dialect Coach: Gillian Lane-Plescica
Fight Director: Thomas Schall
New York Casting Director: David Caparelliotis
Stage Manager: Alison Cote
Assistant Stage Manager: Kurt Hall

Plan Your Visit

TICKETS: Tickets for *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* are \$45-\$90, subject to change and based on availability, plus applicable fees. For information on savings programs such as student discounts, Southwest Nights, Pay-Your-Age tickets, Family Fun Packs and Hero's Discounts, visit arenastage.org/shows-tickets/single-tickets/savings-programs/. Tickets may be purchased online at arenastage.org, by phone at 202-488-3300 or at the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth St., SW, D.C.

Sales Office/Subscriptions: 202-488-3300
Group Sales Hotline for 10+ Tickets: 202-488-4380
TTY for deaf patrons: 202-484-0247
Info for patrons with disabilities: 202-488-3300

PERFORMANCE DATES:

Sunday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday at 2:00 p.m.
Weekday matinees at noon on Tuesday 1/27 Wednesday, 2/4 & Wednesday, 2/11
Full calendar: <http://tickets.arenastage.org/single/PSDetail.aspx?psn=18185>

Open-captioned performances: 2/4 at 7:30 p.m. & 2/19 at 8:00 p.m.

Audio-described performance: 1/31 at 2:00 p.m.

CATWALK CAFÉ: Prix fixe meals are now available at the Catwalk Café and include a choice of soup or salad, main entrée and dessert. Pre-ordered meals are only \$22 (\$25 if purchased that day). To pre-order and see the

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menu, call 202-488-3300 or visit arenastage.org/plan-your-visit/the-cafe/. The Catwalk Café opens two hours before the show, and reservations are recommended.

To **pre-order drinks** from the Catwalk Café for up to 50% savings (\$6 house wine and beer), visit tickets.arenastage.org/cart/precart.aspx?p=1007.

METRO: Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is only one block from the Waterfront-SEU Metro station (Green Line). When exiting the station, walk west on M Street toward Sixth Street, and the main entrance to the Mead Center is on the right.

PARKING: Parking is available in Arena Stage's on-site garage. Subscribers may purchase parking in advance for \$16. Single ticket buyers may purchase parking in advance for \$18 or on the day of the performance for \$20 on a first-come, first-served basis. Limited handicapped parking is available by reservation. Advanced parking must be reserved by calling 202-488-3300. The entrance to the Mead Center garage is on Maine Avenue between Sixth and Seventh streets, and the garage closes one hour after the day's last performance ends. Patrons can also park at the Public Parking Garage at 1101 Fourth Street, one block from the Mead Center, for \$11. Street parking is also available along Maine Avenue and Water Street.

VALET PARKING: Arena Stage offers valet service at no additional cost to patrons with accessibility needs who call 202-488-3300 in advance to request valet parking. On days when valet parking is being used for accessibility, it is also available to general patrons one hour prior to show time for \$25, based on availability. To use valet parking, pull up to the main entrance on Sixth Street.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Executive Producer Edgar Dobie, is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. Arena Stage produces plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays through the American Voices New Play Institute. Arena Stage impacts the lives of thousands of students annually through its work in community engagement. Now in its seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. arenastage.org.

*Under the leadership of Artistic Director Emily Mann and Managing Director Timothy J. Shields, Princeton, NJ's **McCarter Theatre Center** is recognized as one of the nation's premier theater companies. World premieres include Christopher Durang's *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (2013 Tony Award for Best Play) and *Miss Witherspoon*; Tarell Alvin McCraney's *The Brother/Sister Plays*; Edward Albee's *Me, Myself & I*; Emily Mann's *Having Our Say*; Danai Gurira's *The Convert*; and Regina Taylor's *Crowns*. Other significant Broadway productions include Brian Friel's *Translations*; Nilo Cruz's *Anna in the Tropics*; and *Electra*, directed by David Leveaux. McCarter is supported by Princeton University, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and over 3,000 individuals, corporations, and foundations. www.mccarter.org.*

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