

THEATER/ARTS



Willie Plaschke
COLUMNIST

ICT

Sleuthing with a side of slapstick, shall we?

International City Theatre is turning a legendary detective duo on its head with “Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson — Apt. 2B,” playwright Kate Hamill’s funny, fast-paced reimaging of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s classic tales.

The Los Angeles premiere of this witty play runs Oct. 17 through Nov. 2 at ICT’s Beverly O’Neill Theater home, with two low-priced preview performances on Oct. 15-16.

Directed by Amie Farrell, “Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson” trades Victorian London for a fresh spin on mystery-solving mayhem. Sarah Wolter stars as the razor-sharp Sherlock Holmes, joined by Cheryl Daro as Joan Watson, an unwilling roommate who finds herself drawn into the chaos as Holmes’ reluctant partner-in-crime-solving.

The two form a hilariously codependent and off-kilter “Odd Couple” pairing, stumbling out of pandemic-era malaise and hurtling from caper to caper — until they finally meet their match in a nemesis who may be even cleverer than they are.

Hamill has a knack for crafting charming yet relevant adaptations of classic novels for the stage, novels like “Sense and Sensibility,” “Pride and Prejudice,” “Little Women,” and “Dracula.”

Her adaptation of Sherlock Holmes should be no different.

The ensemble cast features Tamarra Graham (“Fences,” Laguna Playhouse) and Brian Stanton (“Murder on the Links,” ICT), each taking on multiple roles — including iconic Doyle characters like Mrs. Hudson and Inspector Lestrade — with comedic agility.

The production boasts a talented creative team, including set designer Destiny Manewal, lighting designer Maren Taylor, costume designer Kim DeShazo, sound designer Dave Mickey, hair and wigs designer Anthony Gagliardi, and prop designer Patty Briles.

Performances run Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$56 for regular performances (except opening night) and \$59 for Sunday matinees and the Oct. 17 opening.

Preview tickets are \$44.

For more info, go to ictlongbeach.org.