



February, 2021

### MAD Play-Reading Group

“Sherlock Holmes – A Drama in Four Acts”

By William Gillette and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Directed by Jon Gardner

To participate, fill in <https://forms.gle/uF3PvvAYpKe7RcmZ9> no later than Monday, March 1.

Public reading will be Saturday, March 27 at 8pm, viewable via YouTube.

MAD is forming a play-reading group, which will rehearse several times and then perform public readings of scripts. The goal of the group is to have fun participating.

The group will start with the play, “Sherlock Holmes – A Drama in Four Acts.” Casting for the play will be done through an online Google form with the possibility of online auditions if necessary. There will be two to three weekly rehearsals during March, leading up to the final public reading. All participation will be virtual over Zoom. Participation will count toward MAD non-voting member status. Notice: this play depicts cocaine use.

To participate, please fill in the form online, as soon as you can, but no later than Monday March 1. If you would like to participate in an offstage role and/or direct future play readings, you can indicate that on the form. The script is available from Kindle or Google Play for \$0.99; each participant will purchase their own electronic copy of “The Theatrical Sherlock Holmes”.

“Sherlock Holmes – A Drama in Four Acts,” was written by William Gillette with help from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. It is an original story, not an adaptation. It was first produced in 1899 with Gillette playing Holmes; a role that he repeated many times over the next 35 years. Gillette’s use of a deerstalker cap and curved pipe in his depiction of Holmes have become enduring symbols of the character. In another important element of theatrical history, an early production featured a teen-aged Charlie Chaplin playing the pageboy Billy.

#### Sherlock Holmes Dramatis Personae

- Leads (6)
  - Sherlock Holmes, detective
  - Dr. Watson, his companion
  - Professor Moriarty, criminal mastermind
  - James Larrabee, engaged in an elaborate blackmail scheme
  - Madge Larrabee, his wife and co-conspirator
  - Sidney Prince, Larrabee’s confederate
- Features (5)
  - Alice Faulkner, ingénue
  - John Forman, Holmes’ confederate
  - Billy, Holmes’ pageboy
  - Alfred Bassick, Moriarty’s confederate
  - Jim Craigin, Moriarty’s hit-man
- Ensemble parts (10)
  - Mrs. Faulkner, Alice’s mother
  - Térèse, French servant
  - Thomas Leary, Craigin’s associate
  - “Lightfoot” McTague, Craigin’s associate
  - Mrs. Smeedley, Watson’s patient
  - Parsons, Watson’s servant
  - Count Von Stalburg, diplomat
  - John, Moriarty’s servant
  - Sir Edward Leighton, diplomat
  - Driver, cab-driver

## **MAD Needs a Website Upgrade!**

Do you love the MAD website? Find it useful? Or do you find it a bit dated or hard to navigate? Do you think the MAD website needs to be brought into the new decade with a new spiffy look and be more useful? Well, you are not alone. The MAD Board agrees, it is time for a major overhaul! The current website has been great and useful, but we are overdue for a major upgrade.

The MAD Board is looking for one (or more) experienced web designers to volunteer to undertake the task to execute a new website design with new and improved functionality or lead a team to do so. If you are interested and able to do this or lead the effort, please contact Eliot Malumuth ([eliot.m.malumuth@nasa.gov](mailto:eliot.m.malumuth@nasa.gov), [eliotmal@me.com](mailto:eliotmal@me.com), 301-332-7438) by March 10, 2021.

## **MAD History Zoom Chat – 2000 to 2009 – Part 2**

Join us as we continue with MAD's Zoom history session covering the decade 2000-2009 on Friday, February 19 at 7:30 pm. This session will focus on the Winter and Spring shows of this decade. Anyone who RSVP'd for Part 1 will receive a Zoom link. If you did not sign up earlier but would like to attend, contact Ted Ying ([tedying@yahoo.com](mailto:tedying@yahoo.com)) by 6:00 pm Friday.

## **MAD Board Meeting**

The next MAD Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 PM via Zoom. All club members are welcome to attend. We plan to hold our board meetings in 2021 regularly on the second Thursday of the month. Please email [madboard@googlegroups.com](mailto:madboard@googlegroups.com) if you would like the Zoom link to attend.

## **MAD About Town**

**Jim Pasquale** will appear in the role of Mr. Wimple in the "Valentine Candy" episode of "Fibber McGee and Molly" at GAC. The show will be posted on the GAC web site on February 28th.

## **MAD Updates**

Please join us in wishing a very happy 50th birthday to long time member **David Buckingham**. He's played in the pit, graced the stage, served as Treasurer and Property Manager, and produced a show since joining MAD in 2006. Happy 50th, Buck!

**Editor:** Cathy Barth, [cbarth412@gmail.com](mailto:cbarth412@gmail.com), 301-233-7215



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