

# The Hound of the Baskervilles by Steven Canny and John Nicholson

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**Production Dates** - 18th January and 20th to 25th January 2020

**Audition Date** - TBC

The Hound of the Baskervilles - Conan Doyle's most celebrated Sherlock Holmes story gets a gloriously funny makeover in an utterly barking spoof. It's a high-energy, slapstick comedy that's cleverly written with a cast of three playing seventeen parts between them.

When Sir Charles Baskerville is found dead on his estate, the paw prints of a gigantic hound beside his body, the great Sherlock Holmes is summoned from Baker Street, with Dr Watson in tow, to unravel the mysteries surrounding his death and investigate the ancient curse of the Hound of the Baskervilles...

There are no age or gender restrictions in place for any of the roles, instead I'm looking for the right combination of players regardless of the usual restrictions. It's going to be a challenge and we'll be keeping the pace up for the whole show. With only three people to play the whole cast, this is going to be a real test of your comic timing and stamina.

We will also need our stage manager and stage hands to be part of many of our rehearsals as they will be key in maintaining the pace of the show. Each scene and character change will need to be fluid to maximise the comedy so we'll all be very much in this together.

**Audition:** The play doesn't lend itself to a standard audition process so I'd like to workshop it instead. To this end I'd like to gather expressions of interest and then break the interested parties into groups of three to run the scene together. We're looking for a group dynamic rather than an individual's ability so it's important we see potential actors interacting with each other. I know it may seem like a lot of dialogue for an audition but I wouldn't expect the actors to learn the scene, merely to be familiar with it.

**Period:** 1901

**Set:** Minimal - Due to the pace of the play only key, stylised elements of each location are used. Dartmoor and a bog are permanently set upstage, a fireplace flies in to represent both 221b and Baskerville Hall.

**Props:** Loads... handheld windows, part of a snooker table, a sauna that's also a horse drawn carriage... as there's no real change of set many scenes are explained by the props our characters use instead.

**Costumes:** Early 1900s - 14 outfits, each markedly different to reinforce the actor's change in character

**Lighting:** As there are no real sets, the lighting has to reinforce each location move. To this end each location has a different tone and feel. There are also lightning FX, a number of tight spots, day and night settings, handheld lamps, a fire effect... quite a lot really.

**Sound:** Musical beds, stings, lots of SFX supporting action, howls, steam releases, gun fire, animal noises...

**Effects:** Gunshots, fire, steam.

## CHARACTERS AND AUDITION PAGES

Character	Page
Actor 1 - Holmes, Stapelton, Cecile Stapelton, Mr Barrymore, Mrs Barrymore, Yokel 3	Scene 10 / p35-40
Actor 2 - Watson, Yokel 1	Scene 10 / p35-40
Actor 3 - Sir Charles Baskerville, Sir Henry Baskerville, Mortimer, Cabbie, Yokel 2, Wise Yokel	Scene 10 / p35-40