

Visual Guide and Story for Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - APT 2B



A Visual Story helps people prepare for the experience or decide if this show is right for them.

Showtimes

Here are the showtimes for ***Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - APT 2B:***

Thurs. Oct 16 – 7:30PM (Pay-What-You-Will Preview)

Fri. Oct 17 – 7:30PM (Opening Night)

Sat. Oct 18 – 1:00PM

Sat. Oct 18 – 7:30PM

Sun. Oct 19 – 1:00PM (**Relaxed Performance**)

Tues. Oct 21 – 7:30PM (2 for 1 Ticket Special)

Wed. Oct 22 – 1:00PM (Tea Matinee + Post-Show Talkback)

Thurs. Oct 23 – 7:30PM

Fri. Oct 24 – 7:30PM

Sat. Oct 25 – 1:00PM (VocalEye Live Audio Description available)

Sat. Oct 25 – 7:30PM

What information is in here?

You can click on the things you want to know about

[Schedule / Important Times](#)

[What to expect at the relaxed performance](#)

[Chill-out zone](#)

[The stage](#)

[The performers](#)

[The curtain speech](#)

[About the story](#)

[Things in the story that might be intense](#)

[Sound](#)

[Lights](#)

[Fog & haze](#)

[Introduction at the relaxed performance](#)

[How people react](#)

[Visual Story for the show](#)

Schedule / Important times

These times may be a little different for every performance.

The performance is about 2 hours long.

There is a 20 minute intermission

Schedule for Evening Shows

- **6:30 pm** The lobby doors open and you can pick up your tickets if you need to
- **7:00 pm** The theatre doors open and you can find your seat
- **7:30 pm** The performance starts
- **9:50 pm** The performance finishes

Schedule for Afternoon Shows

- **12:00 pm** The lobby doors open and you can pick up your tickets if you need to
- **12:30 pm** The theatre doors open and you can find your seat
- **1:00 pm** The performance starts
- **3:20 pm** The performance finishes

What to expect at the relaxed performance

The lights above you will always stay on, it may be a bit dark sometimes, but **never all dark**

- It is ok to move
- It is ok to make noise
- It is ok to react
- It's ok to have a snack or a drink
- It is ok to use your electronic devices (on silent)

BUT it is not ok to take pictures or make calls

There will also be a chill-out zone, find out more on the next page

What to expect at the relaxed performance

A few things about the show will be different:



There will also be a chill-out zone, find out more on the next page

Chill-Out Zone

There will be a chill-out zone on the day of the relaxed performance on Sunday, October 19

- If you want to leave the theatre at any time, there is a chill-out zone
- It is in the 2nd floor lobby
- A volunteer or usher can show you where it is
- It will have
 - Comfortable seats, yoga mats, pillows
 - Fidget toys & colouring sheets
 - A weighted blanket
- When you are ready to go back into the theatre, a volunteer can help you find your seat



The Stage

This is what the stage will look like when you enter the theatre:



The Stage

The actors will move furniture around on stage to show that scenes are happening in different places.

For example, here's what the stage looks like when they go to the first crime scene:

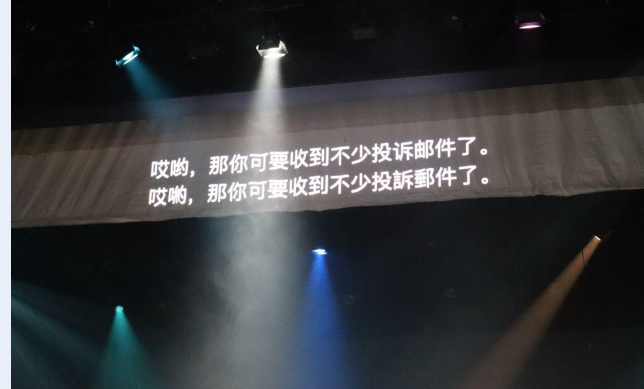


Surtitles

This show has subtitles, which translate the words the actors say into Simplified and Traditional Chinese.

This is to help people who may not understand everything they say in English, but can read Chinese writing.

Here's what the subtitles look like:



The Performers



Kate Besworth plays Ms. Sherlock Holmes.



Rami Kahlon plays Dr. Joan Watson.

The Performers



Mrs. Hudson



Mrs. Drebber



Irene Adler

Anita Wittenberg plays Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Drebber, and Irene Adler.



Lestrade



Elliott Monk

Mark Chavez plays Inspector Lestrade, Elliott Monk, and other characters.

The Curtain Speech

Before the show starts, a recording of a speech will play. These are the things it will talk about:

- The indigenous land we are on
- Thank you to sponsors and donors and volunteers
- How you can donate to the theatre or help in other ways

This is a short speech
between 1-3 minutes.

About the Story

This show is a modern version of the famous detective stories of Sherlock Holmes. In this story, Sherlock Holmes and Joan Watson are roommates living together after the COVID-19 pandemic. Holmes is a brilliant detective, and together with Watson, they solve mysteries and confront a supervillain who might be the person causing all the crimes they investigate.

There are only four actors playing all the characters in the story.

The show is funny, exciting, and full of surprises.



Things in the story that might be intense

These are some things that happen or are talked about in the show that might be intense.

This does not include intense sound or lights, we will tell you about those next.

Here is the list, on the next pages we will explain more, or you can click on them.

- [Weapons](#)
- [Fighting & violence](#)
- [Intense emotions](#)
- [Kissing & physical intimacy](#)
- [Dead body](#)
- [Blood](#)
- [Body parts](#)
- [Death](#)
- [Discussions of mental health](#)
- [Drug use](#)

Weapons

At different times in the play, characters will have weapons. All the weapons are props and can't actually hurt anyone.

Near the beginning of the play, while Mrs. Hudson is showing Watson around the apartment, Holmes comes onstage with a fencing sword. She chases the other characters around with it like she's trying to fight them.



When Mrs. Drebbler comes to Holmes and Watson's apartment, Lestrade pulls out a gun and points it at her. He does not use the gun in this scene.



Near the end of the play, Irene and Lestrade both have guns that they point at the other characters. Irene will use her gun to shoot someone.

Fighting & violence

At the end of the play, Holmes and Watson get in a fight with the supervillain. Watson bites his ankle, and Holmes tries to take his gun away from him. Watson hits him with a book and then Holmes grabs him and throws him on the ground. The fight is choreographed and no one will be hurt.



Intense emotions

Things will happen during the show that make the characters very scared or emotional. Sometimes they will cry or shout at each other when this happens.

For example, when Holmes surprises Watson and Mrs. Hudson, they both get very scared and start shouting:



Kissing & physical intimacy

Irene and Holmes flirt with each other throughout the play. Near the end of the play, Irene kisses Holmes to cause a distraction.



Dead body

When Lestrade takes Watson and Holmes to the first crime scene, they find a person's body in the bathtub. It's one of the other actors (Anita) playing a dead body.

Blood

When Lestrade takes Watson and Holmes to the second crime scene, buckets of fake blood and body parts get thrown on them.



Body parts

Early on in the play, when Watson moves into Holmes' apartment, she finds a human finger in the bathroom and shows it to Holmes. It's not a real human finger, but it might look real.

Death

There is a lot of talking about death in the story.

In the first act, there is a scene where Mrs. Drebbler is explaining what happened when Mr. Drebbler died. While she's explaining, Lestrade and Mrs. Drebbler are acting out the story for the audience.



Near the end of the play, Irene shoots the villain and he falls over the edge of a train platform. We don't know if the villain is dead, and we don't see him land from his fall, but we're supposed to assume he's probably dead.

Discussions of mental health

In this story, Watson struggles with her mental health and experiences panic attacks. These panic attacks happen when she sees someone get hurt.



Drug use

There are some scenes where Holmes will smoke marijuana from a pipe, because she says it helps her focus. There's not actually marijuana in the pipe, and there won't be any smoke.

Sound

In general, sound effects will be used to make some parts of the play feel more dramatic.

These are the moments or effects that will be most sudden or intense:

- After the narrator calls Watson a loser, there will be a thunder sound effect and the lights will flash
- There will be a dramatic sound effect when Lestrade enters Holmes' apartment for the first time
- There will be a dramatic sound effect when Lestrade reveals the dead body, and when he reveals the word "RACHE" written on the wall at the crime scene

Sound

In the last scene, there will also be gunshot sound effects. This happens twice:

- After Holmes says “once the mystery is gone,” she will shoot Irene
- Irene will ask the villain if he’d like to know the name of her mentor, and she’ll say “it was...” and then shoot him

Other than this, music will play in between scenes while the actors move the furniture around to make different settings. The music will be versions of popular modern songs, but played on classical instruments like the violin.

Lights

The lighting will change a lot during the show. When the characters are in Holmes' and Watson's apartment, it's very simple and looks like normal indoor lighting. Sometimes different areas of the stage will be lit up while the rest of the stage is dark, to look like the characters are in different places. Sometimes the lighting will turn red or purple to look more dramatic.

When going from one scene to the next it will be almost completely dark, sometimes this happens very suddenly. Sometimes it stays dark for up to a minute while the actors set up the next scene.

These are the moments in the show where the lights almost have a strobe lighting effect:

- When there is a thunder sound effect in the first scene, the lights at the back of the stage will flicker to look like lightning
- While Holmes and Watson are acting out a "montage" of all the crimes they solve, lights will flash on them from the front of the stage to look like cameras flashing and taking pictures of them.

Examples

Here are some pictures of lighting at different times in the show:



Fog & haze

During the show there will also be fog to make the stage look more dramatic. It won't be very thick.



During the scene in Irene's apartment, a bomb goes off outside, so there will be more smoke coming from the back of the stage.

Introduction at the relaxed performance

This will only happen on the day of the relaxed performance on Sunday, October 19 at 1:00pm

- The actors will introduce themselves
- We will show you the most intense moments with the lights
 -
- We will let you listen to the most intense sounds
 -
- We will tell you about / show you the most intense moments
 -

How people react

In this show people in the audience always laugh a lot because lots of funny things happen.

There's also a lot of action and mystery in the show, so people might gasp when something is surprising or unexpected.

Sometimes people clap or cheer at the end of a scene, or when they think something is really funny.

People react very differently every show because our show changes every night.
Sometimes people in the audience laugh.
Sometimes nobody laughs.

SPOILER ALERT :

Don't read this unless you want to know everything that happens.

Visual Story

When the play starts, the actors set up the scene on stage. One of them is the narrator, who talks directly to the audience. He introduces the play and tells the audience the story will make you question whether there is any truth in the saying “everything happens for a reason.”

Joan Watson arrives at 221 Baker Street, and Mrs. Hudson meets her at the door. Watson wants to rent the apartment upstairs, which is owned by Mrs. Hudson. They go into the apartment and it's very messy. Suddenly Holmes bursts through the door with a fencing mask and sword. Everyone gets surprised and starts yelling. Mrs. Hudson introduces Holmes and Watson to each other, but Watson doesn't like how Holmes is acting and decides to leave.



As Watson is leaving, Holmes says she thinks Watson is a doctor and gives all the reasons why. We learn that Holmes is a famous detective (or as she prefers to say, “deductive consultant”). Holmes smokes weed and starts practicing her fencing. Watson accidentally hits Holmes in the face and she bleeds a bit from her nose.



Watson starts panicking and Mrs. Hudson tries to comfort her. Holmes starts making more guesses about Watson and why she's moving. Watson denies everything and Holmes says her new mystery is to figure out what's wrong with Watson.

In the next scene, Watson shows Holmes a human finger that she found in her toothbrush holder. Holmes keeps trying to guess why Watson gets panic attacks. Watson says Holmes must have searched for her on Google and that's why Holmes knows so much about Watson. There's a knock on the door, and Inspector Lestrade comes in. A crime has happened and he asks Holmes for help.



The three of them go to the scene of the crime, which is in a motel room. There is a dead body in the bathtub. Holmes starts looking for clues. Lestrade also shows Holmes that someone wrote a word on the wall in blood: the word is "Rache," which is German for "revenge." Holmes tries to get Watson to guess what some of the clues mean. As they do this, Watson ends up stuck underneath the body.

Holmes leaves, and when she comes back, she says she figured out the name of the victim by checking the taxi parked across the street: the man is a taxi driver named Joseph Timothy Drebber. Holmes has also deduced that the killer is a red-haired woman. Lestrade gets a call on his phone, and says that the red-haired woman has been found.



They go to another crime scene, this time at a hotel. Holmes gives Watson a raincoat, and just as she puts it on, two buckets of (fake) blood are thrown on the two of them. The red-haired woman has been killed, and this is another crime scene. Holmes says she told the newspapers that a ring was missing from the Drebber crime scene, and that anyone with information should go to her apartment at 221B Baker St.

Back at Holmes and Watson's apartment, Holmes orders a pizza. Someone rings the doorbell. When they open the door, it's a woman, and Lestrade pulls out a gun and tells her to put her hands up. The woman says she's Mrs. Drebbler. She asks to see the ring and starts to cry. When she tries to take the ring from Holmes, Holmes doesn't let her take it.



They fight and Holmes takes the woman's ring. Holmes points out that the rings don't match, and gets her to tell the real story. As Mrs. Drebbler tells the story, the actors who play Lestrade and Mrs. Drebbler act out the story.

Mrs. Drebbler says that she found texts from the red-haired woman on Drebbler's phone, so she disguised herself and lured Mr. Drebbler to a hotel room. When she took off her disguise, Mr. Drebbler died from surprise, and Mrs. Drebbler made the death look like a suicide.



Holmes guesses that Mrs. Drebbler killed the red-haired woman first. Mrs. Drebbler starts freaking out, and faints. But Holmes knows she's faking it, and lies to her in order to get her to confess. Mrs. Drebbler admits that she killed Mr. Drebbler.

The next day, Holmes, Watson, and Lestrade are at the apartment. Lestrade congratulates Holmes on solving the mystery, but Holmes says he thinks there's someone else who was involved in the murder too. Holmes shows them a journal where she writes down information about every criminal in London. Lestrade seems to be interested in the journal. Then Lestrade leaves.



Holmes smokes weed and shows Watson a puzzle. She tells Watson that thinking so much about the final picture stops you from thinking clearly about the clues when you're solving a mystery. They hear someone come to the door and Holmes goes to answer it.

A man wearing a Donald Trump mask is at the door. He's trying to keep his identity a secret, but Holmes correctly guesses that it's Elliot Monk. Mr. Monk says he needs help from Holmes to destroy a sex tape that he made with Irene Adler, who's threatening to release the tape to the public. Holmes says she doesn't want to help him and Watson makes him leave. Suddenly Irene appears in the apartment – even Holmes didn't hear her coming.



This is the end of Act One. The lights will come up and it will be intermission. This is a chance to stretch your legs, go to the bathroom, get a snack from the concession, or whatever you need to take a break from the show. The intermission will be about twenty minutes long.



After intermission, we are back in the same scene with Irene. Holmes tries to ask her about the tape, and she says she came to warn Holmes that there's a bigger mystery happening. They flirt and then Irene leaves. Holmes says she's going to help Mr. Monk get the tape.



In the next scene, Holmes and Watson are outside Irene's apartment. They are dressed as nuns. Holmes slaps herself over and over to make Watson faint. When Watson faints, Holmes starts shouting for help. Irene opens the door and invites them inside.

Inside the apartment, Irene feels Holmes for injuries. She leaves to get a glass of water for Holmes. When she leaves, we hear an explosion, and smoke starts coming in from off stage. Holmes tells Watson that she hired someone to set off a bomb in Irene's trash bins.



Irene comes in and starts to help Watson go outside, away from the smoke. While she does this, Holmes looks around and finds a USB, which she puts in her pocket.

The next scene is back at Holmes and Watson's apartment. They talk with Lestrade about how Holmes found the tape. The doorbell rings, and it's a pizza delivery person. The three of them watch on TV as Mr. Monk announces he's going to run for election in Texas. A reporter says there's a tape going around of Mr. Monk online.



Watson pulls out her phone and all three of them watch the tape. They open the pizza box and there's a note written by Irene. Holmes puts the USB in Watson's laptop – it's not the tape, instead it's a song from the opera *Tosca*.

In the next scene, the narrator appears and speaks directly to the audience, talking about how Holmes and Watson go on to solve more mysteries together after the case of Mr. Monk's tape. Holmes is sure that there is someone more evil behind all the mysteries they solve. While Holmes thinks, Lestrade asks Watson on a date. After Lestrade leaves, Mrs. Hudson comes out of her apartment asking for help. She's worried about Holmes.



They go into the apartment and find Holmes on the floor, unconscious. Watson tells Mrs. Hudson to call an ambulance, but Holmes sits up. She was trying to see if Watson would faint. Watson finally tells Holmes why she moved to London: she used to be a doctor, but after all the stress of the COVID-19 pandemic, she started to have panic attacks at work. She lost her job, her house, and her marriage. Suddenly, Holmes looks out of the window and sees Irene.

Irene comes into the apartment, and she's very hurt. She explains that Moriarty, a dark web criminal, asked her to do a job for him. When she said no, Moriarty sent people to beat her up. Irene asks Holmes for help finding Moriarty. Watson tries to convince Holmes to say no, but Holmes says she'll help. Holmes and Irene start to flirt again.



In the next scene, Holmes has left to look for clues, leaving Irene and Watson alone at the apartment. Watson is annoyed with Irene, and Irene guesses that Watson has a crush on Holmes. Irene finds Holmes' journal, and Watson chases her trying to get it back. Irene turns out the lights and we hear the sound of someone being hit in the head with a frying pan.

The scene changes – Watson has been taken to an abandoned train station. Holmes shakes Watson to wake her up, and she tells Holmes that Irene stole the journal. Irene appears, and then Lestrade comes in holding a gun. Watson is excited to see him, but Holmes reveals that Lestrade has been Moriarty the whole time.



Moriarty asks Holmes to join his network of criminals. Irene says she'll give Moriarty the journal if he agrees to leave her alone, but Moriarty says he doesn't need it. Moriarty threatens to kill Watson, but Holmes says she doesn't care what happens to her. Holmes grabs Irene's gun and shoots her with it. Watson falls over in another panic attack.

Just as Moriarty is about to kill Holmes, Watson suddenly attacks Moriarty and bites his ankle. Holmes grabs the gun and they fight, while Watson runs to grab the journal and hits Moriarty on the head with it. Moriarty goes unconscious and they handcuff him.



Holmes reveals that she and Irene were planning this all along. Irene shoots Moriarty and he falls over the edge of the train platform. Irene points the gun at Holmes and says she's going to escape with the journal, but when she opens the journal, she realizes it's fake. Irene is angry and points the gun at Holmes again, and Holmes walks closer to her. Irene kisses Holmes, pushes her away suddenly, and escapes.

The next scene is back at Holmes and Watson's apartment. Watson has packed up all her things and is moving out. Holmes tries to convince Watson to stay, and says her empathy makes her the perfect match for Holmes. Watson agrees to stay. Moriarty comes on stage and speaks directly to the audience, about how detective stories can teach us lessons about life.



Watson and Holmes hear someone coming up the stairs. They open the door, and it's Irene and Moriarty, who say they have a case for them to solve. This is the end of the play.

Credits

This visual story was created by Ashley Bate at Gateway Theatre.

It was created with the help of a template created by Anika Vervecken with the input of many consultants, patrons, artists and fellow arts organizations such as the Vancouver International Children's Festival, Intrepid Theatre (Victoria, BC), the Gateway Theatre in (Richmond, BC), PuSh, Vancouver Writers Fest, Jess Thom, Jake Anthony and many more

Want to create a visual story for your show, event or venue?
Email access.activator@gmail.com to get a link to the template and examples of other visual stories