

# Welcome to Our 41st Season!



We're thrilled you could join us for our 24/25 Season, full of captivating community theatre here at the Rochester Rep - just off Broadway!

We can't wait to share these 6 plays. Our commitment to our mission of telling stories that will challenge and delight you is stronger than ever. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being here and for your support of the Rep. We've only made it this far because of patrons like you. Enjoy the show!

**Philip Muehe**  
Managing Director

**Board of Directors**  
Lisa Modry, President

---

## Land Acknowledgement

The Rochester Rep wishes to acknowledge that our theater resides on the native lands of the Dakota Sioux and Ojibwe peoples. We pay our respects to their peoples of the past, as well as future generations.

In an effort to avoid lip service, this acknowledgement will be absent from our curtain speeches as we work to find *tangible* ways to go beyond a simple verbal statement. We understand the importance and impact of this work, and we as a company are striving to do our part in dismantling systemic racism and prejudice in its many forms.

---

## Why A Digital Program?

By offering a digital program, we hope to be more environmentally friendly and reduce printing costs. By using less paper, we reduce our carbon footprint while also giving you remote access to the program from anywhere.

# Rochester Repertory Theatre Staff

Managing Director/Director of Marketing	Philip Muehe
Finance Director	Mark Masbruch
Box Office Manager	Susan Halter
Grant Writer	Lisa Higgs
Box Office Associates	Julee Mead
	Richard Bogovich
	Nick Rudlong

---

24/25 Intern

River Clare

---

## Board of Directors

President  
Vice-President  
Treasurer  
Secretary

Lisa Modry  
Benjamin Hain  
Chris Braendlin  
Susan Zahasky

Board Members

Deb Fuehrer  
LaSonya Natividad  
Erica Rice  
Don Christensen  
Erin Hugenroth  
Amy Gorsh

Advisory

Jeanne Skattum

## Up Next:

### ***She Kills Monsters***

A Poignant Fantasy Adventure

By Qui Nguyen

Directed by Kendra Verhage

Performing March 7<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>

Agnes leaves her childhood home in Ohio following the death of her teenage sister, Tilly. When Agnes finds Tilly's Dungeons & Dragons notebook, however, she finds herself catapulted into a journey of discovery and action-packed adventure in the imaginary world that was her sister's refuge. Hilarious and often poignant, this epic adventure is a heart-pounding homage to the geek and warrior within us all.



## Join us for the rest of our 41<sup>st</sup> Season!

The REP Live Theatre Since 1967		2024-2025 Season	
A Roaring Jazz Musical Sept 27-28, Oct 3-6 and 10-13, 2024	A Hilarious Holiday Musical Nov 29-30, Dec 5-8 and 12-15, 2024		
A Twisting Mystery Jan 16-19 and 23-26, 2025	A Poignant Fantasy Adventure Mar 7-8, 13-16 and 20-23, 2025		
A Rib-Tickling Comedy Apr 18-19, 24-27 and May 1-4, 2025	A Groundbreaking Musical Comedy Jun 13-14, 19-22 and 26-29, 2025		

The Rochester Repertory Theatre Presents:

# ***Miss Holmes Returns***

**By Christopher M. Walsh**

**Based on Characters by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

## **Production/Design**

Director - Mary Bruns Pyfferoen  
Stage Manager/Asst. Director - Julee Mead  
Lora Reid - Backstage Manager  
Scenic Design - Emma Strand  
Lighting Design - Benjamin Hain  
Costume Design - Cara Edwards  
Costume Intern - Zoe Zosel  
Sound Design - Amanda Jade  
Props Design - Mary Bruns Pyfferoen / Julee Mead  
Managing Director - Philip Muehe

## **Cast**

Sherlock Holmes - Rebecca Brokaw Sands  
Dr. Dorothy Watson - Beth Regener  
Priya Singh - Safia Aslam Chaudhary  
Mycroft Holmes - RJ Traff  
Geoffrey Lestrade - Nick Taylor  
Daniel Burke - Grant Holsinger  
Adam Worthington - Rich Dietman  
Mrs. Hudson - Mary McPhee  
Mrs. Butler - Susan Zahasky  
Olive McGann - Madeline Sarasio Meyer  
Mrs. Wiggins - Patricia Barrier  
Dock Worker - Erica Rice

## **Knitting Circle/Understudies (Roles Listed in Lobby if Performing):**

Lori Nelson, Katya May, Jazmin Medina, Susan Burriss, Kendra Weber,  
Becca Messic

To read the full digital program (including company bios) scan any  
of the QR codes in the lobby or visit [www.RochesterRep.org](http://www.RochesterRep.org)

## **Show Notes**

In 2019 I was fortunate enough to bring *Miss Holmes* to the Rep stage. The script offered a strong female cast, a bit of history, and a British period piece with a twist or two - exactly what I enjoy! When we completed the run I mused, "Wouldn't it be great if there was a sequel?" I was very excited to discover that Christopher M. Walsh had written one! This time around we find Sherlock and Watson in the midst of a case that will challenge their deductive skills while simultaneously making their way through the challenges of the roles women in that age faced. We once again bring a strong female cast, a bit of history, and a British period piece with a twist or two! Thank you to all the wonderfully talented people who have brought this show to the stage. We hope you enjoy it!

**- Mary Bruns Pyfferoen, Director**

## **Special Thanks**

Tony Drumm, Chris Smith, Brian Taylor, KTTC/Midwest Access, Rochester Civic Theatre, Wits End Theatre, RCTC Theatre Department, Ross Boerboom, Amanda Borgen, Carrie Strand, Carol Strand, Kayla Kanzelman

## **Thanks to Our 24/25 Full Season Sponsors!**



## **Thanks to Our Miss Holmes Returns Sponsors!**



This production is performed through a special agreement with Dramatic Publishing  
ANY PHOTO, VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS  
PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

## Cast Bios



### **Rebecca Brokaw-Sands (Sherlock Holmes)**

Rebecca is delighted to reprise one of her favorite roles- Sherlock! Having had the joy to bring Holmes to life 5 years ago in *Miss Holmes* right here on the Rep stage! Other favorite roles include Annie Sullivan in *The Miracle Worker*, Marianne in *Constellations*, Sabrina in *Sabrina Fair*, and Mona Livingston in *Kill Me, Deadly*.

When she's not on stage, Rebecca is busy working as a voice actor, actor and director, and spending time with friends and her two boys! Thanks to everyone who helped make this possible! I love you Danny and Eli!



### **Beth Regener (Dr. Dorothy Watson)**

Beth is privileged to reprise her role as Dr. Dorothy Watson, having previously played Dr. Watson in *Miss Holmes* at the Rep in 2019. Other roles at the Rep include Martha in *Strange Snow*, Laura Lee in *Wedding Belles*, and Cassandra in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Beth has also been onstage at the Rochester Civic Theatre;

past roles include Ruth in *Blithe Spirit*, Perkins in *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and Miss Prism in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She also portrayed the Pilot in *Grounded* with Absolute Theatre. Beth studied acting with Lev Mailer and voice with Stephen Houtz. When not onstage, Beth enjoys time with her husband and two sons. Thank you for coming & enjoy the show!



### **Safia Aslam Chaudhary (Priya Singh)**

Safia is a passionate street and stage theatre artist from India, who loves storytelling to create meaningful impact. She co-scripted and performed two street plays addressing disability and stigma, presented at over 75 venues, and performed during National Safety Week, raising awareness about workplace safety. Safia was part of *Ek Aur Dronacharya*, a stage play inspired by Hindu Mythology, where she acted and led the Costume and Makeup team. In addition, she facilitated an expressive arts workshop for 45+ female inmates at Tihar Prison, South Asia's largest prison complex, focusing on emotional and cognitive well-being through drama therapy and creative interventions.



### **RJ Traff (Mycroft Holmes)**

R.J. has performed in dozens of plays in various school and community theatres in Illinois, Winona, and the Rochester area, joining the local theatre scene in 1987. His most recent role was Mayor Superba in That Theatre Company's production of *The Minutes* earlier this year. He is reprising the role of Mycroft Holmes from the 2019 Rep production of *Miss Holmes*. He and his wife, Liz, have two daughters, two sons, two sons-in-law, one granddaughter, two grandsons, one cat, and one grand-cat.





**Nick Taylor (Geoffrey Lestrade)**

Nick is thrilled to return to the Rep stage, marking his second appearance with the company. He previously performed as Ensemble/Frazier in *Typhoid Mary*. Nick's credits also include numerous productions with the Rochester Civic Theatre, where he showcased his talents in *The Miracle Worker*, *Blithe Spirit*, and *Peter and the Starcatcher*. A graduate of Saint Mary's University with a bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts, Nick is passionate about storytelling and deeply grateful to be part of such a vibrant and supportive theatre community.



**Grant Holsinger (Daniel Burke)**

Grant is super excited to be returning to the Rep as Daniel Burke! He recently appeared here as Eddie in *The Wild Party*, Don in Calliope Theater's *Kinky Boots* and the voice of Audrey II in Absolute Theater's *Little Shop of Horrors*. During the day, he works as a special education teacher at John Marshall High School. Other creative endeavors include playing tuba with the Rochester Community Band and singing with Rochester's Hometown Opera Company! When not occupied, he loves hanging out with his cats Hera "Princess Bubblegum" Syndulla and Zeus. He hopes you enjoy the show!



**Rich Dietman (Adam Worthington)**

Rich played Edwin Greener in the original *Miss Holmes* here at the Rep and is delighted to be back working with several cast members and the director from that production. Other recent shows at the Rep include *Radium Girls*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, and *Typhoid Mary*. Rich has also appeared in productions at Rochester Civic Theatre, That Theatre Company, and The Rochester Shakespeare Company. Thanks for supporting local theatre and enjoy the show!



**Mary McPhee (Mrs. Hudson)**

Mary is excited to be back on the Rep stage again! Some of the recent shows she's been in include *The Nutcracker's Nuts* with The Mantorville Theater Company, *Blithe Spirit* and *Love, Loss and What I Wore* with Absolute Theatre, and *August: Osage County* with the Rochester Civic Theatre. In her spare time, her little red Mazda can be seen heading north to watch her grandkids do whatever makes them shine like the jewels they are!



**Susan Zahasky (Mrs. Butler)**

Although this is her acting debut at the Rep, Susan is no stranger to local theatres. She was involved both on stage and off at the Rochester Civic Theatre from 2004 to 2014. Sue began her involvement at the Rep in 2018 as Stage Manager for *Savanna Sippy Society*, followed by *Red*, *The Liar*, and as set designer for *Clybourne Park*. Sue currently serves on the Rep's Board of Directors and assists with various graphic design projects. Sue is an avid quilter who also enjoys reading historical fiction, being with her grandkids, and singing with the Rochester Symphony and Chorale.



**Madeline Sarasio Meyer (Olive McGann)**

This is Madeline's debut performance with the Rep after moving to Rochester to work for Mayo in October of this year. However, Madeline had been involved in the performance arts since 2004 and has worked on at least one show every year the last 20 years. She gained expertise participating in her college theater program when, along with acting, she found a love for production work and earned certifications in dialect work, intimacy, and stage combat choreography, which she employed for this production.



**Patricia Barrier (Mrs. Wiggins)**

Patricia has been an actor, singer, dancer and choreographer in over 25 productions. She was most recently involved in the Rep's production of *Hamlet* as an understudy, musician and Foley Artist. She has performed at Rochester Repertory Theatre, Rochester Civic Theatre, Absolute Theatre, Mantorville Opera House, Stewartville Performing Arts Center and Brave Community Theatre of Spring Valley. Patricia is a playwright with recent productions of three monologues and two short one act plays. She is a national competitive ballroom dancer and a yoga teacher. Patricia is delighted to continue her creative work at the Rep.



**Erica Rice (Dock Worker)**

Erica Rice is a Rochester-native. She grew up participating in school and community theater since she was in junior high. This is her third production at the Rep following *Miss Holmes* and *Radium Girls*. Erica currently serves the Rep as a Board member and fundraising/events committee Chair. She is grateful for every opportunity to support the fine arts community, especially working with Director Mary Pyffereon - who was Erica's third grade teacher. Erica hopes that audiences enjoy the sequel to *Miss Holmes*!



**Lori Nelson (Knitting Circle/Understudy)**

Lori Nelson just came off of her first role for the Rochester Rep as Sister Amnesia in *Nuncrackers*. Lori is a recent transplant to Minnesota. She's played Nick Bottom in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, been musical director of *The Stinky Cheese Man*, and played many onstage and backstage roles in between. Basically, she'll do anything to be involved in theater. She never feels more herself than when she is pretending to be somebody else. When she is not on stage she enjoys gardening, sewing, Kpop, and fixing things around the house.



**Katya May (Knitting Circle/Understudy)**

Katya is delighted to make her Rochester, MN debut in *Miss Holmes Returns*. Her past stage credits include playing Kattrin in *Mother Courage and Her Children* at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and performing as part of *The Vagina Monologues* in Syracuse, NY. She has also appeared in on-camera projects, including a research-based film series for Griffith University Film School and recent commercial work with CHANG3 Gym and Tourism Australia. A longtime supporter of community theatre, she is thrilled to join this talented cast and creative team. She thanks her family and friends for their ongoing encouragement.



**Jazmin Medina (Knitting Circle/Understudy)**

This is Jazmin's first production at the Rep and she looks forward to her first performance on stage! She can't wait to do more shows in the future, and hopes you have as much fun as she did! Enjoy the show!



**Susan Burriss (Knitting Circle/Understudy)**

This is Susan's debut on a theatre stage! Susan is employed at Mayo Clinic as an Education Program Coordinator in Dental Specialties. She enjoys reading, traveling – both in US and overseas - and yoga. Susan is married to Tim and has two sons, Daniel and Bradley. Special thank you to family and friends for their support and encouragement.



**Kendra Weber (Knitting Circle/Understudy)**

Kendra is a big fan of mystery stories, political activism and community theatre - making *Miss Holmes Returns* a perfect show for her Rep debut. She thanks her family & friends for their support of her return to the theatre after many years away.



**Becca Messic (Knitting Circle/Understudy)**

Becca just got done performing as Actor 2 in *A Sherlock Carol* at the Mantorville Theatre. She also directed the fall dinner theatre show there. She has been acting in the community since she was a child and has directed 3 shows herself so far! *Miss Holmes Returns* becomes her 4th Sherlock show (she was previously in *Missy Holmes* as an Orderly, and *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* as Actor 2 - playing 7 roles) She hopes you enjoy the show!

The Rep’s continued success has been made possible by the generous contributions of our volunteers, patrons, artists and sponsors.

**We are not just creating a theatre in our community, we are creating a community in our theatre.**

Please consider a donation today! Also keep the Rep in mind during your estate planning. For more info, visit our website.



**COMMONWEAL**  
**2025** THEATRE CO.  
 LANESBORO, MN  
**SEASON**

*THE HALF-LIFE OF MARIE CURIE*  
 BY LAUREN GUNDERSON

*THE Angel* **NEXT DOOR**  
 BY PAUL SLADE SMITH

**LONE STAR SPIRITS**  
 BY JOSH TOBIESSEN

**KING LEAR**  
 BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

**A Sherlock Carol**  
 BY MARK SHANAHAN

**BIG SAVINGS WITH A SEASON PASS!**  
[commonwealththeatre.org](http://commonwealththeatre.org) 800.657.7025





### Production/Design Team Bios

#### **Mary Bruns Pyfferoen (Director)**

Mary has been a part of the Rochester area theatre community on stage, behind the scenes, and directing for several years. She has directed actors of all ages and finds that every actor has their own unique abilities, talents, and creativity that they bring to the stage. She is the founder and director of a theater camp for young people. Some of Mary's directing credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Good Doctor*, *Children of Eden*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Godspell*, *The Crucible*, *Miss Holmes*, *Love Letters*, *Radium Girls*, *Hello Dolly*, and 18 years of One Act plays. Mary is honored and excited to return Miss Holmes to The Rep stage!

---



#### **Julee Mead (Stage Manager/Asst. Director)**

Julee Mead is so excited to be a part of this show! This is her third time being Stage Manager at The Rep, having previously worked on *Spring Awakening* and *Heathers: The Musical*. She is most often found in the Box Office, but loves being able to be part of the show.

---



#### **Emma Strand (Scenic Design)**

Emma has been a frequent audience member at the Rep, but this is her first time being a part of a production. She had fun designing a set for and exploring a new (to her) theater space! Previously Emma has set designed for *Hello, Dolly!* and *The SpongeBob Musical with Wits'*

End Theatre in Chatfield. Thanks to Mary for inviting her to be a part of the team!

---



#### **Benjamin Hain (He/Him, Lighting Design)**

Ben has been doing lighting and theater for more than 40 years. He worked as a production electrician for Theater de la Juene Lune and at Children's Theater Company in Minneapolis. He has lit shows at RCT, The Rep, Byron, The Jon Hassler Theater, Mayo Clinic, The Rochester School District, and various dance shows. He has worked as a stagehand at the Mayo Civic Center and ran spotlight from rodeos to rock concerts. Those and the band Genesis are major reasons he is a lighting designer today. Ben is married to the amazing Kelly, and they operate the farm that has been in the family since 1896. Ben is the technical director for Hill Theater at Rochester Community and Technical College.

---



#### **Cara Edwards (Costume Design)**

Cara has been costuming shows at the Rep for over 25 years. She enjoys the unique challenges that each show presents. She continues to learn new things in the research and creation and loves helping the actors get into their characters through their costumes. Thanks to Mike and Annie as always for holding down the fort while she plays at the Rep.



**Amanda Jade (Sound Design Design)**

Amanda is a junior paleontologist, a user of the Oxford comma, and a full time dairy-free ice cream tester. By day she masquerades as the Operations Director at the Rochester Athletic Club and by night she frolics and plays with her thespian cohorts. You may have seen her onstage in *Nuncrackers*, *Tick, tick...BOOM!*, or *Spring Awakening*. She directed this season's opener *The Wild Party* and co-organizes *Miscast Cabaret* for the Rep. Her dog does not understand why she is gone so often and has therefore rationed his cuddles. She extends a huge thank you to her theatre family for holding her up.



**Philip Muehe (Managing Director)**

Philip is celebrating his 4th Season as Managing Director here at the Rep. Recent Rep directing credits include *Heathers: The Musical*, *Tick, tick...BOOM!*, *Spring Awakening* and *Silent Sky*. He holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of North Dakota and has worked regionally with The Rochester Civic, Commonwealth Theatre, Milwaukee Rep and Absolute Theatre. He is currently earning his MA in Arts Management through the University of Oklahoma. Much love to his fiancé Isaiah for helping him through this busy time in their life together!

**DONORS  
&  
DRAGONS**

Feb 1st, 7:00 pm  
at The Rep

\$10  
Tickets

A live play D&D fundraiser for  
**She Kills Monsters**

Featuring Live Bards!  
PG-13 Show  
Silent Auction

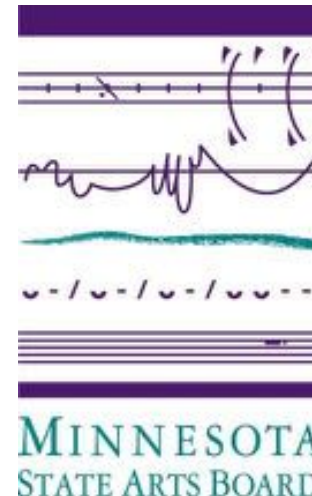
**The REP**  
Live Theatre - Just off Broadway

## Thanks to Our 24/25 Season Sponsors



**This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board and Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.**

Thanks to KRPR for helping us get the word out! Tune in next time you're driving to the Rep!





# The Rochester Repertory Theatre Extends the Deepest Thanks to Our Donors!

## 2024-2025 Season Donors

---

### **Saints** (\$7,500 and above)

Christine & Ed Boos; Merri Bremer & Scott Koon; Kathy & Mark Brutinel;  
Estate of Michelle Nietz; Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation

### **Angels** (\$5,000 - \$7,499)

Karen & Mark Masbruch; Nietz Tax & Accounting

### **Executive Producers** (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Anne Black-Sinak & Dr. Lawrence Sinak; Tony Drumm; Marann Faget; Susan  
& John Modry; Sandra & William Nietz; Mary Ellen & Mark Warner

### **Producers** (\$1000 - \$2,499)

Pam & Jonathan Allan; William & Kathy Brutinel; Don Christenson; Lynn  
Devault; Ruth Donaldson; Deb Fuehrer; Kelly & Ben Hain; John & Lois  
McDougall; Edna & Nick Mezacapa; Linda Miller; Janet & Merritt Olsen; Sue  
& Bill Schnell; Susan Stoddard & Stephen Carmichael; Jean & Al Vrieze

### **Directors** (\$500 - \$999)

Pam Allan; Pam & Bruce Becker; Emily Botten; Ron Dieke & Wei-Lin Jung;  
Marcia & Allen Dollerschell; Amy Gorsh; Linda & Leon Gregg; Suzie & Mark  
Hansen; Art Larson; Kris & Mark Litzow; Ray Lorry & Wei-Lin Jung; Marlene  
& Kenton Lynne; Julee & Jeff Mead; Doug Sween; Judy Trousdell; Julie &  
Jeff Williams; Susan & Paul Zahasky

### **Designers** (\$250 - \$499)

Margaret Brandl & Jim Salutz; Robyn Loewen; Barb & Ed Miller; Janet & Tom  
Munger; Nate Parent; Jeanne & Paul Skattum, Becca Stiles-Nogosek; Kathy  
Sukalski & Tom Johnson

### **Players** (\$100-\$249)

Sally & Ron Bymers; Emily DeGrazia; Aaron Downs; Judith Funk; Cameron  
Harris; Timothy & Mary Heskamp; Rusti Hessig; Garry & Shirl Hoyme; Paula  
Horner & Peter Edl; Larry Iverson; Joann & Keith Kramer; Thom & Katie  
Rieck; Judy & Tony Smithson; Diane Solem; MA & Emanuel Strehler; Kathy  
Sulkalski; Doug Sween; Helen Vierstraete; Linda & Doug Wunderlich

### **Supporting Players** (up to \$99)

Ginny Amundson; Patricia Arndt; Nancy Brubaker; Travis Dockter; Jane  
Greiling; Karl Huppler; Aimee Johnson; Judy King; Lucille Larson; Richard &  
Shirley Peter; Pat & Dave Siljenberg; Kari Takahashi; Sarabeth & Roger  
Watson; Sue & Phil Wheeler

**In Loving Memory of Eric Donaldson**  
Ruth Donaldson

**In Loving Memory of Michelle Nietz**

### **Thanks to those who donated towards Give to the Max 2024!**

Vince Alm, Abby Cohen, Ruth Casper, Catherine Davis, Richard Dietman,  
David Derby, Missy Hagen, Harold Cropp, Brad Herr, David Hennessey, Ben  
& Kelly Hain, Joseph Nix, Nate Parent, Megan K. Pence, Karen Palmer,  
Julee Mead, Lisa Modry, Merritt Olsen, Philip Muehe, Rebecca Miller, Dawn  
Miller, Sue Schnell, Rosilyn Steinkamp, Sheila Walsh, Melanie Whetstone,  
Susan Zahasky

---

The Rochester Repertory Theatre is 501(c) (3) charitable organization and donations are tax deductible in accordance with applicable tax codes  
If you find an error in how you are recognized, please contact Philip Muehe at [philip.muehe@gmail.com](mailto:philip.muehe@gmail.com)

This list was updated on **January 9th, 2025**