

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate Release

NEW ADAPTATION

Pitlochry Festival Theatre presents

Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Lipstick, Ketchup and Blood

An Adaptation by Lesley Hart

From the Novel 'A Study in Scarlet'

By Arthur Conan Doyle

Directed by Marc Small

Set and Costume Design by Elizabeth Newman

Movement by Lesley Hutchison

Lighting Design by Jeanine Byrne

Sound Design by Matthew Tomlinson

Cast: Tom Richardson (Ash) and Deirdre Davis (Harry)

**Dates: 8 Jun – 7 Jul Press performances: Thursday 9 and Friday 10 June
at 7pm Amphitheatre, Pitlochry Festival Theatre**

**Pitlochry Festival Theatre's Amphitheatre to host the premiere of new
adaptation of Sherlock Holmes classic**

An exciting new adaptation of Arthur Conan Doyle's 1887 classic Sherlock Holmes adventure *A Study in Scarlet* is set to captivate audiences this summer when it is brought to life by acclaimed writer and actress **Lesley Hart** in *Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Lipstick, Ketchup and Blood*.

Performed in Pitlochry Festival Theatre's outdoor Amphitheatre nestled in the Theatre's Explorers Garden, *Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Lipstick, Ketchup and Blood* will premiere from 8 June – 7 July.

In a blasted world, two survivors - a doctor and an actor - pass the time by staging their favourite story salvaged from the flames: *A Study in Scarlet*, the origin story of Sherlock Holmes. But when tensions arise around casting, more than dead bodies start to surface...

Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Lipstick, Ketchup and Blood cast will feature **Tom Richardson** (*The Prince and the Pauper*, New Vic Theatre) as Ash and **Deirdre Davis** (Eileen Donachie in *River City*, BBC Scotland, and the films *Orphans* and *Get Duked*) as Harry. The production is directed by actor and writer

Marc Small with design by **Elizabeth Newman**, sound by **Matthew Tomlinson**, movement directed by **Lesley Hutchison** and lighting by **Jeanine Byrne**.

Lesley Hart was awarded Playwrights Studio Scotland's New Playwrights Award in 2011. Her plays include *Safe Keeping* (Paines Plough), *World Domination* (A Play, A Pie & A Pint/Sherman Theatre), *Role Shift* (Birds of Paradise), *The Fundraiser* (Horsecross Arts), *Flame Proof*, *3 Seconds* (PPP/Traverse Theatre), *Saint One* (PPP/Aberdeen Performing Arts), *Personal Best* (BBC Radio Scotland). For Pitlochry Festival Theatre, Lesley co-wrote *Plunge Day* with Sally Reid - a short digital play for young people which featured in the Pitlochry Festival Theatre 2020 #LightHopeJoy season. As an actor, Lesley has appeared as regular character Louise Caplin in BBC Studios long running soap, *River City*, as well as onstage for the National Theatre of Scotland, Traverse Theatre, Óran Mór and in the film *Wild Rose*.

Playwright **Lesley Hart** said:

*“Sherlock Holmes stories set exquisite puzzles with exquisitely logical solutions. This is one of the things that give them their enduring appeal, that we crave as humans - perhaps even more so when logic fails us elsewhere. One of the things that appealed to me most about adapting *A Study in Scarlet* for Pitlochry Festival Theatre was the puzzle of taking this classic detective novella - which introduces two of the most iconic characters in literature, Holmes and Watson – and trying to reimagine it for a purely theatrical space, outdoors, unplugged, with only two actors and an hour to play with. As a stage adaptation, I wanted it to be rooted in the novella and its time but also to speak vividly to a contemporary theatre audience; to honour Conan Doyle's characters and story but illuminate them afresh; to embrace Holmesian logic whilst asking questions that logic alone can't resolve: How should we live in this world? How should we live with each other? What power is there in stories? What is a human life worth? What does justice mean and how do we find it? And in puzzling all this out, I hope to deliver a show that appeals to Holmes fans, Holmes novices, and anyone in between.*

*Compared to the novel, this stage adaptation is necessarily a lot more distilled. My focus is on the forging of Holmes and Watson's partnership via this first joint murder investigation and injecting as much drama and theatricality into it all as possible. I'm not relocating the story per se but am framing it within a very different context – a future time or alternative now where the earth is largely uninhabitable, civilisation has collapsed, and two survivors are putting on their stage version of *A Study in Scarlet* every day to cling to a sense of nostalgia, sanity, order and control amid the chaos and madness of their profoundly changed lives. On every level, this adaptation is a story of two friends striking out together – of partnership, co-dependency, survival, and the lease of life they give each other.*

The Amphitheatre is a gorgeous, wondrous space, in an incredibly beautiful outdoor setting. So, it's been a real pleasure to write a show for it. Telling stories out of doors and in the elements feels different from being indoors. I think it lends a different kind of clarity and connectedness. Also, staging a play set in a destroyed world in a place that is so completely unspoiled might give a keener sense of what has been lost to the characters in the play, and could too easily be lost to us too."

Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Lipstick, Ketchup and Blood runs from the 8 June – 7 July. Tickets are available from the box office on **01796 484626** or online at pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

-Ends-

For all press interviews please contact Duncan Clarke PR: T 07880893750 or E duncanclarkepr@gmail.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

PRESS PERFORMANCES: Thursday 9 and Friday 10 June at 7pm, Amphitheatre, Pitlochry Festival Theatre

LISTINGS

Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Lipstick, Ketchup and Blood

8 June – 7 July

Eve perf at 7pm

June: 8-11, 22-23 / July 6-7 July (Mat perf at 2pm – 11 June)

Ticket prices: From £29-34

Box Office and group bookings: 01796 484626 **email** boxoffice@pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

Website: pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

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Pitlochry Festival Theatre. A Theatre for Everyone. A Theatre for a Lifetime.

For over 70 years, we've been Highland Perthshire's artistic heart and soul, sitting perched on the edge of the River Tummel and looking out to Ben-y-Vrackie. Established in 1951 as The Theatre in a Tent, Pitlochry Festival Theatre offers a theatrical experience unique in Scotland - a summer season performed in repertory, allowing audiences to enjoy six different productions in six days, all



performed by a resident company of actors. Now attracting over 100,000 visitors each year, we're not just a venue - we're also famous for producing large-scale plays and musicals that delight theatregoers of all ages.

As part of our mission to create, nurture and inspire, we encourage interactive creativity through our programme of festivals, workshops and other events for young people, families, writers, and professional creatives.

Pitlochry Festival Theatre

Address: Pitlochry Festival Theatre, Port-Na-Craig, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5DR

Pitlochry Festival Theatre is supported by funding from Creative Scotland and Perth and Kinross Council. It is also grateful to the many individual donors, trusts, and foundations who continue to support the theatre.