

About the play

Sherlock Holmes and the Call of Cthulhu is a play adapted by Mitch Rist from the H P Lovecraft classic using characters created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

The play takes place in 1908 largely in London. The duo of Holmes and Watson witness the cruel death of Professor George Angell. But as the death murder? Holmes and Watson find it difficult to establish motive or means as they investigate the tragedy.

Turning to the professor's work, they begin to unravel a plot involving a bloodthirsty cult, unexplainable occurrences, some unprovoked kidnappings and sea monster more hideous to consider.

This story pushes Sherlock Holmes to the brink as he and Watson struggle like they've never struggled before, to make some kind of sense of this horrible mystery.

Sherlock Holmes and the Call of Cthulhu audition sheet

Name:

Ph no:

Email:

Which character are your most interested in auditioning for?
(Please select one)

Which other characters would you like to be considered for?
(Please select multiple if applicable. All roles are available for any gender.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sherlock Holmes | <input type="checkbox"/> John Watson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professor Thurston | <input type="checkbox"/> Professor Angell* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mestizo Castro | <input type="checkbox"/> Henry Wilcox* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rhoda Johanson | <input type="checkbox"/> Martha Hudson* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gustaf Johanson* | <input type="checkbox"/> Wilbur Weightly* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professor Webb* | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspector Lestrade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joseph Galvez | <input type="checkbox"/> Mira Ermengarde |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tabatha Ermengarde * | |

*Roles doubled as cult members

Please mark with an X all times that you ARE available to audition. A time will be assigned to you based on your availability. If no times suit you please advise so.

	Mon 5th Feb		Wed 7 th Feb
7.30pm		7.30pm	
9 pm		9pm	

I am not available any of these times, but would still like to be considered.

Rehearsals will be held Mondays and Wednesdays 7.30pm-10.30pm, through Feb, March, April and May as well as Saturday 13th and 20th April. Are there any specific dates or times that you will be unavailable? Please give a specific response.

Do you have any health conditions or life obligations that will affect your involvement in this performance?

- No
 Yes/Unsure (please specify your situation)

Do you have any skills that you would like us to be aware of?
(Singing, musical ability, dance, combat, clowning) Please specify.

The audition will consist of three parts. Firstly, some theatre games. Secondly, a self-prepared monologue of your own choosing. Please select a monologue 2-5mins that you feel displays your acting strengths. And thirdly, a cold-read of group scenes.

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I understand that:

-this production is community theatre production and actors will not be paid.

-actors may be required to undertake duties outside of rehearsals, such as publicity, set building or costume sourcing.

-performers who conduct themselves in an unprofessional manner may forfeit their role in the production.

Signed

Date

Do you have any questions that you would like us to answer before the audition?

Upon completion, please email this form to newwaveatmitch@outlook.com. Audition applications must be received before 2 Feb 2024. Any queries can also be sent to this address. Auditions will be held at Glenbrook Cinema, 2 Ross St, Glenbrook NSW 2773.

Good luck. We look forward to meeting you.

The characters

Sherlock Holmes

The genius detective of Baker Street. Often has poor social skills. Keenly smart and in some ways is something of a parody of the British gentleman. It has been said that, if he wasn't on the side of the law, he way very well have turned out a criminal.

Doctor John Watson

Holmes' stalwart companion. Much more in touch with social queues. Much more compassionate than his counterpart. In the war, he served in India. As a doctor he has vast knowledge of medicine and poisons. He is married to Mary Morstan.

Professor Francis Wayland Thurston

An American professor from the Miskatonic university and essayist. Upon receiving an odd-letter from his Great Uncle, Professor Angell, he enlists the help of Sherlock Holmes to discover the conspiracy. Somewhat sceptical, about what

they uncover, Thurston is keenly dedicated to getting to the bottom of the mystery,

Professor George Gammell Angell *

A British professor of Archaeology. Aware of the danger to life, he has not restrained himself from researching the Cthulhu. Upon returning from an expedition, he finds his life ended by the cult on the evening he returns to London.

Mestizo Castro

A dangerous cultist with a mysterious past. He will stop at nothing to serve his god, Cthulhu.

Henry Anthony Wilcox *

An opium-using artist who is haunted by dreams of Cthulhu and the destruction he that will be wrought onto the works of man. He lives an isolated, melancholy life. He describes himself a "psychically hypersensitive".

Rhoda Johansen

The loving wife of Gustaf Johansen. When her husband has a break-down, she reaches out to Professor Angell. She displays an immense level of courage in helping Holmes with his investigation.

Martha Hudson *

The land-lady of Holmes and Watson. Practically-minded and down-to-earth. She largely functions as the comedic relief in the play.

Gustaf Johansen *

Captain of *The Emma*, a cargo ship. While lost at sea, Johansen witness monstrous things and commits hideous acts. The experience left him scarred and disturbed.

Mr. Wilbur Weightly *

A worker of London Port Authority. A friend of Gustaf and Rhoda Johansen.

Professor William Channing Webb *

An anthropologist. His work in Greenland has made him aware of the Cthulhu cult. Somewhat immature, but a great source of information for revealing the mystery to our heroes.

Inspector George Lestrade

Inspector of Scotland yard. Often embarrassed when Holmes shows him up in his investigations.

Joseph Glavez

Another officer of Scotland Yard. Easily influenced by the cult's dark arts.

Mira Ermengarde

A child kidnapped by the Cult.

Tabatha Ermengarde *

The mother of Mira Ermengarde

Audition pieces

Excerpt 1: *Holmes, Watson and Thurston interview an artist that gave Geroge Angell a statue of Chulhu*

Watson

Mr Wilcox?

Wilcox

Without turning from his canvas. Shh....He attempts to continue painting, but his concentration is broken. Rahhh. Useless. Turning to his guests.

Dr. Watson. How do you do?

Watson

Very well, very well. This my good friend, Sherlock Holmes and Mr. Francis Thurston.

Thurston

We are great admirers of your work. We had hoped that we may ask a few questions.

Wilcox

My work? I have no admirers. Come on, men, what is this all about?

Thurston

You and my uncle were friends.

Wilcox

Then your uncle was a liar. I don't have friends.

Thurston

George Gammel Angell.

Watson

He was found dead. Holmes and I are investigating the case.

Wilcox

Then you've come to the wrong person. I barely knew your uncle.

Holmes

But he knew you. (Holding up the statuette.) You sold him this.

Wilcox

I didn't sell it. I gave it to him.

Holmes

Come on. A man like you simply giving away his work? I'm afraid I cannot accept that. You need the money.

Watson

Holmes!

Wilcox

I beg your pardon!

Holmes

An opium-using artist. Blotches on the back of your hair and, frankly, your stench tell me that that you're sleeping in this studio, not a separate apartment. That is because you were evicted from your apartment, but only recently. Your paunch says that you're used to hearty meals and are only recently going without of late. You would have insisted that George Angell paid in full for this work.

Excerpt 2: Rhoda arrives at George Angell, expecting to meet the professor. Holmes deceives her by posing as the professor to learn what she knows.

Rhoda

Good evening. Professor Angell?

Thurston

No, no. I'm Francis Thurston, Professor Angell's nephew. My uncle is-

Holmes

(Taking his hand off the pistol and walking forward.) Right here. How do you do, ma'am?

Rhoda

I didn't realise that you would have company. I'll come back later.

Holmes

No such thing. Please come in.

Rhoda

But you told me that we shouldn't discuss this matter with anybody.

Holmes

My nephew isn't just anybody. He's a faithful confidante. Come in, take a seat and I'm sure that we will get to the bottom of the issue.

Rhoda sits.

Rhoda

Is it alright to bring it out in front of him?

Holmes

Of course.

Rhoda produces a statuette of Cthulhu, this one in stone, rather than clay. Thurston gasps, while Holmes hides his surprise.

Thurston

How did you come by this?

Rhoda

(To Holmes) You didn't inform your "confidante" of our correspondence?

Holmes

I thought it would be better if my friends heard your story from your own mouth.

Rhoda

Friends? Who else is there?

A knock at the door.

Holmes

A companion of mine, Dr. Watson. That should be him now.

Holmes lets Watson in.

Watson

I gave Wilcox a sedative- one that should allow him to stop dreaming. Hopefully he'll have a bit of peace now. (Seeing Rhoda) Hullo, who do we have here? Watson, Dr. John Watson. You are?

Rhoda

(Rising) Alright, what is going on here? You told me it was a matter of life and death that I told no-one and now I find you've invited two strangers in to our affair.

Holmes

I beg you to calm down. My nephew also has stakes in this matter. Francis, show her.

Thurston

Show her what?

Holmes

Your statuette.

Thurston

Oh.

Thurston produces his statuette. Rhoda looks at each of them suspiciously.

Rhoda

(About Watson) What about him?

Holmes

Does the name "Sherlock Holmes" mean anything to you?

Rhoda

The reclusive genius?

Holmes

(Suppressing a smile) Dr. Watson is Mr. Holmes' greatest friend. Although Mr. Holmes is not available to investigate our problem, he sent Dr. Watson in his stead.

Excerpt 3: Mrs. Hudson notices that the case is getting to Holmes.

Mrs Hudson

The world is going to bedlam these days.

Watson

Good morning Mrs. Hudson.

Holmes

Did you need something?

Mrs. Hudson

Oh, no, just bringing the newspaper up for Dr Watson.

Mrs Hudson hands the paper to Watson, who begins to read.

Watson

Thank you.

Mrs. Hudson

(Aside to Watson) Is Mr Holmes feeling alright?

Watson

Honestly, I'm not sure. I've never seen him in this state before. Even Irene Addler doesn't cause him such vexation.

Mrs. Hudson

(To Holmes) Are you well, Mr. Holmes?

Holmes

I shall be, Mrs. Hudson, once I have solved a particularly delicate enigma that has presented itself.

Mrs. Hudson

Oh dear. My brother had a nasty enigma once. Couldn't walk for a week. Perhaps Dr. Watson could look at it. Then again, if it's in a delicate place, as you say, it can be rather embarrassing.

Watson

I think what Holmes needs is moment to gather his thoughts. Good day, Mrs Hudson.

Mrs. Hudson

Good day. Good day to you both.

Excerpt 4: Watson, Holmes, Rhoda and Thurston visit Professor Webb about the Cthulhu statuette.

Rhoda

Then you know about this thing?

Webb

I have seen something like this twice before in my life. After the first time I had intended never to see the thing again.

Watson

Tell us about your first encounter.

Webb

It was many and many a year ago.¹⁹ I was engaged, forty-eight years age, in a tour of Greenland and Iceland in search of some Runic inscriptions which we failed to unearth; and whilst high up on the West Greenland coast I encountered a singular tribe or cult of degenerate Eskimos whose religion, a curious form of devil-worship, chilled me with its deliberate bloodthirstiness and repulsiveness.

Watson

Bloodthirsty? What makes you say that?

Webb

No-one was safe from them. Not even their own.

Thurston

You mean human sacrifice.

Rhoda

How barbaric!

Webb

Not barbaric as such, I would say bloodthirsty. They took no joy in the suffering of their sacrifice. You see, they worshipped a gargantuan meteorite that landed near their camp. I would wager that your statue was formed from a shard of that same meteor. Its chemical make-up was unlike anything I had ever seen, completely unknown to science. An extract from the rock was injected into the tribute causing them a quick and painless death.

Rhoda

I think I'm going to be sick.

Watson

Tell us more about this religion.

Webb

It was a faith of which other Eskimos knew little, and which they mentioned only with shudders, saying that it had come down from horribly ancient aeons before ever the world was made. Besides nameless rites and human sacrifices there were certain queer hereditary rituals addressed to their supreme elder devil. I took a careful phonetic copy from an aged "Angekok" or wizard-priest, expressing the sounds in Roman letters as best I knew how. The point of interest is the statue of the god which this cult had cherished, and around which they danced when the aurora leaped high over the ice cliffs. It was a very crude bas-relief of stone, comprising a hideous picture and some cryptic writing. It was identical to the piece I now hold in my hands.

Excerpt 5: Lestrade and Galvez discuss whether it is time to bring Holmes into the case

Lestrade

I can't work it out, Galvez.

Galvez

No, Inspector.

Lestrade

I mean it's the motive! They had opportunity and means.

Galvez

You've got me stumped.

Lestrade

The families weren't rich- it can't be about money. And **there** doesn't seem to be a revenge motive.

Galvez

Well, I've been thinking about what Professor Webb told us. Cthulhu cult- maybe the motive is ritualistic.

Lestrade

Ritualistic. You mean, like human sacrifice?

Galvez

He said they sacrificed people in Iceland. Maybe they're outsourcing.

Lestrade

That isn't funny.

Galvez

I'm not joking. Perhaps it is an event of human sacrifice.

Lestrade

In modern day England? We're no longer a nation of barbarians and druids.

Galvez

Are you telling me that there are no fanatics anymore?

Lestrade

I like to think more nobly of mother England. This statue probably isn't even related to the case. Someone found it, brought it to our shores thinking that it was worth a pretty penny, and discarded it in the middle of nowhere.

Galvez

Maybe it's time we called in....him?

Lestrade

No, no, no. I don't want him putting his fingerprints over this case.... Or in his case, his footprints.

Galvez

He would snap the lid on this in moments.

Lestrade

He enjoys it, I think. Shows us up at every turn. Making fools of us-
London's best. If it wasn't for us, the kingdom would be overrun with ne'er-
do-wells and vagabonds.

Galvez

People's lives are at stake.

Lestrade

I'm putting my foot down. I don't want that upstart, pretentious, arrogant
know-it-all, I don't want a breath about Sherlock Holmes.

