



# Placer Repertory Theater

Performing arts, cultural & economic enrichment for Placer County

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November 1, 2021

Placer Repertory Theater: [Outreach@placerrep.org](mailto:Outreach@placerrep.org) | [PlacerRep.org](http://PlacerRep.org)

### **Placer Rep provides Romance, Comedy & Detection in *An Evening with Sherlock Holmes***

Romance, comedy and detection are afoot at the Placer Repertory Theater one-night-only event “An Evening with Sherlock Holmes,” in which audiences are encouraged to dress up, see the adventurous stage reading of a new play and meet the actors, director and playwright in a post-show Q&A on Saturday, November 13, 7 p.m., at the Roseville Veteran’s Hall. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.com

(<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/182994420237>).

The stage reading of *Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four* is one of the milestone events for all audiences related to the Placer Rep “Literature, Literacy & Libraries” educational outreach program for 2021-2022. “Placer Rep’s goal for the educational outreach program is to help others find their passion and be inspired, as our playwright was inspired to create a new play by adapting a work of literature for the stage,” said Blair Hartman, Program Operations Manager for Placer Repertory Theater.

Based upon the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, T.S. Forsyth’s play *Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four* humorously explores the passive-aggressive nature inherent in close relationships. The dueling narrators, Holmes & Watson, recount the famous case of *The Sign of the Four*, while squabbling over their opposing viewpoints, even as both characters struggle for power and status within the relationship, to comedic effect. An ensemble cast of six professional actors portray the many colorful characters who inhabit this exciting play of stolen treasure, treachery, romance, detection, chase scenes, wooden legged men and the long shadows of bad deeds.

Many of Conan Doyle’s beloved characters are included in this play. In addition to Sherlock Holmes, played by Matthew Heyer, and Dr. Watson, played by Kevin Foster, the production includes Crystal Neher-Evans as Mrs. Hudson, Spencer T. Gayden as Inspector Jones of Scotland Yard and Tadjia Enos as Miss Mary Morstan who is Dr.



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Watson's love interest. The sixth cast member is Kyla Quinn as Major Sholto, and each cast member, apart from Dr. Watson, plays multiple secondary roles for a total of 18 characters, plus "Toby the Wonder-dog."

"It is a privilege to sit in the room and watch these wonderfully talented actors explore the script and shape their many colorful characters, who relentlessly drive this romantic, comedic, detective adventure. We laugh all through rehearsals as these eccentric characters come to life," said T.S. Forsyth, the production's director/playwright.

The script was written in Placer County in March of 2020 and received its live stage reading via zoom in July of that same year. "An abundance of great theater was the highlight of my time living in NYC—now, seeing the outstanding works of T.S. Forsyth, I no longer miss it. *Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four* is perfectly constructed: with comedy, romance, action, and intrigue, this play is an enthralling adventure from beginning to end," said Kevin Foster, Outreach Director.

The Literature, Literacy & Libraries Educational Outreach program allows Placer Repertory Theater to offer workshops and lectures to Drama and Language Arts departments at Placer County middle and high schools to inspire students to read and engage with library resources to discover their own passionate pursuits. *An Evening with Sherlock Holmes* is the first milestone event related to the LLL Educational Outreach program. A second milestone event includes "The Jane Austen Soiree," on Saturday December 11 at which audiences are encouraged to arrive in costume, learn and join in with the contra danse, enjoy beverages and nibbles, participate in a costume parade, meet the actors and playwright, and enjoy a stage reading of the new play *Persuasion*, based on the Jane Austen novel. The culminating event to close out the 2021-2022 LLL Educational Outreach program will be a world premiere production of a literary adaptation slated for Summer 2022.

Placer Rep, recently crowned "Best Live Theatrical Group" as published by Gold Country Media, is particularly grateful to be partnered with Rocklin Friends of the Library for this educational outreach program, as the Rocklin Friends promote and operate programs for and in conjunction with the Placer County Public Library to the enrichment of our local community. More information about the Rocklin Friends of the Library may be found on their web site: <https://rocklinfriends.org/>

Placer Repertory Theater is the professional company that commissioned and recently produced "New Beginnings" the Placer County railroad history play in July of 2021. The same COVID procedures followed at New Beginnings, including a COVID station with full supplies and socially distanced seating, will be in effect at *An Evening with Sherlock*



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*Holmes*, as well. For more information, or to procure tickets for this event, please visit Eventbrite.com (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/182994420237>).

Placer Repertory Theater ([PlacerRep.org](http://PlacerRep.org)) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit professional performing arts and culture nonprofit organization with the mission to offer educational and quality-of-life enriching professional performing arts and cultural programs relevant to the people of Placer County, while supporting local organizations and acting as an economic engine for the area. Follow Placer Repertory Theater on Facebook and Instagram: @PlacerRep.

Contact Kevin Foster, Outreach Director, at [Outreach@PlacerRep.org](mailto:Outreach@PlacerRep.org), or Teresa Stirling Forsyth, Producing Artistic Director, at [ArtisticDirector@PlacerRep.org](mailto:ArtisticDirector@PlacerRep.org).

## BIOS – THE TEAM



### **TERESA STIRLING FORSYTH – Producer/Director/Playwright**

With an MFA in Dramatic Arts and an MS in Business Management & Leadership, this former Silicon Valley high-tech VP and critically acclaimed professional director/playwright also plays the role of Producing Artistic Director for Placer Repertory Theater. Previously, the artistic director for two San Francisco theater companies and founder/board president of an economic & workforce development nonprofit organization for Santa Cruz County, her performing arts background includes directing/playwriting for national and international touring productions with renown performing artists, such as Brenda Wong Aoki, and companies like Dell'Arte International. As an educator, she has instructed and/or directed at UC Davis, University of San Francisco, University of Minnesota and other educational institutions. Projects on which Forsyth worked performed at venues such as the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian, Dallas Theatre Center, San Diego Repertory Theatre and many other renown venues, and received Dramalogue Awards, Critics Circle Awards, Indy Award: Best Spoken Word Album, as well as numerous grants from the NEA, NEH, CAC and corporations. Most recently for Placer Repertory Theater, she is the playwright/director for *Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four* and *Persuasion: a holiday romantic comedy*, co-author, dramaturg, director and actor mentor for *My Jekyll & Hyde* and was the director, dramaturg and playwright mentor for *New Beginnings: the new play about the historic Placer County Roundhouses*. She is a member of the professional organizations: The Dramatists Guild, The Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), TCG and NNP/ New Play Exchange.



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## **BLAIR HARTMAN – Program Operations Manager**

Blair Hartman is a graduate of Allegheny College with a BA in Theater and a demonstrated history of working in the performing arts on both east and west coasts. During her undergraduate career, Blair involved herself in both community and college theater, taking on technical, managerial, and creative roles, and completed her thesis by directing and writing a devised project entitled *Goddess*. She gained her post-graduate sea legs as a Production Manager at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City, managing Concert Halls events and productions as well as community programming and outreach in the boroughs. This trajectory led Blair to delve into a career freelancing for such companies as Roundabout Theatre Company, SoHo Repertory Theatre, The New Group, and The Public Theatre. Blair is thrilled to join Placer Repertory Theater as Program Operations Manager in their 2021-2022 season!



## **KEVIN FOSTER - Outreach Director, Dr. Watson (Track 2)**

Kevin Foster is an area local excited to work at Placer Repertory as Outreach Director. He began training in acting at UC Davis while earning his B.A. in Music Performance. After graduating, he performed at Davis Musical Theater Company in *Peter Pan*, *The King and I*, *Damn Yankees*, and the Elly Award winning production of *Chicago*. His other credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Chautauqua Playhouse and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at Sacramento Theater company, where he has taught youth performing arts classes. He currently teaches for Rockstar Music Academy in Lincoln and is working on his solo show commissioned by Placer Rep for a 2022 world premiere. Kevin also may be seen in Placer Rep's digital short series *Sherlock Holmes: Domestic Mysteries* on YouTube and Facebook and performing in Placer Rep's "The Jane Austen Soire" on December 11, 2021 at the Lincoln Civic Center.



## **MATTHEW HEYER – Sherlock Holmes (Track 1)**

Matthew Heyer is a recent graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre. He is the winner of the Irene Ryan award for his ensemble work in 2018 and for his performance as Elliot in *Completeness* in 2019. His recent mainstage productions include Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Vince Fontaine in *Grease*, Charles in *As*





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*You Like It*, and as Shakespeare in *The Bard on Broadway*. This is Matthew's first season with Placer Rep, and he looks forward to playing two roles and acting as dialogue coach for The Jane Austen Soiree on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at the Lincoln Civic Center.



## **SPENCER T GAYDEN – Inspector Athelney Jones (Track 5)**

Spencer T Gayden moved to Placer County at the age of seven, where he discovered his love of theatre while attending Horizon Charter School. For five years, Spencer has been an instructor and director with Royal Stage Christian Performing Arts; he also manages social and digital media for local education non-profit IntelliBricks and has worked for the character company Sevilla Magic FX. Recently, audiences saw Spencer in an original musical with Curious Theatre Works, a small local experimental theatre group. While at William Jessup University, he enjoyed performing roles such as Howard Bevans in *Picnic*, Professor Plum in *Clue*, and Ben Gunn in *Treasure Island*. Upon graduation with his BA in Theatre in May 2021, Spencer joined Placer Repertory Theater as an Acting Company Member. His first major role with PRT was as a member of the ensemble cast for *New Beginnings*, the Placer County roundhouse history play. Spencer will also play Inspector Athelney Jones at “An Evening with Sherlock Holmes.”



## **TADJA ENOS – Miss Mary Morstan (Track 3)**

Raised in Grass Valley, CA, Tadjia lives in Auburn, CA. She attended Ghidotti Early College High School and performed in Nevada County community theatre. She then went to UC Santa Barbara, where she earned a BFA in Acting. A few of her favorite roles were Hamlet, Catherine in *A View From the Bridge*, and Goneril in *King Lear*. She trained for a summer with Prague Shakespeare Company, where she performed Cassius in *Julius Caesar*. She also has a background in dance, devised movement, and crocheting. She received a Santa Barbara Indy Award for her performance as *Hamlet*. This is her second production with Placer Rep, having portrayed Maria Aguilar and several other characters in the ensemble cast of the July 2021 production event *New Beginnings*, the Placer County roundhouse history play, and shall play Miss Anne Elliot in the stage reading of *Persuasion* at The Jane Austen Soiree on December 11, 2021.



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### **CRYSTAL NEHER-EVANS – Mrs. Hudson (Track 4)**

Crystal became a world traveler at five years old when her family moved to Papua New Guinea as missionaries. Having also lived in Southern California, Colorado, and Australia, she moved to the Sacramento area in 1993. In 2014 she became involved in areas theaters. Her notable roles include Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*, Kate Keller in *The Miracle Worker*, Doatsy Mae in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, Elaine in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Elvira in *Blithe Spirit*, and Diana in *California Suite*. In addition to Mrs.

Hudson, Mrs. Forrester and other characters in “An Evening with Sherlock Holmes,” she will be the Social Director/Hostess performing contra danse and teaching Jane Austen period social customs at “The Jane Austen Holiday Event,” on December 11.



### **KYLA QUINN – Mr. Small (Track 6)**

Kyla Quinn is a recent graduate from CSU Long Beach, where they received their BA in Technical Theatre. Born in San Luis Obispo, Kyla was raised in San Diego, and grew up taking classes at the San Diego Junior Theatre Company. Prior to moving to northern California, they worked with professional theater and film companies, such as the Long Beach Opera Company, Asylum Studios and Lifetime Studios. Kyla’s favorite roles include Fred in *Once Upon a Mattress*, Olive in *The Female Odd Couple* and Carla

in *A Thirties Affair*. This is Kyla’s first production with Placer Repertory Theater, and they look forward to their participation in The Jane Austen Soiree in December 2021.

## **THE EVENT**

### **WHO:**

Placer Repertory Theater - <https://PlacerRep.org>

### **WHAT: An event:**

“An Evening with Sherlock Holmes,” featuring the energetic stage reading of *Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four*, with socially distanced seating.

### **WHERE:**

Roseville Veteran’s Memorial Hall, 110 Park Drive, Roseville, CA 95678



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**WHEN:**

Saturday, November 13, 2021

**TICKETS/FMI:**

Available via [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com), \$10 per person, general seating

Please purchase tickets in advance. Seating is limited due to social distancing.

Eventbrite.com link: (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/182994420237>)

TWO GRAPHICS BELOW:

**Placer  
Repertory  
Theater**  
*PlacerRep.org*

PRESENTS

## An Evening with Sherlock Holmes

*Featuring a stage reading of*  
**SHERLOCK HOLMES:  
The Sign of the Four**



By T.S. Forsyth  
A comedic detective mystery  
based upon the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

**Saturday, November 13, 2021**  
General audiences (ages 8 and up) • Roseville Veteran's Memorial Hall



**SHERLOCK HOLMES**  
Matthew Heyer



**DR. WATSON**  
Kevin Foster



**MISS MARY MORSTAN**  
Tadjia Enos



**MRS. HUDSON**  
Crystal Neher-Evans



**INSPECTOR JONES**  
Spencer T Gayden



**MR. SMALL**  
Kyla Quinn

FMI / Tickets: 





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**WINNER: Best Live Theatrical Group**

## Placer Repertory Theater provides cultural enrichment and economic growth



Placer Repertory Theater became a nonprofit organization in April 2020. Placer Rep provides professional performing arts and cultural programming for Placer County.

The organization seeks cultural enrichment and economic growth through the incubation and development of voices and works reflective of the community served, and champions partnership and cultural exploration across a breadth of disciplines within the arts, culture and humanities.

There are live and digital productions, events and

educational programs.

Placer Rep sets a high bar of professional excellence. Its focus is on talent development and professional growth through new plays and reimagined works relevant to Placer County.

The organization was founded as a place for seasoned professionals to exercise their craft as it bridges the gap for early career professionals from preparation programs to professional employment.

Placer Rep's seasoned performers, creatives, administrators and technical team members are educated, credentialed and possess prior professional experience.

### PLACER REPERTORY THEATER

- **BUSINESS OWNER:** Teresa Stirling Forsyth, Founder/President
- **WHERE:** 2351 Sunset Blvd., Suite 170-209
- **INFO:** 916-884-0055, [placerep.org](http://placerep.org)



Season 1, episode 2: Water Under the Bridge

**THANK YOU** for selecting

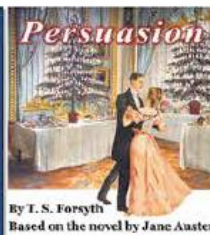
**Placer Repertory Theater**

**BEST OF THE BEST**

Live Theatrical Group



Professional performing arts and cultural programs For Placer County and beyond



By T. S. Forsyth  
Based on the novel by Jane Austen



**NEW BEGINNINGS**  
An event featuring a new work about the historic Placer County Roundhouse

# Placer Repertory Theater

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