



ADJUDICATORS COMMENTS 2022/23

Society	Cosmopolitan Players		
Production	Sherlock Holmes - The Hound Of The Baskervilles		
Adjudicator	Brad Askew		
Date	March 23, 2023	Matinee or Eve?	Eve

The percentage mark of all categories combined provides the score for the Best Musical and Best Play awards. The combined percentage mark for categories 1 – 3 provide the score for the Best Visual Presentation Award.

The questions posed in each category are suggestions only, and provided as a guideline for the adjudicator. Other comments should be written if these are felt to be more appropriate to this adjudication.

Positive comments on the production's strengths

1	<p>Include positive comments on any of the following aspects of the production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting; • Costumes, hair & makeup; • Props, scenery & projections; • Sound; • Musical direction / orchestra / band; • Projection; • Acting • Singing • Direction • Choreography / Movement 	<p>The Lighting was effective considering the limits of the Studio space and the "in the round" format.</p> <p>Sound was heavily deployed throughout and for the most part was effective although the Voiceover of Doctor Watson as narrator could have been more clearly recorded as it was a key element of the show.</p> <p>Props were minimal but supported the production.</p> <p>The cast filled the space well with an awareness of having to act in different directions to cover the audience being on both sides of them.</p> <p>The Mimes were an interesting solution to set changes and movement of props.</p>
Constructive comments on the production's weaknesses / opportunities for improvements		

2	<p>Include constructive comments on any of the following aspects of the production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting; • Costumes, hair & makeup; • Props, scenery & projections; • Sound; • Musical direction / orchestra / band; • Projection; • Acting • Singing • Direction • Choreography / Movement 	<p>I feel the production would have benefitted from more rehearsal time in the actual Studio space to tighten up entrances and exits, blocking, timing, etc. Most of the furniture and props were moved by the "mimes" but at one point an actor did it which broke the convention. Multiple pieces of furniture were later being placed by 1 mime which slowed down the pace. At one point an actor was left alone onstage while the Stage Manager dashed out to find the actors who had missed their entrance so something was missing from backstage communications.</p> <p>The costumes were from a number of different periods and maybe could maybe have been more colourful and stylised as a contrast to the monochrome mimes and support cast of paintings which had an overall theme.</p> <p>I am not sure if it was intended but every appearance of the Hound got a round of laughter from the audience.</p> <p>Actors "off stage" by the Stage Managers booth could have gone to the far corner behind the booth instead of inches from me sitting in the first seat where I could hear whispering and heavy breathing.</p>
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Overall Production / Entertainment Value

3	Provide a conclusion on the production, and include any comments on aspects of the production not covered by the above entries.	<p>Overall I applaud the ambition of the production and could see where it was trying to go. Theatre In the Round is tricky but can be very effective when the quality of the acting and directing makes up for the minimalism in lack of scenery, furnishings and elaborate prop set ups.</p> <p>There were a number of nice stylistic touches throughout and some good solutions in suggesting different locations and settings.</p> <p>Unfortunately the pace was often interrupted by calls to the prompt, actors missing entrances, multiple actors trying to exit through the Studio door in a crowd, etc. and when the audience is that close to the actors it is awkward.</p>
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