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Auburn, AL

AACT Young Performers Present:

Holmes and Watson:



**THE
GAME'S
AFOOT**

Written by Jon Jory

MARCH 23-25

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AACT Young Performers

Present

Holmes and Watson: The Game's Afoot

by
Jon Jory

Sponsored by



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CAST

The Milverton Adventure

Holmes	Audrey Miller
Watson	Sophia DiJulio
Milverton	.....	Rhema Creel
Countess	.....	Isabel Lepczyk
Lestrade	.....	Maggie Blair
Mrs. Hudson	.....	AnaGrace Atkins

The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet

Holmes	.....	Aubrey O'Bryant
Watson	.....	Joseph Iaconis
Mr. Holder	.....	Harrison Lyda
Bank Visitor	.....	Laney Hackett
Arthur	.....	Mary Alice Barley
Mary	.....	Bette Gibson

The Noble Bachelor

Holmes	.....	Olivia Lepczyk
Watson	.....	Aubrey O'Bryant
Lord St. Simon	.....	Myles Alcime
Lestrade	.....	Maggie Blair
Mr. Moulton	.....	Will DeBlanc
Mrs. Moulton	.....	Mary Margaret Buck

The Adventure of the Speckled Band

Holmes	.....	Sophia DiJulio
Watson	.....	Audrey Miller
Helen	.....	Libby Schrimsher
Julia	.....	Sylvia Marchetti
Royslott	.....	Yumi Stokes

BIOS

Myles Alcime is a 17-year-old Auburn High School student; this is his first play with AACT. He enjoys running, journaling, and listening to music. On most days, he exercises and sleeps when he gets home from school. After graduating, he plans to move to Maryland to get a Bachelor's in Theatre Arts. He hopes you enjoy the show as much as the cast enjoyed being part of it!

AnaGrace Atkins is a homeschooled high school junior. This is her first show at AACT. Her previous performances were in *Descendants* as Snow White's understudy and *Nunsense 2: The Second Coming* in the ensemble. Some of her hobbies are singing, reading, writing, and role playing with friends. She thanks her parents for their support during her time performing.

Mary Alice Barley is a 6th grader at Drake Middle School. She has been participating in classes and camps with AACT since she was five and has enjoyed acting in several kids shows. She is super excited to be performing in her first teen production. When she is not acting, Mary Alice spends time reading, singing, playing guitar, and hanging out with friends.

Maggie Blair is a 7th grader at East Samford School. She has been in multiple shows, including *Jack and Lil* and *James & The Giant Peach*, both with AACT. She was also in *Charlotte's Web* and will be in *Matilda Jr.* with ESS drama club. She likes to play volleyball and do Irish dance, and was one of the Girl Scouts who helped change the ACS dress code.

Mary Margaret Buck is a junior at Auburn High School and is class vice president. This is Mary Margaret's fifth show with AACT. She has also participated in *Holiday Walk in the Woods*. Most recently she was the co-choreographer for AACT's *James and the Giant Peach*. In her free time Mary Margaret enjoys hanging out with friends and shopping. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Rhema Creel is a sophomore in her tenth production with AACT. Her credits include a prankster in *Twelfth Night* and a kidnapper in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, and she's overjoyed to add "conniving blackmailer" to the list. When not onstage (or backstage, or in the audience...), Rhema loves writing poetry, admiring nature, volunteering with kids, and spending time with family.

Will DeBlanc is a 6th grader at Drake Middle School. While he has participated in several AACT clinics, this is his first live AACT production. Will loves all things acting and always looks forward to auditioning for as many roles as possible. In his spare time Will enjoys taking acting classes, drawing, playing guitar, and spending time with his family and friends.

Sophia DiJulio Esquire is a junior in high school. Here's a mystery: when she was 10 years old she had guppies named Sherlock and Watson, they had over 45 kids together. The family was last seen entering a Petco and never seen again. You tell me what happened...Mom!

Bette Gibson is a senior at Reeltown High School. She has been in multiple productions with AACT including *High School Musical*, *All Together Now*, *Shakespeare's Twelfth Night*, two *Holiday Walk in the Woods*, and now, *Holmes and Watson: the Game's Afoot!* She is very excited to play Mary in "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet". She hopes you have a wonderful time!

Laney Hackett is kinda new to AACT, but loves everything it has done in her life! The community of people and support through it just wows her, and she's so happy that AACT is a part of her life now and can't wait to experience more of it!

Joseph Iaconis is an 11th grade student at Lakeview Christian school. He has participated in an AACT summer camp, and this is his first performance. He enjoys singing in youth choir, playing video games, drawing Pokémon, hanging out with friends, listening to instrumental music, and creating many original stories.

Isabel Lepczyk is an 8th grader at Auburn Junior High School. She has previously appeared in AACT's *The Jungle Book*, *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Super Happy Awesome News*, and *Jack and Lil*, as well as several school plays. In her spare time, she likes gymnastics, playing with her pets, and spending time with family and friends.

BIOS

Olivia Lepczyk is a junior at Auburn High School. This is her seventh time onstage with AACT; she has also appeared in several school productions, most recently as Dorine in AHS's *Tartuffe*. Olivia enjoys all things theatre, Scouts (and is currently working on her Eagle project!), drawing, and hanging out with her family, friends, and pets.

Harrison Lyda is a student at Auburn Junior High School. This is his first teen show with AACT, but he has been part of the AACT family for many years, playing roles in several children's theatre productions. He enjoys making videos, singing, playing piano, and acting in theatre productions.

Silvia Marchetti is a senior at AHS making her AACT debut as Julia Stoner in *Holmes and Watson: The Game's Afoot*. Her most recent theater credits include Filpote in the AHS production of *Tartuffe* and *The Lion King* (crew). She would like to thank her family for being so supportive of her and her cast and crew mates for being so warm and welcoming.

Audrey Miller has been doing theater since it was invented. This will be her ninth show with AACT. When she's not solving mysteries, Audrey can be found serving at her church, doing copious amounts of homework, or reading. If she can't be found there, chances are she's performing something somewhere. If you still can't find her, perchance a detective should be called in...

Aubrey O'Bryant is a senior at Auburn High with a passion for the arts, whether it be writing, drawing, or acting. Aubrey is looking forward to 'after high school,' despite not knowing what exactly that looks like at the moment. In the meantime, he will be helping out with AACT productions, working at Monarch Estates, and getting up to hijinks with his dogs.

Libby Schrimsher is 13 years old, in 7th grade at Opelika Middle, and is excited to be in her second AACT show. Other favorite roles include Pam in *Look Forward: The Ruby Bridges Story* at the Springer Opera House and Michael Banks in *Mary Poppins* at Opelika High School. She loves Sherlock Holmes and hopes you enjoy these tales of mystery!

Yumi Stokes is a very creative person. She can draw, write, sing, and dance and is very well-versed in voice impressions. She also dresses up, does her own makeup and makes her own props. She enjoys scrapbooking and creating videos on YouTube. She had a lead role in Drama Kids and was excited and nervous when she was introducing the entire play. Very Fun Stuff!!!

Director's Bio

Nick DiJulio is a Junior double major in BFA Theatre Performance and Visual Media Studies at Auburn University. He is proud to have just closed his eighth production there with William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. He has been involved with AACT for the last 14 years. He is extremely proud to help present one of his favorite characters onstage.



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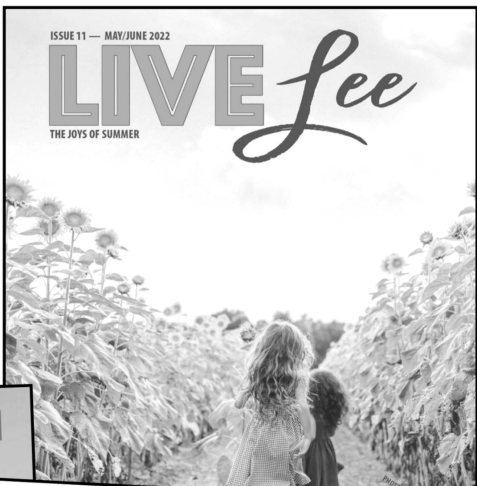
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THE JOYS OF SUMMER

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CyberZone To ReOpen

Grand Re-Opening Set for May 20

CONTRIBUTOR TO THE OBSERVER
Opelika will welcome back a beloved local business and meet at CyberZone home big news and more! (P. 11, 19a, 20, 21) report

its doors after nearly a year-long closure with a grand re-opening on May 20 at 10 a.m. "We find it fortunate and wonderful that the opportunity to have CyberZone back will be for the business," said CyberZone President

Shane Bink. "We have loved selling CyberZone for the years, and it is so encouraging to have the opportunity to have our store back in town. We have CyberZone back and better than ever. As hard as that last year has been, it gives us the opportunity to rebuild our business from the ground up and deliver on the vision we have had for CyberZone since the very beginning."

CyberZone will officially re-open its doors

See CYBERZONE, page 45

Opelika to Host Memorial Day Service

CONTRIBUTOR TO THE CITY OF OPELIKA
Opelika will host a Memorial Day Service on May 30, 2022. The event will recognize the military members who served in the line of duty for their country and for those who have died in service to the United States. The service will be held at the Opelika High School Gymnasium at 10 a.m. The service will be officiated by Pastor Greg Smith, Pastor of the Opelika Baptist Church. The service will be broadcasted on the Opelika Observer website. For more information, contact the Opelika Observer at 334-745-4667.

See OPELIKA, page 42

The Observer Welcomes Kendyl Hollingsworth

CONTRIBUTOR TO THE OBSERVER
Opelika is a proud member of a community that always provides the best news and information to our readers. We are excited to welcome Kendyl Hollingsworth to the team as a new contributor. Kendyl is a local resident and has a passion for writing about the community. She will be contributing to the Opelika Observer website. For more information, contact the Opelika Observer at 334-745-4667.

See HOLLINGSWORTH, page 46

Hyundai To Launch U.S.-Built Electric Genesis GV70, Santa Fe Hybrid

CONTRIBUTOR TO THE CITY OF OPELIKA
Opelika is a proud member of a community that always provides the best news and information to our readers. We are excited to announce that Hyundai is launching its U.S.-built electric Genesis GV70 and Santa Fe Hybrid. The Genesis GV70 is a luxury electric SUV, and the Santa Fe Hybrid is a mid-size SUV. Both vehicles are built in the United States. For more information, contact the Opelika Observer at 334-745-4667.

See HYUNDAI, page 47

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LOVE ADS

We are so proud of you, Maggie! Love Mom, Dad, Owen, & Colby

Sophia, we've followed the clues: the late nights, talking to yourself and making strange faces. The answer is elementary. You're a star!
And Nick, we're proud of your accomplishment as director.
Congratulations to both of you! Love, Mom & Dad

It's elementary, dear Olivia—we can't wait to watch you solve the case! Love, Mom, Dad and Isabel

Isabel, we know everyone in the audience will positively die when you are on the stage! Love, Mom, Dad, and Olivia

Will, We are so excited to watch you in this performance! You have worked so hard and we know you will do an amazing job as Mr. Moulton! You make us proud every single day! We love you! Mom, Dad, and John Davis

Will, You got this! We know you always do your very best in everything! We are so very proud of you! Love, Nanny and Pappy

Will, Bebe is so extremely proud of you and your hard work! You are beyond talented and I can't wait to see you perform in person as Mr. Moulton! The boys and I love you so much! Love, Bebe, Landon, and Tatum

Congratulations Harrison - we are proud of you! Love Mom, Dad, and Allison

Silvia, I am so proud of you. Cherish these high school moments and shine! I love you. Babi

Silvia, I'm so proud of you. Your final high school performance, break a leg! Love Aunt TT

To my beautiful and talented granddaughter, Silvia, have a great experience and enjoy. Break a leg, dear. Love Grammy

Silvia, You were made for this! Blow them away! I love you more! Aunt Chris

Silvia, Enjoy every minute of your first AACT production! Break a leg! Love, Mom, Dad and Abbi

Break a leg Audrey! We love you! Mom, Dad, Evelyn, and Claire

Laney, we are so proud of you! Love mom and dad

Mary Margaret--can't wait to see you light up the stage! Good luck to you and the whole cast and crew! We love you, mom, dad and JR

Mary Alice--We love to watch you shine on stage! So proud of you and love you big! Mom, Dad, and Kate

You are an absolute rockstar, MA! We love you!!! Aunt Trina and Uncle Joel

Best of luck to you, MA! New know you will be great! We love you!! Aunt Jenny and McKenna

Fritz - We love you so much. We are proud of all your hard work and dedication this semester, and your commitment to your theatre productions and responsibilities. Love, Mom, Dad, and Willow

LOVE ADS

Libby we are so proud of you and can't wait to see you in one of our favorite Sherlock Holmes stories!! - Mom, Dad and Caleb

Break all the legs Libby! We love you! Nana and Big Daddy

Bette I am so proud of you! Break a leg for your senior show! I love you! -Bekah

AnaGrace, We love you and are always proud of you! Break a leg! -Dad, Mom, Xander, Bella, Tumbles, and the Thundercats



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Join us so we can keep theatre accessible and affordable for everyone!

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Director's Note

"The game is afoot!" was first uttered by the world's greatest detective in *The Adventure of the Abbey Grange*, part of *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, a collection I had read not long after I turned ten years old. When Sir Arthur Conan Doyle presented the character in *A Study in Scarlet* over 130 years ago, he wouldn't likely have realized that he would live on in some 25,000 adaptations on page, stage, and screen by 1990. This presentation is an extremely faithful adaptation, fit for any Holmesian expert, as adapted by Jon Jory of the Actors Theatre of Louisville. The script has added little more than what was originally written, and the dialogue has been left virtually unchanged. Four individual mysteries, four separate casts of characters, four unique sets of Holmes, Watson, and the iconic characters who flock to Baker Street. This means four incredible interpretations of the character to highlight the many facets of the sleuth; something for the Downey Jr, the Cumberbatch, the Cushing, and the Rathbone fans in each actor. Watch as the actors seamlessly pass the gauntlet of the character off to one another onstage to explore the brilliant, daring, witty, and empathetic elements of the man. I have been extremely honored to work alongside all of these student actors on a project which means so much to me. Each of them brought varying levels of background knowledge to the project, and they all ended with masterfully interpreted performances of their characters that couldn't have done more justice to the story. Despite the long and winding road it has taken to get this production to where it is in this complicated year for Auburn Area Community Theatre, the work you're going to watch tonight is the welcome product of countless dedicated hours from often thankless hands of labor for all of our benefit. I have been endlessly grateful to serve as director, and I hope, sincerely, you enjoy the show.

--Nick DiJulio



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