WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Patricia Blaufuss, Public Relations Manager
(203) 227-5137 x197 | (203) 571-1287 | pblaufuss@westportplayhouse.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 18, 2026

Westport Country Playhouse Stages Family-Friendly Holiday Mystery, "A Sherlock Carol," December 12-20

Playwright and director Mark Shanahan combines two tales by Charles Dickens and Arthur Conan Doyle into one holiday-themed mystery for all ages.

Westport Country Playhouse will stage "A Sherlock Carol," a family-friendly holiday whodunit blending a classic Sherlock Holmes case with "A Christmas Carol," for eight performances, from Saturday, December 12 through Sunday, December 20. The play is set in 1894 London on Christmas Eve when a grown-up Tiny Tim asks Sherlock Holmes to investigate the peculiar death of Ebenezer Scrooge. What follows is a clever, holiday-themed adventure that weaves together the worlds of Sherlock Holmes and Charles Dickens, with a touch of seasonal music.

"'A Sherlock Carol' actually began its life right here at the Playhouse with an online reading in 2021," said Mark Shanahan, the play's writer and director, and Playhouse artistic director. "Since then, it's enjoyed two successful Off-Broadway runs, a London production, and productions around the world. It's a real thrill to welcome this Dickens of a holiday mystery back to the Playhouse to delight fans of Sherlock Holmes and Ebenezer Scrooge alike! We're especially proud to reunite so many members of the original company and design team as we continue creating holiday memories together at the Playhouse."

Nominated for a 2022 Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best New Play and named a "Critic's Pick" by *The New York Times*, "A Sherlock Carol" returns to the Playhouse for its fourth consecutive year, inviting audiences of all ages to follow the clues in a fresh twist on two timeless tales.

Transformative Cast of Characters

"One of the great joys of this production is watching six remarkable actors bring an entire Victorian world to life, transforming from one character to another with a quick change of costume, the turn of a hat, or a dash into the wings," said Shanahan. "This year, we're also welcoming some wonderful young local performers to the company, adding even more life to our bustling London streets. It's a show filled with mystery, laughter, a few ghostly surprises, and a great deal of Christmas spirit."

Cast members are **Joe Delafield** as Dr. Watson and others (Westport Country Playhouse: "Agatha Christie's The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," "The 39 Steps," serves as artistic associate; Broadway: "Tartuffe"); **Ellen Grace Diehl** as The Countess of Morcar and others (NY Theatre Festival's award-winning solo show, "Singin' in a Rainstorm" - Best Singer, Best Actor, Best Production Short; www.ellengracediehl.com); **Dan Domingues** as Dr. Timothy Cratchit and others (Off-Broadway: "The Tempest," "Wild Goose Dreams," "Fidelis," "The Great Immensity"); **James Taylor Odom** as Sherlock Holmes (National Tours: "Clue," "A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder," "The Sound of Music"; @jamestaylorodom); **Sharone Sayegh** as Emma Wiggins and others (Westport Country Playhouse: "The 39 Steps," "The Goldsmith"; Broadway: "Beetlejuice," "Come from Away"; "The Band's Visit"; @sharonesayegh; www.sharonesayegh.com); and

Byron St. Cyr as Ebenezer Scrooge (Broadway: “Moulin Rouge! The Musical”; byronstcyr.com or @bscjr). Local children in the cast will be announced soon.

Accessible, Affordable, with Activities for All Ages

“This year, we're making the festivities extend beyond the performance itself - to make the Playhouse a destination to get you into the holiday spirit,” added Shanahan. “With special activities before and after selected performances, from holiday crafts to conversations with our artists, we're inviting audiences to make a whole outing of their visit to the Playhouse. There will be opportunities to peek behind the curtain, learn a little about how theatre is made, and share in the fun of the season. We want coming to the Playhouse at Christmastime to be something families and friends look forward to doing together.”

To make theatergoing more accessible for families, “A Sherlock Carol” features an earlier 6 p.m. curtain at selected performances, in addition to 1 p.m. matinees. The full performance schedule is Sat., Dec. 12 at 6 pm.; Sun., Dec. 13 at 1 and 6 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 19 at 1 and 6 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 20 at 1 and 6 p.m. The play is recommended for age seven and up. Running time is two hours, including one 15-minute intermission.

Single tickets start at $35. Purchase three or more tickets for just $25 each (limit 10) using code ASCFAMILY through 12/4/26. Student tickets are $20. For information on special offers for senior citizens, veterans, pay-what-you-will, and more, visit www.westportplayhouse.org/visit/box-office/.

Production Team and Supporters

Playwright and director is **Mark Shanahan**, Playhouse artistic director and Script in Hand curator. He has also directed Playhouse productions of “The 39 Steps,” “Theatre People,” and his own adaptation of “Agatha Christie’s The Murder of Roger Ackroyd,” in partnership with Agatha Christie Ltd. As an actor, Shanahan has appeared at Westport Country Playhouse, on and Off-Broadway, and at many celebrated regional theatres. mark-shanahan.net.

The creative team includes **James J. Fenton**, set design, incorporating original set pieces created by **Anna Louizos**, to whom this year’s production is dedicated; **Linda Cho**, costume design; **Alyssandra Docherty**, lighting design; **John Gromada**, original music and sound design; and sound design recreated by **Matt Otto**.

Corporate Production Supporter is 3030 Park at Senior Living Hospitality Group. 2026 Programming and Season Sponsor is Barbara Streicker. 2026 Media Sponsors are Moffly Media and WSHU Public Radio. Community Partners are Gillette Castle, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, Walrus Alley, and more to come. Westport Country Playhouse is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization.

For “A Sherlock Carol” detailed information, special activities, and tickets, visit:
https://www.westportplayhouse.org/show/a-sherlock-carol-2026/

A complete schedule of Playhouse events is available at westportplayhouse.org. All plays, artists, dates, and times are subject to change.

For Westport Country Playhouse information and tickets, visit westportplayhouse.org or call the box office at (203) 227-4177, toll-free at 1-888-927-7529. Stay connected to the Playhouse on Facebook (Westport Country Playhouse), Instagram (wcplayhouse), and YouTube (WestportPlayhouse). Westport Country Playhouse is located at 25 Powers Court, off Route 1, Westport.

###