

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE MYSTERIOUS HOLIDAY

Notes:

This skit can easily be performed using a minimalist approach. A pair of chairs can serve as the “set” for most scenes, defining the space of the houses and hospital. A cardboard box or simply using backwards chairs can serve as the counter in the store. A small cast can perform this skit by doubling parts as needed or desired.

Characters:

**Watson
Narrator
Clerk 1
Clerk 2
Customer
Manager
Mr. Card Hater
Mrs. Card Hater
Pedestrian 1
Pedestrian 2
Ungrateful Boy
Icky Kid 1
Icky Kid 2
Mom
Grandma
Dad
Mrs. Despairing Debtor
Mr. Despairing Debtor
Unusual Pedestrians
Crowd Lady
Crowd Man
Crowd Husband
Angry Store Santa
Caroler Leader
Nurse
Miss Reynolds
Carolers**

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE MYSTERIOUS HOLIDAY

NARRATOR:

Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson have just walked around a foggy London corner. Unbeknown to them, this corner led NOT to the next street. Instead it led them to a place outside their time and reality.

They have stepped into another dimension. They have stepped into...the Twilight Zone. [Cue music or entire cast imitates *Twilight Zone* theme vocally] Holmes and Watson have stepped into a city in 21st century America. Both men have partial amnesia. Their past is only a vague shadow in their minds. But both men do remember who they are, and their personalities are unchanged. Everything else is lost in shadows and mist. .

[Lights down]

[Lights up]

WATSON:

Good heavens, Holmes. Where are we? And WHEN are we?! What's happening?! I.I...

HOLMES:

It is very odd, but don't get over excited, Watson. Cheer up! Think, Watson. Think how exciting this is. (slowly, with emphasis) This may be our greatest adventure ever.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

(Approach a shop—a cardboard box or other minimalist piece can serve as counter)

CLERK 1:

Let's see—a Bratz-Go-To-Paris cell minutes card, a Mutant Ninja Lizard neon belly ring, and a "Kiss This Angel" holiday sweatshirt. Your total comes to \$49.99.

CUSTOMER: [Hand her your credit card or Monopoly money] Here you are. (sigh...and then try to be perky)...just 19 presents left to buy

CLERK 2: (smiling) Well, Happy Holidays, ma'am! [Lauren hands Hannah her card back or gives her change; Josh hands her a bag containing her purchases]

CUSTOMER: Happy Holidays!

CLERK 1, CLERK 2, and MANAGER: Happy Holidays!

Customer exits

HOLMES [approaches CLERK 2]:

Excuse me, my good man. I know it sounds silly for me to ask you this, but, er, what holiday is it...em...exactly we are celebrating?

CLERK 2 Looks surprised, dumbfounded, doesn't know what to say, wonders if Holmes is a bit looney, looks over to Lauren for support and shrugs to her (or other appropriate gesture)

CLERK 1 (tries to come to Josh's rescue with this weird customer and answers for Josh)
The holidays, sir. It's the *holiday* season.

HOLMES:

Yes, yes. I'm sorry, but I'm just a trifle forgetful today. And ... I'm not from around here. ..So, er, which holiday is it...in particular?

CLERK 2:

(pause, baffled) You know, THE holidays...?

WATSON:

(growing impatient) What holiday?!

CLERK 2 looks over at CLERK 1 again with a look of "what do I do?"

CLERK 1: You know...[talking quietly now and smiling nervously] it's Chr
... interrupted, doesn't finish this word] because MANAGER--CHAS is watching them with folded arms
and raising his eyebrows

CLERK 2: (leaning and whispering) We're not allowed to say

CLERK 1: (also leaning and whispering) Yes, I'm sorry, but we're not allowed

WATSON:

Well, I'm dashed! Most peculiar!

HOLMES:

These are a strange people, Watson,.. celebrating a holiday they aren't allowed to pronounce...

(lights down.)

CARDS

(Lights up. Holmes and Watson approach a home where people are going through the mail)

WATSON:

I say, Holmes. (looking offstage). That's the fifth old man in a red suit I've seen in the last ten minutes.

HOLMES:

Yes, very odd. (sucking on his pipe) Perhaps if we observe people not in public and in stores but in their homes, we can gain insight into what this strange celebration might be.

(approach family. Peek in window)

MR. CARD-HATER:

(sorting through mail) Bill. Bill. Bill. More bills. Hmm. Here is a card...[looks at it and reads] “happy holidays from the Joneses.”

MRS. CARD-HATER:

[beats head with hands] Aaaaaah! I can't stand it!

I didn't send the Joneses a card! I THOUGHT I was FINISHED with these cards! Now I have to send THEM a card!

HOLMES [to Watson]:

How odd...They seem to have a holiday custom of goading and tormenting one another with pieces of cardboard...

MRS. CARD-HATER: [anger now changes to a wail] And I'm out of cards so now I've got to go to the store to buy more cards...AND I'm out of stamps!!! I hate this!

MR CARD-HATER: (briefly joking) Hey, wouldn't it be easier if we just killed the Joneses? (both laugh)

(Watson and Holmes leave)

WATSON:

Great Scot!

(lights down)

FAMILY

(Lights up on a family group of three children, two parents, and a grandparent. Two pedestrians are on stage between the detectives and the family group.)

PEDESTRIAN 1:

You know, I think the holidays are really about spending time with your family.

PEDESTRIAN 2:

Ha! You haven't met MY family!

(exit pedestrians)

WATSON:

(to audience) I say, Holmes, there is another old fellow in a red suit.

HOLMES:

Why is it that only the fat men wear the red suits?

UNGRATEFUL BOY:

(whining to Grandma while unwrapping present) A book?! Is that all? I wanted X-Box Ninja Jedi world 57! This doesn't even have any batteries!

ICKY KIDS 1 and 2 holding monopoly box between them)

ICKY KID 1:

I wanna be the cannon this time! You got to be the cannon last time.

ICKY KID 2: Just BE THE SHOE, will ya?! For crying out loud!

ICKY KID 1: I always have to be the shoe. I'm not playing unless I get to be the cannon.

MOM: (tired and sad)

Time to go, kids. Tell Grandma bye.

ALL 3 KIDS:

(grumpy and sullen) Bye, grandma.

GRANDMA: Bye! (then, under her breath...) Little brats! [sighs] They were such cute babies.

DAD:

(looking at watch and angry and in a hurry) Okay. We spent an hour and 13 minutes at your mother's house. So we're GOING to spend an one hour and 13 minutes at mine! Your family is so boring!

MOM: (spitefully):

Well, at least my family does more than watch tv and drink beer.

(family exits past Holmes and Watson)

WATSON:

(Watches family leave. Turns to Holmes) I say, Holmes. Did you understand any of that?

HOLMES:

Only the beer.

(lights down).

MONEY WORRIES

(Lights up)

(Two people center stage. As Watson and Holmes approach)

WATSON:

(looking over his shoulder) I say, that last man in red had a false beard. I think he was an imposter!

HOLMES:

I am more interested in what these people are doing.

MRS. DESPAIRING DEBTOR:

(with head in hands, wails) How on earth are we going to pay for the holidays this year. We're still in debt from last year.

MR DESPAIRING DEBTOR:

I *DON'T* know.

MRS DESPAIRING DEBTOR:

What about the credit cards?

MR DESPAIRING DEBTOR:

They're all maxed out. (unrolls string of credit cards).

MRS DESPAIRING DEBTOR:

(sigh) We can't take out a THIRD mortgage!

(joking but not laughing) Do you think we could sell our kids?

WATSON:

Good gracious, Holmes!

(lights down.)

WEIRD PEDESTRIANS

(Lights up)

HOLMES AND WATSON walk leisurely across. They meet and pass the TWO UNUSUAL PEDESTRIANS—one is wearing a reindeer antler hat or something equally mystifying to H and W; the other is carrying a jam box playing Jingle Bell Rock or some other odd looking or sounding Christmas item—or sings Jingle Bell Rock)

W and H stop and watch them go by, looking surprised and curious

(lights down)

SALE LINE FIGHT

(lights up)

(Numerous people in line in front of a store about to open with a big sale. Holmes and Watson approach)

WATSON:

(approaching the people) Excuse me. I wonder if you could tell me what holiday...

CROWD FIGHTER LADY:

Hey! You can't cut in line! I got here first! This is the biggest sale of the season, and when the store opens in 3 minutes, I'm going in first--not you!

CROWD MAN:

No you're not. I got here first. You're second.

CROWD HUSBAND:

Hey, buddy, you leave my wife alone!

WATSON Wait, I only wanted to know what...

STORE SANTA:

[comes charging onstage] Hey, what's going on out here? Who started this?! We're TRYING to have a SALE here!

(several people, but not all, point at Watson. fight breaks out. Quickly involves everyone in line. Santa grabs Watson by the shoulders. Ad lib/business

(lights down.)

HOSPITAL

(Lights up)

(Watson holding nose as if injured)

HOLMES:

Ah, here's the hospital, Watson. Let's get that nose of yours checked out.

WATSON:

I was doing alright until that man in the red suit hit me.

(already on stage are a patient seated on a chair, a nurse, and a group of carolers.)

CAROLER:

(to nurse) We wanted to sing some Christmas carols if it's alright. Is there anyone here who has had no visitors today—anyone who might be especially lonely?

NURSE:

Oh, yes. Miss Reynolds! She doesn't have any family left, and she has been very lonely today. Miss Reynolds, there are some people here who want to sing to you.

(CAROLER GROUP sings God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen.)

God rest ye merry, gentlemen.

Let nothing you dismay.

Remember Christ our Saviour

Was born on Christmas Day

To save us all from Satan's power

When we were gone astray.

Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,

Comfort and joy,

Oh, tidings of comfort and joy.

Afterward Holmes approaches them

HOLMES:

Excuse me. That song you just sang. It reminds me of something. Perhaps something I heard long ago. It's beautiful. And tell me, why do you come here to the hospital to sing?

CAROLER:

Well, Christmas is the day our savior was born. So we wanted to do something that we thought would honor and please Christ. We thought that visiting someone lonely would be the sort of thing He would do. We thought it would be a good way to celebrate Christmas.

HOLMES:

What you say stirs my heart and my mind. Please...tell me more.... (thoughtfully) You are celebrating "Christmas." And it is to honor "Christ."...Tell me more about Christmas... And who is this...Christ?

MISS REYNOLDS:

Well sit down, son, and we'll tell you all about Him.

WATSON:

(scratching head) The other people we've met aren't doing anything at all like this! Why?

HOLMES:

Oh, do be reasonable, Watson! It's elementary. The OTHER people we've met are clearly celebrating some OTHER holiday.

CAROLER 1:

(laughs and smiles, understanding why Sherlock and Watson are confused. Delivers this line slowly and loudly enough that the audience will be sure to hear it)

We can tell you all about that too.

(lights down.)