

Dear Beacon Society ~

We completed our Summer With Sherlock program at the end of August. Here is our report. We are infinitely grateful for your support.

A description of the completed project ~ Summer With Sherlock: A youth theatre program presented by the Baker Street Players at Baker Street West. The program taught theatre skills while introducing young people to the world's first consulting detective. We used the stage at Baker Street West, and the young actors were immersed in the world of Sherlock Holmes' London in a living museum setting. Our young actors gained both stage and life skills while studying Mr. Holmes' techniques that culminated in performances of a one-act play, *Young Sherlock*, at the end of the two-month-plus program. There were twice weekly classes led by Baker Street West Artistic Director, Beth Barnard, award-winning actor, director, and playwright. She taught theatre basics, acting techniques, dialect coaching, and more. Barnard is also a Sherlockian and co-founder of Baker Street West. She introduced students to the world of Sherlock Holmes utilizing Mr. Holmes' skills as a detective, which helped students to be more observant, to trust the facts, to remain objective, to never give up, to stay a step ahead, and to think outside the box. Sessions were open to young actors ages 8 to 18 and were held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning June 7th at 5:30 pm at Baker Street West. The Summer With Sherlock program culminated with performances of *Young Sherlock* on August 26, 27, and 28.

The goals that were achieved ~ The theatre students gained a more intimate knowledge of Sherlock Holmes and the Sherlock Holmes stories, which were incorporated into their parts as actors and crew in the production. Through theatre skills, each student learned elocution, teamwork, and stage dynamics. Each character in the production related to a specific story in the Canon, so character development was tied directly to Sherlock Holmes' case work.

The project's impact on the grantee, the school or organization, and the participants ~ Baker Street West was able to instill the love for Sherlock Holmes and the canon on a new generation of readers and actors. All our young students, without exception, asked for more experiences of this type. An additional impact is the youngsters' parents we surreptitiously introduced to the world of Sherlock Holmes, many of whom remain active participants at Baker Street West today. Still another impact is we were able to invite the community into the world of Sherlock Holmes by way of the production of *Young Sherlock*. This has impacted Baker Street West in the positive by having exponential exposure of its venue by one youngster times so many family members and beyond.

Copies of materials (pamphlets, handouts, etc.) and photos of displays, activities, etc., from the program ~ In addition to working from the Canon and the script of *Young Sherlock* by Craig Sodaro, we utilized the Spring and Summer issues of *Sherlock's Spotlight*. The program is attached as a pdf file. Photos are attached as well. More photos will gladly be sent upon request.

We are eternally grateful for the support of the Beacon Society and the Jan Stauber Grant.

Most sincerely,

The Good Folks at Baker Street West