

*The Best Men's Monologues from New Plays 2020 – Applause (2021)*

*Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé*

Sherlock Holmes (male, 30s-50s)

Sadly, my profession necessitates an intimate knowledge of England's best and brightest, the so-called Upper Ten Thousand who contribute absolutely nothing to society, yet live lives of pampered comfort while surrounded by the slums of London. The man you see before you, vain, shallow, vicious, self-absorbed, and childish, the so-called Playboy Prince, otherwise known as Edward the Caresser, is the leader of this debauched and depraved pack. Indeed, what you are gazing upon is a man born into money and privilege who has spent his entire life waiting for his mother to die. He has no sense of purpose, no vocation, and so he fills his days with smoking, gluttony, and liaisons with women from all classes of society. He races horses and yachts, and has private rooms at half the brothels in Europe, all of which is financed by the taxpayers of England to the tune of over one hundred thousand pounds per year, a sum which he feels he richly deserves. And as you can see, he adores dressing up in uniform although he has never spent a day of military service in his life. Of course, the various courtiers and sycophants who surround him will never tell him what a miserable piece of human debris he is because they are all congenital cowards seeking to benefit from their association with him. In short, while he and his kind are a plague in almost every society, I present to you the sorriest example of upper-class vermin you are ever likely to meet.