

THE GREAT DETECTIVES



ON SCREEN

Week Ten

Just one more thing...

Welcome to *The Great Detectives*

Week Ten

We've seen how swiftly, across the last ten weeks, detectives of literature have deduced their way to screens both big and small. Cinema and, by extension, television have always embraced crime stories and the detective performing feats of both physical and intellectual daring has always been their darling.

Of course, as time pressed on, this inevitably meant that film and TV would produce their own detectives, native to the medium, that would be taken to the hearts of mystery lovers everywhere.

In this our final, I wanted to look at a few of them; I would need several years to cover them all.

They all owe something to the literary detectives in whose wake they follow, but they all add something to the genre as well. Whether it's some quirk of personality, a grim backstory or a vibrant, murder-plagued locale, each of the series (and detectives) that we'll consider here has become part of the tradition.

They also, for the most part, belong to a singular performer which is what sets them apart from our previous spotlight walkers. Much of our affection for them, dedication to them, is beholden not only to the author who conjured them, but the actor who brought to life.

We needn't imagine Luther or Monk – they look suspiciously like Idris Elba and Tony Shalhoub. And there's a reason we've never seen a Columbo reboot. Columbo *is* Peter Falk.

Interestingly, some of the characters have taken the reverse route and appeared in novels based on their respective series, which is yet another testament to the idea that, given a detective that thrills us, we will happily follow their adventures wherever they may go.

FILMS WEEK TEN

Columbo (1971)

Dir. Steven Spielberg

Murder She Wrote (1984)

Dir. Cory Allen

Monk (2002)

Dir. Dean Parisot

The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency (2008)

Dir. Anthony Minghella

Luther (2010)

Dir. Brian Kirk

Vera (2011)

Dir. Adrian Shergold

Knives Out (2019)

Dir. Rian Johnson

Mare of Easttown (2021)

Dir. Craig Zobel