

THE GREAT DETECTIVES



ON SCREEN

Week Three

Baker Street Irregulars

Welcome to *The Great Detectives*

Week Three

Last week, we took our first steps into the world of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes. We could very easily spend the entirety of the remainder of the course interrogating the many forms in which Holmes has made it to the screen. Countless excellent adaptations have been filmed and even more that are either dreadful or dull or both.

It's not for me to say which films fit which categories. Which won't necessarily stop me.

So, I faced a conundrum: how to represent Holmes in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

To capture the broad strokes, this week, we're going to look at the way in which our familiarity with Holmes and the trappings of his world have emboldened writers, directors and performers to create *their* version of Holmes.

In some cases, the result is a faithful, revered adaptation such as *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, with Jeremy Brett. At the other is the recent *Holmes & Watson*, starring Will Ferrell. Both films, and the others we'll consider, exist because Sherlock Holmes isn't simply a fictional detective... he's a brand. Audiences who have never picked up the work of Conan Doyle in their lives know, to put it in modern parlance, what Sherlock's deal is.

Making the sky the limit.

The storytelling is familiar enough to withstand both faithful retellings and deconstructions, love letters and parodies. Some films that seem to lie the furthest from the original text are the most faithful to the spirit of the originals. Some beat-for-beat reconstructions lie on the screen like the most recent mysterious murder victim.

Nonetheless, the possibilities engendered by taken a familiar premise as a jumping-off point are endless.

FILMS WEEK THREE

They Might Be Giants (1971)

Dir. Anthony Harvey

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother (1975)

Dir. Gene Wilder

The Seven-Per-Cent Solution (1976)

Dir. Herbert Ross

Hound of the Baskervilles (1978)

Dir. Paul Morrissey

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (1984)

Dir. Paul Annett

Young Sherlock Holmes (1985)

Dir. Barry Levinson

The Return of Sherlock Holmes (1987)

Dir. Kevin Connor

Without a Clue (1988)

Dir. Thom Eberhardt

House (2004)

Dir. Bryan Singer

Sherlock Holmes (2009)

Dir. Guy Ritchie

Sherlock (2010)

Dir. Paul McGuigan

Elementary (2012)

Dir. Michael Cuesta

Holmes and Watson (2018)

Dir. Etan Cohen

Miss Sherlock (2018)

Dir. Jun'ichi Mori

Enola Holmes (2020)

Dir. Harry Bradbeer