Beam Me Up Sherlock

by

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In Memory of Leonard Nimoy (1931 -2015)

The recent passing of Leonard Nimoy, the beloved Mr. Spock to the Star Trek fandom, reminded this Sherlockian of Nimoy’s and Star Trek’s many connections to the world of Sherlock Holmes. This essay will explore performers who have portrayed characters in both Star Trek and Sherlock Holmes media.

Mr. Spock or Sherlock Holmes?
Leonard Nimoy (1931 -2015)

Leonard Nimoy as Mr. Spock

Leonard Nimoy as an actor was best known and beloved for his role as Mr. Spock in the Star Trek franchise. Volumes could be written about his Mr. Spock portrayals, but this essay is going to focus on his Sherlockian portrayals. Nimoy appeared as Sherlock Holmes twice in the year 1976. He played Sherlock Holmes with Ronald Bishop as Dr. Watson and Alan Sues as Professor Moriarty in the touring company of William Gillette’s “Sherlock Holmes” play, and he also appeared as Holmes in "Interior Motive" (The Universe And I) for Kentucky Educational Television.

Program for “Sherlock Holmes” (1976) (not “The Sign of Four” Leonard!)
The text on the play promotion picture (1976) reads, "Leonard Nimoy and Alan Sues, appearing at the Shubert in 'Sherlock Holmes', temporarily man the State Street Council Information booth at the NE Corner of State and Madison...a crowd of fans lines up for autographs and fingerprints provided by the stars."  

Leonard Nimoy and Alan Sues promoting “Sherlock Holmes” (1976)

Lee Gibson (Hounds of the Internet, 5/31/1996), said he saw one Chicago performance in which Leonard Nimoy and Alan Sues exchanged roles; Sues was "a very fine Holmes," and Nimoy was "a better Moriarty than he was a Holmes."

"Leonard Nimoy as 'Sherlock Holmes' comforts his ally and dear friend Doctor Watson in a dramatic moment in the international hit coming to the stage of the Shubert [Theater] for a limited [engagement] beginning Tuesday, May 11. Doctor Watson is played by Ronald Bishop."  

Leonard Nimoy and Ronald Bishop

1 http://www.beyonspock.de/stage/sherlock_holmes.php

2 http://www.beyonspock.de/stage/sherlock_holmes.php
In the article “Nimoy’s a Natural as Holmes”, in Issue #2 (1976) of “Enterprise Incidents” a Star Trek Fan Magazine, Nimoy makes comments about the “Sherlock Holmes” play. “What we’re doing [...] is a kind of reverent sendup of the whole Holmes thing. I don’t think this material could play otherwise. For instance, there’s a scene in which Holmes discovers a con man has tied up a damsel and stuffed her in a closet. When I open the closet and see her, I turn to the con man and say, "You contemptible scoundrel!" Now, in the 1890s when the play was written, that would have been a dramatic moment. But today it’s camp. Everyone laughs. It’s a fun kind of play.”

He goes on to say he always thought he should do Holmes since his looks and image would lent themselves to the character and he had an understanding of what makes him tick. Nimoy says, “He's an asocial man, hardly your average 9-to-5 worker with a family. Instead, he's chosen a very special kind of life, and he has very little respect for most of the people around him who are also involved in his profession. He's an outsider, in so many ways -- particularly in his relationships, with women. Holmes is very much an alien, all right, and I felt that I could understand him the same way I understood Spock.”

That same year 1976, Leonard Nimoy appeared as Sherlock Holmes, with Burt Blackwell as Dr. Watson, in 'The Universe and I', as it was said in the titles (but actually the name of the film is “Sherlock Holmes: Interior Motive”. It was a fifteen minutes educational film for Kentucky Educational Television.

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3 Enterprise Incidents, 1976, Page 1 & 2 Issue #2, “Nimoy's a Natural as Holmes”

4 Enterprise Incidents, 1976, Page 1 & 2 Issue #2, “Nimoy's a Natural as Holmes”
The plot of “Sherlock Holmes: Interior Motive” is basically this, “For his nephew's birthday Watson has bought a compass. As he unpacks it, he wonders why it is not pointing north but to the globe. Holmes works out the reason and promises him the answer tonight when the royal society will be in. Before them Holmes explains how he came to the solution: The difference in the way of the waves gave him a clue where the core is. The temperature and the magnetic field what the core is about: Hot melted metal. As they applaud, Holmes refuses the praise at first because the real answer is that in the core a detective is a scientist and the scientist a detective. Now he accepts the applause.”

Watch Leonard Nimoy as Sherlock Holmes in ”Interior Motive" at: https://vimeo.com/112218871

From 1976 through 1982 Nimoy hosted the documentary/sci-fi TV series “In Search of...” which investigated into various mysteries. In 1978 (season 3 episode 12) the show was titled "In Search of...Sherlock Holmes".

Host Leonard Nimoy

Watch " In Search of...Sherlock Holmes", hosted by Leonard Nimoy at: Part I https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bS1yZFm6X-o

Part II https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=389gd1DDd78

Part III https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9Nwd1wN04w

5 http://www.ponilla.org/Nimoy/TVFilms_SHolmes_IntMotive.htm
Leonard Nimoy and Sherlock Holmes would have one other crossing of paths, but this time as puppets at “CONvergence 2013: British Invasion” in Bloomington, Minnesota. ‘In a live musical sketch called “Avenue Who,” which is basically what would happen if Avenue Q and Doctor Who made sweet, sweet love and had a baby.” The cast included:

Nick Glover as Leonard Nimoy

Laszlo Nemesi as Sherlock Holmes and Gordon Smuder as Dr. Watson

William Shatner  
(1931 - )

The original Star Trek featured a tri-masculine relationship of Kirk, Spock, and Bones which bore a strong resemblance to the bond between Holmes and Watson. Appropriately we therefore present William Shatner, perhaps as Captain Kirk the biggest star of the Star Trek franchise, right on the heels of his best friend Leonard Nimoy, as a Star Trek performer with a Sherlockian performance credit.

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6 http://blog.christopherjonesart.com/tag/travis-richey/

“The Hound of the Baskervilles” (1972)

“The Hound of the Baskervilles” was the first American color version of the tale, and was produced by ABC TV for their Movie of the Weekend. The production was one of three pilots for a series of television movies featuring literary sleuths... The production utilized sets from other productions, mainly horror films. The ratings weren’t very good and reviews were bad which caused the proposed series of tele-films to be shelved.”

7 Stewart Granger appeared as Sherlock Holmes and Bernard Fox appeared as Dr. Watson, but today this TV movie is probably best

remembered for William Shatner, Captain Kirk of “Star Trek”, having played the role of Stapleton.

![Bernard Fox and Stewart Granger in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1972)](image)

**Bernard Fox and Stewart Granger**

**“The Hound of the Baskervilles” (1972)**

Check out this clip with William Shatner and Stewart Granger in Hound at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0KYWWrKk8I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0KYWWrKk8I)

Readers may be familiar with the pastiche “Elementary, My Dear Spock” by Mary W. Matthews and Y.S. Pascal. Sherlock Holmes was puzzled. Who were those strange men with the pointy sideburns, and why did they seem to know him so well? . . . Captain Kirk, Mr. Spock, and Dr. McCoy have to travel back in time to 1890s England to catch an alien criminal, and they must keep Sherlock Holmes from figuring out who they are and thus changing the future. this light-hearted romp is an homage to Sherlock Holmes, Star Trek, and 20th-century English mystery novels.

An interesting side note on a William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy Doyleian related happening; noted Sherlockian historian Peter E. Blau tells me, “there's an additional connection you may not be aware of: the book "Believe." written by William Shatner and Michael Tobias (Berkeley Books, 1992) that I reviewed in my newsletter in 1992 . . . was an attempt to tell the story of Houdini and Conan Doyle, with an author's note that admitted that "most details that might have harbored even a shred of truth have been freely altered, embellished, imagined, or altogether invented." There also was a script for a play "Harry and Arthur", based on the book, that was to have starred Shatner as Houdini and Nimoy as Conan Doyle, with a production reported as scheduled at the Bucks County Playhouse in 1993; the play was not performed, and the owner of the playhouse is reported to have sued Shatner for $150,000 in 1994 for failing to proceed with the production.”
Christopher Plummer  
(1929 - )

Christopher Plummer is perhaps the greatest Canadian actor, and probably best remembered for his role of Captain von Trapp in the “Sound of Music”, with Julie Andrews. Did you know that he also had numerous Star Trek and Holmes related media credits?

Christopher Plummer played Klingon General Chang in “Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country” (1991) and he also played General Chang in the video-game: “Star Trek: Klingon Academy” (2000). Also Plummer (as General Chang - in "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country") quoted Sherlock Holmes, by saying "The game is afoot" in a late scene when the space battle was approaching a climax. The game also was afoot for Christopher when he appeared as Sherlock Holmes in two different films. Christopher Plummer played Sherlock Holmes in a TV movie "Silver Blaze" (1977) with Thorley Walters as Dr. Watson, and in a marvelous film "Murder by Decree" (1979) with James Mason as Dr. Watson.
Plummer hoped “Silver Blaze”, a joint British-Canadian product would be successful and spawn a series of Holmes adaptations, telling Photoplay magazine he hoped it would be "the first of a mini-series of six of the best stories which have not been done before". Unfortunately, by the time the film finally aired 18 months after production the idea of continuing the series had been shelved.\(^8\)

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Thorley Walters and Christopher Plummer  
*Silver Blaze (1977) ITV*

“Murder by Decree”, another British-Canadian mystery thriller, “features the Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson characters embroiled in the investigation surrounding the real-life 1888 Whitechapel murders committed by Jack the Ripper. Christopher Plummer plays Holmes and James Mason plays Watson. Though it features a similar premise, it is notably different in tone and result to ‘A Study in Terror’. It is loosely based on ‘The Ripper File’ by Elwyn Jones and John Lloyd.”\(^9\) Another Plummer tidbit (reminded to me by Les Klinger): Christopher Plummer also starred in the play “Barrymore”—an actor who played Holmes portraying an actor who played Holmes!

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James Mason and Christopher Plummer
“Murder by Decree” (1979)

John Colicos
(1928 -2000)

John Colicos as Klingon Commander Kor
From Canada like Plummer, actor John Colicos is perhaps better known to frandoms as Klingon Commander Kor in "Star Trek" (or Count Baltar in "Battlestar Galactica"). Yet, John Colicos has also played Sherlock Holmes, Inspector Lestrade, and Professor Moriarty.


John Colicos
Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1975)

On stage, at Florida’s Coconut Grove Playhouse (1975) in Gillette’s "Sherlock Holmes", he played Sherlock Holmes, with Donald Symington (1925 - 2013) as Dr. Watson.

Brian Bedford and John Colicos
"My Dear Watson" (1989)
In an 1989 episode of "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" titled "My Dear Watson", Colicos would play both Lestrade and Moriarty, with Brian Bedford as Holmes and Patrick Monckton as Dr. Watson.

**Dominic Keating**
**(1962 - )**

In the TV series “Star Trek Enterprise” (2001 - 2005), Dominic Keating was a series regular, Lieutenant Malcolm Reed the weapons and tactical expert on the starship Enterprise.

**Dominic Keating as Lieutenant Malcolm Reed**
*Star Trek Enterprise* (2001 - 2005)
“Sherlock Holmes” (2010)

In Asylum's ‘mockbuster’ rival (straight to DVD) edition of the Guy Ritchie blockbuster with the same title, “Sherlock Holmes” (2010), starring Torchwood's Gareth David-Lloyd as Watson, a newcomer Ben Syder as Holmes, Dominic Keating plays the baddie, Thorpe Holmes. Yes, who knew Robert Sherlock Holmes had another evil brother Thorpe Holmes!

Ben Syder and Gareth David-Lloyd
“Sherlock Holmes” (2010)

Marina Sirtis
(1955 - )
Marina Sirtis as Counselor Deanna Troi
Marina Sirtis was series regular Counselor Deanna Troi on “Star Trek: The Next Generation” (1987 - 1994). “Deanna Troi is a half-human, half-Betazoid and the ship counselor aboard the USS Enterprise-D. Like all Betazoids, she is able to communicate with her species telepathically and has extra-sensory empathy for what other species are feeling, with the exception of the Breen and Ferengi, whose brains differ too much from her own. She often uses her abilities as a sort of human lie detector, to sense whether other species they encounter are being truthful.”

Marina Sirtis as Lucrezia Venucci
“The Six Napoleons” (1986)

10 http://www.imdb.com/character/ch0001461/bio
Prior to “Star Trek: The Next Generation” Marina could be seen in an episode of “The Return of Sherlock Holmes”, starring the great Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes and Edward Hardwicke as Dr. Watson. In the episode “The Six Napoleons” (1986), Marina Sirtis played Lucrezia Venucci, the sister of Pietro Venucci, and the thief of the black pearl of the Borgias.

Watson, Lestrade, Holmes, and the black pearl of the Borgias

Nicholas Meyer  
(1945 - )

Do you remember the pastiche “The Seven-Per-Cent Solution” (1974)? That novel, teaming Sherlock Holmes with Sigmund Freud hit #1 on the New York Times bestseller list, remaining on it for 40 weeks. It probably did more to spread the word about Sherlock Holmes than any other pastiche. It was written by Nicholas Meyer, who went on to direct "Star Trek - Wrath of Khan", the movie
that rescued the Star Trek franchise. Both Sherlockians & Trekkies owe a nod of appreciation to Mr. Meyer.

“Nicholas Meyer graduated from the University of Iowa with a degree in theater and film-making, & is a film writer, producer, director and novelist best known for his involvement in the Star Trek films... In 1977, Meyer was nominated for an Adapted Screenplay Academy Award for adapting his own 1974 novel, ‘The Seven-Per-Cent Solution’, to the screen... Meyer wrote three Sherlock Holmes novels: ‘The West End Horror’, ‘The Canary Trainer’, and ‘The Seven-Per-Cent Solution’. The latter was Meyer's most famous Holmes novel and the project for which he was best known prior to his Star Trek involvement. It was also adapted into a 1976 film, directed by Herbert Ross, for which Meyer wrote the screenplay.”

It’s easy to spot Meyer’s influences in "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" (1991) which he directed and wrote the screenplay for, just check out these lines:

**Commander Pavel Chekov**: It is Enterprise. We fired them.

**Captain Montgomery 'Scotty' Scott**: That is not possible! All weapons visually accounted for, sir.

**Captain Spock (Leonard Nimoy)**: An ancestor of mine maintained that when you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth. If we did not fire those torpedoes, another ship did.

**General Chang (Christopher Plummer)**: "The game is afoot" in a late scene when the space battle was approaching a climax.

It’s no coincidence that Nimoy and co-star Christopher Plummer have both played Holmes on stage and screen.

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Sherlock Holmes is often used as a role model for characters in the Star Trek universe. A direct example of this occurred in “Star Trek: The Next Generation” in which the episodes "Elementary, Dear Data" (1988) and "Ship in a Bottle" (1993) featured holodeck storylines with Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Professor Morarty.

**Brent Spiner**

(1949 - )

Brent Spiner starred as android lieutenant commander Data in “Star Trek: The Next Generation”. As Data, Burton took on the role of Sherlock Holmes in season 2 episode 3, "Elementary, Dear Data" (1988), and then again in season 6 episode 12, "Ship in a Bottle" (1993). LeVar Burton, as Geordi La Forge, portrayed Dr. Watson.

In "Elementary, Dear Data" an attempt to provide Data with a challenging Sherlock Holmes holodeck role playing game scenario backfires when its Professor Moriarty character accidentally becomes self-aware.

In "Ship in a Bottle" while fiddling with the controls in one the holodecks, Lt. Barclay inadvertently unlocks Data's Sherlock Holmes mystery, which includes Holmes' arch nemesis, Professor Moriarty.
LeVar Burton (1957 - ). Burton starred as Geordi La Forge, a lieutenant commander and the chief engineer for the USS Enterprise-D in “Star Trek: The Next Generation”. As Geordi, Burton took on the role of Dr. Watson in season 2 episode 3, "Elementary, Dear Data" (1988), and then again in season 6 episode 12, "Ship in a Bottle" (1993). Brent Spiner, as android lieutenant commander Data, portrayed Sherlock Holmes. “Asked about his favorite scenes, Burton answered that he especially liked the holodeck adventures: ‘The Holmes and Watson’ episodes for Data and Geordi... were a lot of fun for us. I think the holodeck was a very cool concept, you know. You can create a three dimensional reality ... I mean, how cool is that?”[12] Well I’d say, that’s almost as cool as LeVar Burton was when he portrayed Dr. Watson.
Daniel Davis
(1945 - )

Daniel Davis as Professor Moriarty

Davis was a superior Moriarty. It is a little known fact that Daniel Davis also once played Dr. Watson! Peter Donat appeared as Sherlock Holmes on stage in "The Crucifer of Blood", with Daniel Davis as Dr. John H. Watson, for 26 performances at American Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco, in 1980.

Peter Donat
"The Crucifer of Blood" (1980)
David Warner
(1941 - )

David Warner as St. John Talbot
"Star Trek V: The Final Frontier" (1989)


David Warner as Chancellor Gorkon
Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country” (1991)
David Warner as Gul Madred
“Star Trek: The Next Generation” (1992)


William Windom
(1923 - 2012)

William Windom as Commodore Decker

Dr. Watson “Sherlock Holmes” (2011)

Purchase at: http://www.cartradio.com/sherlock-holmes.html...

Sherlockian media buff and friend Charles Prepolec pointed me to the HBO recorded version of the Gillette play in 1981 for three more candidates Frank Langella, Stephen Collins, and Dwight Schultz.

Frank Langella
(1938 - )

Frank Langella as Minister Jaro

In three episodes of “Star Trek: Deep Space Nine” (1993) Frank Langella played Minister Jaro. Jaro Essa is a Bajoran with lofty political aspirations who does not believe that the Federation belongs in the Bajoran system. The episodes were “The Seige”, “The Circle”, and “The Homecoming.
Frank Langella as Sherlock Holmes
“Sherlock Holmes” (1981)

Frank Langella played Sherlock Holmes in HBO TV’s recorded version of William Gillette’s play “Sherlock Holmes” (1981). Richard Woods was his Dr. Watson.

Donald Donnelly and Frank Langella
“Sherlock’s Last Case” (1987)

Frank Langella also played Holmes in the Broadway production of “Sherlock’s Last Case” (1987). Donald Donnelly was his Dr. Watson.
Stephen Collins
(1947 - )

Stephen Collins as Captain Willard Decker

Stephen Collins played Captain Will Decker who is temporarily replaced by Kirk in the rush to confront and vanquish the threat that comes to be known as V’Ger. in “Star Trek: The Motion Picture” (1979)

Stephen Collins as James Larrabee
“Sherlock Holmes” (1981)

Stephen Collins played James Larrabee in HBO TV’s recorded version of William Gillette’s play “Sherlock Holmes” (1981).
Dwight Schultz
(1947 - )

Dwight Schultz as Lt. Barclay

Dwight Schultz as Bassick
“Sherlock Holmes” (1981)
Dwight Schultz played Bassick one of Moriarty’s gang in HBO TV’s recorded version of William Gillette’s play “Sherlock Holmes” (1981).
Malcolm McDowell (1943 - )

Malcolm McDowell as Dr. Tolian Soran
"Star Trek: Generations" (1994)

Malcolm McDowell who was Moriarty opposite Michael York's Sherlock Holmes in "Tom & Jerry Meet Sherlock Holmes" (2010), and of course Dr. Tolian Soran in "Star Trek: Generations" (1994).

Malcolm McDowell voices Professor Moriarty
"Tom & Jerry Meet Sherlock Holmes" (2010)

In "Tom & Jerry Meet Sherlock Holmes", Michael York voices Sherlock Holmes, John Rys-Davies voices Dr. Watson and Malcolm McDowell voices Proffesor Moriarty. “Miss Red is being blackmailed. When she asks Sherlock Holmes for help, he connects her case to a series of jewel thefts and tells his assistant Jerry the Mouse to work with Red's butler Tom the Cat for the duration of this case.”

13 http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1722638/?ref_=nm_flmg_act_62
Rosalyn Landor  
(1958 - )

Rosalyn Landor as Brenna Odell  

Great white north Sherlockian media buff and friend Charles Prepolec, clued me in to Rosalyn Landor, who played Helen Stoner in the Granada adaptation of “The Speckled Band” (1984), and also appeared on “Star Trek: The Next Generation”. She played Brenna Odell in the second season episode 'Up the Long Ladder' (1989).

Rosalyn Landor as Helen Stoner  
Jonathan Farwell
(1932 - )

Jonathan Farwell as Captain Walker Keel

My theater expert, Holmesian and Shakespearian Ray Wilcockson, came up with this entry. Jonathan Farwell played Captain Walker Keel in “Star Trek the Next Generation” Season 1, Episode 25 ‘Conspiracy’ (1988). Prior to that Farewell had played Sherlock Holmes in Dennis Rosa adaptation/direction of Gillette's “Sherlock Holmes” at Frances E Drury Theater, Cleveland, Oh. (and Cleveland Playhouse) (1972/73).

Jonathan Farwell as Sherlock Gillette's “Sherlock Holmes” (1972/73)
Freda Foh Shen
(19?? - )

Freda Foh Shen as the helmsman of the USS Kelvin
“Star Trek” (2009)

Freda Foh Shen is an Asian-American actress who played the helmsman of the USS Kelvin in J.J. Abrams' “Star Trek” (2009). Shen previously voiced Admiral Alice Liu in the 2002 video game Star Trek: Bridge Commander.¹⁴

Freda Foh Shen as Mary Watson, Joan Watson’s Mom

¹⁴ [http://en.memory-alpha.org/wiki/Freda_Foh_Shen](http://en.memory-alpha.org/wiki/Freda_Foh_Shen)

Freda Foh Shen was Mary Watson, it would have been fun if Joan had said her Dad’s name was Dr. John Watson too!

**Benedict Cumberbatch**  
*(1976 - )*
Benedict Cumberbatch as Khan

“Star Trek Into Darkness” (2013)
Now that’s better!

Benedict Cumberbatch played Khan Noonien Singh (a.k.a. "John Harrison") in “Star Trek Into Darkness” (2013). Since both franchises are still going strong, and other Sherlockians and Trekkies will probably send me more hidden gems after reading this, I guess we expect to see this list growing too.

Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes

BBC “Sherlock” (2010 - Present)

Is there really anyone looking at this essay out there who doesn’t know this Sherlock!??
So as we warp speed to an ending let’s ride aboard the “The USS Sherlock Holmes (NCC-221B), which was a Federation starship operated by Starfleet. In 2364, the commanding officer was Captain Jeffery Joal Annon. In 2364, prior to stardate 41603.7, this ship, along with the USS Unicorn, received an order from Admiral Gregory Quinn of Starfleet Operational Support Services. Later that year, this order was read by Lieutenant Commander Data during an investigation into an alleged conspiracy in the highest levels of Starfleet Command.”


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The USS Sherlock Holmes (NCC-221B)

Rest in peace and prosper Leonard Nimoy, you are the one of the many this essay was written to honor.

The End.