

It's A Mad, Mad, Mad, Sherlock, The Comedic World of Holmes

by

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Part II

Larry Hagman (1931 - 2012) and Jenny O'Hara (1942 -) - "The Return Of The Worlds Greatest Detective" (1976), was a pilot show on NBC, which starred Larry Hagman as an inept motorcycle cop named Sherman Holmes, who after sustaining a head injury became convinced that he was Sherlock Holmes. Jenny O'Hara was Dr. Joan Watson his psychiatric social worker. It's a shame that this was never made into a television series as it was originally intended for.



Larry Hagman and Jenny O'Hara

Watch "The Return Of The Worlds Greatest Detective" at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uc2VwlNEMsg>

Rowlf the Dog portrayed Holmes, with **Baskerville the Hound** as Watson in "Sherlock Holmes and the "Case of the Disappearing Clues" (1976), the United Kingdom spot, from episode 103 of "The Muppet Show".



Rowlf and Baskerville

Watch "Case of the Disappearing Clues" at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LU27gd34R-I>

Keith McConnell (1923 - 1987) and **Richard Peel (1920 - 1988)** were picked by Neil Simon to play Holmes and Watson, in his detective satire "Murder by Death" (1976). While the small scene at the end of the movie was included in the ABC-TV showing, it tragically was deleted from the DVD due to the demands of some of the larger named actors, who felt the scene without big name actors detracted from their own worth.



Keith McConnell and Richard Peel

Watch this deleted scene from "Murder by Death" here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vAwH2VEyeg>

Peter Cook (1937 - 1995) and **Dudley Moore (1935 - 2002)** - attempted a parody of "The Hound of The Baskervilles" (1977), with Peter Cook as Sherlock Holmes and Dudley Moore as Dr. Watson. I say attempted because I didn't find this film the least bit funny.



Peter Cook and Dudley Moore

See "The Hound of The Baskervilles" w/Peter Cook at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3QTP_aDh20

Tom Baker (1934 -) - has played both Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Who. In the “Dr. Who” episode “The Talons of Weng-Chiang” (1977), he would appear as Dr. Who dressed as Sherlock Holmes.



Tom Baker

Watch “The Talons of Weng-Chiang” at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EN3t8TX-Z6Y>

John Cleese (1939 -) and **Arthur Lowe (1915 -1982)** - the grandson of the world's first and foremost consulting detective, John Cleese as Arthur Sherlock Holmes, and his bumbling, bionic sidekick, Arthur Lowe as Dr. William Watson, attempt to catch the only living descendant of Professor Moriarty, in the TV movie “The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It” (1977).



Arthur Lowe and John Cleese

Watch “The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It” at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikjsWD3dFSk>

Michael Palin (1943 -) and **Dan Ackroyd (1952)** - played Holmes and Watson in “The Forgotten Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes -The Case of the Scarlet Membrane” (1978) a skit on “Saturday Night Live”. A coked-up Sherlock Holmes has trouble staying focused on his various cases and instead lives his life as a paranoid detective who can become agitated at the slightest things. Palin walking around with the rolled-up dollar bill up his nose was a great sight gag, coupled with the weird things he did like play violin and shoot at a target on the wall. In one part Holmes tells Watson some man’s life story simply by looking at him but, it was simply a statue.



Bill Murray, Jane Curtin and Michael Palin

You can view “The Case of the Scarlet Membrane” at: <http://rutube.ru/video/ff755b592458cf748529be1175b4ba35/>

Eric Morecambe (1926 - 1984) and **Ernie Wise (1925 - 1999)** - performed a number of Sherlock Holmes skits on “The Morecambe & Wise Show” (1978-83).



Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise

See Morecambe & Wise introduce Peter Cushing at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IT6e58r3bvo>

Don Knotts (1924 - 2006) and **Tim Conway (1933 -)** - in the comedy mystery film “The Private Eyes” (1980), the pair play bumbling American detectives who unexplicitly work for Scotland yard, an obvious parody of Sherlock Holme and Dr. Watson. As Inspector Winship and Dr. Tart they investigate a strange death in a possibly haunted mansion.



Don Knotts and Tim Conway

See a trailer of “The Private Eyes” at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QNocMA8KR4>



See classic Tim Conway gags with Don Knotts, from “The Private Eyes” at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otpAcItmdSo>

Kenny Everett (1944 - 1995) and Michael Sharvell-Martin (1944 - 2010) play Holmes and Watson in "Sherlock Holmes & The Mysterious Affair of the End of the World" on the "Kenny Everett Show" (1982).



Michael Sharvell-Martin and Kenny Everett

Watch "Sherlock Holmes & The Mysterious Affair of the End of the World" at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZT95rYn51s>

Julian Curry (1937 -) and Michael Sharvell-Martin (1944 - 2010) appear in a lovely little advertisement from the late 1980's for Oz Kettle Limescale Remover. "Rumpole of the Bailey" fans may recognize the brilliant Julian Curry, who played Claude Erskine Brown in Rumpoles chambers, what a brilliant Holmes he would have made, its a pity he was never given a series as Holmes. Equally brilliant is the late Michael Sharvell-Martin, perfectly cast as Watson, probably most famous for playing alongside the comedy legend Dave Allen in his TV shows. "No Holmes should be without it!"¹

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHQ5YKbLTBs>



Julian Curry and Michael Sharvell-Martin

Watch Oz Kettle ad at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHQ5YKbLTBs>

Bernie Winters (1932 - 1991) appeared as Sherlock Holmes, with **Chris Emmett (1938 -)** as Dr. Watson, in a series of skits on the ‘Sherlock Holmes’ episode (1983) of the popular British game show “3-2-1”.



Bernie Winters and Chris Emmett

Watch the full episode of “Sherlock Holmes 3-2-1” at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L17JowiJDq4>

Brian Keith (1921 - 1997) - in the pilot episode of the hit TV series “Murder, She Wrote”, an episode titled “The Murder of Sherlock Holmes” (1984), Keith plays Caleb McCallum who was dressed as Sherlock Holmes, is found after a party, floating face down in a swimming pool.



Angela Lansbury and Brian Keith

Jimmy Cricket (1945 -) - plays Sherlock Holmes in a Sherlock Holmes skit from the Irish comedian's television series from the 1980's which was broadcast on ITV.



Jimmy Cricket

See Jimmy Cricket Holmes skit at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUILAENZecM>

In general Russian Holmes are fairly serious and follow canon lines, i.e Volkov, Livanov, and Petrenko. However, that's not the norm when it comes to animations or commercials. I submit to you the following animations (one even voiced by the legendary Vasily Livanov), and Livanov commercials, which show the fun side of Russia's Holmeses.

Vasily Livanov voices Holmes in “Sherlock Holmes and Me”, or “Мы с Шерлоком Холмсом” (1985). A dog talks about his adventures with the great detective. His students do not believe him. At least they did not believe him until the mastiff is suddenly telephoned by Sherlock Holmes. Thirty years later, and the film is still very popular!



Vasily Livanov

Watch “Sherlock Holmes and Me” at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETEWgdwapio>

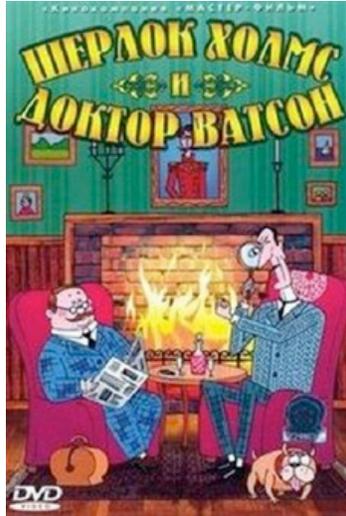
For some fun, see Vasily Livanov in a variety of commercials at these links:

Burton's commercial at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYIZCLM68Io>

Sherlock Holmes in Red Bull TV-spot. Voiced by Vasily Livanov in Russian version at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOzQWsnqO3c>

Russian Sherlock Vasily Livanov Riston Tea commercial at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlBm7dIPc>

Alexei Koltan voiced both Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in the Russian Short Animation “The Murder of Lord Waterbrook” (2005). It's pretty amazing how many voice roles were done in the above animation by one actor (Alexei Koltan): Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, Lestrade, Lord Waterbrook, the Chinese cook, Sgt. Baskerville, the policemen, the lackey and the narrator!



Alexei Kolgan

Watch Holmes & Watson investigate the murder of Lord Waterbrook at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rzCuEvaYPw>

That animation was followed up with another Russian animation, the very funny “Sherlock Holmes and Little Black Men” (2012). It is a story about the famous detective Sherlock Holmes and his constant companion Dr. Watson, who investigate complicated case of an explosion and fire in the Admiralty abduction of secret documents safe.



Happy to report the Russian animated series "**Sherlock Holmes and Little Black Men**" is now available on Youtube with English subtitles! at:

1. Sherlock Holmes and Little Black Men (6:28)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pl2qMSoC8Ms>

2. Sherlock Holmes and Little Black Men (6:24)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXXmqy9W6cI>

3. Sherlock Holmes and Little Black Men (6:32)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQXUNqOKnO4>

4. Sherlock Holmes and Little Black Men (6:40)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKlFlaSveGE>

5. Sherlock Holmes and Little Black Men (6:23)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLGFzUo5how>

6. Sherlock Holmes and Little Black Men (6:30)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS2IYC-GJEY>

Ekaterina Vasilyeva (1945 -) (Yekaterina Sergeyevna Vasilyeva), played Shirley Holmes and **Galina Shchepetnova (1948 -)** (Simonova) or, Galina Simonova-Shchepetnova (she had been Shchepetnova but married Alexey Simonov) , played Jane Watson, in the lovely Russian feature film, “My Dearly Beloved Detective” (1986). A polished, delightful production in itself, this film pays homage to the Sherlockian tradition, especially the (then recent) superb cycle of Holmes films starring Vasily Livanov & Vitaly Solomin.



Ekaterina Vasilyeva and Galina Shchepetnova

"Two employees of a private detective agency, Miss Holmes and Miss Watson, applying the deductive method, successfully investigating hopelessly complicated case. Scotland Yard decides to get rid of the competition, but there it was! For the young ladies love intervenes ..."²

You can watch "My Dearly Beloved Detective", in it's entirety on YouTube (in 6 parts, no subtitles) beginning with part 1 at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dpi-b8qhZr8&feature>

James Cromwell (1940 -), who was later nominated for an Academy Award in 1995 for his role as Farmer Arthur Hoggett in the movie "Babe" played the role of Sherlock Holmes, in "Sherlock Holmes - The Case of the Blue Clue" an award-Winning TV Commercial (1986). He also won an Emmy Award in 2003 for his role as George Sibley in the Six Feet Under television series. The role of Dr. Watson was played by **Bernard Fox (1927 -)**, a British actor who is probably still best known for his role as Dr. Bombay in the Bewitched television series in the 1960s. Bernard Fox also played Dr. Watson in 1972 HOUN, with Stewart Granger as Holmes.



Bernard Fox (1927 -) and James Cromwell (1940)

View "Sherlock Holmes - The Case of the Blue Clue" at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMOReJ8VQgM>

Michael Caine (1933 -) and Ben Kingsley (1943 -) - "Without A Clue" (1988) is a Sherlock Holmes film with a twist. Ben Kingsley, as Dr Watson, is the ace detective and has been using Michael Caine, a drunken actor, to play the part of Sherlock Holmes. When Watson tries to go it alone, he doesn't have much success, so he is forced to let Holmes take all the credit once more.

² http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Мой_нежно_любимый_детектив



Michael Caine and Ben Kingsley

Watch a minute of Michael Caine's brilliant Sherlock Holmes portrayal in "Without a Clue" at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SsFEmLN-r3M&feature>

Mark Wenzel, Sherlock mime, is probably best remembered as the resident mime at Disneyland for many years, yet he has worked at all the major California theme parks including Sea World, Knott's Berry Farm, the Queen Mary, Universal Studios Hollywood and Six Flags Magic Mountain. With performances at hundreds of fairs and festivals and theme parks, Mark is easily California's Favorite Mime. Mark is just more proof that all types of comics love to lampoon the master detective.



Mark Wenzel

Brent Spiner (1949 -), as android lieutenant commander Data, portrayed Sherlock Holmes, with **Levar Burton (1957 -)** as Geordi La Forge, a lieutenant commander and the chief engineer for the USS Enterprise-D in "Star Trek: The Next Generation", appearing as Dr. Watson. They appeared in season 2 episode 3, "Elementary, Dear Data" (1988), and then again in season 6 episode 12, "Ship in a Bottle" (1993). "Asked about his favorite roles, Levar 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?"³



Brent Spiner & LeVar Burton

Rodney Dangerfield (1921 - 2004) and **Chuck McCann (1934 -)** teamed up for a handful of comedic sketches playing our favorite detective and doctor duo in the television special "Rodney's Place" (1989). Comic actor Dangerfield was well known for his "I don't get no respect".



Rodney Dangerfield and Chuck McCann

See Rodney Dangerfield's comedic Holmes' sketches at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sa3hLy8p6Sw>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVBDs6TPHog>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZF9gmscahI>

³ "Interviews | LeVar Burton | The Acting of Science". BBC Cult. 8/30/2013.

Russ Abbot (1947 -) and **Jeffrey Holland (1946 -)** - once again the master detective is parodied, this time from the "Russ Abbot Madhouse" (1990). Russ Abbot as Barratt Holmes and Jeffrey Holland as Dr. Whimpey. Knock at the door, Holmes "That will be the door.", Watson "Amazing!" Holmes "It's probably a mail boy.", Watson "What makes you think that Holmes?" Holmes "Have you ever seen a female boy?"



Russ Abbot and Jeffrey Holland

Watch Barratt Holmes and Dr Whimpey in The Case of the Phantom Police Killer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMEbCm4H8pU>

Jeremy Irons (1948 -) and **Phil Hartman (1948 - 1998)** played Holmes and Watson in a "Saturday Night Live" skit titled "Sherlock Holmes' Surprise Party" (1991). It's side splitting humor when Watson attempts to throw a surprise birthday party for Holmes.



Jeremy Irons and Phil Hartman

See "Sherlock Holmes' Surprise Party" at: <http://video.yandex.ru/users/barbuzuka/view/22>

Dustin Diamond (1977 -) - in the “Mystery Weekend” episode of the TV show “Saved by the Bell” (1991) the gang wins a mystery weekend at a mansion where they are all part of a murder mystery. The trouble begins when the game goes awry and Zack is left as the prime suspect, and Screech, Dustin Diamond, shows up in the Sherlock Holmes garb.



Dustin Diamond

Alfred Muller (1926 - 2010) starred as Hans Holms in Germany's (1992) "Ein geheimnisvolles Geschenk" (Sherlock Holmes and The Seven Dwarfs). Hans Holms, a retired detective chief and grandfather, while visiting the grandchildren, finds on the couch in the living room the Seven Dwarfs. The Dwarfs fervently beg Holms to retrieve the kidnapped Snow White. From that moment on, the house is the starting point for excursions into the turbulent detective tale kingdom. An old armchair, a parting gift from Holms colleagues, serves as a sort of lock into the land of the Brothers Grimm. The sober analyst and facts man Holms must investigate who kidnapped the Snow White, but the last few pages have been torn out of the book of fairy tales.



Alfred Muller

Watch_Hans Holms at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dZN985M02A>

Huggies - Well I guess this might be the youngest Holmes & Watson actors ever, but I sure don't have a clue to who they are. "Poor Watson, didn't have a clue as to why his diaper was leaking..." Huggies - Sherlock Holmes (1992).



Huggies Babies

Watch Huggies Sherlock Holmes at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqwSzyYQPiU>

Fan Ai Li (aka Alex Vanderpor) plays an outrageously funny kung-fu Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes and The Chinese Heroine" (1994).



Alex Vanderpor

Watch this Kung Fu Sherlock Holmes scene at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDUqTkpufU>

Anthony Higgins (1947 -) appeared as Sherlock Holmes, with **Debrah Farentino (1959 -)** as the beautiful Amy Winslow, in the TV movie “1994 Baker Street: Sherlock Holmes Returns” (1993). “Sherlock Holmes is awakened in modern times from suspended animation as a result of an earthquake. He is aided in his recovery by Amy Winslow (Debrah Farentino), who lives in Baker Street in San Francisco. Holmes pits his wits against the descendants of the Moriarty family, led by James Moriarty Booth. He is also aided by a new group of Baker Street Irregulars led by Zapper (Mark Adair-Rios).”⁴



Anthony Higgins and Debrah Farentino

“1994 Baker Street: Sherlock Holmes Returns”, with Debrah Farentino, can be viewed at YouTube at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=espeZR47c_M

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1994_Baker_Street:_Sherlock_Holmes_Returns

Neil Patrick Harris (1973 -) - in the teen comedy drama "Doogie Howser M.D.", an episode titled "The Adventures of Sherlock Howser" (1993), Harris as the title character Doogie Howser dresses up and imitates Sherlock Holmes. **Max Casella (1967 -)**, as Vinnie Delpino, plays the Dr. Watson role. In this particular picture you can see Neil Patrick Harris dressed as Holmes alongside his life-partner David Burkta as Watson, due to a mystery themed wedding they were in attendance for.



Neil Patrick Harris and David Burkta

Peter Capaldi (1958 -) - played Sherlock Holmes and **Alexei Sayle (1952 -)** played Dr. Watson in "The All New Alexei Sayle Show" (1995).



Alexei Sayle and Peter Capaldi

See Peter Capaldi as Holmes at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Koh019XfGMk>

Rowan Atkinson (1955 -) - who is best known for his work on the sitcoms “Mr. Bean” and “Blackadder”, discusses homoerotic subtext in Sherlock Holmes, in episode one, "The Queen's Birthday" in the show “Thin Blue Line” (1995).



Rowan Atkinson

See Rowan Atkinson on Homoerotic Subtext in Sherlock Holmes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKdN9LsXmCg>

Hugh O'Gorman (1965 -) was Sherlock Holmes/Jeffery Singer and **Christopher Murney (1943 -)** was Dr. Watson/Mackie Bloom in the TV show "Remember WENN" in an episode titled "Armchair Detective" (1996). In the episode WENN radio station has an adaptation of Sherlock Holmes, but with a twist, one of the cases the show re-enacted concerned convicted murderer Larry Looper. Looper breaks jail and shows up in the studio with a gun to force the cast to re-enact the crime again, but this time, show he was not guilty. Despite Holmes/Singer's frustrated realization that he is just an actor, it is he who discovers the key clue which proves Looper's innocence.



Hugh O'Gorman and Christopher Murney

Watch "Armchair Detective" at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwJZoTkk3-8>

The voices of **Kevin Allison**, **Ken Marino**, **David Wain**, and **Ben Garant** are featured in 'Sherlock Holmes' is a previously-unheard sketch from The State's never-released album, recorded in 1997 in the Bahamas. The State is a sketch comedy troupe best known for their self-titled sketch comedy series on MTV.



The State

Listen to The State: Sherlock Holmes at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkor4B2YkRE>

Owen Wilson (1968 -) and **Jackie Chan (1954 -)** at one point, in the film "Shanghai Knights" (2000), wear traditional Holmes/Watson garb as they meet a young Conan Doyle. The film contains references to Holmes culture too.



Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson

See "Shanghai Knights" at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fM5spDjgg4>

Will Ferrell (1967 -) and **Darrell Hammond (1955 -)**, in the ‘Robert Goulet All Holiday Special, on ‘Saturday Night Live’ (2001), played Holmes and Watson. In this crazy bit the clue is Monica Lewinsky’s underwear.



Darrell Hammond and Will Ferrell

See Sherlock with Monica Lewinsky’s underwear at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIm8nO8nVuk>

Ian McKellen (1939 -) is dressed in a Sherlockian outfit for a skit during an episode of 'Saturday Night Live' (2002), called “Hot Air Balloon Mystery Theater”.



Ian McKellen

Gabriel Andrews is an Australian television, film and stage actor. He is best known for the hundreds of roles he played on the popular sketch comedy TV show "Comedy Inc." (2003 - 2006). Gabriel Andrews played Sherlock Holmes in the "Disappearing Twin" sketch on "The Late Shift - Comedy Inc"



Gabriel Andrews

Watch "Disappearing Twin" at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGVapWne4io>

David Mitchell (1974 -) and **Robert Webb (1972 -)**, Mitchell and Webb, are a British comedy double act. On their TV show "That Mitchell And Webb Look", they had numerous Sherlock Holmes skits. Below are three good clips from (2006).



David Mitchell and Robert Webb

Sherlock Holmes Dead British Actors: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOXnQLiMTpw>

Old Holmes: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ppo2ubGuTIU>
Sherlock Holmes's Mood Swings: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkp9pPuN2gQ>

Erik Weiner and **Jordan Allen-Dutton** are the rappers in “The Crazy Adventures of Wassup Holmes” (2006) a Youtube parody of Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskerville. Jordan Allen-Dutton as Watson and Erik Weiner as Wassup Holmes.



Jordan Allen-Dutton and Erik Weiner

You are going to have to watch and listen to “The Crazy Adventures of Wassup Holmes” to believe it, at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQQJ1OhARWk>

Shelby Bond and **Richard Maritzer** as part of a rotating Holmes and Watson cast from the comedy troupe “Sound and Fury” fringe stage show “Sherlock Holmes and the Saline Solution” (2006).



Shelby Bond and Richard Maritzer

Video of "Sherlock Holmes and the Saline Solution" available at http://soundandfury.org/index.php?curr_page=product

Larry the Cucumber is detective dynamo Sheerluck Holmes and **Bob the Tomato** his venerable sidekick Dr. Watson, in "Sheerluck Holmes and the Golden Ruler" (2006). It was the twenty-second episode in the VeggieTales series. Subtitled "A Lesson in Friendship", it features two stories that illustrate what it means to be a good friend. The first is a parody of Don Quixote de la Mancha by Miguel de Cervantes. The second is a parody of the Sherlock Holmes novels and stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. "Sheerluck Holmes" opens up to Sheerluck and Watson entering Doyle's ice cream parlor, claiming they have "The Howling Dogs of Baker Street" case wrapped up. Sheerluck takes all the credit and praise, upsetting Watson. After leaving, Scooter informs the duo of a plot to steal the Golden Ruler, the kingdom's most valuable treasure.



Larry the Cucumber and Bob the Tomato

End Part II

