

Watson, The Envelope Please

by
Howard Ostrom

Part Two

Stan Laurel (1890 - 1965)

1960 - Academy Honorary Award Oscar - Comedy Pioneer

1925 - "The Sleuth", Stan Laurel as Webster Dingle/Sherlock Holmes. Joe Rock Comedies.

1944 - "The Big Noise", Laurel & Hardy in deerstalkers. Twentieth Century.



Stan Laurel

"The Sleuth" - Webster Dingle (Stan Laurel) is a detective who essentially relies on an assortment of different costumes to successfully complete his investigations. Naturally, one of those costumes is a Sherlock Holmes outfit.



"The Big Noise" is a comedy, in which Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy appear in deerstalkers, and Laurel has a calabash pipe.



Oliver Hardy and Stan Laurel

Hayley Mills (1946 -)

1960 - Academy Honorary Award - Outstanding Juvenile performance for "Pollyanna"

Hayley Mills, who is the daughter of a Doctor Watson (Sir John Mills played Dr. Watson to Peter Cushing's Holmes in "The Masks of Death" 1984), also once posed for a promo dressed as Sherlock Holmes.



Hayley Mills

George C. Scott (1927 - 1999)

1970 - Best Actor - "Patton"

1971 - "They Might Be Giants", George C. Scott as Justin Playfair/
Sherlock Holmes and Joanne Woodward as Dr. Mildred Watson. Universal
Pictures.

You won't see a picture of George C. Scott holding an Oscar since in 1961
George C. Scott declined his Best Supporting Actor nomination. Then in
1970, after winning best actor, he returned the gold statue for his work in
"Patton". He remarked "the whole thing is a goddamn meat parade. I don't
want any part of it."

In a Manhattan psychiatric hospital a man, convinced he is Sherlock Holmes,
is treated by a female doctor who happens to be named Watson, which
makes the film "They Might Be Giants" the first film with an Oscar winner
playing both Sherlock Holmes (George C. Scott) and Dr. Watson (Joanne
Woodward).



George C. Scott

John Mills (1908 - 2005)
1970 - Best Supporting Actor - "Ryan's Daughter"

1984 - "The Masks of Death", Peter Cushing as Sherlock Holmes and John Mills as Dr. Watson. Tyburn Productions (U.K.).



John Mills

Yes, it may have been a decade after his daughter Hayley won an Oscar, but Sir John Mills has one too!

"The Masks of Death" - "Sherlock Holmes has retired. But when MacDonald asks him to take on another case, he says yes. There has been some mysterious murders, and there are no visible causes for the deaths. At the same time Holmes gets this case, Graf Udo Von Felseck gives him another case: find a young and missing prince to prevent war between Germany and England. But Von Felseck is not as honest as he seems..."¹



Peter Cushing and John Mills

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Orson Welles (1915 - 1985)

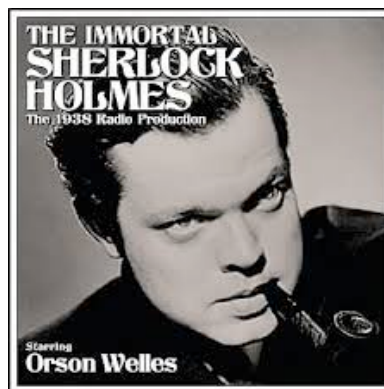
1970 - Academy Honorary Award Oscar - for superlative artistry and creativity in the motion picture industry

1938 - "Sherlock Holmes", an episode of 'The Mercury Theatre on the Air', Orson Welles as Sherlock Holmes and Ray Collins as Dr. Watson. CBS Radio.



Orson Welles also won this Oscar for Best Original Screenplay, for "Citizen Kane" in 1941.

The Orson Welles' "Sherlock Holmes" was a live broadcast, of the William Gillette's stage play version, for CBS Radio's "The Mercury Theatre on Air", September 25th, 1938. It was later issued as an LP album.



Orson Welles

John Gielgud (1904 - 2000)
1981 - Best Supporting Actor - "Arthur"

1954/55 "Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", John Gielgud as Sherlock Holmes and Ralph Richardson as Dr. Watson. BBC Radio.

Sir John Gielgud was busy filming and not present to accept the award.

In 1955, NBC re-ran the transcribed BBC series of the original great Conan Doyle stories with the fine actors Sir John Gielgud as Holmes, and Sir Ralph Richardson as Watson, and in "The Final Problem," Orson Welles as Moriarty.



Sir John Gielgud, Orson Welles, and Sir Ralph Richardson

Ben Kingsley (1943 -)
1982 - Best Actor - "Gandhi"

1988 - "Without A Clue", Michael Caine as Reginald Kincad/Sherlock Holmes and Ben Kingsley as Dr. Watson. ITC Productions, LTD.



Ben Kingsley

A drunken Sherlock Holmes (Michael Caine) is really just a cover for the real detective - Dr Watson (Ben Kingsley).



Michael Caine and Ben Kingsley

Robert Duvall (1931 -)
1983 - Best Actor - "Tender Mercies"

1976 - "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution", Nichol Williamson as Sherlock Holmes and Robert Duvall as Dr. Watson. Universal Films.



Robert Duvall

To treat his friend's cocaine induced delusions, Dr. Watson (Robert Duvall) lures Sherlock Holmes (Nichol Williamson) to Sigmund Freud (Alan Arkin).



Robert Duvall

Michael Caine (1933 -)

1986 - Best Supporting Actor - "Hannah and Her Sisters"

1999 - Best Supporting Actor - "The Cider House Rules"

1988 - "Without A Clue", Michael Caine as Reginald Kincad/Sherlock Holmes and Ben Kingsley as Dr. Watson. ITC Productions, LTD.

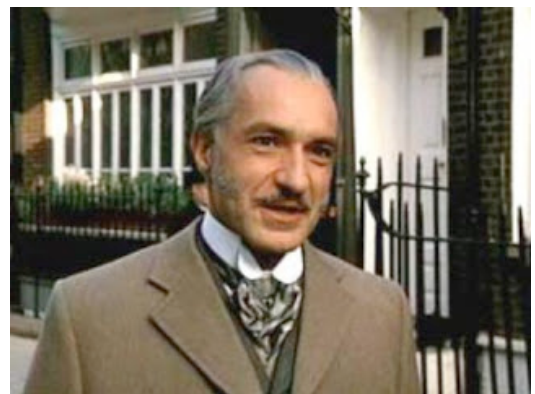


Michael Caine

Michael Caine has won two Oscars, and now we have two films with Oscar winners as Sherlock Holmes (Michael Caine) and Dr. Watson (Ben Kingsley), "They Might Be Giants" and "Without A Clue".



Michael Caine



Ben Kingsley

Jeremy Irons (1948 -)
1990 - Best Actor - "Reversal of Fortune"

1991 - "Sherlock Holmes' Surprise Party, skit from "Saturday Night Live", Jeremy Irons as Sherlock Holmes and Phil Hartman as Dr. Watson.



Jeremy Irons

What is Holmes like at a surprise party? Phil Hartman, as Dr. Watson, throws one, you can just imagine! Or watch a clip of it at: <http://blogs.weta.org/tellyvisions/2013/03/05/amazing-internet-things-classic-sherlock-holmes-saturday-night-live-skit>



Jeremy Irons

Chuck Jones (1912 - 2002)

1995 - Academy Honorary Award Oscar - for the creation of classic cartoons and cartoon characters that have brought joy for more than half a century

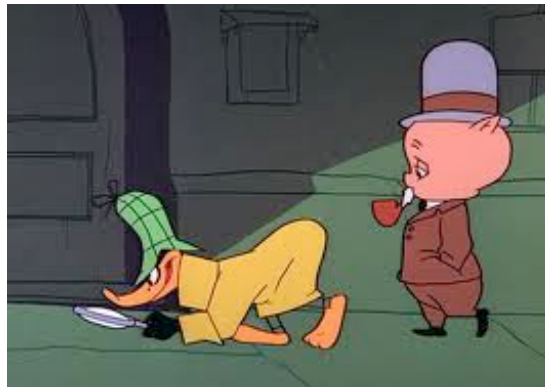
(Jones also won an Oscar in 1966 - Best Short Subject, Cartoons)

1956 - "Deduce, You Say", Daffy Duck as Dorlock Holmes and Porky Pig as Dr. Watkins. Directed by Chuck Jones, Voiced by Mel Blanc. Warner Brothers.



Chuck Jones

"Deduce, You Say" is a pretty amusing cartoon with Daffy Duck as a detective named Dorlock Holmes and his little helper is Porky Pig as Dr. Watkins. Daffy Duck is a detective who is hunting for the Shoreshire Slasher.



Daffy Duck and Porky Pig

Peter O'Toole

2002 - Academy Honorary Award Oscar - for providing some of cinema histories most memorable characters

1976 - "Dead Eyed Dicks" - Peter O'Toole as Sherlock Holmes and John Standing as Dr. Watson. Stage Play.

1985 - "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of The Baskervilles", Peter O'Toole voiced Sherlock Holmes and Australia's Ron Haddrick voiced Dr. Watson. Animated Adaptions for Burbank Studios.

1985 - "Sherlock Holmes and the Sign of The Four", Peter O'Toole voiced Sherlock Holmes and Australia's Ron Haddrick voiced Dr. Watson. Animated Adaptions for Burbank Studios.

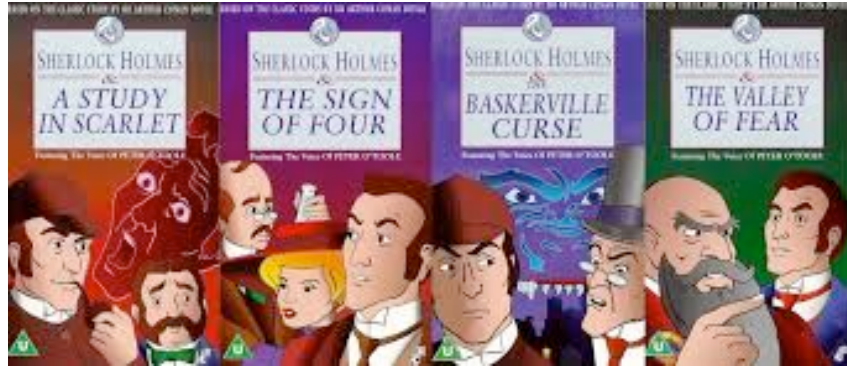
1985 - "Sherlock Holmes and the Valley of Fear", Peter O'Toole voiced Sherlock Holmes and Australia's Ron Haddrick voiced Dr. Watson. Animated Adaptions for Burbank Studios.

1985 - "Sherlock Holmes and A Study in Scarlet", Peter O'Toole voiced Sherlock Holmes and Australia's Ron Haddrick voiced Dr. Watson. Animated Adaptions for Burbank Studios.

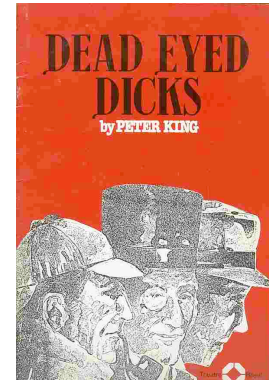


Peter O'Toole

Peter O'Toole has the unwanted distinction of being the actor with the most nominations, eight for best actor, without ever winning. So in 2002 the Academy was nice enough to give him a statuette.



Peter O'Toole Cartoons



O'Toole on Stage

Christopher Plummer (1929)

2011 - Best Supporting Actor - "Beginners"

1977 - "Silver Blaze", Christopher Plummer as Sherlock Holmes and Thorley Walters as Dr. Watson. ITV (U.K./Canada)

1979 - "Murder by Decree", Christopher Plummer as Sherlock Holmes and James Mason as Dr. Watson. Canadian Film Dev.



Christopher Plummer

"Silver Blaze" was part of a tv series, "Classics Dark and Dangerous". Plummer hoped the film would be successful and spawn a series of Holmes adaptations, but this turned out to be the only one.

"Murder by Decree" sees Sherlock Holmes investigating London's most infamous case, Jack the Ripper. As he investigates, he finds that the Ripper may have friends in high places.



Plummer & Thorley Walters



Plummer & James Mason

So there you have it, the Oscar winning actors who have played Sherlock Holmes and/or Dr. Watson. Who will be the next one? My money is on Benedict Cumberbatch, but Robert Downey Jr. (can't believe he hasn't won one yet), Jude Law, or Martin Freeman wouldn't surprise me either. It's a shame the greatest Holmes actors, Basil Rathbone and Jeremy Brett, never won the acclaim they deserved. Basil Rathbone actually lost out twice to Walter Brennan. Yes, that same Walter Brennan, who was Grandpa on "The Real McCoys" TV show, you've got to be kidding me! Probably the worst award injustice of all time was that Jeremy Brett was never awarded a BAFTA, either in his lifetime or posthumously (the failed petition). He had however the dubious pleasure of holding, presenting and receiving a BAFTA on behalf of the winners of Best Foreign Language TV series in 1989 - here, if you don't have it, is the clip of that: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_McaE57kQ8

The End



