

## Excellent Fellows From Canada

by  
Howard Ostrom

## Part Six

**Andrew Gower (1978 - )**, as Sherlock Holmes, although Andrew is from England, he has appeared twice as Sherlock Holmes in episodes of Canada's present day hit TV series "Murdoch Mysteries". **Yannick Bisson (1969 - )**, from Montreal, now living in Toronto, stars as Police Detective William Murdoch. A strong argument could also be made that William Murdoch is a Sherlock Holmes clone, even though he is a detective for the Toronto Police. Would that make Australian Helene Joy, Dr. Julia Ogden, his Irene Adler? Or perhaps you could say Pouch Cove, Newfoundland and Labrador's favorite son **Jonny Harris**, as Constable George Crabtree, as Murdoch's righthand



man, is his Watson. I'd give Great Britain's Thomas Craig, as Inspector Brackenreid, the Inspector Lestrade designation. Finally, Toronto's Michael Seater as James Gillies, would be Moriarty. I consider "The Murdoch Mysteries" to be one of the best shows on TV, second perhaps to only the BBC's "Sherlock".

**Tariq Leslie (1970 - )**, from Victoria, B.C. appeared as Sherlock Holmes in an episode of the Cartoon Network's 'Level-Up'. "He caught the 'acting bug' late in high-school, and after producing, directing and acting in his hometown of Victoria, British Columbia he attended the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. On completing his training he enjoyed a few stints on British television, and a few forays on small English stages. He then went scrambling for a less inflated economic climate where earnings afford one a more bountiful lifestyle – the irony that he now lives in Vancouver, British



Columbia (where rent is inflated to almost explosive proportions) is not lost on him. On returning to Canada he enjoyed two seasons at The Shaw Festival. Working at Shaw, with then Artistic Director Christopher Newton and the late Neil Munro, were among the many highly prized moments of his time with the Festival. He counts being directed by Henry Woolf, in 'Look Back in Anger', and Toph Marshall, on the Canadian Premiere of Tom Stoppard's 'The Invention of Love' among the highlights of his theatre experiences. He has been seen on episodes of the 'The Bill', 'Crime Traveler', 'Bugs', 'Psych', and on J.J. Abram's 'Fringe'. Tariq Leslie is also the Artistic Director of Vancouver's Ensemble Theatre Company, which produces - among other shows - a summer repertory festival at The Jericho Arts Centre, in Vancouver, B.C."<sup>1</sup> Of special interest to the readers of this article, audiobooks of Tariq Leslie reading Sherlock Holmes are likely to see completion soon also. Keep a look out for them, I assure you they will be good.

**Colin Skinner**, of Victoria, B.C., in the film, "Ups and Downs" (later renamed "prep School") (1981), played Arthur Sherlock Holmes, and also

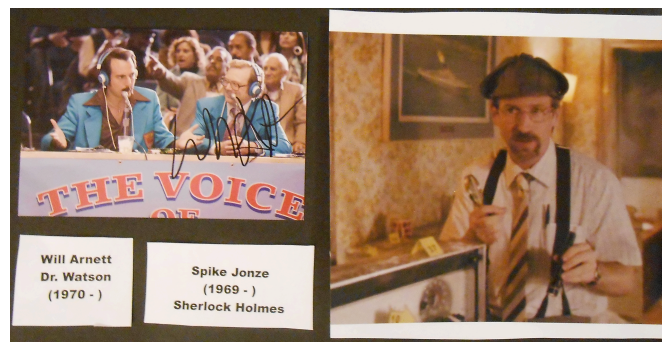


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<sup>1</sup> Leslie, Tariq from personal e-mail to me

was Inspector Lestrade in that awful "The Hound of London" (1993) mentioned earlier. It's hardly a huge coincidence given Victoria is a small town, but the late Colin Skinner was Tariq Leslie's English teacher in Grade 1 and 2. Tariq also passed this information on to me; "I can at least tell you that 'Ups & Downs' was really just a coming of age film about kids at a prep school - the same prep school that Skinner taught me at in fact. It's years since I saw the film - and it's painful to watch, as it is a film essentially made for tax purposes (at the time Canada was trying to induce producers to shoot films here, and the intention was great, but they made the financial/tax rules around doing so soft that immediately - much like Gene Wilder and Zero Mostel in the Producers - Hollywood producers realized that money could be made by making films intended to bomb. 'Ups and Downs' is one of them. I can't imagine that the Holmes connection goes beyond an in-joke in the film."

**Will Arnett, (1970 - )**, of Toronto, Canada, in the TV show "The Increasingly Bad Decisions of Todd Margaret" (2012), in the episode "The Crime Scene, the Storyteller. and the Sanctimonious Power of Morality", as



Brent Wilts, briefly wears a deerstalker with a lens, while referring to Spike Jonze as Watson. I briefly mention this as it qualifies as the longest titled show with a Holmes appearance.

**Jay Baruchel** - Montreal, Play, "Sherlock Holmes", Segal Theatre 5/5 to 5/26 2013, played Holmes



Other Canadian Sherlock Holmes actors that I'm somewhat aware of, but who are not part of my collection include:

**Philip Linfield**- TV "Time Exposures" (1988), played Holmes in a couple of episodes.

**Rhéal Guévremont** - Film, "J'en Suis!" (1997), played Holmes.

Steve ??? - Play, "Sherlock's Secret Life", Victor Mitchell Theatre at Pumphouse Theatres, Calgary 2/4 to 2/12 2005, played Holmes  
Canada even had a Sherlock Holmes ballet at one time.

In conclusion, I hope you now see why this article is titled the way it is, and why Canada should be proud of the contributions from their native sons and daughters to the world of Sherlock Holmes.

Finish

If you enjoyed this article, you will surely then also enjoy my Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson Collection slide show for at:

<http://www.nplh.co.uk/the-howard-ostrom-holmes-and-watson-collection.html>