

Footprints on Film

by
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Part Two

Following the success of the 1939 Rathbone "Hound of the Baskervilles", there would be a lull in Hound adaptations until once again the Germans produced another "Der Hund von Baskerville" movie, this time for West German TV in 1955.

1955 - "Der Hund von Baskerville", Wolf Ackva as Sherlock Holmes and Amulf Schroder as Dr. Watson. Hessischer Rundfunk. (W. Germany).



Wolf Ackva



Amulf Schroder

"Changes to the novel were the setting was not in Dartmoor, but in the Scottish highlands, and behind the ancestral portrait of Hugo Baskerville was a secret passage. Fritz Umgelter made use not only of the novel as a template, but also the play of Ferdinand Bonn. Like many of the television shows of the time, the dog was played and broadcast live on television studio. Since there is no record, this production can not be assessed today. Also lost are the shots for the recordings of the Baskerville dog a Frankfurt police German Shepherd named *Prince*. The animal sat, in order to make it seem scarier, with a fur mask on."¹

¹ [http://de.sherlockholmes.wikia.com/wiki/Der_Hund_von_Baskerville_\(Film,_1955\)](http://de.sherlockholmes.wikia.com/wiki/Der_Hund_von_Baskerville_(Film,_1955))

1959 - “The Hound of the Baskervilles”, Peter Cushing as Sherlock Holmes and Andre Morell as Dr. Watson. Hammer Films. (U.K.)



“Sherlock Holmes gets the Gothic treatment in this mix of mystery and supernatural horror from Britain’s Hammer Films. Peter Cushing is perfectly cast as the great detective, the very embodiment of science and reason (which also made him a great Van Helsing in the *Dracula* series) in a case wound around a legacy of aristocratic cruelty and a devilish dog wandering the swampy moors. Christopher Lee is a less satisfying fit as the last of the Baskervilles, as he waffles between fear and apathetic disregard, but Andre Morell is a fine Dr. Watson and a far cry from Nigel Bruce’s sweet bumbler from the Hollywood incarnation of the 1940s. Director Terence Fisher was Hammer’s top stylist and the film drips with the mood of the moors, mist hanging in the air, the dying vegetation itself threatening to come to life and trap the next unwary traveler.”²

² Axmaker, Sean, <http://www.amazon.com/The-Hound-Baskervilles-Peter-Cushing/dp/B000062XEY>



Andre Morell & Peter Cushing

See a classic clip from Hammer's Hound, with Sir Christopher Lee as Henry Baskerville at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqwfTukxnwI>

Hooray for Bollywood

1962 - "Bees Saal Badd", Asit Sen as the detective. Geetanjali Pictures. (India)



The plot is loosely based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles". The film topped the Bollywood box office charts in 1962.

"After a lusty Thakur rapes a young girl, she kills herself. Thereafter, the Thakur is killed by what the local people call the girl's vengeful spirit. Then the Thakur's son is also killed in a similar way. Thereafter the brother of the Thakur is also killed. The grandson of the Thakur, Kumar Vijay Singh (Biswajeet) returns from abroad to claim his ill-fated legacy. He is warned to stay away from the grounds that have killed his ancestors, but he intends to find out who or what is behind the killings, and hires a private detective, Gopichand Jasoos (Asit Sen). Kumar meets with Radha (Waheeda Rehman), the daughter of the local doctor, Ramlal Vaid (Manmohan Krishan), and both eventually fall in love. Then a man is found dead wearing the clothes of Kumar Vijay, and Kumar Vijay must now decide to stay away from his new residence, or continue to live there, and fear for his life everyday until death."³



Asit Sen

See this entire Hindi classic film at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7FcbvYAk5c>

The return of Peter Cushing

1968 - "The Hound of the Baskervilles", Peter Cushing as Sherlock Holmes and Nigel Stock as Dr. Watson. BBC TV. (U.K.)



³ rAjOo (gunwanti@hotmail.com) <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0055783/>

Not to be confused with the Hammer Hound film of 1959, the BBC TV Hound attempted to remain faithful to the original story.



Peter Cushing & Nigel Stock

See a classic clip from Cushing's BBC Hound at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJP6Pi07AUw>

1968 - **“Il Mastino dei Baskerville”** or, **“L'ultimo dei Baskerville”**, Nando Gazzolo as Sherlock Holmes and Gianni Bonagurra as Dr. Watson. RAI TV. (Italy).



"Sherlock Holmes reveals the mystery of the deaths of immature components of an aristocratic English family. This is not a curse, but in real killers organized by a bastard descendant of the family. Holmes saves the life of the last of the Baskervilles, a mastiff who incited by the assassin was about to tear. It is the best example of a short series of home production in the sixties dedicated to Sherlock Holmes."⁴



Nando Gazzolo



Gianni Bonagurra

Watch this classic Italian Hound film at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27ocTbjnbLs>

Next a special "Hound of the Baskervilles" musical interlude for your enjoyment:

1969/70 - "Der Hund von Baskerville", Cindy & Bert, (Germany).



⁴ Nino Hunter, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27ocTbjnbLs>

"Here is a 1969/70 video of Cindy & Bert doing "Der Hun Von Baskerville"- a brilliant cover of Black Sabbath's "Paranoid" apparently with lyrics relating Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes mystery The Hounds of Baskerville. Features a bored looking Cindy and Bert, some bored looking German mod dancers and an extremely bored looking pekingese."⁵



Jutta Gusenberger (Cindy) and Norbert Berger (Bert)

Listen to the full Hund song and view video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIYRFvQMh7A>

1971 - Sobaka Baskerviley (Собака Баскервилей) (Hound of Baskervilles), Nikoli Volkov as Sherlock Holmes and Lev Krugly as Dr. Watson. Sovkina CT (U.S.S.R.)

Sobaka Baskerviley - The Hound of Baskervilles - was broadcast as a two part drama on Russian TV in 1971 with Nikoli Volkov as Sherlock Holmes & Lev Krugly as Dr. Watson. Lev Krugly emigrated to Israel soon afterwards, and the only miraculously remaining copy was rediscovered only very recently. This is a RARE TV show, which was not shown in Russia after Lev Krugly defected. Ray Wilcockson thinks Volkov looks SO like William Gillette in the image below, do you?

⁵ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOAzuqngOYo>



Nikoli Volkov and Lev Krugly

Thanks to my Russian friend Alexander you can view this rare TV Hound at:
<http://my.mail.ru/video/mail/victorbataev/15627/29806.html#video=/mail/victorbataev/15627/29806>

1972 - "The Hound of the Baskervilles", Stewart Granger as Sherlock Holmes and Bernard Fox as Dr. Watson. ABC/Universal City.



Bernard Fox and Stewart Granger

"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

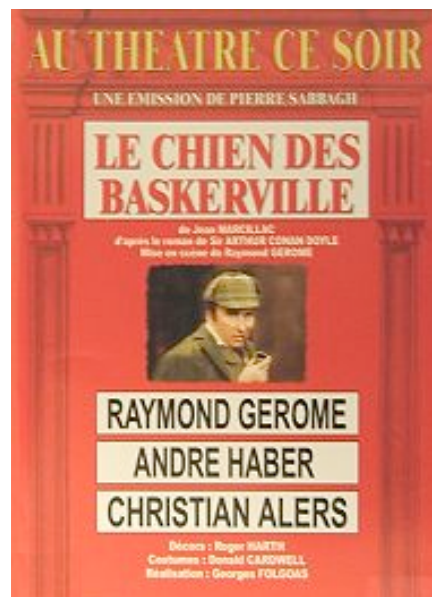
production was one of three pilots for a series of television movies featuring literary sleuths... The production utilized sets from other productions, mainly horror films. The ratings weren't very good and reviews were bad which caused the proposed series of tele-films to be shelved.”⁶ Today this TV movie is probably best remembered for William Shatner, Captain Kirk of “Star Trek”, having played the role of Stapleton.



William Shatner

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

1974 - “Le chien des Baskerville”, Raymond Gerome as Sherlock Holmes and Andre Haber as Dr. Watson. ORTF (France).



⁶ Peter Haining (1994). *The Television Sherlock Holmes*. Virgin Books. pp. 71–72

This parody adaptation of Hound was an episode of the French TV show "Au théâtre ce soir" (Theater Tonight) which aired on November 6th, 1974. It was... "a piece of filmed theater which took place at the Théâtre Marigny in 1974. It is indeed the Hound of the Baskervilles Conan Doyle, but rewritten for the theater. Two different designs: Baker Street salon and lounge Baskerville Hall. The outdoor scenes were replaced by sound evocations. The tragic fate of Selden and the Beast take place before the window of the mansion and witnesses at the scene commenting on the events from the lounge... The characters are true to the novel, except Sherlock Holmes (Raymond Gerome) which is unbearable ... French too, no class, pedantic, vulgar and outspoken most of the time. He sprinkles his composition little graceful grimacing, he scratches without discretion or place in outrageous positions ... Anyway, I do not know if Mr. Gérôme read the Canon before apprehending her character but it is not convincing at all and rather disturbing. Moreover, it does not look the part. It is plump and releases no charisma. In contrast, Watson, it is very convenient. He has neither overweight nor vocation comic. Small laughter come more often from Dr. Mortimer (Christian Alers) who plays a shy doctor, distracted and slow of mind. The decorations are beautiful but the room Baker Street has no canonical winks. In conclusion, a good play but with a ridiculous principal actor in the role of detective."⁷



Raymond Gerome

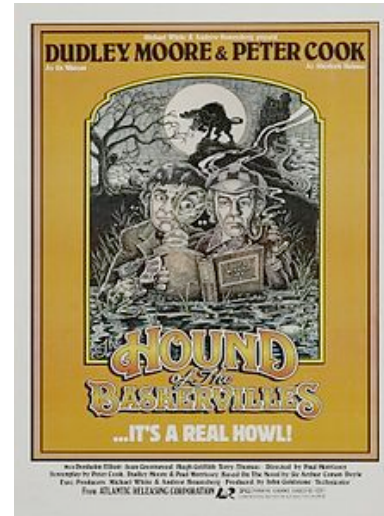


Andre Haber

You might enjoy checking out this clip of the French Hound production at: <http://www.ina.fr/video/CPF86604391>

⁷ http://www.sshf.com/encyclopedia/index.php/Le_Chien_des_Baskerville_-_Theatre_1974_Gerome

1977 - "The Hound of the Baskervilles", Peter Cook as Sherlock Holmes and Dudley Moore as Dr. Watson. Michael White Ltd. (U.K.)



Having seen and owned a majority of the Hound adaptations mentioned in this essay, I must say that this was the worst one I've ever watched, and perhaps one of the worst Holmes' film adaptations of all-time period. The very funny comedic actor Terry-Thomas, who played Dr. Mortimer in it, one of his final film appearances, even once made a comment that this was the worst film he ever appeared in. (Makes me wonder if this is why he retired?) Now, having gotten those comments off my chest... "The concept behind the 1977 Hound of the Baskervilles involved having 'underground' director Paul Morrissey bring an irreverent slant to the original Sherlock Holmes mystery. The film thus casts Peter Cook and Dudley Moore as Holmes and Watson, with such reliable British performers as Terry-Thomas, Joan Greenwood, Denholm Elliott, Hugh Griffith, Spike Milligan, and Roy Kinnear in cameos. Producer Michael White took on the project; it mirrored his previous experience of combining spoofery and fidelity to source material with Monty Python's *Jabberwocky*. Examples of the film's zaniness include the casting of a lovable Irish wolfhound as the 'deadly' Baskerville mastiff and having Holmes and Watson speak in thick provincial accents. For its American release, *Hound of the Baskervilles* was whittled down to 78 minutes, with several of its scenes out of sequence."⁸

⁸ Hal Erickson, ROVI <http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the-hound-of-the-baskervilles/>



Dudley Moore and Peter Cook

You can view the trailer of this attempt at a Hound comedy at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAqhTZ08Gqg>

End Part Two