

Holmes Was A Dummy

by
Howard Ostrom

The discovery that this was a dummy, and that the bed was clamped to the floor, instantly gave rise to the suspicion that the rope was there as a bridge for something passing through the hole and coming to the bed.
- *The Speckled Band*

The word dummy in the above quote refers to something designed to resemble and serve as a substitute for the real or usual thing; a counterfeit or sham. The most famous dummy in a Sherlock Holmes story would be the bust of Holmes' head in *The Adventure of the Empty House*. In that story Holmes employs a dummy because he was seen by one of Moriarty's men, and thus he expects an attempt on his life that very night. Once the sniper, Sebastian Moran, shoots his air gun, scoring a direct hit on Holmes' dummy across the street, Holmes and Watson close the trap, and he is apprehended. A dummy in this case meaning a model or replica of a human being.

A dummy in slang refers to a stupid person (no don't you dare reference Nigel Bruce). So, if you read the title of this article and thought I'm going to discuss Sherlock Holmes being a stupid person, then you may be fooled. This article is a fun look at the many ventriloquist dummies, marionettes and puppets who have parodied Sherlock Holmes to prove the point that Sherlock Holmes was a dummy!

The strong, masterful personality of Holmes dominated the tragic scene, and all were equally puppets in his hands. - *The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist*

Whereas so many criminals were puppets in Holmes hands, you will be surprised by all the hands that have been involved with Holmes puppets. Where do we begin? Should we go chronologically, or alphabetically, or by country, or by my favorites (since I'm a puppet show lover)? This is a fun subject, loaded with amusing photos, so we will go shotgun style. That means completely randomly.



The definitive Sherlockian John Bennett Shaw's puppet says let the show begin!

Edgar Bergen - Charlie McCarthy - Mortimer Snerd

Edgar Bergen was an American actor, comedian, vaudevillian and radio performer, best known for his proficiency in ventriloquism and his characters Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd. In the film *Two Boobs in a Balloon* (1935) Mortimer Snerd would don a deerstalker. In the movie *Charlie McCarthy, Detective* (1939) Charley McCarthy was dressed as Sherlock Holmes, however he was more of a burden than a help, as Edgar Bergen solves the murder case without much help from him. I guess you could safely call Charley's Holmes a real dummy.



In the studio next to the filming of *Charlie McCarthy, Detective*, the great comedian W.C. Fields was filming *You Can't Cheat an Honest Man* simultaneously. Behind the scenes, W. C. Fields and Edgar Bergen's dummy Charlie McCarthy began exchanging insults in the classic manner established in Bergen's radio program. Fields then found himself being annoyed by a mysterious prankster. He wouldn't come right out and accuse Charlie McCarthy, but he put on a deerstalker hat, and with pipe in hand, went searching for clues, promising that when he found the culprit, "I'll bore him full of holes and let the termites out."



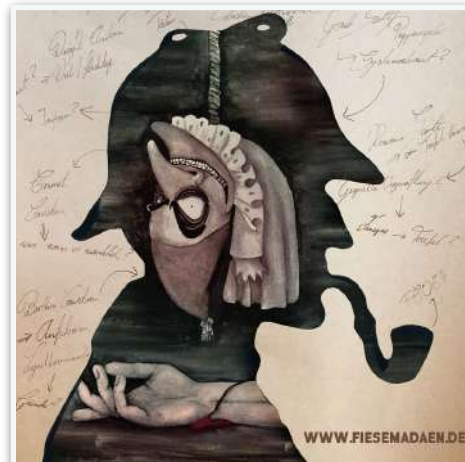
***Two Boobs in a Balloon* (1935) *Charlie McCarthy, Detective* (1939)
You Can't Cheat an Honest Man (1939)**

Carsten Dittrich - Sherlock Holmes - Dr. However Watson

On stage in Germany is *Sherlock Holmes and the Doll on the Gallows*, with Carsten Dittrich and Thomas H. Schiffmacher. Something incredible is happening in a small port town on the English coast. A harmless puppet show ends in panic, madness, murder! Could it be that a small, mischievously grinning hand puppet is possessed by the devil and ruins everyone who sees her rude antics? The puppeteer is held accountable by the angry mob and is about to be lynched. Detective Sherlock Holmes and his assistant Dr. However Watson are already alarmed and start a daring rescue mission. Carsten Dittrich and Thomas H. Schiffmacher has been on tour as a youth theater since 2003. No municipal theatre, no library, no school or kindergarten is safe from them. They play on stages all over Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France.



Thomas H. Schiffmacher - Carsten Dittrich - Sherlock Holmes



Sherlock Holmes and the Doll on the Gallows (2021)

Herlock Sholmes - Anna Went Wrong - Watson

The U.K. silent film *The Lime Juice Mystery, or Who Spat in Grandfather's Porridge* (1930) was a Sherlock Holmes parody film made featuring the Gorno Italian Marionettes. The nine minute film had Herlock Sholmes going to an opium den and challenging Tong assassins in order to rescue the woman Anna Went Wrong. The marionette of Herlock Sholmes was a likeness of Clive Brook, and the film spoofed Brook's film *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* (1929). *Be-a-Live Crook* and *The Limejuice Mystery* are alternative titles for the picture, which was directed by Jack Harrison as part of the Little People Burlesques series. Lime Juice is a reference to Limehouse, a district of London that's particularly known for its Chinese population. Sholmes and Watson lived on Candlestickmaker Street.



The Lime Juice Mystery, or Who Spat in Grandfather's Porridge (1930)

Paul Hansard - Sherlock Snoop - Dr. Whatsup - Toby the Dog

Paul Hansard premiered his one-man two-act puppet show, *Snoop, or the Case of the Yellow Judge* at Hintlesham Hall (a stately house in Suffolk, considered one of the best restaurants in England) in Hintlesham on Nov. 9, 1975. It was a satirized view of Sherlock Holmes, which had the three puppets Sherlock Snoop, Dr. Whatsup & Toby the Dog. Newspapers show him on stage at London's Cockpit, December 1975, and performing from the late 70's into the early 90's elsewhere, notably at the Little Angel Marionette Theatre beginning in July 1979. Another Sherlock Holmes connection for Paul Hansard was he played a Monk in Billy Wilder's *The Private life of Sherlock Holmes*.



Sherlock Snoop



***Snoop, or the Case of the Yellow Judge* (1975-1994)**

Kevin Noonchester - Sherlock Homerun - Watson Soccer Ball

Kevin Noonchester a puppeteer for Noteworthy Puppets of Southern California presents one of their many puppet show offerings, *Sherlock Homerun: A Whodunit Puppet Musical*. A Baseball Diamond has been stolen and it's up to Sherlock Homerun and his trusty bilingual soccer ball sidekick, Watson, to solve the mystery! Original songs, handmade puppet and the audience decides whodunit.



Kevin Noonchester - *Sherlock Homerun: A Whodunit Puppet Musical* (2016)



Sherlock Homerun: A Whodunit Puppet Musical (2016)

Kev F. Sutherland - Sherlock Sock - John Sock

The Scottish Falsetto Sock Puppet Theatre is a comedy act that began in the United Kingdom in 2005 and has performed nationally and internationally since. Videos of the Scottish Falsetto Sock Puppet Theatre's *Sherlock* (2012) and *Sherlock - The Second Attempt* (2012) from the Edinburgh Fringe were also posted to Youtube. The sock puppets sock it to Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman's Holmes and Watson, in two different shows. Also thrown in the partially improvised shows are mentions of Basil Rathbone, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and a stalking deer to represent a deerstalker of course.



Kev F. Sutherland - *Sherlock* (2012) (S-Scot.)



***Sherlock - The Second Attempt* (2012)**

John Pattison - Dan Redican - Sherlock Hegdish

Groundling Marsh was a Canadian children's television series featuring puppets. In the episode *Jingle Bellies* (1997), Galileo Swampson, a grouch, ate everybody's cookies. After his cookies go missing Hegdish Yuckywood dons a deerstalker, grabs a magnify glass, and declares himself the world's greatest detective. Hegdish also sings a song saying, "I am the great detective, oh so brave detective." Dan Redican was Hegdish's puppeteer, and he was voiced by John Pattison.



John Pattison



Sherlock Hegdish - *Groundling Marsh - Jingle Bellies* (1997)

Burr Tillstrom - Kukla

In a photo from *Life Magazine*, 23 May 1949, Kukla is shown in a Holmes costume. *Kukla, Fran and Ollie* (1947-57) was a totally ad-libbed American kids TV puppet show. Kukla, a sweet clown, and Ollie, a one-toothed dragon, were the puppets, while Fran Allison, who was a radio comedian and singer, played the big sister role. Fran was usually the only human to appear on screen. In some episodes Kukla would dress as Sherlock Holmes. Burr Tillstrom was the puppeteer and the voice for both Kukla and Ollie.



Burr Tillstrom and Fran Allison



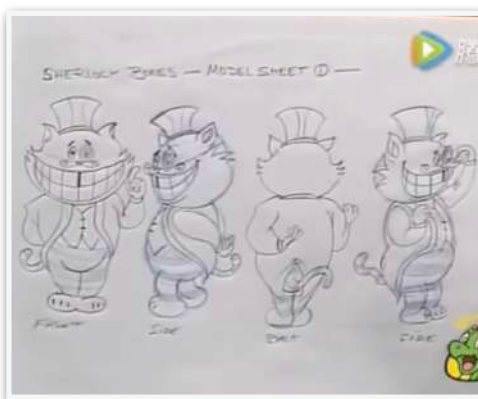
***Kukla, Fran and Ollie* (1947-57)**

Phil Cornwell - Sherlock Bones - Whatsup

Art Attack was a British children's television series revolving around art hosted by Neil Buchanan from 1990 to 2007. In season one, which has 7 episodes, host Neil Buchanan has a cartoon segment. Each segment follows the creation of the character he titles Sherlock Bones. We see Bones from an idea, to an illustration, to a cut out, to a statue, to a puppet, culminating with the finished cartoon. Oddly, while Sherlock Bones does wear a top hat, it is Whatsup who wears the deerstalker, with cape and ulster coat. Phil Cornwell voices Sherlock Bones, while the voice actor for Whatsup is unknown to us. In episode 6 Phil Cornwell reveals he based Sherlock Bones' voice on the British comedic actor Terry Thomas' voice, a fact that caused the illustrators to add a gap in Sherlock Bones' front teeth, similar to that of Terry-Thomas. ITV announced the cancellation of the series in 2007, however in 2010 Disney procured the rights and production was moved to Disney's studios in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Phil Cornwell - Sherlock Bones



***Art Attack* (1990)**

Michal Barták - Hurvínek - Žeryk

English with Hurvínek (Angličtina s Hurvínkem) is a marionette TV show very popular in Czechia. In short stories, children learn English words and basic sentences in a playful way. In the episode titled *Hurvínek has a Clue (Hurvínek na stopě)* (2015) Hurvínek plays Sherlock Holmes, identifies some pictures of Spejbl (a Moriarty looking character) to Mánička and describes what they are made of. He introduces his dog Žeryk to Mánička as Dr. Watson. Michal Barták voiced Hurvínek/Sherlock Holmes and Zita Morávková Josef Ešpandr voiced Žeryk/Dr. Watson. The show premiered on Czechia TV 20 March 2015.



Michal Barták



Angličtina s Hurvínkem - Hurvínek na stopě (English with Hurvínek - Hurvíněk has a Clue) (2015)

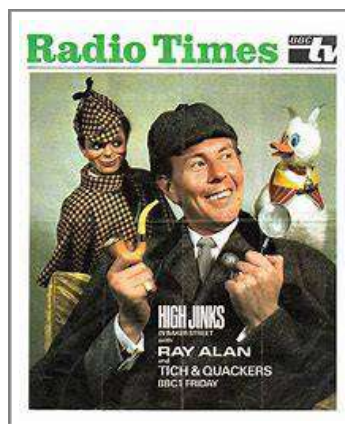
Ray Alan - Lord Charles - Tich - Quackers

In the British travelogue series *Britain By Jove* shown in various venues throughout the nineteen-sixties, all to drum up support for domestic tourism, ventriloquist dummy Lord Charles (voiced by Ray Alan) travels around the tourist sites of the U.K. and reports back as to the wonderful scenery and points of interest seen there. His chauffeur for this excursion is Cavendish (Roddy Maude-Roxby). Lord Charles is dressed in deerstalker and Inverness cape in many scenes.

Ray Alan and Tich are both dressed as Sherlock Holmes on a Radio Times cover picture (June 14 - 20, 1969), to promote a Sherlock Holmes themed episode of their BBC TV show *Tich & Quackers*. Quackers the Duck was operated by Tony Hart and George Chisholm played Professor Moriarty. The puppets were made by the British ventriloquist puppet-maker, Leonard Insull. The original Tich & Quackers are now on display as part of the Len Insull Exhibition at Bantock House, near Wolverhampton.



Lord Charles - *Britain By Jove* (1960s)



Ray Alan - *Tich & Quackers* (1969)

Rev. Russell Baker - Charlie McCarthy

Rev. Russell Baker is both a pastor and a ventriloquist. His Christmas program featured the children of our church acting out the Nativity story in costume. Narration was provided by him and Charlie McCarthy. The narration was done as a "detective investigation" as the *Case of the Miraculous Birth* was investigated. As "*Bible Detective, Sheerluck Jones*", Rev. Russell Baker wore a Sherlock Holmes outfit, with Charlie as a wisecracking assistant, Dr. Dawson. Throughout the narration, they investigated the *Scriptures of the Nativity* story as the children acted them out he used the term "bible detective" in the program, explaining that a detective observes clues and makes deductions based on those clues. A bible detective, then, observes the truth of God's word and acts on those truths.

Dr. Dawson and Sheerluck Jones



Bible Detective, Sheerluck Jones (2012)

Peppino Mazzullo - Topo Gigio

Topo Gigio, the puppet mouse, well known in America from his appearance on the Ed Sullivan variety show, released an LP album titled *Topo Gigio Investigatore* (1965), in which he appeared dressed as Sherlock Holmes on the cover. *La Banda dello Zecchino* (6 January 1993), was a Rai UnoTV special of Antoniano - Bologna's holiday celebration, and featured cartoons by Winnie the Pooh, the cute bear; Topo Gigio, the puppet mouse, in the role of Sherlock Holmes, with Pulcinella, Fiorindo and other puppets, and a small Choir, which accompanies Federica Del Mostro in the Barabà Ciccì Coccà zones.



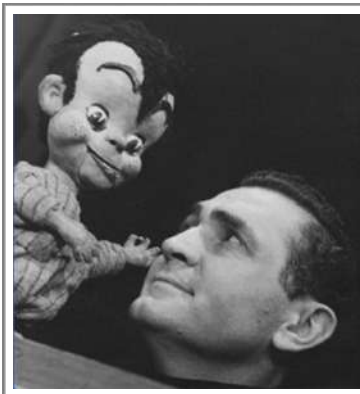
Peppino Mazzullo



***Topo Gigio Investigatore* (1965)**
***La Banda dello Zecchino* (1993)**

Paul Ashley - Chuck McCann - Sherlock Holmes - Dr. Watson

Puppeteer Paul Ashley created a brilliant puppet take on the Abbott & Costello routine, *Who's on First*, featuring Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson puppets, with Paul Ashley and Chuck McCann as puppeteers, for *Tiny TV* (1980). The Paul Ashley Puppets debuted on *The Ed. Sullivan Show* on 7 October 1956, and were often guests on that show, as well as on numerous other shows in early television history. Master puppeteer Paul Ashley and Chuck McCann, his 22 year old apprentice from the kid's show *Wonderama* in the mid 1950s, and later his partner in many children's shows in the 60's and early 70's on the East Coast, were reunited in the late 1970's when Paul moved to L.A. and came out of retirement in 1980 for a pair of TV pilots. The pilots were *Tiny TV*, a satirical/variety puppet series aimed at adults for the cable market, and *LBS Children's Theater*, a children's film anthology show which would feature the Paul Ashley Puppets introducing reruns of primetime animated TV specials and theatrical cartoons from Europe. Paul Ashley now in his late 60's was forced to leave the projects when he proved to be suffering from Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease, which, in the early 80's, no one had ever heard of. *Tiny TV* was never green lighted, but LBS Children's Theater was picked up for national syndication in 1983. McCann hosted the series alone because Ashley did not live long enough to see the show, having died in 1984 at the age of 71. Luckily for us, this Sherlock Holmes puppet video was posted on YouTube by Victoria Ashley Munroe, Paul's daughter on 24, November 2020. A bit of trivia from the amazing career of Paul Ashley was that he was one of those iconic Marlboro Men in Marlboro cigarettes advertising. Wearing a Stetson with his arm casually draped over a saddle on a split rail fence, the ad appeared in national magazines, newspapers and on billboards. The inside joke was that aside from an occasional pipe, Paul didn't smoke!



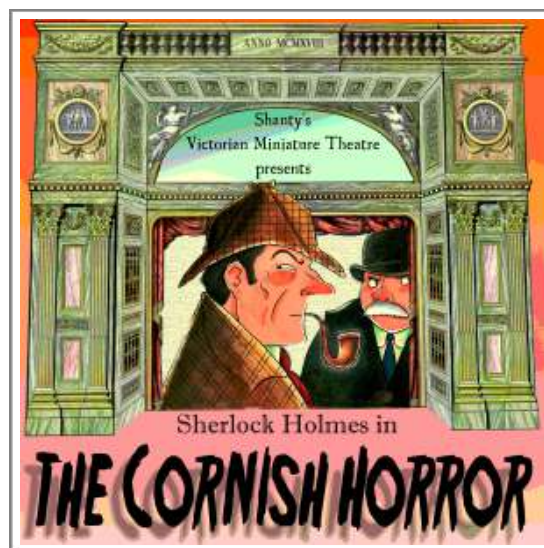
Paul Ashley - *Tiny TV* (1980) (T)

Shanty Baba - Sherlock Holmes - Dr. Watson

Shanty Baba, the Creative Director of The Sir Richard Burton Museum in St. Ives, is a professional storyteller, performer, animator and toy theatre impresario. He also performs the Victorian Toy Paper Theatre show *Sherlock Holmes in The Cornish Horror*. Sherlock Holmes in West Cornwall solving the strangest case of his career, in an original Conan Doyle story.



Shanty Baba



***The Cornish Horror* (2012- Pres.)**

Michael Bentine - Sherlock Potty - Watson Potty

Michael Bentine, interacts with a seemingly endless parade of puppets, known as ‘The Pottys’ in his Thames Television program *Michael Bentine’s Potty Time*. Michael would step out of his drawing room and into the Potty's miniature realm. In the episode titled *Sherlock Holmes* (1974), he interviews Sherlock Holmes at 221B, Baker Street. Sherlock Potty suspects Michael may be Moriarty in disguise, until he proves otherwise. The rooms come under machine-gun attack. Michael accompanies Sherlock Potty and Watson Potty to Baskerville Hall. Sherlock Potty suspects Sir Hugo Baskerville may be Moriarty in disguise, until Lady Agatha Baskerville puts him right. Sir Hugo tells them that Moriarty has threatened to use the hound of the Baskervilles to destroy him unless he pays a hundred thousand pound ransom. When Moriarty disguises himself as Sherlock Holmes, it is up to the hound to sniff out the real Sherlock.



Michael Bentine



Michael Bentine’s Potty Time - Sherlock Holmes (1974)

Dayton Allen - Allen Swift - Inspector John J. Fadoodle

Dressed as Sherlock Holmes and forever peering through his magnifying glass, John J. Fadoodle was the self-proclaimed marionette police inspector who protected the fictional town of Doodyville from 1947 - 1954, on the children's program *The Howdy Doody Show*. In 1952, unknown to the residents of Doodyville, the Inspector decided to run against Howdy Doody for the job of President of all the boys and girls as the mysterious Mr. X. After losing on election day, the Inspector unmasked himself and made a special announcement, from that day forward he was to be known as John J. Fadoodle, 'America's #1 'Boing' Private Eye'. Dayton Allen (1919 – 2004) a great comedian and voice actor (famous as the man in the street on *The Steve Allen Show*), voiced John J. Fadoodle (1947-49). Allen Swift took over the role (1949-54). "The Inspector's character was a by-product of an accident which damaged a duplicate copy of Howdy Doody's wooden head. During transport via airplane, the puppet head split while stored in an unpressurized part of the cargo hold. Not able to use the damaged duplicate head, a new one was created. However, it did not match to the original Howdy Doody puppet head, and so it was fitted with a mustache, a dark suit of clothing and christened 'The Inspector'."¹ The original John J. Fadoodle marionette realized \$47,316.44 in an auction (2002).



Dayton Allen - *The Howdy Doody Show* (1947-49)



Allen Swift - *The Howdy Doody Show* (1949-54)

¹ <https://tvcharacternicknames.wordpress.com/2016/10/17/americas-1-boing-private-eye/>

Veronica Chaos - Slappy Holmes

“Veronica Chaos is definitely taking ventriloquism into new places -- like the bedroom. For the past year, the 26-year-old former stripper has been doing online ventriloquism shows that climax with her having sex with a dummy, “Slappy.” ... The sex shows are designed to be slightly creepy. They usually involve scenarios with Slappy in the role of Willie Wonka while Chaos is an Oompa Loompa, or Slappy as Sherlock Holmes to Chaos' Dr. Watson. Chaos, who only gives her address as somewhere in the Pacific Northwest, does her kinky ventriloquism shows three times a week online. The idea of combining ventriloquism with sex came in a moment of desperation when she realized she needed a gimmick to stick out in the crowded online sex show market. ... Since word got out about her kinky puppet shows, Chaos' cam room crowds have increased from an average of 10 or 20 people to several hundred at a time. She declines to say how much she earns having puppet sex.”² At least Slappy Holmes never has to worry about getting a woody!



Veronica Chaos - Ventriloquist voice of Slappy Holmes (2014)

²https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/veronica-chaos_n_5571376?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvLnVrLw&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAA0DNUW_MY5TIZeq7jrO7dRzys4_WH7u5sRDuvEGgcghz2TrHBfb92oharnyAADQT93JyL3bepZIwB06YNaKK1OdLRYrD1R7jVbEAgpecyFo5FNwbjcr-T3Dxf6bnzQfoC_IWHTd327cKuTAvcnLWe02RN-iUmsIrS2DGuHDyExB

Charles Foerberg - *Шерлок Холмс*

Sherlock Holmes vs. 007, or where is the hound buried? (*Шерлок Холмс против агента 007 или где собака зарыта?*) (1977) is a Russian puppet play which was performed in Kharkiv. Charles Foerberg and M. Korik were the Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson puppeteers.



Charles Foerberg



Sherlock Holmes vs. 007, or where is the hound buried? (1977)

Kōichi Yamadera - Sherlock Holmes - John H. Watson

Not only is Sherlock Holmes a puppet in Japan's NHK television series *Sherlock Holmes* (*Sharokku Houmuzu*), he's also a 15-year-old student at Beeton Boarding School. He gets a new roommate, transfer student John H. Watson from Australia. Mr. Moriarty is the deputy headmaster of the boarding school and doesn't like Holmes that much. Irene Adler is presented as a school nurse. First she has an affair with Headmaster Ormstein, but takes up with another man, Godfrey Norton who teaches art. All eighteen episodes were based directly on Arthur Conan Doyle's original Sherlock Holmes stories. (Beeton's Boarding School - Beeton's Christmas Annual, I just noticed that connection too!) Kōichi Yamadera voices Sherlock Holmes and Wataru Takagi voices John H. Watson.



Kōichi Yamadera



Sherlock Holmes (Sharokku Houmuzu) (シャーロック ホームズ) (2014-15)

Yago Blass - Walter Lawn Tennis

*Treat me good and I'll do anything, yeah
I'm just a puppet an' you hold my string
I'm your puppet... James & Bobby Purify*

If you can't see his puppet because he is on radio, can Argentinian radio man *Yago Blass* (nee *Luis Molina-Vincent*) be described as a puppet master? A 1936 *Radiolandia Magazine* article noted that Blass had a fantastic ability to make characterizations of six different characters that he could pull the strings with as his puppets by the visualization of his voice alone. One of the six voice characters Blass used was 'Walter Lawn Tennis,' a successful satire on Sherlock Holmes, that dazzled his listeners with his deductive theories.



Yago Blass



Walter Lawn Tennis, the Famous Detective (1936)

Cary Antebi - Sherlock the pink squirrel

The Magic Garden (1972-1984) was a popular children's television series from the 1970s and early 1980s. Carole and Paula sing songs, tell jokes, and converse with their funny friends, especially Sherlock the pink squirrel. So of course with a name that, in one episode Sherlock donned a deerstalker and had a pipe! Sherlock's puppeteer, then and still now, is Cary Antebi, since Carole, Paula and Sherlock still entertain children with live stage appearances.



Cary Antebi



***The Magic Garden* (1972-1984)**

David Claridge - Roland the Rat - Kevin the Gerbil

Tales of the Rodent Sherlock Holmes (1990) was a BBC TV seven-part puppet costume drama, with David Claridge as the voice of Roland the Rat/Sherlock Holmes and Darryl Worbey as the voice of Kevin the Gerbil/Dr. Watson. Steve Haggard was the producer and said, at the time, that "Roland Rat is the latest in a long line of distinguished actors to pull on the cloak and deerstalker of the master detective, but he's probably the first to wear sunglasses". Its episodes had titles and plots familiar to even novice Sherlockians.

Wilson the Notorious Canary Trainer

Plot: Roland is going to the theatre, and it is not to see Mousetrap. Wilson, the canary trainer, has vanished and a giant canary is reeking revenge on the theater.

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

Plot: The Royal family have been mysteriously losing all their jewels. Is the fiendish Blue Carbuncle behind it?

The Giant Rat of Sumatra

Plot: Holmes receives a letter from Yorkshire. Is the Giant Rat haunting the moors?

The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb

Plot: Happy Holiday Club offers Holmes a free train trip. But who is the mysterious engineer?

The Case of the Cardboard Box

Plot: Roland receives a large cardboard box in the post. It appears to be empty, but who could have sent him an empty box - and why?

The Case of the Second Stain

Plot: Holmes and Watson are rather short of funds. If only someone would offer them a job!

The Adventure of the Creeping Man

Plot: Mrs Plankton's seaside boarding house is being haunted by a supernatural being! She sends for the world's greatest detective.



David Claridge - *Tales of the Rodent Sherlock Holmes* (1990)

Allan Martin - Sherlock Holmes - Dr. Watson

To raise money for their puppet festival in August, Puppet's Up, Almonte, Canada, put together a production called *Sherlock Holmes and The Hound of the Basketballs*, which is a parody of Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Shown at the Almonte Old Town Hall, the show was an adults only play, full of naughty moments, with many references to local history. The references to basketballs surely stem from the fact that James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, came from Almonte. Allan Martin, the show's writer, performed Sherlock Holmes. Joey Graff directed the show.



Allan Martin - The Writer



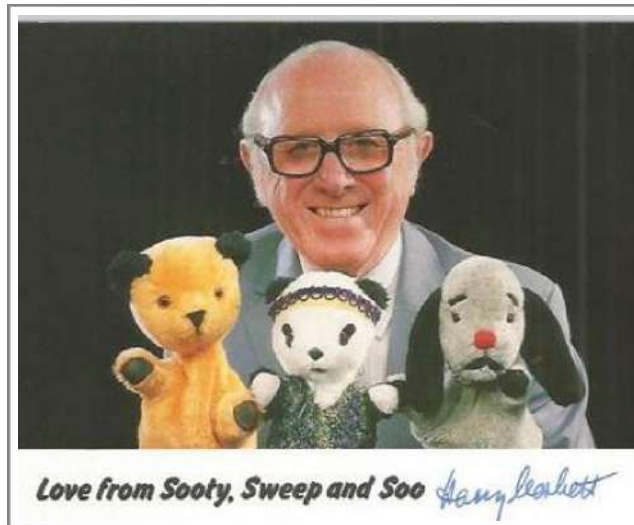
Joey Graff - The Director



Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Basketballs (2022)

Harry Corbett - Sherlock Sooty

Sooty was a glove puppet who was created by the English puppeteer, magician and television presenter Harry Corbett in 1948. Harry's BBC TV show *Sooty* was a kid's show that focused on the many mischievous adventures of glove puppet character Sooty. Sooty is a hand puppet bear. In the episode titled *Sherlock Sooty* (1956), Sooty played detective Sherlock Sooty. Harry Corbett was the puppeteer for Sooty. Harry's son Matthew would revive the character of Sherlock Sooty in 1979.



Harry Corbett



Sooty: Sherlock Sooty (1956)

Matthew Corbett - Sooty /Sherlock Sooty - Sweep /Dr Wosit.

The Sooty Show was presented from 1955 to 1975 by Harry Corbett, and from 1976 to 1992 by his son, Matthew, who bought the rights for Sooty for £35,000 from his father. *The Case of The Black Hand* appeared in nine mini-episodes inserted into the main show in 1980, the Thames Live era before the format change to *The Sooteries Cottage*. Starring Matthew Corbett, Sweep along with Sooty as Sherlock Sooty with Bob Todd as The Black Hand. Sooty is a hand puppet bear and Sweep is a hand puppet dog. Watch for them to appear again in *The Sooty Show - Sleep Walking with Sherlock Sooty and/or Sherlock Sooty* (1981 and/or 1984), *Sooty & Co. - Sherlock Sooty Visits* (1995), *Sooty & Co. - The Return of Sherlock Sooty & Dr Wosit* (1998), and *Sooty Show - The Case of The Black Hand* (2011). “The Sooty Show is a British children's television series that aired on BBC Television from 1955 until 1967 when the BBC eventually cancelled *The Sooty Show* after Paul Fox, the controller of BBC One at the time, cleared out some of the long running shows. After it was cancelled by the BBC that year, *The Sooty Show* swiftly moved to ITV shortly after the launch of Thames Television in 1968, where the series remained until Thames lost its ITV franchise in 1992. It features the glove puppet characters Sooty, Sweep (who first appeared in 1957) and Soo (first appeared in 1964), and follows them in their many mischievous adventures. In 1981, *The Sooty Show* changed from a sketch-based format with a studio audience into a more sitcom-based format set in the Sooteries cottage. In 1992, *The Sooty Show* concluded its final series, when Thames Television lost its franchise as part of the ITV network. So, in 1993 (nearly a year after the series was concluded), the show was replaced/succeeded by *Sooty & Co.*, also presented by Matthew Corbett and was made by Granada TV in Manchester, North-West of England.³



The Sooty Show - The Case of The Black Hand (1979-80)
The Sooty Show - Sleep Walking with Sherlock Sooty (1981)
The Sooty Show - Sooty's Christmas Party (1988)
Sooty & Co. - Sherlock Sooty Visits (1995)
Sooty & Co. - The Return of Sherlock Sooty & Dr Wosit (1998)
Sooty Show - The Case of The Black Hand (2011)

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sooty_Show

Albert Einstein

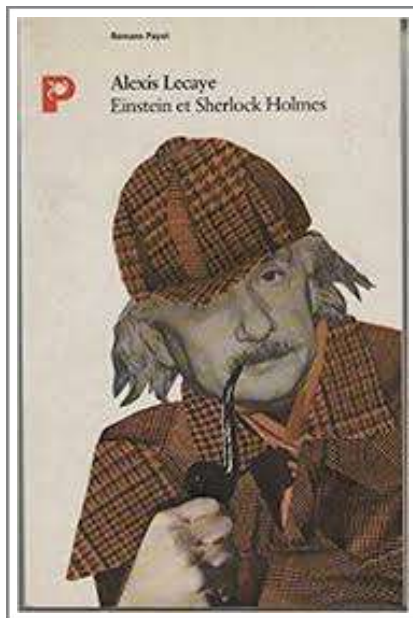
“It’s little known that Einstein was an accomplished violinist, and even less known that had he not pursued science, he said he would have been a musician:

“I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music.” said Einstein.

Music can be thought of as a complex stimulus able to enrich the encoding of an event thus boosting its subsequent retrieval. However, several findings suggest that music can also interfere with memory performance. A better understanding of the behavioral and neural processes involved can substantially improve knowledge and shed new light on the most efficient music-based interventions.

Dr. Watson wrote in *The Red Headed League*: “Holmes was an enthusiastic musician, being himself not only a very capable performer of no ordinary merit.” The detective enjoyed music of all kinds, including opera, concert music, and obscure compositions. His special devotion to music was clear from the number of references in the stories. Watson mentions Holmes’ violin playing several times.”⁴

Albert Einstein



A Book, A Puppet? (1989)

⁴ Payel Bhattacharya, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/warrior-princess/brilliant-intelligence-of-sir-albert-einstein-and-quickness-of-wit-of-mr-sherlock-holmes-2/?source=app&frmapp=yes>

Nelly Zurita - Mimoso Ratón

The Mexican TV kids show *Odyssey Bubbles* (*Odisea Burbujas*) in the episode *The Case of Scared Horror* (*El Caso del Espanto Espantado*) (1979) Had a human Sherlock Holmes (played by Álvaro Carcaño) and also an anthropomorphic creation Mimoso Ratón (voiced by Nelly Zurita). The plot revolves around Professor A.G. Memelovsky and his anthropomorphic creations: Patas Verdes, Mimoso Ratón, Mafafa Musquito and Pistachón Zig-Zag, as they travel through space and time, knowing and exploring the universe, while trying to thwart the threats of Ecoloco, a villain whose specialty and sole objective is the pollution of the environment. In this episode Bubbles travels to visit Sherlock Holmes to help Profesor Memelovsky find some nuts, while El Ecoloco does everything possible to stop them by sending a ghost. Although the episode was titled *The Case of Scared Horror* it was better known as *Sherlock Holmes*. Near the end of the episode Sherlock Holmes gives his deerstalker and magnifying glass to Mimoso Ratón (Cuddly Mouse). The series, was viewed mostly in Latin America and the United States.



Nelly Zurita - *Odyssey Bubbles - The Case of Scared Horror* (1979)



Álvaro Carcaño

James Corden - Charley Bear Sock Detective

Little Charley Bear a British kids show with James Corden as Narrator (Voice), also aired on TVO in Canada as *Little Wilfey Bear*. In the episode *Charley Bear Sock Detective* (2011) Charley is dressed in full Sherlockian garb and has a magnifying glass. Charley turns detective to find his missing sock but when the rest of his clothes go missing too, he realizes there must be a clothes thief on the loose. The mystery is solved when Charley discovers it is just his penguin friend Frozen who is taking the clothes and folding them for Charley. Later on, James Corden would appear in full Sherlockian dress in a comedy sketch on his *The Late Late Show* (2017).



***Little Charley Bear - Charley Bear Sock Detective* (2011) (T)**



***The Late Late Show With James Corden* (2016) (T)**

Carter deLaat - Sherlock Holmes - Dr. John Hamish Watson

Carter deLaat and Spookhouse Productions' *Puppet Holmes* is an internet show described by creator Carter deLaat as The Odd-Couple meets Ernie and Bert in the world of Arthur Conan Doyle. *Puppet Holmes* offers a peek into the trials and tribulations of legendary crime fighters (and best friends) Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson. Carter deLaat voices Sherlock Holmes and Joey Matthews voices Dr. John Hamish Watson

Episode One Plot: Having just returned from the Afghan war, Dr. John Watson tries to adjust back to civilian life in 1890's London. Not long after returning, he meets his new companion Sherlock Holmes, a consulting detective who Watson will discover living with is anything but 'Elementary'.

Episode Two Plot: Can our favorite crime-fighting chums face their biggest challenge yet? Can Holmes unravel a knotty case of identity!? Can Watson hold it together in front of a beautiful woman!?

Episode Three Plot: Holmes brings Watson up to speed on their most confounding case yet- but are the facts true? Or has Holmes been using his seven-percent solution again? This is Carter deLaat and Spookhouse Productions' second Sherlock Holmes creation, the first being *221B - The Web Series* (2013).



Carter deLaat



***Puppet Holmes* (2017-18)**

Konstantin Gaponov - Irina Khmaruk - Sherlock Holmes - Dr. Watson

Puppet theatre holds an unimpeachable place in Russian arts and culture. Many puppet theaters exist there. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* puppet was performed at the Crimea Puppet Theatre in Simferopol. The authors of the performance, director Valery Badzhi and artist Irina Khmaruk (Ирина Хмарук), recreated the picture of 'good old' England. Before the viewer appear the image of the famous, charming Sherlock Holmes. The director involves the viewer in the course of his hero's thoughts, emphasizing not only talent, but also the mind and ability to ironically perceive what is happening around, depicting him with a share of the grotesque. Using the specifics of the puppet theater, the production team created a mysterious detective atmosphere and a gallery of eccentric and funny characters, offering the audience a fresh look at the events, the inner world of the characters and their relationships. Konstantin Gaponov (Константин Гапонов), an actor in the Crimean Academic Puppet Theatre, performed as Sherlock Holmes.



Irina Khmaruk - Konstantin Gaponov



***The Hound of the Baskervilles* (2017-19)**

Jan Mixsa - Sherlock Briegel - Chili Watson

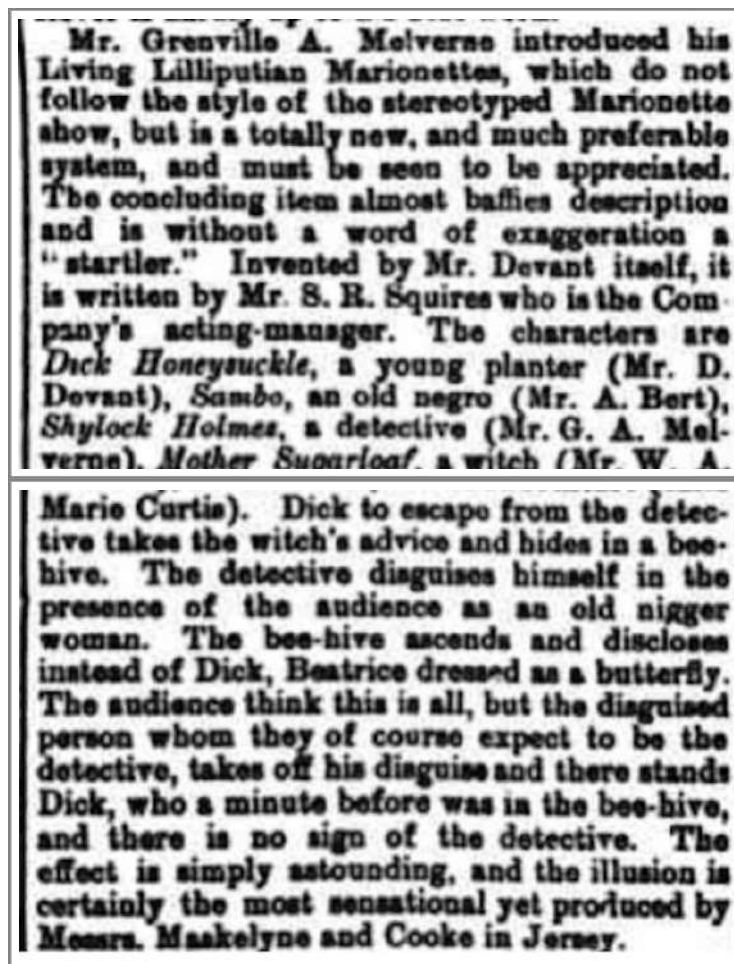
Bernd the Bread (*Bernd das Brot*) was a German TV puppet series. In the episode titled *Sherlock Briegel*, Chili the sheep annoys Bernd the bread with her Frisbee. Because Bernd does not want to play, she asks Briegel the bush, but Briegel is watching a Sherlock Holmes episode and will not be disturbed. When Chili returns to the garden, her Frisbee is gone. She suspects Bernd, but Briegel appears in Sherlock Holmes disguise to solve the case. Chili disguises herself as Watson. When Sergeant Budimtschitsch arrives Briegel addresses him as Inspector Lestrade. After the case is solved, Briegel and Chili decide to watch another Sherlock Holmes episode, while Bernd prepares for a new case. In the short excerpt in which Briegel is watching a Sherlock Holmes episode: Sherlock Holmes informs Watson that the letter of the blackmailer gives a decisive clue to the profession of blackmailer. Since Watson does not notice anything when shown the letter, Sherlock Holmes stuffs the letter in Watson's mouth with the words, "Watson, taste it! Taste it!" Watson replies he tastes paper and ink, but Holmes corrects him saying the taste is sea salt. This with Sumatra's sour-nutty-tasting ink, which is not sold all over England, leaves only one conclusion: the blackmailer is the widely traveled Captain Jameson. He has thus blackmailed himself. The excerpt ends with Holmes' words "The Game's Afoot, Watson". Commenting on his appearance on an Internet forum, Tommy Krappweis commented: "The Sherlock Holmes scene with Norman and me is essentially based on the Sherlock Holmes series with Jeremy Brett, for me the most insane and authentic Holmes, but I did my best, but Mr. Brett is even more batty ..." Jan Mixsa performed Sherlock Briegel, Suse Capelle performed Chili Watson, Tommy Krappweis is Sherlock Holmes and Norman Cöster is Watson.



Jan Mixsa - *Bernd the Bread - Sherlock Briegel* (2009)

Grenville A. Melverne - Shylock Holmes

Grenville A. Melverne was a ventriloquist, most famous for his Lilliputian Living Marionettes act performed at The Egyptian Hall for Maskelyne & Cooke and on tours for them and after that association. He also acted in sketches, etc., where needed. David Devant, managing partner of M & C provincial company and a conjuror/illusionist had the company's acting manager, Mr. S. R. Squires, write the illusory sketch, *The Honeysuckle and the Bee*. afterwards called *The Enchanted Hive*. It was presented at The Lesser Free Trade Hall, Manchester, 3 March, 1902, with Grenville A. Melverne in the role of Shylock Holmes. The newspaper clips below are from Jersey Independent and Daily Telegraph. *The Honeysuckle and the Bee* toured almost all of 1902. We hope someone can find a photo of Melverne.



Grenville A. Melverne - *The Honeysuckle and the Bee* (1902)

John Semper Jr. - Sherlock Holmes - Dr. Watson

John Semper Jr. created a stop-motion animated film, shot in Super 8mm film, and titled *A Baker Street Conversation* (1976) as part of his college thesis in the Visual and Environmental Studies Department of Harvard College. John animated it himself and built the puppets. They are about a foot tall. He still has them sitting in a box in storage, as well. The film utilizes a soundtrack from an old radio show featuring Sir John Gielgud as Sherlock Holmes and Sir Ralph Richardson as Watson. The plot of the film has a Sherlock Holmes puppet explaining to a Dr. Watson puppet what he does for a living. John would go on to become a successful and prolific TV writer/producer, producing hundreds of TV cartoons, working on such popular network TV shows such as the animated *Fraggle Rock*, *Scooby Doo*, *Smurfs* and *Spider-Man: The Animated Series*. John also authored *The Singular Affair of the Missing Ball: A Sherlock Whippet Mystery* (2005).



John Semper Jr.



***A Baker Street Conversation* (1976)**

Rob Brock - Sherlock Holmes - Dr. Watson

As far back as 1990 puppeteer Rob Brock decided to create puppet shows not for kids only. One of his early choices for a production was the *Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes*. Starting out as the Hole in the Wall Puppet Theatre, and changing the name to the Lancaster Marionette Theatre, the shows continued on for three decades in Lancaster, Pa., up until the pandemic forced the closing of the theatre on 21 November 2021. The main theatre area was converted into a 'movie studio' for Brock's fledgling YouTube channel. So perhaps we will see Rob Brock and his puppets on YouTube one day.



Rob Brock



The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes (2000-2021)

Jonathan David West - Sherlock Holmes - Dr. Watson

The Case of the Missing Banana is a Sherlock Holmes Marionette Puppet Show by Jonathan David West. Jonathan David West has been working with puppets for over 30 years. He retired from the Nashville Fire Department and moved to Orlando, where he founded "West Puppets." *The Case of the Missing Banana* can be seen in its entirety, in four parts, since Jonathan posted it back in 2009. He is currently the President of the Central Florida Puppet Guild.



Jonathan David West



Case of the Missing Banana (2009-Pres.)

part 4 of 4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRU9ty_SXRM

part 3 of 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUo-L0hCfu0>

part 2 of 4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bt_iRQI_mWs

part 1 of 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=To04qtt6wDo>

Graeme Drysdale - Gilliam Lowit - Sherlock Holmes

Graeme Drysdale and Gilliam Lowit are two Aberdeen 10 yr olds who gave a 5-minute Sherlock Holmes puppet show live on TV. Drysdale and Lowit wrote and performed *The Mystery Suitcase* on Grampian TV's children's program *Zoom* in 1974, inspired by Aberdeen Art Galleries 'Grand Puppeteering Week'.



Gillian Lowit (left) and Graeme Drysdale with the third star of "Zoom" Sherlock Holmes the puppet.

Gillian Lowit and Graeme Drysdale

Gillian and
Graeme
appeared
on TV

WHEN Graeme Drysdale (10) goes back to school this week he'll have the best "what I did in my holidays" story in his class.

You may have gone to the seaside or climbed a mountain, but Graeme, who lives at 94 Kings Gate, Aberdeen, had his own show on Grampian TV.

Well, the show was not entirely his own, he shared it with Gillian Lowit (10), 72 Burns Road, Aberdeen, and a certain Mr Ron Sawdon who introduces Grampian's "Zoom" on Saturday mornings.

Graeme and Gillian gave a five-minute puppet show called "The Mystery Suitcase" which they wrote themselves. And they made the puppets they used during a "Grand Puppeteering Week" at Aberdeen Art Gallery.

What did Graeme think about having his own TV Show? He confessed: "It was my first time on TV and I hope it's my last. I was a bit scared with all those people watching and I was frightened I'd make a mistake."

Aberdeen Press & Journal for 2 September 1974

Lachlan Haig - Detective Alex Holmes - Watson the canine assistant

Kaboodle is a 13-part anthology television series which includes animation, puppetry, and live action and was produced by the Australian Children's Television Foundation (ACTF) that ran on ABC TV from 1987 to 1990. In a very short segment titled *The Great Detective - Masters of Disguise*, a criminal master of disguise has taken on the form of a mustached dustbin, but Great Detective Alex Holmes and his faithful but reluctant canine assistant Watson are on to him. When the criminal makes a quick escape, Alex decides that in order to catch him, they too must become masters of disguise. They spot some suspect characters, a punk rocker, Frankenstein and a gorilla with a boombox, at the bus stop. When the bus departs the bus stop sign has disappeared and they are again suspicious. Lachlan Haig was the voice of Detective Alex Holmes and David Burchell as the voice of Watson the canine assistant. Lachlan Haig seems to have been active only as a child actor 1985-88.



Lachlan Haig



***Kaboodle - Masters of Disguise* (1987) (Alex Holmes)**

Sherlock Holmes

An account of the Sherlockian puppet show *The Five Fingered Hand* performed by the Tandarica Theatre of Bucharest at the International Festival of Puppetry in 1958. (from *Puppetry Journal*, Jan.-Feb. 1959)

markably subtle, done with perfect timing and sophisticated finesse. At no time were the actors anything but umbrellas, but they suggested all these characters in the same way that a piece of sculpture can be at once a piece of stone and a portrayal of a person. The action was reduced to essentials and played on a stage uncluttered with unnecessary scenery, yet the performance was rich both for the eye and the ear.

THE TANDARICA THEATRE OF BUCHAREST

"The Five Fingered Hand" presented by this theatre was perhaps the most brilliant show of the Festival. It was extremely funny, but it succeeded at the same time in satirizing the murder mystery. The plot followed the usual trend of affairs found in such stories. Mr. X kills a bank clerk and escapes, leaving his sign of a black outspread hand imprinted on a paper which is fastened to the wall with a dagger. The clerk's fiancée enlists the help of a detective--none other than Sherlock Holmes himself, who is a delightfully satirized puppet version of that famous character. Accompanied by a dog, not a bloodhound, but a bouncy little high--voiced creature, they follow the trail of Mr. X. He leads them on a merry chase; there are several more murders, but we do not see them, only the five fingered hand. The pursuit leads through city streets full of traffic, which is suggested by many cut-outs of autos and trucks, fastened to rods and moved rapidly across the stage. There was a gay night club scene where the pursuers were for a time diverted from their grim job. On to the country they went and found a rope hung from a pole--would there be a corpse on the other end which was hidden behind a fence? Much suspense while they pulled and pulled and at last there appeared-----a cow. There was an

underground room with a skelton in a closet, a suit of armor with a hammer in its hand (used, of course, to conk someone over the head,) and a dancing figure. The pursuers are halted momentarily by a bridge which blows up just as they are about to cross it. They catch up with Mr. X in an airplane and shoot it out, but he escapes. Sherlock employs disguises; once, dressed as a woman, he nearly overtook Mr. X on a rapidly moving train. After many other exciting scenes, Mr. X is finally captured.

Especially notable in this play was the puppet-like quality of all its parts. The actors were hand-and-rod figures, almost abstract in their design. In a scene at a bar, one character had his head split open (literally) in a brawl, but it snapped back into place with no harm done. People landed in chandeliers, a dancer ended up with a table draped around her in a way only possible with puppets. Consistent with the style of the puppets, the scenery was simple and exaggerated, often just a suggestion. Flat cut-outs were much used, such as the auto in which the pursuers dash after Mr. X. The whole pattern of music and noise effects which was woven into the play also had a special puppet quality of unusual sounds. A very wide stage was used. One half of it could be curtained off while action took place on the other, so that no intervals between the scenes were necessary. Hence the action seemed exciting and breathless, yet it was never muddled, always as concise in design as the puppets and the scenery. There was no dialogue but the pantomime was perfectly clear.

In many puppet plays, one forgets that the actors are puppets because they give an illusion of life. In "The Five Fingered Hand" one was constantly aware that the actors were puppets, and it was because of this that they were able to show up the

ridiculous actions of human beings who are characters in a murder mystery. One came away from the show delighted by its freshness, its vitality, its movement and brilliance of color. Yet, primarily entertaining though it was, it contrived to point out how exaggerated, how artificial, how unrealistic is the murder mystery.

FILMS

One evening, May 19, was set aside for a gala showing of puppet films. With complete disregard for limitations of human endurance 14 films were scheduled. After the first 8 there was an intermission so I left since I was not jurying these. For the record, here is the list: German Democratic Republic, "An Incredible Story;" Chinese People's Republic, "The Wise Goat" in which he learns how to defy a tiger; England, "The Magic Strings", a marionette making film by Waldo and Muriel Lanchester; Czechoslovakia, "The Forgotten Soldier;" U.S.S.R., "A Divine Creature", another satire by Obraztsov's theatre; Belgium, "The Puppets of Toone", a documentary about one of the traditional Flemish theatres; Rumania, "Knickers 'Re Worn Short", a satire on the bunnets of atomic testing; France, "Joseph is in the Air" in which toys escape from a schoolroom and have many adventures; India, "Indian Puppet Theatre"; Hungarian People's Republic, "The Frozen King;" German Federal Republic, "A Small Theatre with a Big Heart;" Bulgarian People's Republic, "Cinders and Runner;" Italy, Podrecca's "Little Ones;" Poland, "Circus under the Stars;" Denmark, "The Lead Soldier."

PUPPET EXHIBIT

The International Puppet Exhibit was held in the School of Architecture Building. It was a handsomely designed display which made use of

The Five Fingered Hand (1958)

Sherlock Holmes - Dr. Watson

Federal Theatre Project Collection: Production Records-Photographic Negatives File (1935-1939). The Photographic Negatives File is a collection of approximately 9,000 negatives, mainly from the New York, NY units, documenting over 200 productions and also covering various ethnic groups and their neighborhoods, newspaper reviews, radio shows, the circus, WPA arts projects, puppet shows, hospital scenes, personalities, etc. The Marionette Unit's marionette version of a "Sherlock Holmes" performance. Notice the audience is all adults. Seeing the bedroom scene, my wild guess is it's *The Speckled Band*.



New York City Puppet Show (1930s)

Jiří Polehňa - Sherlock Holmes

For Jiří Polehňa Marionettes; Puppets on Strings, the set of puppets below starred in two Sherlockian productions: *The Secret of the Blue Pearl* (2005) and *Sherlock Holmes and the Czech Patalia* (2012).



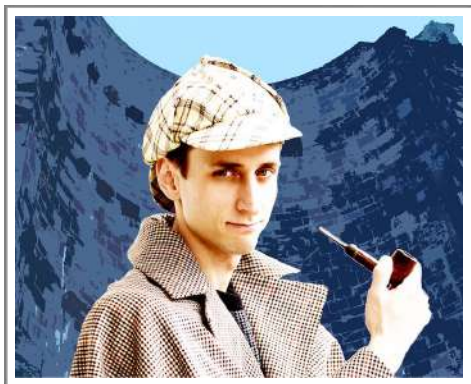
The Secret of the Blue Pearl (2005)
Sherlock Holmes and the Czech Patalia (2012)



Jiří Polehňa

Florian Mania - Sherlock Holmes

When Florian Mania preformed on stage at Heidelberg Castle in 2016, he had his dummy along in case of an assassination attempt.



Florian Mania



***Sherlock Holmes* (2016)**

Enrico Matteazzi - Sherlock Holmes - Doc Brown - Marty

BurattiMatti Puppet Shows of Italy, did a crossover show between *Back to the Future* and *Sherlock* titled "*Back To Sherlock! - Sherlock Holmes and The Mysterious Case of the Missing Librarian*". Enrico Matteazzi performed as all the characters and the original puppets were built by him.



Enrico Matteazzi



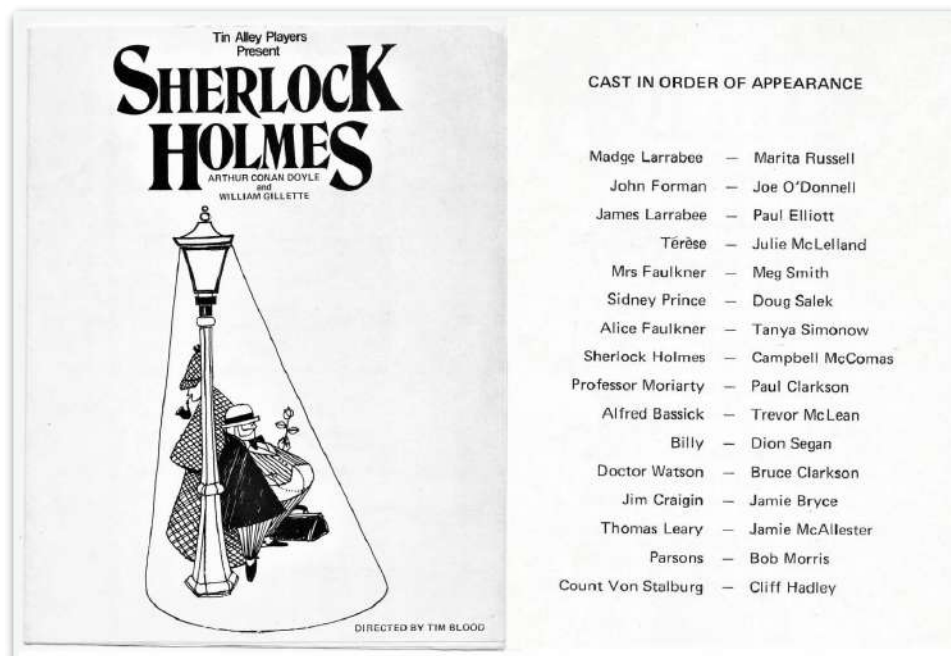
Sherlock Holmes e il misterioso caso della bibliotecaria scomparsa (2018)

Campbell McComas - Sherlock Holmes

Australian comedic actor and big time prankster Campbell McComas (1952-2005), while with the Tin Alley Players, and set to appear as Sherlock Holmes in Gillette's *Sherlock Holmes*, showed up at the University of Melbourne dean's office with what appeared to be a mannequin Sherlock Holmes, or was he real?



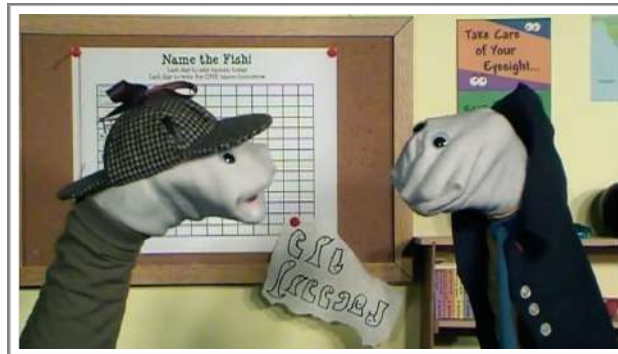
Campbell McComas



Sherlock Holmes (1980)

William Held - Kate Ruhm - Helmet Kid - Harelip

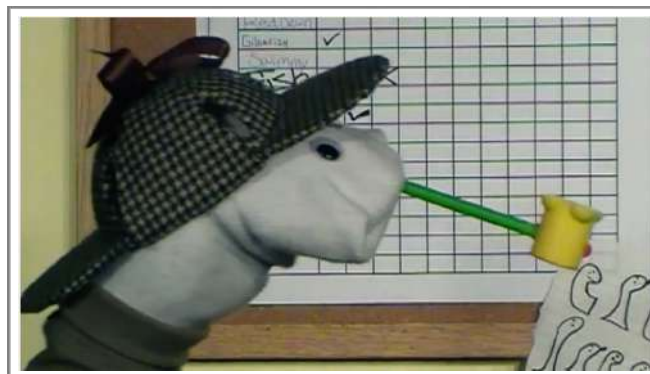
Disabled Puppet Theatre, 'Sock Puppets with Problems'... posted a thirty Sherlock Holmes-style adventure to their Youtube channel. Sock puppets Helmet Kid and Harelip want to be Sherlock Holmes, so they vie to see who will be the first to solve the *Mystery of the Crimson Fish*. William Held voices Helmet Kid and Kate Ruhm voices Harelip.



William Held



Kate Ruhm



The Mystery of the Crimson Fish (2014)

Edgar Hoppe - Hein Blöd/Sherlock Holmes

Blaubär Mix & Fertig - Sherlock Holmes: His Greatest Case (Sherlock Holmes: Sein größter Fall) (2013) was edited from the *Käpt'n Blaubärs Seemannsgarn* (*Captain Bluebear's Sailor's Yarn*) (1990-2001) TV Series, and the *Blaubär und Blöd* (*Bluebear and Harry Dim*) (2002-2008) TV Series. It was a 3 minute 30 second skit, which probably first aired on one of those two series. In fog-shrouded London of the 18th century is what should be director Käpt'n Blaubär's greatest moments in film history, filming Sherlock Holmes bringing down an evil criminal. But when Quickfinger refuses to tell where he has hidden the stolen cuckoo clock, it turns out to be Sherlock Holmes' biggest failure. Bluebear is an anthropomorphic talking bear with blue fur, and Hein Blöd is an anthropomorphic rat whose name translates as 'Harry Dim'. Wolfgang Völz voices Käpt'n Blaubär/The Director, with Edgar Hoppe voicing Hein Blöd/Sherlock Holmes and Michael Müller playing Quickfinger.



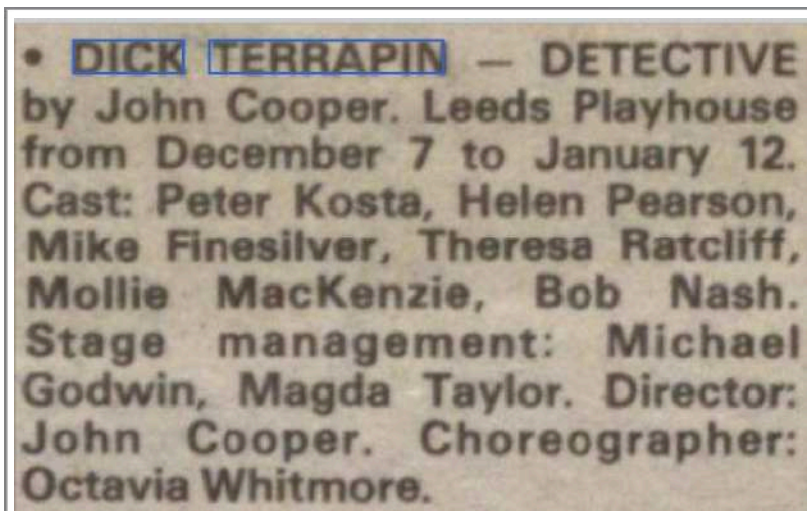
Edgar Hoppe



Blaubär Mix & Fertig - Sherlock Holmes: Sein größter Fall (Sherlock Holmes: his greatest case) (2013)

Peter Kosta - Dick Terrapin

The Flying Tortoise Company's musical puppet show *Dick Terrapin Detective* carried a powerful message about the dangers of pollution wrapped up in a colorful fantasy of life below the surface of a quiet pool. Dick Terrapin appeared in a deerstalker cape, Inverness cape, and carried a magnifying glass. Peter Kosta performed as Dick Terrapin.



Peter Kosta

An amusing example of an anthropomorphic Sherlock Holmes on the stage was **Dick Terrapin Detective**, a musical puppet show for younger children and including sing-along action songs staged at the Leeds Playhouse and other theatres in 1983. The story follows the adventures of little Lucy Loggins, who has lost her locket at the bottom of a pool. Her friends including Dick Terrapin (a reformed highwayman with lens, deerstalker and Inverness cape) help her recover the locket and she also learns the importance of protecting wildlife.

Dick Terrapin Tortoise Detective (1982-83)

Laszlo Nemesi - Sherlock Holmes

CONvergence 2013: British Invasion in Bloomington, Minnesota (2013) had an opening ceremony which began with a live musical sketch called *Avenue Who*, which was basically what would happen if Avenue Q and Doctor Who made sweet, sweet love and had a baby. It was written by Tim Wick, Chad Dutton and Gordon Smuder, with puppets built by Gordon Smuder. The cast included: Tim Wick as Purple Monster, Molly Glover as Pink Monster, Nick Glover as Leonard Nimoy, Windy Bowsby as Mary Poppins, Courtney McLean as The TARDIS, Jeff Neppi as The Doctor, Christopher Jones as A Dalek, Laszlo Nemesi as Sherlock Holmes and Gordon Smuder as Dr. Watson.



Leonard Nimoy (Nick Glover)



Purple Monster (Tim Wick) and
Pink Monster (Molly Glover)

***Avenue Who* (2013)**



Sherlock Holmes (Laszlo Nemesi) and Dr. Watson
(Gordon Smuder)

Laszlo Nemesi - *Avenue Who* (2013)

Don Kinney - Sherlock Silbert (Silbert the Dinosaur)

The Fox Cubhouse was a preschool anthology series aired from 1994 through 1996 on Fox Kids. In the episode *Sherlock Silbert*, Silbert has a magnifying glass which makes his cupcakes look bigger, Rosie explains that they only look bigger, so he sighs, "Oh, I'll just have to eat more of the small ones then. Then Sherlock Silbert asks Rosie if they can watch an episode of *Johnson and Friends*. Rosie says yes, and an episode of the kids program *Johnson and Friends* is shown. Don Kinney performed Sherlock Silbert (Silbert the Dinosaur).



Don Kinney



The Fox Cubhouse - Sherlock Silbert (1994)

Damien Laquet - Sherlock Holmes Rabbid - Dr. Watson Rabbid

The Rabbids are from the Ubisoft's *Raving Rabbids* video game series, in which a ribbed is a mischievous rabbit-like creature, who speaks gibberish and screams wildly whenever it experiences an adrenaline rush. In the French television series titled *Rabbids Invasion*, the Rabbids explore Earth and discover new things. In an episode titled *Enter the Legend - Rabbids Heroes* (2018) two Rabbids evolve into Sherlock Holmes Rabbid and Dr. Watson Rabbid to find the thief of the missing dog biscuits. They discover at the full moon another Rabbid who turns into a werewolf is the culprit. The episode has scenes in a moor, a hound, and pays homage to Doyle's Hound of the Baskervilles. Sherlock Holmes Rabbid formerly had a brief appearance in *The Mystery of the Disappearing Rabbids* (2014). Damien Laquet voices both Sherlock Holmes Rabbid and Dr. Watson Rabbid.



Damien Laquet



***Rabbids Invasion - The Mystery of the Disappearing Rabbids* (2014)**
***Rabbids Invasion - Enter the Legend* (2018)**

Seth Green - Super Snooper -Blabber

"Robot Chicken" a nerdy adult sketch comedy show using stop-motion animation, with action figures, which features short sketches lampooning everything from television, to movies, to comic books. The episode titled *Ban on the Fun* featured a 2 1/2 minute *Laff-A-Munich* sketch (2007), a riff on the *Scooby's All-Star Laff-A-Lympics* (1977) and the film *Munich* (2005). It had a rear view of a deerstalker wearing Super Snooper and Blabber, as two of the revenge seekers against the Really Rottens. The players killed (Yogi, Boo-Boo, Doggie Daddy, Huckleberry Hound, Wally Gator, and Quick Draw McGraw) are members of the Yogi Yahooeys, one of the three teams in *Laff-A-Lympics* (the others are the The Really Rottens and the Scooby Doobies).



Seth Green



Robot Chicken - Ban on the Fun (2007)

Eric Christian Olsen - Basil of Baker Street

Robot Chicken is a nerdy adult sketch TV comedy show using stop-motion animation, with action figures, which features short sketches lampooning everything from television, to movies, to comic books. The episode *Things Look Bad for the Streepster* featured a 1 minute *The Great Mouse Detective* skit, with Basil of Baker Street being performed by Eric Christian Olsen. Basil of Baker Street is summoned to solve a husbands murder. He deduces it was a sex game gone wrong. When the client has no money for his fee, he decides to try a sex game as payment, but it goes wrong too.



Eric Christian Olsen



***Robot Chicken - Things Look Bad for the Streepster* (2018)**

Victoria Pontecorvo - Blue - Sprinkles

Shape Detectives is an episode of the children's TV program *Blue's Room*. *Shape Detectives* was also featured on a four episode DVD titled *Shape Detectives* (2007). Victoria Pontecorvo was the voice of Blue, with Joey Mazzarino as the voice of Sprinkles. Donovan Patton played the human role of Joe. Blue, Sprinkles, and Joe are playing Sherlock Holmes like detectives. Roar E. Saurus creates a prized work of art entirely out of shapes. The shapes from Roary's painting pop off the canvas and scurry away to various hiding places around the playroom. Blue, Sprinkles, and Joe, become shape detectives to find them. Detective Blue, Detective Sprinkles, and Detective Joe wear Sherlockian costumes.



Victoria Pontecorvo



***Blue's Room - Shape Detectives* (2007) (T) (Blue)**

Ian Rowley - Dusty Bin

3-2-1 was a British TV game show that ran for a decade with Ted Rogers as the host. It was three shows in one, a quiz, variety and a game show. In the 6 March 1982 *Who-Dun-It?* edition, *Murder at the Grange* was the title of the variety portion. Dusty Bin starts out the show dressed as Sherlock Holmes, with a giant deerstalker, curved pipe and magnifying glass. Frankie Howerd plays Inspector Coroner, who is dressed as Sherlock Holmes with his deerstalker on sideways for comedic effect. There are a number of murders at the Grange Manor. Ian Rowley operates Dusty Bin.



Ian Rowley - Dusty Bin



***3-2-1 - Whodunnit?* (1982)**

Willie Tyler - Lester

I remember this guy! His act was pretty corny and I didn't care for him compared to the others... his lips always moved LOL! Not much of a clue from the photo's background, and it might not even be a TV appearance, but I think it is. Fairly young looking here, so I'm guessing 70's TV since I believe he started out on *Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In*. Other TV credits include appearances on the *Tonight Show* (NBC), *ABC Weekend Specials*, *Pacific Blue* (USA Network) *In The House* (NBC) *The Jimmy Kimmel Show* (ABC), *The Flip Wilson Show* (CBS) and the *The Late Show Starring David Letterman* (CBS). Willie and Lester have also been seen in numerous TV commercials: McDonalds and Maxwell House Coffee to name a few. Attempts to contact Willie Tyler yielded no further information than the photo. It could just be a comedy club with a hand held mike?



Willie Tyler & Lester - Lester in a Deerstalker (19??)

If anyone has any other information about this photo please let us know. Thank You!

Pastor Andrew J. Schlecht - Sherlock Psalms

Andrew J. Schlecht is the pastor of the Kindred Lutheran Church, in Kindred, North Dakota. Pastor Schlecht has a puppet named Sherlock Psalms who he performs with. In a YouTube 8 part series titled *Detectives of Divinity* (2019), Sherlock Psalms helps children become detectives as they learn to recognize God's active presence in Scripture, in their lives, in the lives of those close to them, in their community, in the world, and in the church. Episode 1: Sherlock Psalms Eats Breakfast Plot: Sherlock Psalms sees clues of God in his breakfast. Episode 2: Sherlock Psalms Goes to Church Plot: Sherlock Psalms explains how he observes God at church. Episode 3: Sherlock Psalms at School Plot: Sherlock Psalms is searching his school for signs of God's divinity. Episode 4: Sherlock Psalms at the Hospital Plot: Sherlock Psalms goes to the Hospital and sees God at work. Episode 5: Sherlock Psalms Prays Plot: Sherlock Psalms wants to play baseball but the field has snow on it. Episode 6: Sherlock Psalms Waves Palms Plot: Sherlock reads his bible. Episode 7: Sherlock Psalms and the Resurrection Plot: Bad guys arrested Jesus... Episode 8: Sherlock Psalms Makes Disciples Plot: Hmmm, what'a a disciple? Sherlock discovers he is a disciple.



Reverend Andrew J. Schlecht



***Detectives of Divinity* (2019) (Sherlock Psalms)**

Tanja Schumann - Sherlock Chili - Briegel Watson

Great Things (Tolle Sachen) was a German TV puppet series. In the episode titled *Detective Kit (Detektivset)* (2001), a deluxe Sherlock Holmes Detective Kit, which contains a deerstalker, a derby, an Inverness, a violin, a magnifying glass and a pipe, allows Chili and Briegel to disguise themselves as Holmes (who is also referred to as Sherlock Sheep by Briegel) and Watson. They meet Turkish ambassador Bildam Bub Kebab in the London fog and he has an uncanny resemblance to Bernd das Brot. Chili and Briegel then set out to solve the mystery of the missing thing, while Bildam Bub Kebab is left lost in the fog. Tanja Schumann voices Chili das Schaf/Sherlock Holmes and Jan Mixsa voices Briegel der Busch/Watson. In 2009, Chili and Briegel would disguise themselves as Holmes and Watson again, but with reversed roles, in *Bernd das Brot - Sherlock Briegel* mentioned earlier in this article.



Tanja Schumann



Great Things - Detective Kit (2001)

Danny Moja - Sherlock Holmes - Dr Watson

In fourth episode of the Israeli Educational Television (IETV) show *Simple Math* (Heshvon Pshut) (חשבון פשוט) (1980). Danny, an amateur mathematician, is enlisted again and again to help his fellow children, four diligent elementary students. How did Sherlock Holmes solve the case of the kidnapping on a massive planet? What happened to Danny picking the Clementines? Helpful puppets of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson teach about factorization. Danny Moja is the adult, Limor Margolin is the girl, and Dror Shadur is the boy who wears the costume of Sherlock Holmes.



Dror Shadur



Simple Math (1980)

Michael Winsor - Basil Brush/Sherlock Holmes - Stephen/Watson

Basil Brush, a fox puppet who lives with, and does a TV show with, Stephen, Molly and Dave, titled *The Basil Brush Show*. In an episode titled *Cousin Mortimer* (2002), crooked Cousin Mortimer steals goods from Molly and Dave, and plants them under Basil's mattress, to frame him and in an attempt to take over *The Basil Brush Show*. Basil Brush, while proving his innocence, dresses as Sherlock Holmes in a scene, and refers to Stephen as Watson. Michael Winsor voices Basil Brush/Sherlock Holmes and Christopher Pizzey voices Stephen/Watson.



Michael Winsor



The Basil Brush Show - Cousin Mortimer (2002)

Vsevolod Abdulov - Pastor Brown

Certainly the most unusual, yet quite entertaining, Pastor Brown (quasi-Holmes) comes from the Russian puppet claymation *Cursed Book* (Проклятая книга) (1990). It was based on the story “The Blast of the Book” by G. K. Chesterton. Professor Openshaw tells Pastor Brown the story of the book that belongs to Dr. Hankey which has the ability to make people disappear. Psychic Professor Openshaw is so detached from real life that he confuses the military alarm with a signal from the other world. Pastor Brown, with his characteristic irony, brings the carried away professor back to the real problems of today. Pastor Brown smokes a pipe, uses a magnifying glass, and the men sit in chairs discussing things, reminiscent of the abode at 221B Baker Street. Professor Openshaw very much resembles the Sidney Paget illustrations of Sherlock Holmes. Hmm, could Psychic Professor Openshaw’s detachment be a dig at Arthur Conan Doyle’s spiritualism beliefs? Or is it a reference to Holmes’ drug habits? I wonder? Near the end is an inspection of a hat, by Pastor Brown, which reminds me of the scene in “The Blue Carbuncle”. Thanks to Alexander Sedov I was able to watch this video with English subtitles.



Pastor Brown and Professor Openshaw



Vsevolod Abdulov voices Pastor Brown and all the characters.

Art Clokey - Dallas McKennon - Gumby - Pokey

One of the most recognizable forms of puppets used in stop-motion would be claymation characters. Gumby is an American clay animation franchise, centered on a green clay humanoid character created and modeled by Art Clokey. The character has been the subject of two television series, a feature-length film, and other media. In TV's *The Gumby Show* episode *Scrooge Loose* (1963), Gumby and Pokey, dressed as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, attempt to prevent Ebenezer Scrooge from ruining Santa Claus' plans for Christmas. Gumby wears a deerstalker, and he and his horse side-kick, Pokey, call each other Homes & Watson. Dallas McKennon was the voice of Gumby and Art Clokey was the voice of Pokey.



Dallas McKennon



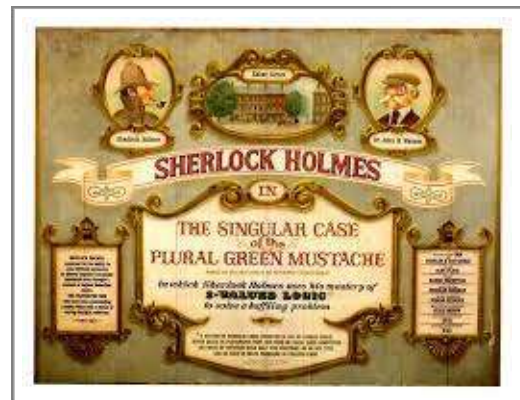
The Gumby Show - Scrooge Loose (1963)

Hilary Wontner - Sherlock Holmes - Dr. Watson

Before it was made into a short animation, *Sherlock Holmes in The Singular Case of the Plural Green Mustache* was shown in the IBM Pavilion in the 1964-65 New York World's Fair as a mechanical puppet show. Sherlock Holmes used his mastery of Boolean 2 - Valued Logic to solve a baffling crime. In this case Holmes turns out to be a computer... surely an IBM computer! Hilary Wontner as voice of Sherlock Holmes and Patrick O'Moore as voice of Dr. Watson. Actor Hilary Wontner, was the son of Sherlock Holmes actor Arthur Wontner. I think I watched this puppet show a dozen times as a 14 year old boy growing-up on Long Island.



Hilary Wontner



The Singular Case of the Plural Green Mustache (1965)

Johnny Depp - Sherlock Gnomes - Gnome Watson

Is a 3D computer-animated character a puppet? Technically I can't testify I know for sure, but I'm sure not going to leave Johnny Depp out, he may take to court if I do. In the film *Sherlock Gnomes* (2018), Johnny Depp voices Sherlock Gnomes and Chiwetel Ejiofor voices Gnome Watson. Someone is kidnapping garden gnomes all over London. When Gnomeo and Juliet return home to find that every gnome in their garden is missing. There's only one gnome to call, Sherlock Gnomes. The famous detective and sworn protector of London's garden gnomes arrives with his sidekick Watson to investigate the case. Easter egg alert, a sign in the background says Curly Fu's Emporium, Curly Fu is the Chinese fans' pet name for Benedict Cumberbatch's Sherlock. Another easter egg in *Sherlock Gnomes* is a large air conditioner unit branded 'Moffat & Gatiss'.



Johnny Depp



***Sherlock Gnomes* (2018)**

Jim Henson - Joey Mazzarino - Ace Hart - Surelick Bones

I'm sure you've heard of Einstein's equation $E = mc^2$. It's the world's most famous equation. Well in the puppetry universe the most famous equation is: Jim Henson = American Puppeteer = Iconic = Genius. Whereas, this essay had a shotgun style, meaning it was just organized by whatever popped into my head at the moment, that statement is not 100% true, since Jim Henson was my actual first thought. I saved the best for last on purpose. So each of these last four entries Jim Henson was truly the genius behind them.

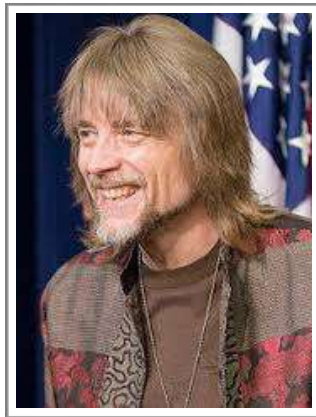
In *Jim Henson's Dog City* episode *Is It Arf?* (1993) dog puppet Artie Springer has decided he has a new detective hero - someone who uses a cool detecting kit to solve his mysteries. Eliot decides that maybe Ace needs a challenge and in his latest story pits Ace against super sleuth Surelick Bones. Mysterious thefts are happening all over Dog City and Ace Hart hasn't caught the culprit. His reputation has suffered so much that Rosie O'Gravy has called in Surelick Bones, master detective to help with the case. Ace, determined to save his reputation, doesn't give up though, and with his nose on the case we quickly discover that the mastermind behind the well planned art thefts is none other than... Surelick Bones! The show included a combination of puppetry and cel animation. Joey Mazzarino performed Artie Springer, Ace Hart is voiced by Ron White, Stephen Ouimette voiced Surelick Bones. This episode also has some nods to the James Bond film, *Goldfinger* i.e., a deerstalker with a blade that cuts a statue's head off and Ace is nearly killed by a sawmill blade. *Dog City* was a spin-off of the Jim Henson Hour special *Dog City*. The show included a combination of puppetry and cel animation. Stephen Ouimette, Surelick Bones here, was the voice of Beetlejuice and Sherlock Homely in *Beetlejuice - A-Ha!*



Joey Mazzarino - *Jim Henson's Dog City - Is It Arf?* (1993)

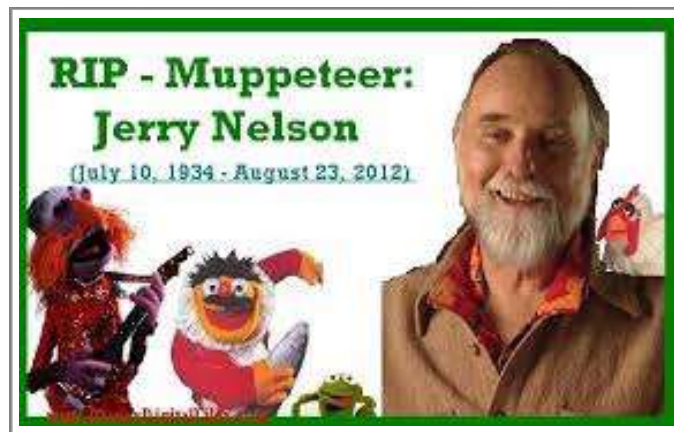
Jim Henson - Steve Whitmire - Ernlock Holmes - Dr. Bert Watson

The *Bert & Ernie's Great Adventures* is an animated series with clay-animated versions of Bert and Ernie. The shorts (there were 52 in total) were shown in the U.S. as inserts on the children's show *Sesame Street*. In the episode titled *Ernlock Holmes* (2009), Bert and Ernie climb into their beds for a good night's sleep. Bert's bed starts shaking, and Ernie hops aboard as the bed flies out of their apartment and into their next great adventure, a parody of Sherlock Holmes, with Ernie as Ernlock Holmes, and Bert as Dr. Bert Watson. They solve the mystery of Lady Lulu Quackerville's missing duckling, Lily. Steve Whitmire performed Ernie /Ernlock Holmes and Eric Jacobson performed Bert/Dr. Bert Watson.

**Steve Whitmire*****Bert & Ernie's Great Adventures - Ernlock Holmes (2009)***

Jim Henson - Jerry Nelson - Sherlock Hemlock

Sherlock Hemlock was a Muppet character on the PBS TV series *Sesame Street*. His catchphrase is "Egad!" which he exclaims whenever he makes a discovery. Sherlock Hemlock was performed by the brilliant puppeteer Jerry Nelson. With so many appearances I'm only going to list the ones I know of, but one is left to wonder how many children's first introduction to the Sherlock Holmes universe was through the muppet Sherlock Hemlock.



Jerry Nelson



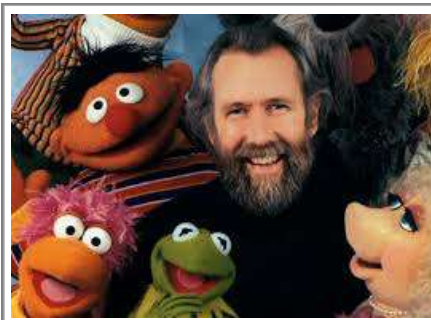
Sherlock Hemlock

Sesame Street: Ernie's Half-Eaten Sandwich, Apple Mystery, Missing Cookies, Who Are You? (1970), *The Case of the Broken Window, Twiddlebug Mystery, The Letter V, The Beach: Bert is Missing, The Letter L, Exit Sign* (1971), *X Marks the Spot!* (1973), *Paper* (1974), *Something to Drink* (1979), *The Case of the Missing Cat* (1989), *Dial M for Mother* (1990), *Circle Search* (1991), *Toothbrush, The Case of the Missing Toast* (1992), *Mystery Guest* (1993) (circa 1970-2012)
Sesame Street Skills for Growing: Sherlock Hemlock's Problem-Solving Service and Going to the Beach (1976)

Jim Henson - Rowlf the Dog - Baskerville the Hound

Jim Henson created both Rowlf the Dog and Baskerville the Hound for a series of Purina Dog Chow TV commercials, which aired in Canada from 1962 thru 1963. Jim Henson voiced both Rowlf the Dog and Baskerville the Hound. In *The Muppet Show - Sherlock Holmes and The Case of the Disappearing Clues*" (1976) Rowlf the Dog appears as Sherlock Holmes and Baskerville the Hound is Rowlf's Watson. Jim Henson was the voice of Rowlf the Dog in that Muppet episode, but this time John Lovelady was the voice of Baskerville the Hound. Do we need to explain to you where Baskerville the Hound's name came from? Rowlf and Baskerville are asked to investigate the murder of Lord Bottomley. Holmes assumes that the hideous form lying motionless at the table is the body, but it is merely Fielding the Butler, Holmes quickly deduces that Fielding has committed the crime, and finds various incriminating pieces of evidence, including a drinking glass, a photograph of the butler murdering Bottomley, the fatal gun registered in Fielding's name and even the maid, who was an eyewitness. Unfortunately, all of the evidence seems to disappear whenever Holmes turns away, directly into Fielding's mouth. With the evidence missing, Holmes decides that Fielding cannot be guilty, as there is no case against him. Since Holmes himself did not commit the murder, he pins the blame on Watson. Fielding devours Watson, leaving Holmes to come to the obvious conclusion that no murder has taken place.

Jim Henson



Purina Dog Chow TV commercials (1962-1963)

***The Muppet Show - Sherlock Holmes and The Case of the Disappearing Clues*
(1976)**

The Muppets & Sesame Street (1970's - 1990)

This concludes my case your honor, will there be a defamation of character case filed against me for saying Holmes was a dummy? I've presented you the jury with data, data, 67 pieces of data, to be exact, that show you clear as day Sherlock Holmes was a dummy!