

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

by

Howard Ostrom

Part III

Ross K Foad and **Mike Archer** - play Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson for "No Place Like Holmes" (NPLH) a web drama comedy show that is based upon Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "Sherlock Holmes" series . It focuses on the adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, transported by means of demonic ritual from 1895 to the post millennium era , where they face a continuous struggle to keep their past a secret and battle against the villainous criminal organization The Red Headed League, as well as trying to come to terms with the peculiarities of the modern day way of life."¹



Ross K Foad and Mike Archer

“NPLH was founded by life long Sherlock Holmes fan Ross K Foad in late 2009. following the split up of his Stand up and Sketch comedy duo "Chrosstopher" .

¹ <http://www.nplh.co.uk/about.html>

Not wishing to quit writing and acting, Ross struck out on his own focusing on a previously unused Holmes related sketch he had written as part of Chrosstopher . He expanded the concept further and set out to make the web show "No Place Like Holmes" happen. This was all despite having no experience or training in directing or editing, having solely been a writer and performer.”²



Ross K Foad and Gene Foad

View No Place Like Holmes' "Dawn Of The Red" episode at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZyzHIIdYGMI>

View a Ross K Review "Mrs Hudsons Diaries : A View From The Landing at 221b" at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiHotqkUd7I>

View an NPLH Mary Morston Series video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3jH52b709E>

View The Diogenes Documentaries: From Watson With Love at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLopaf5LGZU>

Learn all about No Place Like Holmes web site's many features, Holmes book reviews, Sherlockian Essays, Documentaries , Interviews with Holmes personality's, as well as hosting The Howard Ostrom Collection at:
<http://www.nplh.co.uk/>

² <http://www.nplh.co.uk/about.html>

Stephen Winchell and **Steve Kress** poke fun at Holmes losing to Watson in a game of Guess Who (2007)?



Stephen Winchell and Steve Kress

Watch Guess Who. Sherlock Holmes at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X12PRDSF_dg

Alfred Molina (1953 -) - Craig Ferguson (1962 -) (as Jessica Fletcher) flirts with Alfred Molina (as Sherlock Holmes) in Murder She Wrote Skit 'Little Miss Muffet of Death' on "Craig Ferguson Late Late Show" (2008).



Alfred Molina and Craig Ferguson

Perhaps best known in movies as Doctor Octopus in Spider-Man 2 (2004) and as Satipo in Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981), Alfred Molina can be seen as Sherlock at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v79hmcXwg-c>

Kısa Film: Sherlock Holmes Türkler Arasında (2008). If someone gets shot at your party in Turkey, just ring-up Sherlock Holmes.



Türkler Arasında

Watch “Sherlock Holmes Türkler Arasında” at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCQJc1Ns4UY>

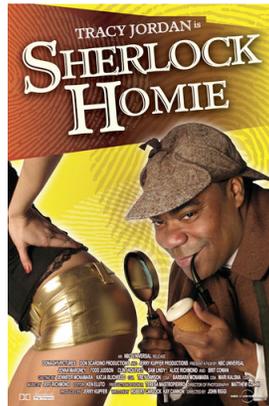
Alexander Armstrong (1970 -) and **Ben Miller (1966 -)** - the excellent British comedy duo of "Armstrong and Miller", in the first episode of the third series of their show "The Armstrong and Miller Show" (2009), included a Sherlock Holmes related sketch . In the sketch Sherlock Holmes(Armstrong) and Dr Watson(Miller) are now working apart and end up bumping into each other in the street , they then proceed to have a rather awkward what-are-you-up-to conversations as if they're ex-lovers.



Alexander Armstrong and Ben Miller

See the Armstrong and Miller clip at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bT3bWa9K4VE>

Tracy Jamal Morgan (1968 -) is an American actor and comedian known for his eight seasons as a cast member on Saturday Night Live, and for his role of Tracy Jordan on the NBC TV series '30 Rock'.⁵ James O'Leary left the comment, "On the TV show '30 Rock' Tracy Morgan's character Tracy Jordan starred as 'Sherlock Homie'. The movie's poster was prominently displayed in the character's dressing room."



Tracy Morgan

Sherlock Homie posters at: <http://www.nbc.com/30-rock/photos/tracys-movie-posters/6456/#item=145983>

John Fiske (1949 -) and **Paul Kessel (1948 -)** - They are British, but have been performing in Sweden for many years. Their comedy duo is known as 'Kesselofski & Fiske'. Photo is from stage act, with Fiske as Holmes & Kessel as Watson, in their parody of 'Hound of the Baskervilles' (2009). This act was brought to my attention a number of years ago by the B.S.I.'s own master of mayhem, comedian Matias Bostrom.



Paul Kessel and John Fiske

Ben Syder and **Gareth David-Lloyd** appeared as Robert Sherlock Holmes (“My given name is Robert Sherlock Holmes. But who would ever remember a detective called Robert Holmes?”) & Dr. Watson in the "mockbuster" rival “Sherlock Holmes” (2010) edition of the Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, and Guy Ritchie blockbuster “Sherlock Holmes”(2009). Alternatively called “Sherlock Holmes vs. Monsters”, some find that this movie has a lot of comic value, while others can't get past the obviously cheap special effects (like a Tyrannosaurus rex in the streets of London!). Ben Syder, in an e-mail, commented to me, “I'm glad you found the funny side to our Sherlock.”



Ben Syder and Gareth David-Lloyd

In Aslyum’s “Sherlock Holmes”, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are on the trail of a criminal and scientific mastermind who seems to control monsters and creations which defy belief. This Sherlock even has a brother named Thorpe! One of the things I enjoy most about this film is reading the goofs in this film reported by film watchers on IMDb.

“Anachronisms

- 1) There appears to be double yellow lines and a give way triangle in Victorian London.
- 2) When the balloon carrying Holmes goes over houses, TV aerials can be seen on top of the roofs.
- 3) The very first shot of the film shows London during World War 2. It includes the Barbican (built on land bombed during the war and fully opened in 1982) and the Millennium Bridge (built between 1998 and 2000).

4) The clock face on Big Ben is lit with electric lights. When this movie was set, it should have been illuminated by gas lamps.

5) The soldiers guarding Buckingham Palace are armed with American Henry lever action Rifles. The correct arms would have been Martini-Henry .557/450 rifles with falling block action, standard issue for the British Army for over 30 years.

6) Watson reads a newspaper at breakfast. The headline on the newspaper relates an air raid in Italy. Very unlikely in 1882, 21 years before the invention of the airplane.

7) Whilst reading the newspaper, Watson is talking about Lestrade, and remarks that he couldn't solve a cryptic crossword with a dictionary. Cryptic crosswords, however, did not appear in British newspapers until at least the mid-1920s.

8) During the "cliff scene", you see that the rope is leaning on a ribbed iron rod, but when it's shown in a close-up, it's become a flat, hollow pipe.

Character error

1) In the opening autopsy scene, Holmes states that it is ten o'clock. Yet the clock on the wall reads 8:05.

Continuity

1) When Holmes and Watson get to the castle at Hellmouth and pick the lock to break in, the door they are picking seen from the outside is an entirely different door that opens when you see them succeed in the following interior shot.

2) The morning after the dinosaur attack on the East End, Holmes and Watson are having breakfast. Holmes plays a little game of "jacket on, jacket off": when he's shown from the front, he's only wearing his shirt; from the back, he's wearing his suit 7 out of the 11 shots.

Crew or equipment visible

1) As Watson is scaling the cliff face, using only a single piece of rope for safety, you can clearly see Gareth David-Lloyd's real safety harness.

2) While Watson scaling the cliff, the rope seen in his close-ups is clearly a new standard-issue climbing rope, while the end of rope held by the helper is old and tattered.

Errors in geography

1) Holmes says he and Watson will take the train to Newhaven but the cliff face seen shortly after bears no resemblance to the chalk cliffs on the South coast near Newhaven.

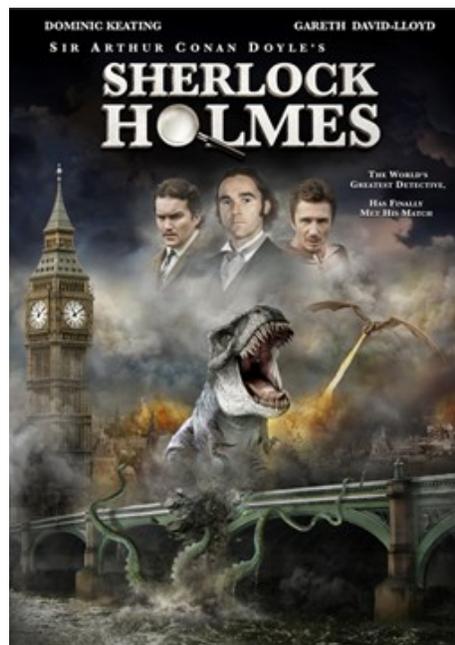
Factual errors

1) Watson is told to bring his service revolver for a late night stakeout. He is shown using a Colt revolver not the Beaumont-Adams .450 Adams which was the British service revolver between 1853 and 1880

Revealing mistakes

1) In the very beginning of the movie a Kraken attacks the sailing ship in the middle of the ocean. While the crew runs around the boat, a restaurant sign and streetlights can be clearly seen in the background.

2) In the beginning during the autopsy, when it shows Holmes and the undertaker standing behind the dead man, revealing the man's stomach, you can clearly see that he is breathing.”³



A Cult Classic?

See Sherlock Holmes Trailer from The Asylum at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaHvM9KVpcw>

³ http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1522835/trivia?tab=gf&ref_=tt_trv_gf

Nicholas Rowe and **Alan Cox**, reprise their “Young Sherlock Holmes” roles of Holmes and Watson at The Improvathon, London, in “Holmes and Watson meet Lady Gaga” (2010).



Nicholas Rowe and Alan Cox

View Rowe & Cox at the Improvathon at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wacymeqqG1Q#t=32>

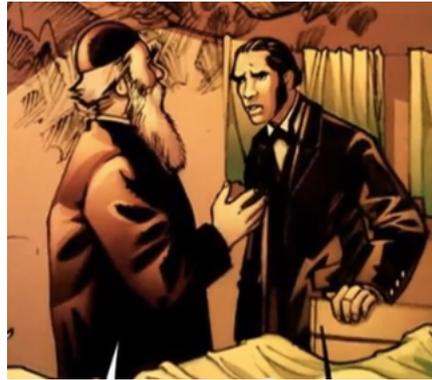
Bulldogscram, **Flawedamythyst**, **Kali1967**, **Saltburnbaby** and **Sapphic85** created this Sherlock Holmes version of the Potter Puppet Pals episode 'The Mysterious Ticking Noise', only slightly less polished and a bit more gay.



The Baker Street Buddies

Watch 'The Mysterious Ticking Noise' at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ynuj-UO_bIk

“The Fantastical Adventures of Sherlock Holmes : **Victorian Undead** The Motion Comic” (2011). "In 1854, citizens watch as a mysterious glowing meteorite crashes to earth. Forty-four years later, consulting detective Sherlock Holmes and his erstwhile companion Dr. John Watson are enlisted by Scotland Yard to investigate a most bizarre occurrence: the dead returning to life..."⁴



View Victorian Undead at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_874365&feature=iv&src_vid=056A5iVX6vI&v=33Qb9-2BTog

Hebrew Sherlock Holmes - Reception Comedy Club - Chat (Yiddish), something for everybody!



Hebrew Sherlock Holmes

Might be funny if you understand Yiddish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lHiVbVUcPg4&list=PL4ADE8D7D1DF817A9&index=81>

⁴ https://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_874365&feature=iv&src_vid=056A5iVX6vI&v=33Qb9-2BTog

Young Miss Wilson - Hello, and welcome to our Economics Project (2011)! Here, Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson come from the past to discuss our National Debt problems! What is the National Debt? How did it get so high? What can we do to solve it? And how did Sherlock Holmes and Watson get into the future anyway? Hilarity ensues as they try to answer these questions to fix America's problems!



Young Miss Wilson's Economics Project!

Watch "Economics Project!" at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWGCkFQRHps>

James Rawlings and **Toby Longworth** of Hoot Comedy - Finger Theatre voiced Holmes and Watson fingers, YES FINGERS, in "Sherlock Holme's and the Mystery of the Queen's Bacon" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Turkish Spoon" (2010/12). Initially these were self-created films of a slightly more racy nature but were then loosely 'commissioned' by CBBC and thus re-written for a more child friendly audience.



James Rawlings and Toby Longworth

Watch finger Holmes & Watson at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mr8P5TZ3wRY>

Russian Sherlock Holmes looking for a replacement Dr. Watson (2011).
Funny even if you don't speak Russian.



Russian Sherlock Holmes

Watch “Holmes Looks for a New Watson at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvAEw9-yKtI>

Matteo Del Campo, Antonio Ricciardi and Luigi Maiello in “Sherlock Holmes Game of Death’ - “Sherlock Holmes-Gioco Di Morte” (2011)



Antonio Ricciardi and Luigi Maiello

See “Sherlock Holmes-Gioco Di Morte” at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubtvmWyrZEs&feature>

Peter Glaser and **Lorenzo Catanese** as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in Die English Drama Group "The Fringe" des Graf-Münster-Gymnasium Bayreuth präsentiert ihre 15. Produktion: "Sherlock Holmes - The 100 Percent Solution" (2011).



Lorenzo Catanese and Peter Glaser

Watch "Sherlock Holmes - The 100 Percent Solution" at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QKG_rLhweo&list=PL87CB83AE8999AD35

Thomas Lynskey is Sherlock Holmes and **Robert Bagdon** is Dr. Watson in "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Five Acts" (2012). "London, 1888. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are up against the notorious Jack the Ripper—the famous Whitechapel murderer. With Watson's reluctance and Holmes' self conflict, will the Ripper be brought to justice? Or will the killer slip away into the annals of history? "



Thomas Lynskey and Robert Bagdon

See "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Five Acts at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABidiAz2xUc>

Benedict Cumberbatch, Robert Downey Jr., and Vasily Livanov all in a nutshell in “Russian Sherlock Holmes Parody” (2012) which I must admit is one of my all-time favorites!



Best Russian Holmes Parody!

Watch “Russian Sherlock Holmes Parody” at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1oidzSEN4Q>

Chris Consaul - "In a world where nothing makes sense, one man tries to make sense of it. Unfortunately, he just makes things worse. He...is Chris Consaul dressed up as Sherlock Holmes. (2012)"



Chris Consaul

Sherlock Holmes (Spoof) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2YZF7EkJK4>

Kristóf Szénási and **Ádám Ungvár** are two boys, die-hard fans of Sherlock Holmes who call each other Holmes and Watson, and a sassy tomboy, Ica are about to have the adventure of their life during the summer school holiday, in the Magyar film “In The Name of Sherlock Holmes” (2012).



Kristóf Szénási and Ádám Ungvár

View trailer for “In The Name of Sherlock Holmes” at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_pPUCQ_Ig8

Andy Due as Sherlock Holmes and **Dustin Tylman** as Dr. Watson, in a Sherlock Holmes Parody, "Sherlock Holmes and The Case of the Mysterious Vampire" (2012). "In this Sherlock Holmes parody, Watson unknowingly unleashes an evil vampire. Can the original dynamic duo stop this fiend in time?"



Andy Due and Dustin Tylman

Watch "Sherlock Holmes and The Case of the Mysterious Vampire" at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s78NsMFI2So>

Andrew ‘King Bach’ Bachelor is an up and coming comedian. In an episode of his “King Bachelor’s Pad” TV series, Andrew wrote, directed and starred in a skit titled “Sherlock Homeboy” (2012). In lampooning the BBC’s “Sherlock”, Bachelor was hilarious in the role of Sherlock Homeboy. Andrew describes the show as, "This modern take on the classic Sherlock Holmes involves a crime scene, a corpse and a mystery only Sherlock Homeboy can solve."



Andrew ‘King Bach’ Bachelor

You can see this episode on YouTube at: “**Sherlock Homeboy**”
www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kL5pyq05J4



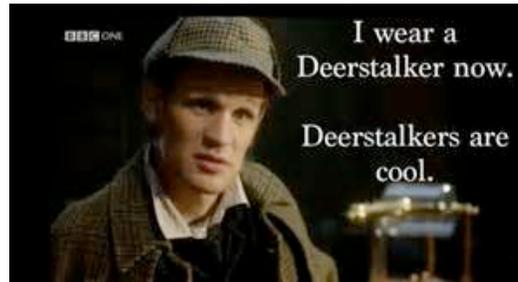
“Sherlock Homeboy (Part 2)”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlDoPi7tKno>

And for added fun from Andrew Bachelor check out the Youtube ‘Day 15 w/ @KingBach -1st AUTOGRAPH’, a video that involves the autograph on the a Sherlock Homeboy photo. Watch it for a good laugh.

View “1st Autograph” at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWT78PZkTyM

Matt Smith (1982) - even Dr. Who gets into the act when in the ‘Dr. Who Christmas Special” (2012), Matt Smith dresses as Holmes, and does quite a humorous bit, with Richard E. Grant, a former Holmes himself, as the villainous Dr. Simeon.



Matt Smith

Watch The Doctor... as Sherlock Holmes! at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hv6Tivmox_M

Matt Smith also appears in a fun case of Wholock which can be seen in this clever Sherlock meets The Doctor! video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3bGYljQ5Uw>

Bruce Adolphe, director at The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center performs as Sherlock Key. Claude Debussy is arrested for musical anarchy by the music police! Will he be rescued by Sherlock Key, who reveals to the court the mysteries of Debussy's secret method?



Bruce Adolphe

Watch “Claude Debussy Meets Sherlock Key” at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJ6YZ5KwUoQ>

End Part III