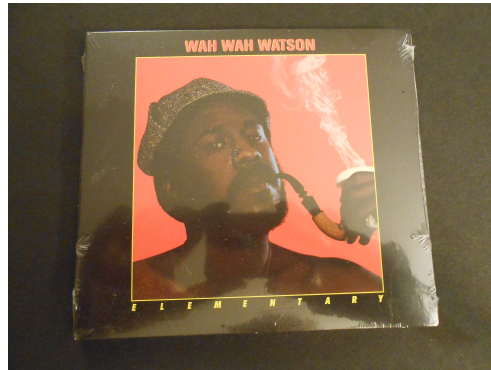


"VOICES FROM THE DARKNESS"

African-America & Sherlock Holmes
by
Howard Ostrom & Ray Wilcockson

Part Two

Melvin 'Wah Wah Watson' Ragin (1951 -), a Mowtown session guitarist, released his first solo album entitled "Elementary" in 1977.



Gaining the nickname 'Wah Wah Watson', for his prowess with a wah-wah pedal, Melvin showed up on the album cover with pipe and deerstalker, looking more like a Sherlock Holmes than a Watson.

Newest to the scene, is the up and coming comedian Andrew 'King Bach' Bachelor. In a 2012 episode of his "King Bachelor's Pad" TV series, Andrew wrote, directed and starred in a skit titled "Sherlock Homeboy". 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." You can see this episode on YouTube at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kL5pyq05J4

Be sure to check out all of Andrew Bachelor's projects at:

www.andrewbachelor.com/#!bio/c7tk



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 above Sherlock Homeboy photo. Watch it for a good laugh.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWT78PZkTyM

One thing that all the above performers and performances have in common is that are parodies on the Sherlock Holmes character. So isn't it quite ironic that for the final Afro-American Holmes I'll discuss in this article, that will actually be a serious Holmes, is in reality in a comic book Holmes.

Back in April of 2013, I came across a Kickstarter project by New Paradigm Studios, of South Orange, N.J. which was titled "Watson and Holmes". This was a fundraising site for the creation and distribution of a new comic book with this story in mind; "'Watson and Holmes', by Karl Bollers & Rick Leonardi, is a re-envisioning of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson as African Americans living in New York City's famous Harlem district. Watson, an Afghanistan war vet, works in an inner-city clinic; Holmes, a local P.I. who takes unusual cases. When one of them ends up in Watson's emergency room, the unlikely duo strike up a partnership to find a missing girl. Watson And Holmes bump heads along the way as they enter a labyrinth of drugs, guns, gangs and a conspiracy that goes higher and deeper than they could have imagined."¹

¹ www.kickstarter.com/projects/newparadigmstudios/watson-and-holmes-print-kickstarter



Liking the idea I donated to the 'Watson and Holmes' Kickstarter Project, and have been very happy with the product they created, and the success they have achieved.

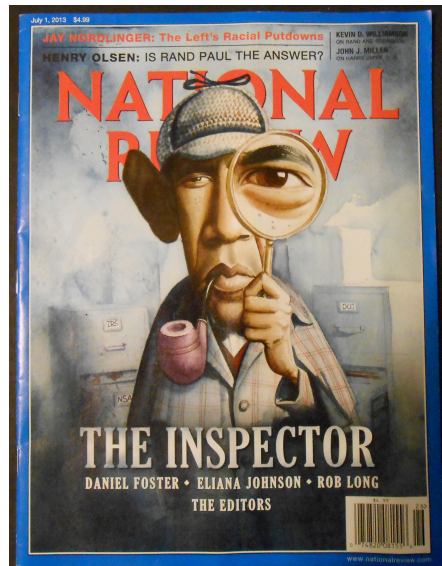
The only question now left for this discussion is will we ever see a serious Afro-American Holmes performance, other than in the comic books? Was that a smile of approbation, Sir Arthur?

One blogger I came across suggests, "Ramsey Nouah has possibly the best male voice in Nollywood, and could also do very well as a voice actor. His British-like accent is useful here, as the character of Holmes is English and is based in London. The role of John Watson can be portrayed by none other than Desmond Elliott, who would fair well



here as Holmes' legendary sidekick.”² I’d be surprised if Nollywood doesn’t have a Holmes project in the near future. So why not Ramsey Nouah, he has won the African Movie Academy Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role.

Who would be your selection? I do know someone who will be out of work soon and even looks the part.



How about this guy?

Vauxhall Jermaine, a former professional soccer player, who lists himself as Afro-American, Caribbean, gets to play a serious Holmes in “Disguise” (2013), a short film by Lesley Elliott. The main two stars of



² www.naijarules.com/xf/index.php?threads/defining-roles-for-famous-african-actors.34900/

"Disguise" are Vauxhall Jermaine as Sherlock Holmes and Martin Calcroft as De Voors. It is a, approximately nine minutes long, Sherlock Holmes film, with Victorian costuming, which involves a murder. The murderer, a Dutch



man named De Voors, is tricked into a conversation on a park bench by the great detective. De Voors, who clearly doesn't want to be there, and is extremely uncomfortable by the questioning, shifts uneasily in his seat as Holmes closes in on him, with Watson & Scotland Yard showing up for the arrest. You can view this short film at: <http://vimeo.com/74725315>

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