

Sheercheek Holmes - An All-too-Human History of Stage & Screen Variations on a Name

by

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"I hear of Sherlock everywhere – at least, I think it's my brother!" Mycroft Holmes.

My recent essay "Animaltary, My Dear Watson" (<http://www.nplh.co.uk/original-essays.html>), examined the portrayal of Sherlock Holmes in literature and on film as an astonishing and creative menagerie of animals. Ray Wilcockson and I have joined forces on a new essay that attempts a demonstration of the imaginative license that has been taken with the Great Detective's name by human performers on stage and screen. While Holmes is our focus, some variations on Dr John Watson proved irresistible to mention. However, keeping things simple, we collate under the headings "Screen" and "Stage", listing name variations in date order, identifying first performers for each new example of Sheer Cheek in taking Sherlock's name in vain. Remember Arthur Conan Doyle conducted his own search for the right names for his characters, having named them Sherrinford Holmes and Ormond Sacker in his first draft of "A Study in Scarlet", before he actually settled on Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John H. Watson. Not to mention, Sherlock Holmes was a master of disguises and went by such now well known aliases as Escott, Sigerson, and Altamont in the Canon. Our history of stage screen variations on the name Sherlock Holmes though were more a product of necessity due to copyright laws and fees, or sometimes a product of creativity for comedic effect.

Screen

1908 - Hiram Plowboy - the actor is unknown, but the silent film "A Fool For Luck", aka "Nearly A Policeman", used this humorous moniker for its Sherlock Holmes character. A trend of imitation Sherlock Holmes became a staple of silent films (see the essay "Silent Sherlocks" at: <http://www.nplh.co.uk/silock.html>). These films thus often labelled their commonly named stars as disciples of Sherlock Holmes, due mainly to difficulties obtaining copyrights and the cost of such. We will try to mention only the more humorous ones such as Hiram Plowboy.

1908 - Sherlock Hochmes - Hungarian Károly Baumann starred in “Sherlock Hochmes”, which was a parody comedy film considered to be similar to Michael Caine’s performance in "Without a Clue"(1988). The film caricatured the fact that Holmes knew everything. You can learn more about Károly Baumann at the Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Society’s website: <http://www.sherlockian-sherlock.com/karoly-baumann-hungarian-actor.php>

1909 - Squeedunk Sherlock Holmes - once again we have actor unknown for the silent film, "A Squeedunk Sherlock Holmes", a laughable film, showing how a country constable, with the instincts of a true Sherlock Holmes, followed up an imaginary crime. I only mention this name because I love the word ‘squeedunk’. We all have a loving friend or relative who may be a squeedunk don’t we?

1909 - Barock Holmes - the too common actor unknown, for early silent films which had no credits and are often lost, but the French film, from Gaumont Studios, was titled “Detective Barock Holmes and His Hound”. Makes one think of that Barack Obama Holmes you can view at: <http://www.nplh.co.uk/the-howard-ostrom-collection-misc-page.html>

1909 - Sheerluck Finch - was a series of comedies parodying Sherlock Holmes, with Charles (C.C.) Calvert playing Sheerluck Finch and Ivy Martinek as Three Fingered Kate. The series would have seven films over a three year period, with Sheerluck Finch forever tracking down Three Fingered Kate.

1910 - Hemlock Hoax - the actors are unknown in the Lupin Film Company’s “Hemlock Hoax, The Detective”, but the plot centers on Hemlock Hoax who thinks he can "put it all over" Sherlock Holmes, but his sleuthing is somewhat of a joke in the little tropical town where he lives.

1910 - Sherlock Carter & Nick Holmes - actors unknown for the silent film "The Barnstormer in the Photoplay", which involves the commonly used plot of saving the girl capturing the gang and retuning the jewels. The key feature of this film for us, is that there are two detectives - Sherlock Carter & Nick Holmes. I don’t think we need an explanation of where those names came from.

1911 - Professor Searchem - in the Pathe Film Company’s "Who Killed Max?" or, “Quel est l’assassin?”, or Wer ist der Täter?, Charles Mosnier plays Professor Searchem, a prize pupil of Sherlock Holmes.

1912 - Mr. Sherlocko & Reuben Wilson - H. S. ‘Red’ Mack played Mr. Sherlocko, with J. W. Cumpson as Reuben Wilson for Imp Films Co. in three films. H. S. Mack - Biography pièce states - "... familiarly known as 'Red Mack' ...

He in two or three Imp comedies, gave an excellent modern embodiment of Sherlock Holmes."¹

1912 - Sherlocko and Dr. Watso - the character Sherlocko would show up again in 1912, but this time with a Dr. Watso, in a film apparently not related to the H.S. Mack, Imp Films series, but in "The Robbery at The Railroad Station", for Champion Films. Once again we have the unknown actors.

1912 - Mr. Whoops - in "Mr. Whoops, The Detective" we find that Mr. Whoops is a milliner detective, and for a long time has little to do in the sleuth line. He is a personal friend of the great Sherlock Holmes and invariably follows his methods in unraveling crime.

1912 - Dinky Mike and Happy Hooligan - in the Pathé Frères Film Company's "A Midget Sherlock Holmes" A very small boy with beard and make-up to look like a detective is the center of interest in this farce. He and his friend, the hobo, have an amusing adventure with the black-hand. The actors are unknown.

1912 - Charlie Colms - Also from Pathé Films in 1912 came a series of three Sherlock Holmes' parodies featuring Georges Coquet as Charlie Colms.

1912 -Serena Slim - Flora Finch plays the slender sleuth, in the film "Diamond Cut Diamond", as the wife who does the Sherlock Holmes bit. Flora also played a female Sherlock Holmes, know as Serena Slim, in "Heavy Villains" (1915).

1912- Baby Sherlock - Baby Early Gorman was 6 when she played in "Baby Sherlock" and would eventually retire at age 11. Little Margaret, Baby Sherlock, secures the restoration of a sum of money that has been stolen.

1912 - Young Sherlock - Either John Steppling (1870 -1932) or E. H. Calvert (1863 - 1941) appeared as Young Sherlock in Essanay's "The Adventure of the Button". The plot of this barnburner, and many facts on the other silent films on this list, can be found in the "Silent Sherlock" comprehensive essay on Sherlock Holmes in silent films at <http://www.nplh.co.uk/silock.html>

1912 - Sherlie Holmes - no, I don't think this Sherlie was a woman since it was Marshall P. Wilder (1859 -1915) who played Sherlie Holmes, the detective, in Vitagraph Film Company's "The Pipe".

¹ "The Implet", May 4, 1912 Vol 1 #16, pg. 4

1912 - Sureluck Jones - actors are unknown in the Thanouser Film Company's film "Sureluck Jones, Detective". The name Sureluck Jones would appear again, but not until 1989 in an animated Chip N Dale Disney cartoon.

1913 - Burstup Holmes - comedian Fraunie Fraunholz played Burstup Holmes in a number of silent film shorts. The director Alice Guy (1873-1968), of the "Burstup Holmes" series, was the film industry's first ever female director. See "Burstup Homes' Murder Case" at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFm9glpURdE>

1913 - Surelock Holmes - funnyman Fred Mace plays Surelock Holmes in Majestic Motion Picture Company's "The Tongue Mark". Surelock Homes is called to detect a burglar. He looks for finger prints and discovers a "tongue mark" made by a dog, although he does not know this. He rushes through the street, examining tongues with various amusing results and finally arrests the dog.

1913 - Homlock Shermes - Pearl White appears as Pearl the girl detective in the Crystal Film Company's "Homlock Shermes".

1913 - Herlock Sholmes - the first actor to use the name Herlock Sholmes remains unknown, but in the Gaumont film "The Amateur Sleuth" John Plum Duff receives a threatening note asking for \$4.98 to be paid within a limited time. Duff is frightened, and, in reply to his advertisement for a detective, Herlock Sholmes gives his services. The name Herlock Sholmes would also show up in future French TV productions.

1913 - Shamlock Bones - in Eclair Film Company's (France) "One on Tooty" an unknown female actress appears as Shamlock Bones. Tooty, dressed in her complete Shamlock Bones outfit, follows the suspicious men to a saloon.

1914 - Sherlock Jackson Holmes - Maja Raja appears as Sherlock Jackson Holmes in Lubin Manufacturing Company's "The Tale of a Chicken", probably the true first all-black Sherlock Holmes film. The part of Sherlock Jackson Holmes is credited to Maja Raja (probably a name used by an actor who didn't want their real name associated with the particular production).

1914 - Sherlock Bonehead - Lloyd Hamilton (1891 - 1935) plays Sherlock Bonehead (Chief of Detectives of Rottenport) in the Kalem Film Company's "Sherlock Bonehead".

1914 - Sherlock Doyle - Charles De Forrest, (1877 - 1944) plays Sherlock Doyle in Crystal Film Company's "Some Hero". Vivian, an heiress, is persecuted by her fiendish Uncle, who is anxious to gain possession of her wealth. She writes to Sherlock Doyle, the famous detective, asking him to protect her.

1914 - Willie Walrus - Detectin' iz the art of figgerin' out what the other fellow did from what he didn't do, is something William Wolbert (1883 - 1918) as Willie Walrus in Joker Film Company's "Willie Walrus, Detective" might have said.

1914 - Sherlock Boob - Robert Z. Leonard (1889 - 1968) plays Sherlock Boob in Rex Film's "The Sherlock Boob". This boob detective isn't such a boob after all. He runs down two swindlers, with the aid of a reporter, who turns out to be the Chief of Detectives and the Mayor.

1914 - "Shorty and Sherlock Holmes" - the imitations of Sherlock Holmes are becoming very numerous, but Shorty Hamilton manages to get some fun out of it in this two reel number from Broncho Film Co. Shorty decides to become a detective and makes such a nuisance that finally the townspeople create a fake robbery to keep him busy.

1915 - Sherlock, the Boob Detective - in a different film than the 1914 "Sherlock Boob", Crown City Films' "Sherlock, The Boob Detective" stars Frank Moore (1880 - 1924) as a Boob, who purchases a manual which gives instructions in the art of detecting. His first clue leads to the arrest of a burro.

1915 - Ham & Bud - in Kalem Films' "Ham, The Detective", Lloyd V. Hamilton (1891 - 1935) plays Ham, the modern Sherlock, and Bud Duncan (1883 - 1960) plays Bud, a pocket edition Watson. In "The Great Detective" (1916) Ham & Bud reprise their Holmes & Watson characters and display 999 disguises!

1915 - Sanford Quest - in Universal Films' "The Black Box", Herbert Rawlinson (1885 - 1953) plays Sanford Quest, a Criminologist, a modernized Sherlock Holmes. Here is your silent film's Benedict Cumberbatch using modern gadgets!

1915 - Sherlock Sammy - finds Harry Fisher, Jr. as Sherlock Sammy, in Kriterion Films' "Sherlock Sammy". That's all I have on this one.

1915 - Ima Simp - Ben Deeley (1878 - 1924) plays Ima Simp in Balboa Films' "Ima Simp - Detective". In this imitation of Sherlock Holmes, poor Ima Simp comes to a realization that as a detective he's a lemon.

1915 - Keen Hawksby - in Mina Films' "A Case of Limburger" Keen Hawksby, actor unknown, the head of the police, fancies himself a detective genius on the

lines of Mons Lecoq or Sherlock Holmes, in short, he is regarded by himself and his fellow townsmen as a Napoleon in the world of detection.

1915 - Sherlokz Homz - Pioneer Film Co. (U.K.) gives us Fred Evans (1889 - 1951), as Sherlokz Homz in a film called "A Study in Skarlit".

1916 - Slowfoot - Taylor and Wheatley Films' "A Toyland Mystery" presents us with Slowfoot, a local Sherlock Holmes. Bosco the Bulldog steals a leg of lamb from Snitz's butcher shop. Snitz promises his daughter's hand in marriage to whoever can find the thief. Slowfoot, the detective, tails the clues.

1916 - Sherlock Woof - Raymond McKee (1892 - 1984) plays Sherlock Woof in Edison Films' "Robbing The Fishes". The Fish family, are having a large wedding with lots of presents, and have read about a butler stealing someones wedding gifts, so they hire detective Sherlock Woof to keep an eye on the butler. After the wedding all the gifts, the butler and the detective are gone. Turns out the detective was the thief and the butler did the catching.

1916 - Coke Ennyday - "The Mystery of the Leaping Fish" features Douglas Fairbanks Sr. (1883 - 1939) as 'Coke Ennyday,' a cocaine-shooting detective parody of Sherlock Holmes. You MUST watch "The Mystery of the Leaping Fish" at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fprVONwmYnc>

1916 - Gluefoot Gaspar - appears in Kalem Films' "Peaches and Ponies" with Henry Murdoch (1891 - 19??) as Gluefoot Gaspar, a near-Sherlock. The female lead engages the services of Gluefoot Gaspar, who as a Sherlock is a scream.

1916 - Sherlock Oomph - in "A Villainous Villain" Huey Mack (1884 - 1927) plays Sherlock Oomph. The master crook steals the sweetheart of Sherlock Oomph, a great detective, and Sherlock undertakes to recover her.

1916 - Nobody Holmes - Nobody Holmes was an animated Holmes by Gregory Lacava.

1917 - Don Whipple - yes even Mr. Whipple is another of the many Sherlock Holmes imitators. This time it is actor Frederick Eckhart as Don Whipple, in Selig Films' "The Boob" (yes, yet another Sherlock who is a boob!). The picture has to do with the consuming ambition of Don Whipple of Pleasant Valley, to become a Sherlock Holmes. His butter and egg money amounting to \$100 is cheerfully handed over to a gentleman stranger, who furnishes Don with a bright shield and diploma.

1918 - Sherlock Ambrose - Mack "Ambrose" Swain (1876 - 1935), who else would you expect!?, appears as Sherlock Ambrose in Universal Films' "Sherlock Ambrose". Sherlock Ambrose is an immigrant who is mistaken as a detective by the president of a school for girls. He finds a diamond ring lost by one of the girls and is duly rewarded.

1918 - Knick Carter & Rheuma Tism - Ebony Films' "A Black Sherlock Holmes" starred Sam Robinson (1888 - 1971) as Knick Carter, a black Sherlock Holmes and Rudolph Tatum as Rheuma Tism, as Carter's sidekick (Watson).

1921 - Sherlock Brown - Bert Lytell (1885 - 1954) plays William Sherlock Brown in Metro Films' "Sherlock Brown". The secret formula for the world's most powerful explosive has been stolen from the U.S. government. William Brown, a clerk who aspires to be a detective, has just received his badge from some anonymous Midwestern agency (he paid all of 25 dollars for it), and manages to get himself embroiled in the intrigue.

1924 - Sherlock Jr. - the great Buster Keaton plays Sherlock Jr., in Buster Keaton Productions' "Sherlock Jr." A projectionist is studying to be a detective and is in love with a young lady. It is not generally known that Fatty Arbuckle directed Buster Keaton's 'Sherlock Jr.' His name on the screen as director appears as Will B. Good! Thus adding a comedy touch - if you get it.

1924 - Sherlock Hawkshaw - Mickey Daniels (1914 - 1970) plays Sherlock Hawkshaw and Joe Cobb (1916 - 2002) plays Watson in Hal Roach Studios' "The Mysterious Mystery!" Our Gang has Mickey Daniels doing an impersonation of Sherlock Holmes and Joe Cobb being Watson as the two try to discover the whereabouts of a young rich kid who has gone missing.

1925 - Cecil Fromage, Sherlock Sleuth - Arthur Stone, all but forgotten today, stars as Cyril Fromage, the Holmesian house detective of the Hotel Omigosh. The lovely Martha Sleeper (Pass The Gravy) is his sweetheart, in Hal Roach Studio's "Sherlock Sleuth".

1925 - Sherlock Bones - Jack Cooper (1890 - 1970) plays Sherlock Bones in Samuel Bischoff Productions' "Spooky Spooks". Two villains have Jimmy the messenger boy deliver a threatening letter to an Englishman in a spooky house. Jimmy falls for the Englishman's daughter, and sends for the famous detective Sherlock Bones. When the villains arrive things go wild with skeletons, spooks, men in armored suits and everything you expect to see in a haunted house.

1925 - Webster Dingle - Stan Laurel (1890 - 1965), without Oliver Hardy, plays Webster Dingle, a detective who essentially relies on an assortment of different costumes to successfully complete his investigations in Joe Rock Comedies' "The Sleuth".

1927 - Sherlock Pinkham - Oliver Hardy (1892 - 1957), without Stan Laurel, as Sherlock Pinkham, in Pathe Exchange's "Do Detectives Think". It would seem the only Sherlockian connection here is Hardy's character name.

1930 - Herlock Sholmes - Marionettes are Herlock Sholmes and Anna Went Wrong in Joseph Seidon Productions.' "The Lime Juice Mystery", or "Who Spat in Grandfather's Porridge".

1933 - Sherluck Jones & Hotson - the great character actor Olaf Hytten played Sherluck Jones and Charles McNaughton played Hotson in "Lost in Limehouse", a slapstick burlesque of 19th Century Victorian melodrama, featuring a parody of Holmes and Watson who rescue a heroine held by a mustache-twirling villain in a den of caricatured Chinese gangsters.²

1944 - Hairlock Combs & Dr. Gotsome - what is an animated satire with parody versions of Holmes and Watson investigating the theft of a dinosaur skeleton doing here? Heck I just liked the names and included it. John McLeish as Hairlock Combs.

1952 - Sherlock Fink - Jerry Lewis plays detective Sherlock Fink at Dean's Wedding. View Sherlock Fink on "Martin and Lewis Show" at : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qcsy8dIQNl4>

1953 - Professor Lightskull & Dr. Twiddle - ok so they were chimpanzees dressed as Holmes & Watson, but the legendary voice men Paul Frees and Daws Butler voiced Lightskull and Twiddle!

1956 - Dorlock Holmes & Dr. Watkins animation features voice of Mel Blanc as Daffy Duck/Dorlock Holmes and Mel Blanc also as Porky Pig/Dr. Watkins in "Deduce You Say".

1960 - Hemlock Soames & Dr. Watkins - animation features voices of Paul Frees as Boris Badenov/Hemlock Soames and June Foray as Natasha Fatale/Dr. Watkins, in "Box Top Robbery".

² <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0024270/>

1961 - Hemlock Holmes - Jerry Hausner as the voice of Hemlock Holmes, a bulldog with a Cary Grant-like accent, was a recurring character in 45 of the 130 5-minute episodes of 'The Dick Tracy Show'³

1965 - Uncle Shylock - Jerry Lewis plays Uncle Shylock and Sebastian Cabot is Dr. Matson, in the parody film “Family Jewels” (1965).

1966 - Sherlock Klotz - Chuck McCann voices Sherlock Klotz and others in “The Odd Box Caper”, an episode of the TV show “Cool McCool”. The evil Jack-in-the-Box escapes from prison.

1970 - Sherlock Hemlock - Jerry Nelson performed as Sherlock Hemlock, on numerous segments of the long running PBS children’s show “Sesame Street”.

1971 - Surelick Holms - from “Sesame Street” to pornography what a transition. David L. Chandler played Surelick Holms, with Frank Massey as Watson, in “The American Adventures of Surelick Holms”.

1971 - Herlock Sholmes & Dr. Wilson - Henri Virlojeux played Herlock Sholmes, with both Marcel Dudicourt and Yves Barsacq as Dr. Wilson, in the French TV Series titled 'Arsène Lupin'.

1976 - Sherlick Holmes - Harry Reems played Sherlick Holmes, with Zebedy Colt as Watson in the film “Sherlick Holmes”.

1976 - Sherman Holmes - Larry Hagman plays Sherman Holmes with Jenny O'Hara as Dr. Joan Watson in a TV pilot “ The Return of the World's Greatest Detective”.

1977 - Uncle Sherlock - Royal Dano plays Uncle "Sherlock" George, in a children’s TV special, “My Dear Uncle Sherlock”. The nephew, Joey Trimble, who plays the detective role with his uncle's guidance, was played by Robbie Rist.

1977 - Arthur Sherlock Holmes & Dr. William Watson - John Cleese played Arthur Sherlock Holmes, with Arthur Lowe as Dr. William Watson, in the TV movie “The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It”.

1980 - Inspector Winship & Dr. Tart - Don Knotts played Inspector Winship , with Tim Conway as Dr. Tart, in the movie “The Private Eyes”.

³ Bergem, Phil, Checklist of Sherlock Holmes Films and Television Programs

1981 - Surelock Homes & John Watson III - Jeff Smith played Surelock Homes, with Jim Deuter as John Watson III, in “The Mystery of the Willing Victims Public”, service film on crime prevention made for State Farm Fire & Casualty Company.

1984 - Sherlock Hound - was a Japanese anime series created by the legendary Hayao Miyazaki. Sherlock Hound was voiced by: Taichirō Hirokawa in Japanese, and Larry Moss in English. Doctor Watson was voiced by: Kōsei Tomita in Japanese, and Lewis Arquette in English.

1988 - Hawkeye Sholmes & Dr. Potsam - Jimmy Hibbert played Hawkeye Sholmes, with Peter Richard Reeves or Jack May as Dr Potsam, for Thames Television in “All in a Fog”, an episode of 'Count Duckula' (UK: Nov. 1, 1988).

1990 - Barratt Holmes - Russ Abbot clowned around as Barratt Holmes, with Jerry Holland as Dr Wimpy, in “The Adventures of Barratt Holmes: The Case of the Phantom Police Killer”, a sketch on 'The Russ Abbot Show'.

1992 - Hans Holmes - Alfred Müller was Hans Holms in a German TV series titled 'Sherlock Holmes und die Sieben Zwerge' or, “Sherlock Holmes and the Seven Dwarves”.

1995 - Sherlock Homie - Sean Michaels played Sherlock Homie, with Julian St. Jox as Dr. Whatsup in Sherlock Homie - “The Case of Isabella the Maneater”. A few years later the TV show ‘30 Rock’ Tracy Morgan’s character Tracy Jordan would appear as ‘Sherlock Homie’.

1997 - Shirley Holmes - Lovely Meredith Henderson performed as Shirley Holmes, in the award winning Canadian kids series titled 'The Adventures of Shirley Holmes'. She portrayed Holmes' grand-niece for 52 stories.

2006 - Wassup Holmes and Watson - a Youtube parody of Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskerville. Jordan Allen-Dutton as Watson and Erik Weiner as Wassup Holmes. Watch Wassup Holmes at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOj-Is2ylAo>

2012 - Sherlock Bones - Mark Sloan played Sherlock Bones, with Lucy Love as Hotson in “Sherlock Bones”.

2012 - Sherlock Homeboy - Up and coming comedic star Andrew Bachelor is Sherlock Homeboy. Episodes of “King Bachelor's Pad's”, ‘Sherlock Homeboy’ parts I & II can be seen on Youtube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kL5pyq05J4> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlDoPi7tKno>

2013 - Urlach Holmes - Brian Urlacher plays "the greatest football detective" Urlach Holmes in an amusing 5-minute segment that aired on Fox Football Daily on Mar. 4, 2014. (all his predictions proved wrong xD!). Watch at: <http://www.foxsports.com/watch/fox-football-daily/video/urlach-holmes-030414>

2013 - Poplock Holmes and DJ Wattson - Jerrold Ridenour and Frank Langley, are Poplock Holmes and DJ Wattson, and are after a local Yeti. Hijinks pursue in this Steampunk comedy adventure! Watch at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2PKkV47WgE>

Stage

1900 - Shylock Holmes - Alexander Clark played the Remarkable Mr. Shylock Holmes) in "The Remarkable Pipe Dream of Mr. Shylock Holmes", at the Columbia Theatre, Brooklyn, from February 26-March 4, 1900.

1901 - Sureluck Combs - F. R. DuBois '01, in the leading part, of the Harvard Graduates' performance of 1901's Hasty Pudding play, the burlesque "Sureluck Combs, or the Strained Face of Miss Caulker".⁴

1901 - Sheerluck Jones and Dr. Rotson - Clarence Blackiston played Sheerluck Jones, with Carter Pickford as Dr. Rotson, in "Sheerluck Jones, Or Why D'Gillette Him Off?" by Malcolm Watson & Edward Spence, at Terry's Theatre in The Strand, Oct 29, 1901 for 100 performances. "Being a hereto unpublished commentary on the story of the famous detective and his connection with `The Strange Case of Miss Alice Baulkner.'"⁵

1904 - Sherlock Baffles - was played by W. C. Fields in vaudeville's musical 'The Ham Tree'. "For two years (1904-06), Fields played in the musical 'Ham Tree', as an amusing detective who juggled anything in sight."⁶ The role of Sherlock Baffles was later played by Frank O'Brien in 1908.

1906 - Shylock Bones - A burlesque on Sherlock Holmes by Chicago-based Harry L Newton.

⁴ <http://www.thecrimson.com/article/1901/4/27/the-dynamiters-pthe-graduates-performance-of/>

⁵ <https://www.lib.umn.edu/scrbm/ush/volume-4-section-XK4>

⁶ <http://www.juggling.org/fame/fields/chamberlin.html>

1906 - Sureluck Hoomes - Thomas MacLarnie (1871 - 1931) played Sureluck Hoomes in the play “Jack and Jill and Company” at the Bijou Theater in Cambridge, Ma., during the Christmas season.⁷

1909 - Shylock Bones - Hal Braines as Shylock Bones at St. John’s Parish Hall, for the concert in aid of the Cricket Club.

1961 - Justin Playfair and Dr. Mildred Watson - Harry H Corbett (1925 - 1982) played JustinPlayfair/Sherlock Holmes, with Avis Bunnage as Dr. Mildred Watson in “They Might Be Giants” in London, on stage at the Theatre Royal, June 28-July 29, 1961.

1974 - Hemlock Stones and Flotsam - Philip Proctor plays detective Hemlock Stones and David Ossman plays Flotsam, for The Firesign Theatre recording of “The Tale of The Giant Rat of Sumatra”.

1980 - Sheerluck Holmes - Steve Scherer played Sheerluck Holmes, with Don Cornett as Dr. Watson, in the stage play "Sheerluck".

2011 - Ha Ha Holmes - In “Ha Ha Holmes! and The Hound of the Baskervilles”, comedy national treasure Joe Pasquale takes on the role of Sherlock Holmes. As one of the UK’s top stand ups Joe brings mirthful merriness to proceedings, but would he be skating on thin ice?! With Ben Langley as Doctor Watson. Ben Langley was the original Holmes, but moved over to the Watson role when Joe Pasquale came aboard as Holmes in 2013.

2012 - Sureluck Holmes and Dr. What'son - “Sureluck Holmes and The Band of Assassins”, is a parody of the famous detective, a show that tells the true story of the world's most famous detective and his sidekick. Brett Andersen plays Sureluck Holmes, with Sydney Adams as Dr. What'son. It's 1890 and Sureluck Holmes can't seem to find his groove after losing the love of his life, Ilene Dover, at the alter. But Dr. What'son is determined to get Holmes back to business as usual.⁸

Beatlemania Bonus

⁷ <http://cambridge.dlconsulting.com/cgi-bin/cambridge?a=d&d=Chronicle19061222-01.2.138&srpos=1&e=-----en-20--1--txt-txIN-sureluck-----#>

⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/notes/titus-productions-theatre-co/sureluck-holmes-and-the-band-of-assassins-and-broadway-bound-cast-list/309713205747680>

1965 - Shamrock Wolmbs & Doctored Whopper - John Lennon, yes the Fab Four's John Lennon, wrote and illustrated in his second book "A Spaniard in the Works", a collection of several short stories, one of which was "The Singularge Experience of Miss Anne Duffield", a parody of Sherlock Holmes. In John's story the detective is Shamrock Wolmbs, (although the illustration is really Lennon in a deerstalker and cape) and his Watson is named Doctored Whopper. "The Lennon Play In His Own Write", adapted from the story, was performed at the National Theatre (Old Vic). "The play was first presented by the National Theatre Company at a Sunday night performance in 1967. In this revised and expanded version it was first performed at the National Theatre in June 1968. as part of Triple Bill, with Ronald Pickup as Me."⁹

Read "The Singularge Experience of Miss Anne Duffield" by John Lennon at: http://msittig.freeshell.org/docs/The_Singularge_Experience.html

Detailed description and Lennon interview: <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/carousel/pob/pob17.html>

Full cast of the Old Vic production: <http://theatricalia.com/play/4pm/in-his-own-write/production/a73>

⁹ <https://www.lib.umn.edu/scr/bm/ush/volume-3-section-XK2>

