

Sherlock Holmes - The Baker Street Brawler

By Ross K. Foad and Howard Ostrom

Is an expert singlestick player, boxer, and swordsman. — Arthur Conan Doyle, A Study in Scarlet

I have some knowledge, however, of baritsu, or the Japanese system of wrestling, which has more than once been very useful to me. — Arthur Conan Doyle, The Adventure of the Empty House

We'd like to think that Sherlock Holmes would approve of modern day wrestling. Wrestling entertainment is theatrical, spectacular, has twists and turns, and works to build the story up to a big reveal or outcome, not unlike Holmes methods of deduction. Let us not also forget that Holmes was a deft hand at boxing, what with his slugging right and his mastery of that well known martial art baritsu. Imagine if there was some way to merge the two topics together to give us an excuse to explore the connections. Imagine no more because we have discovered that wrestling and Holmes have shared screen associations in the past, and probably a little more frequently than one would think. Let's take a look shall we, ring the bell!

Let's start with a recent entry that many of you may have heard about. In the comedy film "Holmes and Watson" (2018), featuring Will Ferrell as Sherlock Holmes and John C. Reilly as Dr. John Watson, the World Wrestling Entertainment's monster among men **Braun Strowman** aka **Adam Scherr** (6'8", 344 lbs.) appeared as a wrestling brute named Brawn. A World Tag Team Champion, with a ten year old boy pulled from the audience if you can believe that, Strowman's WWE catchphrase was "Get these hands!" but here he'd more likely have said "Get these... Holmes!". However Brawn actually ended up taking chair shots from none other than Dr. Watson, probably a parody of Robert Downey Jr.'s discombobulate fight scene, in "Sherlock Holmes" (2009). But the fact is that it is Watson in the ring instead of Holmes, which reminds us of when Andrei Panin's Dr. Watson knocked out and replaced Igor Petrenko's Sherlock Holmes, in the boxing scene from the excellent Russian "Sherlock Holmes" (2010).



Braun Strowman on set "Holmes and Watson" (2018)



Brawn takes a chair shot from Dr. Watson



Braun Strowman internet interview with Will Ferrell & John C. Reilly

A different WWE giant than we mentioned above, Canadian actor **Robert Maillet** a former wrestler, appeared in the film "Sherlock Holmes" (2009). Maillet wrestled for the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) from 1997 to 1999, where he performed under the ring name **Kurrgan** and was a member of the bizarre factions called Truth Commission and The Oddities. After he left the wrestling business at the turn of the century Maillet turned to acting, and with his formidable 7 foot build he soon found himself being cast fair frequently in tough guy and villainous roles for major blockbuster films, which have included "Deadpool 2", "Hercules", "300" and of course "Sherlock Holmes". In the film, if you recall, he played Dredger, a 7 foot French speaking henchman working for the film's villain Blackwood.



Robert Maillet as Kurgan

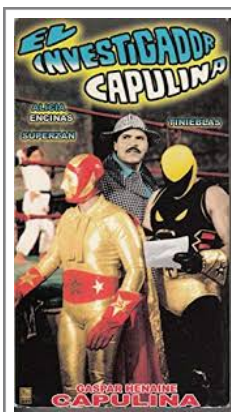


Robert Maillet as Dredger (2009)

In Mexico Lucha libre wrestlers are known as luchadores. Mexican Lucha libre is so important to the Mexican people that it has been declared an intangible cultural heritage of Mexico City. It is tradition for the luchadores to wear masks. Luchadores often appear in Mexican films. So did we find luchadores and Sherlock Holmes in a film together? ¡Sí, elemental! In “El Investigador Capulina” (1975), for Estudios América Panorama Films of Mexico, **Gaspar Henaine** is Capulina. Capulina is a comedic version of Sherlock Holmes, an apprentice private investigator who wears his deerstalker sideways, has a matching cape and carries a magnifying glass. Capulina is stupid so his Lucha libre friends have to cover his ass every time he fouls a case up or gets thrown in jail. Meanwhile, there's a rogue Bank President who has a teleportation machine that he's using to make unauthorized withdrawals from rival banks, whose gang capture him with his friend Lupita. Capulina's friends and his idols, the wrestlers **Tinieblas** and **Superzán**, come to his aid and rescue him and catch the thieves. Luisito, silent brother of Lupita, recovers his voice when recognizing one of the thieves as a guy who ran over him. Capulina sets up a detective agency. This Sherlock Holmes is so adept at wrestling that he even demonstrates the iron claw to a wrestler LOL!.



Gaspar Henaine, Superzán, and Tinieblas



El Investigador Capulina (1975)

But those above are wrestlers playing in Sherlock Holmes' world, what about Sherlock Holmes in the wrestling world? We've got plenty of those too!

On the 16th of April 2012 edition of "WWE Raw", filmed in London, England, pro wrestler **R-Truth**, aka **Ron Killings**, appeared in a skit dressed as Sherlock Holmes. When former WWE General Manager Teddy Long appears, Long asks Truth who he's talking to. Truth notes he's talking to Little Jimmy Holmes (who happens to be Truth's invisible friend). Truth vows, as Sherlock Holmes, to investigate and to find Teddy Long a new job away from being new General Manager John Laurinaitis' lackey.



Ron 'R Truth' Killings and Teddy Long



WWE Raw (2012)

On the 9th of July 2012 edition of “WWE Raw”, which aired on the USA Network, pro wrestler **Santino Marella**, the United States Champion aka **Anthony Carelli**, dressed as Sherlock Holmes spent the entire episode searching for the identity of the anonymous Raw General Manager. A messaging laptop was mysteriously in charge. As it turned out, the whole time, the General Manager was right under everyone's noses, literally under the wrestling ring. Santino, with some help from announcer Jerry ‘The King’ Lawler, pulled the General Manager out from under the ring, to reveal him as the little person wrestler Hornswoggle.



Santino Marella (Anthony Carelli)



WWE Raw (2012)

On the 29th of April 2013 edition of “WWE Raw”, which aired on the USA Network, pro wrestler **The Great Khali**, aka **Dalip Singh Rana** (7'1", 347lbs.), appeared with his own Sherlock Holmes hat, pipe, and magnifying glass, is hard at work trying to find out who could be wrestler Kaitlyn's secret admirer. He enlisted the help of Canadian wrestlers Chris Jericho and Natalya Neidhart. Since Khali's regular companion is Neidhart, would that make her Watson and Jericho, Lestrade? Now that's a 'BIG' Holmes.



Chris Jericho, The Great Khali, Natalya Neidhart



WWE Raw (2013)

On the 20th of May 2014 edition of “WWE Main Event”, broadcast from the O2 Arena in London, England, pro wrestler **Damian Sandow**, aka **Aaron Steven Haddad**, comes to the ring dressed up as Sherlock Holmes for a match against wrestler R-Truth. Sherlock Sandow closed the case by picking up a victory by pinfall in 13 minutes.



Damian Sandow



WWE Main Event (2014)

On the 23rd of December 2015 edition of “WWE NXT London ”, broadcast from London, England, pro wrestler **Aiden English**, aka **Matt Rehwoldt**, as Sherlock Holmes. The tag team the Vaudevillians, Aiden English and Simon Gotch, came to ring with Aiden English dressed as Sherlock Holmes, deerstalker, invernness, and even a meerschaum pipe, but oddly his partner Simon Gotch was dressed as the Fourth Doctor and not Dr. Watson. (Wholock?,well this is in London!).



Aiden English



WWE NXT London (2015)

On the 9th of May 2017 edition of “WWE Smackdown Live”, show live from The O2 Arena on Greenwich Peninsula, London, England, wrestler **Fandango**, aka **Curtis Jonathan Hussey** appears as Sherlock Holmes. A Fashion Files segment airs featuring tag team wrestlers Fandango and Tyler Breeze aka Mattias Clement, hilariously dressed up as Sherlock Holmes and a London Bobbie. The tag team pair find the backstage area covered in paint and believe their rivals the Uso Brothers are responsible. However, the trail of clues leads them to discover the perpetrators are none other than another tag team, the Ascension, who they leave grunting in a cupboard, because (?) its wrestling!



Fandango



WWE Smackdown Live (2017)

On “The Edge and Christian Show That Totally Reeks of Awesomeness” episode titled “Kay Fabe” that aired the 30th of December 2018, on the WWE Network, former long time tag team partners **Edge** aka **Adam Copeland** and **Christian** aka **Jay Reso** played Sherlock Holmes. Not strictly a Holmes performance, but fun all the same as wrestlers Edge and Christian don deerstalkers and investigate to find out who the mysterious woman Kay Fabe is. In professional wrestling, kayfabe is the portrayal of staged events within the industry as ‘real’ and not of a staged or predetermined nature of any kind, and certainly not a woman, which made for a hilarious episode.



Edge and Christian question Al Roker



The Edge and Christian Show That Totally Reeks of Awesomeness - Kay Fabe (2018)



A group of men in wrestling attire are gathered around a table. One man's shirt has "COLE FINN O'REILLY STRONG" on the back. Another man's gear has "TNT" on it. A sign on the table says "LIFE".

Danee Birch, Roderick Strong, Fabian Archer, Raul Mendoza and Sherlock Dango

One again a wrestler dresses as SH, but lo and behold this time it is not for WWE. On the 3rd of November 2020, edition of “TNA iMPACT! Wrestling”, wrestler **Tommy Dreamer**, aka **Thomas Laughlin**, appears as Sherlock Holmes. The wrestling entertainment show starts off with promotor Scott D’Amore backstage getting off the phone with the report that John E. Bravo is in a medically induced coma, but he’s stable and in critical condition. Wrestler Tommy Dreamer dons a Sherlock Holmes outfit as he plans to investigate who’s responsible for shooting Bravo. Throughout the show, Dreamer is seen backstage interrogating wrestlers, referees and anyone who will talk to him, while still dressed as Sherlock Holmes.



Tommy Dreamer and Scott D’Amore



TNA iMPACT! Wrestling (2020)

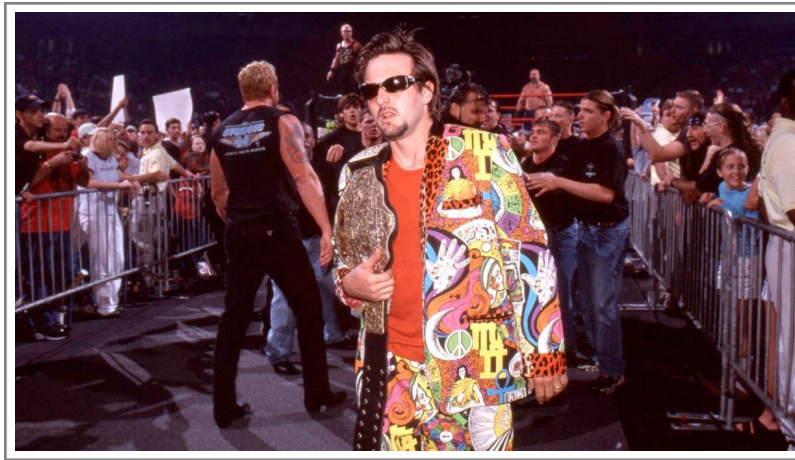
In conclusion, under a category we could label I've been a wrestler inside the ring and played Sherlock Holmes outside the ring, we have come up with two very accomplished and unique performers David Arquette and Pat McAfee, better known perhaps for their other endeavors.

David Arquette is an actor, director, and producer, who is probably best known for his role as Dewey Riley in the slasher franchise "Scream", for which he won a Teen Choice Award and two Blockbuster Entertainment Awards. He is from a famous acting Arquette family, which included his grandfather comedic actor Cliff Arquette who went by the stage name of Charley Weaver, and sisters the well known actresses Rosanna, Patricia and Alexis. He was married to the "Friends" star Courteney Cox. So where do wrestling and Sherlock Holmes come into his acting curriculum vitae?

On the April 26, 2000 edition of WCW's Thunder, **David Arquette** won the WCW Title. The actor got involved in a tag bout while promoting his sports-entertainment comedy film, "Ready to Rumble." Teaming with Diamond Dallas Page, Arquette faced Eric Bischoff and Jeff Jarrett. The finish of the match had Arquette spear Eric Bischoff moments before Jeff Jarrett took out Page using the Big Gold Belt, all while referee Kimberly was knocked unconscious due to a kiss from Page (we kid you not). Both Arquette and Jarrett would make pins at the same time, but whenever referee Mickie Jay ran in to make the count, he only acknowledged Arquette's pinfall over Eric Bischoff, making the actor the new WCW World Heavyweight Champion.

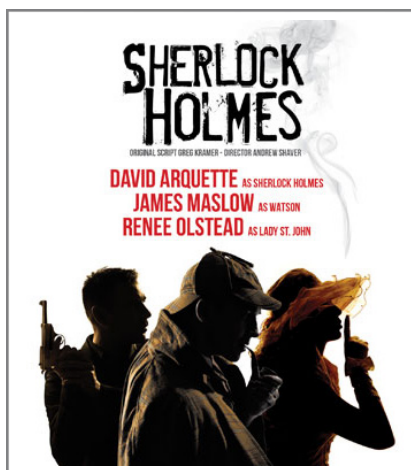


David Arquette and Diamond Dallas Page



David Arquette

In October and November of 2015, David Arquette took over the role of Sherlock Holmes for a North American tour of the comedy “Sherlock Holmes” written by Greg Kramer and directed by Andrew Shaver. Arquette commented, "I am beyond excited to play one of the most loved characters in all literature, stage and screen, Sherlock Holmes. Some may think I'm an odd choice. I am. I'm odd, but thankfully so is he." Besides Arquette as Holmes, the cast featured James Maslow (Nickelodeon's "Big Time Rush") as Dr. John Watson and Renee Olstead ("The Secret Life of the American Teenager") as Lady Irene St. John, both making their stage debuts. Unfortunately for Arquette his Sherlock Holmes performance was panned by the critics and Shelockians alike. Having failed as a Holmes performer, and having wrestling fans and magazines list his stay at WCW as a wrestler as a major reason for the WCW going out of business, David would return to wrestling in 2018 at the age of 47.



Sherlock Holmes (2015)



David Arquette, James Maslow and Renee Olstead

In 2018, David Arquette decided to make his return to wrestling on the independent scene. He has competed against wrestlers including James Ellsworth, Jerry the King Lawler, Jungle Boy, Mr. Anderson, and Nick Gage. A 2020 hardcore match against Nick Gage would be his last when after a neon light bulb was smashed on his head by Gage had caused so much blood lost he needed to be rushed to the hospital, but in true wrestler fashion, only after he finished the match. Arquette's love affair with wrestling was displayed in the recent documentary, "You Cannot Kill David Arquette." The film tells of how Arquette has spent the past two decades trying to earn back the respect of the wrestling world after he won the 2000 World Championship Wrestling heavyweight title as a publicity stunt for his wrestling movie "Ready to Rumble." David doing a hardcore deathmatch at age 49 is insane, but I guess he felt he had something to prove to his wrestling critics from back in 2000.



Nick Gage vs. David Arquette (2020)

Pardon my French, but Holy Shit!!! We knew **Pat McAfee** was a man of many hats (or helmets), but never knew he wore the deerstalker too! Our minds are blown with this ditty. I actually listen to “The Pat McAfee Show” daily on YouTube and Sirius Radio. Pat also recently landed the gig of the color commentator on “WWE Smackdown Wrestling” for Fox Television on Friday nights. He is the former ‘Punter of the Decade’ for the Indianapolis Colts in the NFL, retiring early at age 29 to pursue his many other interests. One of those interests turned out to be wrestling. McAfee, a lifelong professional wrestling fan, was involved in a match against The WarPig at an IWA East Coast indy wrestling show in 2009. WarPig controlled much of the match but McAfee hit him with a low blow and a superkick, securing an upset victory. However a month later McAfee would be drafted by the Indianapolis Colts so more wrestling for Pat. That is until, when following an incident with WWE NXT superstar Adam Cole on McAfee’s radio show, Pat trained and showed up in the NXT ring for a match with Cole. The culmination of McAfee’s and Cole’s two-year rivalry came at “WWE NXT TakeOver: XXX” in Winter Park Florida. Cole got the victory via the Panama Sunrise in a match that delivered beyond all expectations. Pat, although losing to Cole, put on the best performance we have seen for a celebrity performer. McAfee, easily large enough, athletic enough, with an unparalleled ability to create promos, could further pursue a career as a pro wrestler if he chose to. But having been offered a large deal to color commentate the WWE wrestling telecasts, he chose do his performing just outside of the squared circle, alongside longtime WWE announcer Michael Cole. We would not be surprised one bit however at seeing Pat McAfee being involved in some situations or feuds which bring him inside the ring once more. (Update: Pat McAfee defeated Vince McMahon's on-screen protégé Austin Theory at WWE Wrestlemania 2022.)



Pat McAfee as punter for the Indianapolis Colts (2009-17)



Pat McAfee Pinning WarPig (2009)



Adam Cole's had enough of Pat's Mouth



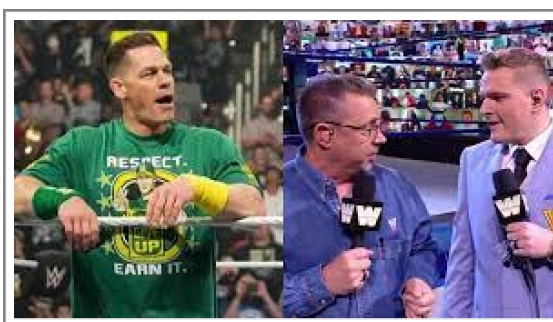
Pat putting the squeeze on Adam Cole (2020)



Darius Butler, Pat McAfee, A.J. Hawk

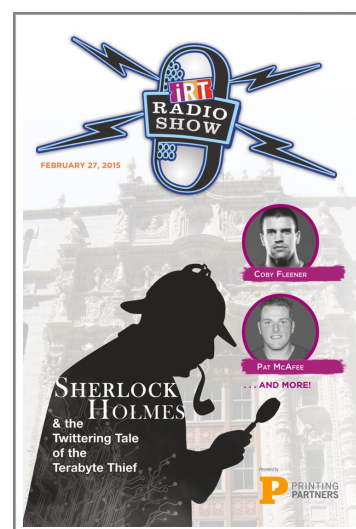


For the Brand (2019–Present)



WWE Smackdown (2021–Present)

On February 27, 2015, Pat McAfee played Sherlock Holmes in “Sherlock Holmes and the Twittering Tale of the Terabyte Thief” a fundraising radio play for Indianapolis Repertory Theater. McAfee, then a punter for the Indianapolis Colts, joined by fellow Indianapolis Colt tight end Colby Fleener as Dr. Watson, and other local Indianapolis celebrities presented the Sherlock Holmes radio play on the “IRT Radio Show”.



Sherlock Holmes & The Twittering Tale of the Terabyte Thief (2015)

Most wrestling fans know **Lou Albano** as a professional wrestler and manager, who performed under the ring/stage name **"Captain" Lou Albano**. Albano was active as a professional wrestler from 1953 until 1969 before becoming a manager until 1995. Fewer wrestling fans, and very few Sherlockians realize that Captain Lou also had a somewhat indirect connection with Sherlock Holmes. Albano played the role of Mario in both the live-action and animated segments of *The Super Mario Bros. Super Show*, a TV series based on the Super Mario Bros. game series. In an episode of that series titled *The Adventures of Sherlock Mario* (1989), Albano would voice the character of Sherlock Mario.



The Super Mario Bros. Super Show - The Adventures of Sherlock Mario



"Captain" Lou Albano

Donovan Danhausen, better known as the very nice, very evil **Danhausen**, is an American professional wrestler currently signed to All Elite Wrestling.



Danhausen

At ~ the 4:50 mark of the Youtube video titled “Danhausen has 100 thousand YouTube subscribers ~ wins award (also fan mail!)”, from his “Love that Danhausen’ YouTube channel, Danhausen receives a deerstalker hat, some Sherlock Holmes books that look very familiar, and a Lego 221B Sherlock Holmes apartment from one of his fanhausens. He dons the deerstalker hat, and tells his assistant Davis that he and camera boy Nick can put the Lego Holmes apartment together on Davis’ twitch. Danhausen then inquires, “Where is the Great Mouse Detective ornament?”



YouTube subscribers award & fan mail! (2022)

Most wrestling fans know of **Jim Cornette** who has previously worked in the professional wrestling industry as an agent, booker, color commentator, manager, promoter, trainer, and even an occasional professional wrestler. According to the wrestling fanzine "Matwatch (Vol. 2 No. 9, Aug 21-27, 1989), wrestling personality Jim Cornette appeared in "Sherlock Holmes gear". At the WCW show on TBS TV he appeared along side announcer Jim Ross (yes good ole' J.R.), and while inspecting J.R.'s face a magnifying glass stated: "You need Clearasil." One of the magazines photos listed in their best of the week was Jim Cornette in Sherlock Holmes gear. (I need to find me that photo!)

Matwatch Page 4
21-27 / Vol. 2, No. 9


CLINES OF THE WEEK - 1. Terry Funk, NWA: "I want you to spit out your vitamins and wear your underwear for 30 days. Then you might grow up to be like me." 2. Gene Okerlund, WWF: "How big are they (Andre/Towers)? I went to a movie with them and got in for half-price." 3. Gary Young, WCCW: "Solidarity ain't my favorite word but I don't worry about it 'cause I know how to spell it." 4. Roddy Piper, PIW: "Bobby, you're as exciting as watching the Waltons sort cranberries." 5. Piper, WWF: "Bobby, if I gave you a dollar for every second you could last with me, you couldn't buy a soda at McDonalds." 6. Jim Cornette, TBS, to Jim Ross: "There's an abominable snowman in Tibet who says you're the father of her love child." 7. Dennis Condrey, CWF: "Wendell Cooley, you're gonna die by the sewer because I'm gonna make you commit sewerside." 8. Skandor Akbar & Marc Lowrance, WCCW: (SA) "I'll give you severance pay like I did Dusek....from now on you're taking orders from me." (ML) "I thought I was fired." 9. Lex Luger, NWA: "Tommy Rich: a man who has not wrestled for years, who abandoned our sport." 10. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "One slap like Mr. Perfect's would make your toupee fly off, McMahon." 11. Cornette, TBS: "I walked in & said, 'Jim Herd, take off that coonskin cap.' Unfortunately, it was his hair." 12. Larry Zbyszko, AWA: "My left hand's made out of Uranium-235. My right hand's made out of plutonium." 13. Ross & Luger, NWA: (JR) "You're talking about a former world champion (Rich)." (LL) "That & 50¢ will buy him a cup of coffee." 14. Samuel Kent, SCW: "Some people say I don't have any friends." 15. Don Coss & Scotty the Body, Portland: (DC) "Get the police! This guy (Nord) is crazy!" (STB) "He's a nice guy. You've just gotta know him." 16. Piper, & Heenan, PIW: (BH) "A tie can be bought for 5 or 6 bucks." (RP) "So can you." 17. Charlie Platt, CWF: "Dennis Condrey, you're going to be the target practice of everybody in the CWF." 18. Lance Russell, NWA, on Funk: "There's a place for him but I'm not sure they could fit him in." 19. Lowrance, WCCW: "I don't think I've ever seen the executive material (Max Andrews) so wound up." 20. Cornette, inspecting Ross' face with Sherlock Holmes magnifier: "You need Clearasil."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Luger, NWA: "For him (Rich) to be considered in the Top 10 is a mockery of the NWA." 2. Vince McMahon, WWF: "The Widowmaker has more wrestling talent than most of the gifted athletes in the WWF."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Ventura, WWF, on Hillbilly Jim: "Is it true he used to practice headlocks on hogs?" 2. Piper, WWF: "What is Heenan doing now? Waiting on tables at Tavern on the Green in Central Park?"

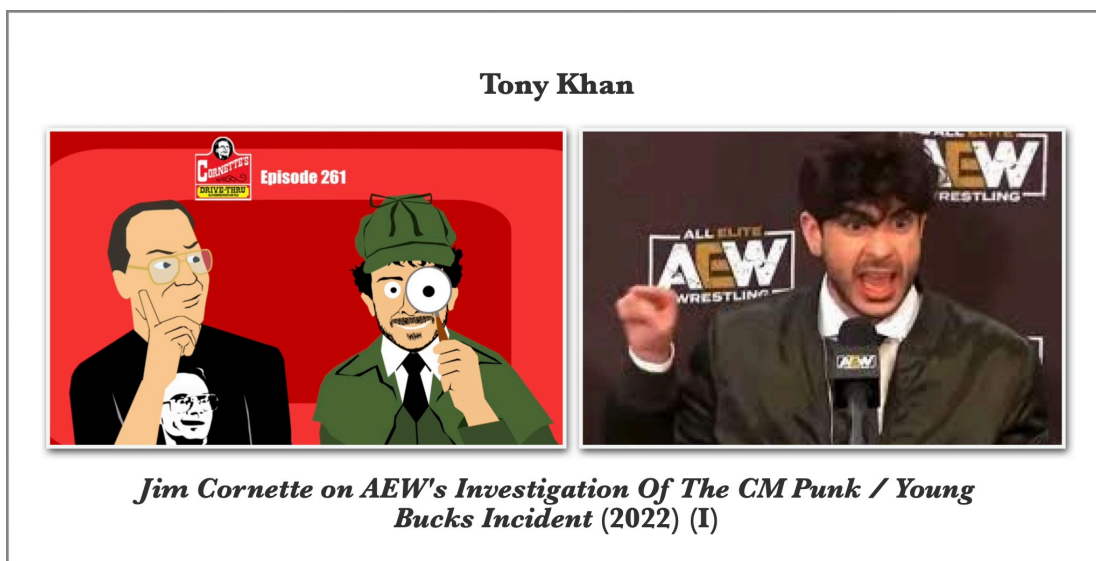
BEST NICKNAMES - 1. "Egg Plant" for Frank Dusek (by Akbar). 2. "Swindle Cooley" for Wendell (by Dennis Condrey).

BEST PICTURES - 1. Young-Adams brawl, WCCW. 2. Scott Hall slamming Funk's arm into rail, NWA. 3. Cornette in Sherlock Holmes gear, TBS. 4. Slaughter clotheslining DeRusha, AWA.



up during the WCW rerun Saturday. Most of you asked how it can happen. As an ex-TV man, I can tell you it can, usually by computer error or by human error at smaller stations. But it was virtually inexcusable for it to happen on the #1 cable network and I expect some disciplinary action, possibly even dismissal of the guilty party. I was told it was a TBS control room error and it will be difficult to correct because next week's is a 2-hour show and was to feature the nighttime date of Rick Steiner & Robin Green to follow up on the daytime date you didn't see Saturday. At press time, the solution was not settled....For the record, I've watched TV wrestling from Atlanta for 24 years and never saw that kind of mistake....FCW was still running an Orlando show Sunday so reports of its demise may be premature....WCCW did a first-rate job of building the Embry-Chu'i battle for the USWA/World Class name & the Akbar-Young-Manson-Adams

Jim Cornette the Louisville Lip and Mama's boy is now an author and a podcaster. Many his podcasts deal with AEW (All Elite Wrestling) whose owner and president is **Tony Khan**. His *Jim Cornette Experience* podcast #261 posted to YouTube on 15, September 2022 was titled *Jim Cornette on AEW's Investigation Of The CM Punk / Young Bucks Incident*. Cornette gave his opinions on the many way Tony Khan could handle a major locker room brawl which involved numerous AEW stars, including CM Punk, The Young Bucks and Kenny Omega. The image for YouTube featured a Tony Khan caricature dressed as Sherlock Holmes.



The *Jim Cornette Experience* podcast #410 of 2021 posted to YouTube featured a caricature of the great **C M Punk** dressed as Sherlock Holmes.



All Elite Wrestling's joint booking with Japan's top wrestling promotion NJPW (New Japan Pro Wrestling) for its Forbidden Door pay-per-view reminded me that Japan's top talent, The Rainmaker, **Kazuchika Okada** actually has a somewhat unusual Sherlockian connection through marriage. You see Kazuchika Okada's wife is **Suzuko Mimori** a Japanese voice actress and singer who is best known as the voice of Sherlock Shellingford in Japan's *Tantei Opera Milky Holmes* (2009-18) animated series. The series is a homage to the detective fiction genre, and the four female leads are named after famous fictional detectives: Sherlock Holmes, Nero Wolfe, Hercule Poirot and Cordelia Gray."



Suzuko Mimori & Kazuchika Okada



Tantei Opera Milky Holmes - Sherlock Shellingford



The Rainmaker