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# Films Of Sherlock Holmes



## Synopsis

Screen evolution of the Great Detective.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Screen evolution of the Great Detective.

Movie history is a vice of mine. Particularly when it has to do with the great movie detectives. None is better known than The Master Sherlock Holmes. It was because of this book, I became so much obsessed with Sherlock Holmes on film. It is unfortunate that some of these films are no longer available or, as in the case of the first sound version of The Hound of the Baskervilles, missing its soundtrack. Chris Steinbrunner has done a masterful job of presenting the history and chronology of the Holmes films with marvelous photographs as well. There is a whole lot more to Holmes on film than just Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, and before there was a Jeremy Brett, Peter Cushing and John Neville and Ian Richardson and Christopher Plummer who were equally perfect in the role of a lifetime. It is a pleasure to add this phenomenal book to my collection of movie books.

The Films of Sherlock Holmes This 1978 book catalogs all the known movies that are about Sherlock Holmes and lists their stories. There is nothing about Chris Steinbrunner and Norman Michaels except the dedication to their parents. They thank those who helped in the research for this book. The Sherlock Holmes movies were some of the best mystery novels ever made (Introduction). The 36 chapters are unnumbered, there is no

Index. This book is richly illustrated with many photographs. The early movies of Sherlock Holmes were silents and mostly lost (Early Movies, The Silents of Eille Norwood). The 1922 movie "Sherlock Holmes" with John Barrymore was based on the play by William Gillette. The first sound movie in 1929 was "The Return of Sherlock Holmes", it started Clive Brook and was based on "They Dying Detective" and "His Final Bow". The 1931 movie "The Speckled Band" starred Raymond Massey in an adaption from a London stage play. The 1931 movie "The Hound of the Baskervilles" starred Robert Rendel in the most popular of the long stories. It is a lost film. The 1931 movie "Sherlock Holmes" starred Clive Brook and was adapted from the stage play by William Gillette. The 1933 movie "A Study in Scarlet" did not use the Conan Doyle story; it starred Reginald Owen. Its plot preceded Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None". There were five movies that starred Arthur Wontner. One of them, "Silver Blaze", was retitled "Murder at the Baskervilles" for the US market. Basil Rathbone played Sherlock Holmes in the 1939 movie "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that reproduced the original story and was commercially successful and was followed by "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (based on the play by William Gillette). Universal Studios produced twelve movies set in modern times: "The Voice of Terror", "The Secret Weapon", "In Washington", "Faces Death", "Spider Woman", "The Scarlet Claw", "The Pearl of Death", "House of Fear", "Woman in Green", "Pursuit to Algiers", "Terror By Night", and "Dressed to Kill". Pages 88 to 188 describe these movies and summarizes their plots. The authors quote newspaper movie reviewers about these films. [Are they paid to push the movies advertised in their newspapers?] Basil Rathbone is best known for Sherlock Holmes rather than his other roles. In 1959 the first Sherlock Holmes color movie was made in England. It modified the story but many liked it. [If that land was so barren where did the wealth of the Baskervilles come from?] Most of the Sherlock Holmes movies

were produced in England or America. In 1962 *Sherlock Holmes and the Necklace of Death* was made in Germany (note the tavern scenes). This description reminds me of some of the American mystery movies from the 1930's. The 1965 movie *A Study in Terror* created a story set in the time of *Jack the Ripper*. Ellery Queen wrote a paperback novel with this story. The 1970 movie *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* was one of the most opulent productions but ran over two hours and had to be cut back. It was not based on any of Conan Doyle's stories; was it meant as a parody? The 1971 movie *They Might Be Giants* is a story about a man who believes he is Sherlock Holmes and is treated by Dr. Mildred Watson. This parody was not successful, and justifiably so (p.224). The 1975 movie *Sherlock Holmes Smarter Brother* invented a Sigerson Holmes for a slapstick comedy. The 1976 movie *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution* was based on the novel by Nicholas Meyer. It presented another version of Sherlock Holmes and Sigmund Freud and provided an explanation of Sherlock's life. *Only the facts have been made up.* There were many *Sherlock Holmes* on Television and radio shows. In 1954 there were 39 episodes produced in Paris that were popular on American TV. They are worth watching (they have more humor than the older movies). England had many adaptations for BBC-TV. There were some singular movies but no series. *The Future* talks about proposed productions. This 1998 book cannot mention the later TV movies that starred Matt Frewer, or Jeremy Brett. Most movies and television shows present Sherlock Holmes in a late 19th century environment. The works of Edmond Locard and others published around 1920 provided training manuals for police detectives so there was less of a need for outside consultants. Today's police laboratories on the national or state level have capabilities that far exceed the best of Sherlock Holmes's abilities. The stories remain today as studies in human nature (greed or hate). Most murders occur between people who know each other; that's why serial murderers are hard to catch if they leave no trace evidence.

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