



Saving Film & Television for Future Generations

***UCLA Film & Television Archive and The Baker Street Irregulars
Lead an International Search to Find and Restore
Missing Films Featuring Sherlock Holmes***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOS ANGELES, CA (September 5, 2019) – UCLA Film & Television Archive, the second-largest moving image archive in the U.S. after the Library of Congress, and The Baker Street Irregulars (BSI), the first and foremost international Sherlock Holmes society, are mounting a worldwide search for the lost Sherlock Holmes films.

Actor Robert Downey, Jr., who has portrayed Sherlock Holmes on the screen in two films, with a third Holmes film that will begin production in the fall and be released December 2021, is the Honorary Project Chair.

Entitled “Searching for Sherlock: The Game’s Afoot,” the two nonprofit organizations plan to contact film archives, Sherlock Holmes societies, film historians, collectors, and other potential sources around the world to find, restore, and eventually screen currently lost films featuring the world’s first consulting detective.

According to Dr. Jan-Christopher Horak, Director of the UCLA Archive, more than 100 films about the iconic British detective are lost or are in need of restoration or preservation. A blue-ribbon committee has been formed to lead the search, including such notables as BSI member Nicholas Meyer, author of the book and Oscar-nominated screenplay *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*, and leading silent film historian Kevin Brownlow.

Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes is one of the most popular characters in all literature. The Victorian detective has made the leap countless times from the printed page to the motion picture and television screens. Beginning with his first appearance in “A Study in Scarlet” in *Beeton’s Christmas Annual* in 1887, Holmes has inspired aficionados internationally and is the most-filmed character in the world.

More than 100 films about the British detective have been produced; the first was *Sherlock Holmes Baffled*, a 30-second motion picture released originally for Mutoscope arcade machines in 1900 and copyrighted in 1903.

Among the lost films are: a British production of *A Study in Scarlet*, produced in 1914; a Danish series, produced by Nordisk films, beginning in 1908; *The Missing Rembrandt*, produced in 1932, starring Arthur Wontner; and many more.

Spearheading the search is Archive Board and BSI member Barbara Roisman Cooper. For further information about the project or suggestions regarding the search, contact her at peninc1@aol.com.

About UCLA Film & Television Archive

The internationally renowned UCLA Archive is the largest university-affiliated archive and the sixth largest moving image archive in the world, with more than 450,000 holdings stored in a state-of-the-art facility that meets or exceeds all preservation standards. Established in 1965, the Archive advocates the circulation of all moving images in all formats by collecting, preserving, curating and making accessible these media for research, education and entertainment. For more information about UCLA Film & Television Archive, visit www.cinema.ucla.edu or contact Marisa Soto at (310) 206-8588 or msoto@cinema.ucla.edu.

About The Baker Street Irregulars

In 1934, literary lion Christopher Morley founded the oldest Sherlock Holmes society, The Baker Street Irregulars. The BSI publishes the quarterly *Baker Street Journal* and several volumes of literary criticism. It also sponsors several Holmes-themed events each year and encourages research into Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes. There are hundreds of Sherlock Holmes societies around the world. The Baker Street Irregulars is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt educational organization. For more information about The Baker Street Irregulars, visit www.bakerstreetirregulars.com.

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“Searching for Sherlock” project volunteer committee members and consultants are:

- Angela Allen, MBE, script supervisor
- Kevin Brownlow, film historian, author
- Barbara Roisman Cooper, BSI, Archive Board member, film historian, author
- John P. Connolly, actor; Past President, AFTRA; former CEO, Actors' Equity
- Bryony Dixon, Curator of Silent Film, British Film Institute
- Jan-Christopher Horak, Director, UCLA Film & Television Archive; film historian
- Leslie S. Klinger, BSI, author-editor
- Bonnie MacBird, BSI, author, screenwriter
- Nicholas Meyer, BSI, author, screenwriter, film producer, film director
- Russell Merritt, BSI, Adjunct Professor, UC Berkeley Department of Film & Media
- Glen S. Miranker, BSI; former Co-Chair, BSI Trust; former Chief Technology Officer, Apple
- Judge Andrew J. Peck (ret.), BSI
- Steven Rothman, BSI; editor, *Baker Street Journal*
- Marisa Soto, Marketing & Communications Officer, UCLA Film & Television Archive
- Bronni Stein, Vice Chair, UCLA Film & Television Archive Board
- Tony Palmer, film director
- John Ptak, Archive Board member, film producer, former agent
- Adrian Wood, archival film consultant