

# Teaching "Young Sherlock Holmes"

Friday 27 March, 2009 - 10.00-15.30  
Teacher Building, 14 St Enoch Square,  
Glasgow, G1 4DB (near Glasgow Central Station)



*Young Sherlock Holmes*, directed by Barry Levinson (*Rain Man*, *Bugsy*, *Toy Story*) from a script by Christopher Columbus (*Harry Potter*, *Home Alone*) speculates about what might have happened if Sherlock Holmes and Watson had first met as teenagers at school. They embark on the solution to a mystery involving a religious cult celebrating ancient Egyptian rites of human sacrifice and mummification and mysterious death caused by a hallucinatory and lethal drug. After much adventure - and inspired deduction from the apprentice sleuth - the mystery is solved but not without cost. The film suggests how Holmes might have acquired his various idiosyncracies, dress sense and saying made universally known from Conan Doyle's stories. As well as *Sherlock Holmes*, the film has something of the flavour of "Harry Potter meets Indiana Jones", a flavour that the demographic is very fond of.

**Target audience: teachers of S1 - 4**

#### Aims:

The course will

1. Establish the characteristics of the detective genre, with reference to "The Speckled Band"
2. Analyse "Young Sherlock Holmes" in terms of language, genre, narrative & representation
3. Provide resources for teaching a Conan Doyle short story and the film "Young Sherlock Holmes".

#### Among the topics covered will be:

- The study of "The Speckled Band" by Arthur Conan Doyle - establishment of the Holmes persona; the principles of the good detective story
- Genre: how YSL operates in two main genres, detective and action-adventure
- Narrative: the two narratives; classic narrative structure
- Language: mise en scene, camera, editing, music
- Representations - Victorian London; Egypt as "the Other"
- Language - mise en scene and cinematography; music - the themes and motifs of Bruce Broughton's music
- Audience and Institution: what audiences get from the film - Uses and Gratifications; Hollywood High Concept

Participants should view the film *Young Sherlock Holmes* prior to this session (available [www.lovefilm.com](http://www.lovefilm.com), £4.99) and read "The Speckled Band" by Arthur Conan Doyle (downloadable free at [www.enotes.com](http://www.enotes.com) )

#### CD of Resources

In addition to a PowerPoint presentation, the CD will include:

- detailed running sheet (scene by scene synopsis)
- resources on *Young Sherlock Holmes* (including group discussion exercise on influence of *Young Sherlock Holmes* on *Harry Potter* books and films)

Teaching "Young Sherlock Holmes"  
Friday 27 March, 1000-1530  
Teacher Building, 14 St Enoch Square,  
Glasgow G1 4DB

## BOOKING FORM

Delegate's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

School (or other institution) : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Administration Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: £110 (includes buffet lunch and CD-ROM of materials)

Send this form with a purchase order  
to the address below. Your school/  
institution will be invoiced.

Des Murphy  
Media Education Consultant  
24 Burnett Place  
Aberdeen AB24 4QD  
Tel/: 01224 277113  
Mobile: 07800 652107  
Email: [desmurphy47@gmail.com](mailto:desmurphy47@gmail.com)

**DES MURPHY**  
MEDIA EDUCATION

[WWW.DESMURPHY.CO.UK](http://WWW.DESMURPHY.CO.UK)

