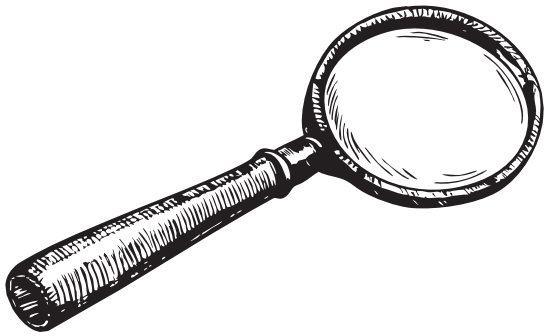


PANEL KEY

ROUNDTABLE
Moderators will guide general group discussion.

PANEL DISCUSSION
Panelists will discuss the topic, share their thoughts, and take Q&A from audience members.

CLOSED PROGRAM
Program panelists are set - not open for applications.

Con Kickoff
Gather with friends old and new to launch the convention!

221B 101 Welcome and FAQs
Are you new to the con, or wondering about those references you hear but aren't sure you understand? An introduction to the convention and a primer on the common in-jokes of 221B Con, important people to know, important places/events, and more.

Antique Cocktails
What would a tippler have drunk at the Criterion in the Victorian era?

Antique Soda Demo
Making soda fountain drinks using period formulas from over 100 years ago.

The Apothecary Diaries
What if Sherlock were a teenage girl who liked to poison herself and solved mysteries around the Emperor's palace? What if her Watson was a pretty man with a secret past? The Apothecary Diaries is the hit anime with a feminist take on Sherlockian themes. We'll discuss the first three seasons, who Maomao's Moriarty is, how the anime presents its women, and more.

Asexuality in 2027
A look at how books, TV, movies and more depict asexuality. Has it improved? Gotten worse? What advances do we want to see?

Avatar: Seven Havens
Over a decade later, we finally have a new Avatar show! Discuss our new twin Avatars and theories about the series, this new take on the world, and how TV has changed since the last entry (Korrasami walked so Jae could run). We will also briefly touch on the Avatar Aang: The Last Airbender film, setting the stage for the new series.

The Baker Street Theatre
A new way for Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts to experience Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and many of the other characters found in the Canon. Volunteer to read a character in a table read of an original one-act play.

Beyond Billy
A discussion about children in the canon and adaptations, including various ideas about the childhood of Holmes himself.

Bookish Series 2!
A sequel to last year's panel, this year's panel hopes to explore more of the back story of our favorite recurring characters, discuss how the new characters fit into their lives, and the mysteries that they solve. How is that lavender marriage holding up? What secrets have we learned about Jack's father/Book's lover, Felix? And how many references to Sherlock did Mark Gatiss sneak into the show?

Burlesque: Sexy, Sultury, So Freakin' Nerdy (18+)
An hour-long toe-dipper into the art of the tease! A short lil' peel and reveal into the history, the subgenres, culture, and even tips if you're curious to try!

Can You Do That And Live? 3.0
Two doctors once again give attendees a crash course in how to write illness and injury in a (mostly) believable way. This time including examples from current fiction, TV, and movies of how to and how not to do it along the way. We will also take short submissions from con attendees for review.

Celebrating Granada's Sherlock Holmes
For many Sherlockians, Granada Television's Sherlock Holmes, starring Jeremy Brett, remains the definitive screen adaptation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's stories. What makes the series so enduring? Join us as we explore its remarkable performances, faithfulness to the Canon, richly detailed Victorian world, and the unforgettable portrayal of Holmes by Jeremy Brett. The panel will introduce the Granada series to newcomers and give old hats a chance to enthusiastically gush.

Columbo
A look back at one of the greatest detective shows of all time. Let's talk favorite episodes, moments, and characters!

Crowdfunding Your Creative Work
How does crowdfunding work? What does it take to be successful?

The Cults Beyond Sherlock Holmes: The Threequel
Sara and Shannen return to talk about historical cults. Was Spiritualism a cult? Can fandoms be cults? Plus, even more deconstruction.

Dark Side of the Fic (18+)
Discussing dark Sherlock fanfics and why we like them.

Detective Fiction Prior to Doyle
Edgar Allen Poe and C. Auguste Dupin. William Russell writing as "Waters". Émile Gaboriau and Monsieur Lecoq. Wilkie Collins and Franklin Blake. Etc, etc. How did English language detective fiction become codified? What are the standards of the genre? How did Doyle's predecessors influence him, and in what ways does Sherlock Holmes stand apart from these stories and characters?

Discord Book Club Meetup
The 221B Con Discord has been doing an ACD read-along! Come meet the bees you've been reading along with, and talk about how much you love book club!

Doyle and Poetry
Did you know Arthur Conan Doyle wrote poetry as well? What other Sherlockian verse is out there?

Dynamic Duos
Sherlock and Watson, Shane and Ilya, Lestat and Louis, Kirk and Spock: whether friends, enemies, or lovers, certain pairs of characters are so fascinating together, we just can't get enough of them! We all know the saying opposites attract, but there's more to it than that. Let's discuss the intricacies of what makes these partnerships compelling.

Dynamics of a Podcast: Villain Jeopardy!
Come join a competition (with prizes) that looks like Jeopardy! but focuses on Moriarty trivia! How good is your knowledge of the Professor and of the many actors who've portrayed him over the years? *This will be a podcast recording.*

Escape Room
Help save Sherlock Holmes and defeat the evil Culverton Smith one more time. Attendees will separate into teams of 3 to solve the clues and find the solution.

Fanbinding and Zines
Digital is great, but sometimes you want a physical page to turn. Make a one-page small zine, talk about zine history, and see some fanbound fiction. Learn what it akes to make the fanfic transformation, and why you would want to do it in the first place!

Fanfic Evolution
A panel about the state of the fanfiction world and how it's changing and evolving. For instance, new generations finding fandom/fanfiction and not knowing or understanding fandom etiquette, the new wave of morality policing in fanfiction, fan art and how to consume fandom things in general, how interacting with fanart and fanfiction can matter greatly to creators, the difference between a content creator and a fanfic author or fanartist.

Fawx & Stallion
Come to a listening party for the audio drama about the detectives across the street and to the left of Holmes and Watson. Q&A with the creators will follow!

Fic Criticism
What pulls you out of a story? What makes you sure to read? How does one write a good description? Are certain tags necessary? How many tags are too many? A general discussion about critical points in fics that turn us on or off. Remember to practice YKINMKATO - *there will be no bashing of fics or authors.*

Film Night With Curtis
We're watching The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes, with a knowledgeable guide.

Finding Your Voice: A Writing Workshop with When the Rose Speaks Its Name
In writing original fiction or fanfic of your favorite blorbos, finding what makes your own writing unique is one of the most important tools. Our panel of experienced writers and trained editors will offer tips on identifying your own strongest forms of expression, and lead writing exercises to help hone your skills.

Ghost Stories of ACD
Let's talk about some of Arthur Conan Doyle's spooky works.

The Good Ship John H. Watson
Is there anyone that doesn't make a good pair with the lovable Dr. John, if he can get away from 221B while Holmes plays dead or something? Let's discuss couplings - known and unknown - and all the other possibilities of the Canon's greatest lover.

Heated Rivalry
Back to the cottage! With a Christmas movie between Scott and Kip and the second season being released in April 2027, what's going on with Ilya and Shane now?

A Helluva Third Season
The newest entry of the Hellaverse was an emotional ride for Helluva Boss' third season. We discuss how jumping to Amazon Prime has changed the show, break down the messy relationship between Blitzo and Stolas, how queer representation continues to be a strength for the show, and possible series setup for Hazbin Hotel.

Holmes and the Martians
In the end of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth, many scientists were certain that Martians were real, and in fact a more advanced civilization than our own. How would this idea, and other not yet debunked theories, have shaped the science and culture of the Sherlockian world?

Holmesian Internet
Share and promote your favorite discords, tumblrs, zoom meetings, podcasts, mailing lists, etc. for others to discover and enjoy.

Holmes Siblings
There's Eurus, Enola, Sherrinford, and more. What do the non-canonical Holmes siblings have in common, and what sets them apart? Why do some of them capture audiences' attention and some of them fall flat? Sometimes fandom will decide that someone like BBC's Merlin or Q from the Bond movies has the right vibes to be a third Holmes. Why? What makes them Holmes-y? Physical resemblance? Or is there something deeper?

Holmestice!
Discussion and meet & greet! Holmestice is a twice-annual anonymous gift exchange for all Sherlock Holmes universes, timed to culminate on the winter and summer solstices. All digitally-giftable media types are welcome (art, fic, podfic, vids, etc.). All ratings and all Holmesian characters, pairings, and moresomes are welcome. For the last few years, we've had a great time discussing this exchange with participants past and present and (hopefully) future.

Holmes Trivia and Games with When the Rose Speaks Its Name
Match your wits with our Holmes and Watson enthusiasts. We'll bring a selection of wordplay, trivia guessing and Holmes-themed adaptations of favorite parlour games.

An Hour with Ashley and Curtis
Two knowledgeable Sherlockians talk about Canon. Maybe. It's always entertaining!

House MD
Exploring how House and Sherlock Holmes are essential companion pieces; each one helps you better understand the other. House shows that when Holmes/House's methods are used by people who aren't well off white guys, other people do not respond nearly as well. Also discussing the parallels between Holmes/Watson and House/Wilson and the role of unreliable narration.

An Introduction to Kosuke Kindaichi
An overview of the disheveled, idiosyncratic Japanese detective Kosuke Kindaichi from the mystery novels of author Seishi Yokomizo. Kindaichi is a beloved icon in Japan but less known in the west. We'll give you a crash course in the series, and examine how Kindaichi presaged Japan's love of Peter Falk's Columbo.

Jane Austen
A surge in popularity? Or just producers retreading old favorites? What's fueling new productions of "The Other Bennett Sister" and "Sense and Sensibility"? Discuss what these new productions bring to the table and what we might see in the future.

Kingdom Hearts 101
Kingdom Hearts 4 is coming in 2027. Make sure you have all the lore you need to go into Kingdom Hearts and for those who want to play and need some guidance!

Knives Out
Discuss Benoit Blanc's impact on the mystery genre, ensemble performances, queer identity, and modern myth-making.

Leverage
"The rich and powerful, they take what they want. We steal it back for you. We provide... leverage." Let's get together and discuss everything we love about Leverage and Leverage: Redemption. With Nate and Sophie, "mastermind" and "grifter" as talents have a lot of crossover with Sherlock Holmes'... everything, along with the idea that sometimes justice is different from "legal". (In fiction. Panel suggestion does not endorse vigilante activity.)

A Live Annotated Veiled Lodger
How much interesting data can the shortest story in the Sherlock Holmes Canon actually contain? Join us for a live reading where a sudden shout of "FOOTNOTE!" announces the insertion of a point of interest from our panel of experts (and maybe the audience), where we'll learn just how much raw data one of Conan Doyle's simplest tales can hold and just how fascinating that adventure-less adventure can be!

London Libraries in the Time of Holmes
Discuss the London libraries that were active during Victorian and Edwardian England, and how Holmes/Watson interacted with them.

Monster Loving (18+)
Humanity has long had a fascination with "the other," and for a long time, that "other" was synonymous with horror and fear. We'll discuss how more and more people have begun to associate themselves with otherness. Characters that were originally made as horrific have been recreated to appeal to people who see themselves reflected in the other. The evolution of vampires, witches, yearning for tentacles, and characters such as The Phantom of the Opera, Frankenstein's creature, The Creature from the Black Lagoon, and more all reflect our innate desire to love those monsters!

Mystrade: Mycroft Holmes and Greg Lestrade in BBC Sherlock and Beyond
Exploring Mystrade over all iterations of the Sherlock Holmes universe.

Neurodiversity
Advocacy, accessibility, and stories.

90 Years of Middle-Earth
It's the 90th anniversary of The Hobbit, the public's first look at J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy world. Celebrate The Hobbit and discuss why Tolkien's Legendarium has endured.

Nobody Expected the AO3pocalpyse!
Well, we didn't see THAT coming. Talk about the reaction, the mods, the grifting, and the sudden dystopian hellscape the shutdown created. What did you expect, and what surprised you? What lessons can we take away about fic reading, writing, and appreciation?

Professor Challenger in the 20th Century
Discussing Arthur Conan Doyle's Professor Challenger novels and short stories. What might have happened if Professor Challenger and Sherlock Holmes ever met?

Project Hail Mary!
Amaze! Amaze! Amaze! From the bestselling book by Andy Weir to the blockbuster movie featuring Ryan Gosling, let's discuss the ins and outs of this instant classic, fan favorite scenes, quotes, fanfic and more.

Queering Sherlock
An exploration of queer interpretations of Sherlock Holmes stretching from the canon to contemporary adaptations. Why is this reading so common? What does it add to the story? What does it change? Note this is not an attempt to label the good detective, but an exercise in questioning why the Holmes fan community has discussed this very thing since ACD was writing and what that questioning does for the character we all know and love.

Queer Romance
Why do we love queer romance? Discussion of the reasons that even the most heteronormative of women are jumping into queer romance, from fanfiction to the Heated Rivalry obsession. Are there some downsides to the explosion in popularity?

Rank the Holmeses
Everyone in attendance will collaboratively come up with a ranking of filmed/televised adaptations of Sherlock Holmes. The tone will be lighthearted and that of a game. Come to the mic and make your arguments!

Reclaiming the Comedies
The Cook/Moore Hound of the Baskervilles. Holmes & Watson. Why do Holmes comedies get such a bad rap? Can humor and Holmes work together?

RPF (Real Person Fiction)
The nuances of writing and reading fic about real people. Discuss the limitations, what makes it fascinating, and why it could be considered taboo.

Sherlock & Co.
The fan favorite audio drama is going on for three seasons and the fanbase is still strong. Discuss your favorite episodes and minor characters (and why it's the debonair MI5 agent).

Sherlock for Kids
The Great Mouse Detective, Wishbone, Detective Pikachu. What works and what doesn't with Sherlockian adaptations or influences in children's entertainment. How do you tell detective stories for younger audiences? Where do Batman and Robin fit into all of this? What about Mystery Inc.? Does Blue's Clues count, and if so, do Steve, Joe or Josh do a good job as "Watson"?

Sherlock Holmes and Occult Detectives: Should Ghosts Apply Sometimes?
There are a lot of books and stories about Holmes and not-exactly-Holmes but wink-nudge that incorporate supernatural elements, secret occult societies, and magic in many forms. The detective story tradition that has built on the Holmes mythos is fascinating in its own right. Writers LOVE putting Holmes in occult settings, crossing over with works by authors like HP Lovecraft and Clive Barker, and sometimes making a version of Holmes into a supernatural being him/her/themselves. Let's get spooky!

Sherlock Holmes Is Everywhere!
Inspired by the Belanger Books title of the same name, let's talk about how different communities (LGBTQ+, traditionalists, neurodiverse, etc...) connect with the Holmes character.

Sherlockian History in an Hour
Sherlockiana is one of the oldest organized fandoms, stretching from the 1890s to the present day and including many colorful characters. Who was the first Sherlockian? What common fandom term originated with Sherlockians? Which U.S. President was an honorary Baker Street Irregular? Come find out the basics of the traditional Sherlockian world in this 101 about the Canon, societies, and the Great Game.

Sherlock Holmes and Vampires
Does Holmes end them, expose them as frauds, or become one of them? Let's explore all the possibilities of the great detective and the greatest monsters (or misunderstood immortals) of them all.

Sherlolly: It's Been 10 Years
It's the 10 year anniversary of The Final Problem. Our ship is still sailing after a decade - this calls for a celebration!

Should You Say That? Psych-Picking in Fic
To complement the excellent medical panel, this panel would do the same for mental health issues. We'll talk about symptoms, diagnoses, course, prognosis, and treatments, as well as whether there is such a thing as a "high-functioning sociopath."

So There Was a Horse... No, a Bridge.
What's better than talking canon with a group of Sherlockians? Talking canon while drinking with a bunch of Sherlockians! Come join this late-night round table where we drink and discuss everything in the canon. (Drinking not required.)

Stupid People Talking About Sherlock Holmes Like Idiots
Dare to be stupid! Why does every Sherlock Holmes discussion have to be knowledgeable smarties showing off their book-learning and la-tee-dah trivia? Idiots (or those who love to turn their brains down and just let the words fall out) assemble for the stupidest panel of the con!

Telegraphy in the Canon
A panel on how the communications networks appear in the canon and how they worked and changed the Victorian world.

10 Years Since the Finale
Sherlock took the world by storm in 2010. It made Martin Freeman and Benedict Cumberbatch into international sensations. Why was it such a success? What makes this adaptation the one that took off? And that took fandom by storm? Come reminisce about Sherlock as a cultural phenomenon and the foundation of our con.

The Top Twenty-Five Sherlock Holmes Novels of All Time
Join us for a fast-moving live poll as we run through the non-Canon Holmes in print. Based on a title, an author, and one line of description, rate all those books you have read, would like to read, and just had an impulsive opinion about, to create an online reading list of 221B Con suggested reading.

True Crime Pays
Over the last few years, there has been a surge in True Crime podcasts and YouTube channels. There's even been at least one TV series based around true-crime fans (Only Murders in the Building). Why is this so popular among audiences? Where do we see this trend going? Or has the true crime genre worn out its welcome?

The Universal Monster Movies
Horror classics! Let's talk about the 1930s films Dracula, Frankenstein, and many more!

Victorian Spiritualism
Doyle and his wife's fascination and involvement in the movement, and his relationship with Houdini.

A Walking Tour of the Vendor's Hall
Too shy to chat up all of those fascinating vendors at the con? Curious about how they came up with their wares, what else they might be creating, and the stories they'd tell a strolling interviewer? Join our vendor hall tour guide for a walk-through that will get you all the inside scoop on what makes our 221B Con vendors truly special!

Watson, Is That You?
A roundtable discussing how we recognize a Watson and what characteristics we expect in adaptations.

Way Down Hadestown
It's the little show that could, with a song to set the world right, from an indie production to the West End to Broadway to our own home screens. Join us to fangirl about the hit musical Hadestown! If you know the multiple versions, do you have a favorite? Which is your favorite: Broadway or West End cast? Even if you know little about it, come and find out more!

Welcome to Fogtown
Meet the creators of the show and game, and find out more about how it all came together.

Writing Sherlock Holmes
Guest Bob Greenburger leads a discussion on the challenges of writing Sherlock Holmes. How much research is necessary? Why do some characters have a much greater presence in memory than their actual appearances?

Women of the Canon
Always fashionable. Always making a scene. From Irene to Mary to the many Violets. Let's discuss the ladies of canon.

The Worst Sherlock
We love to argue about who is the best Sherlock - maybe we can agree who's the worst.

Writing Workshop: Show, Don't Tell
Practical advice and workshop on building a story based on emotion and senses rather than narration. (For all ages.)

You Named Your Fake Detective Agency "Psych"? As in "gotcha"?
Let's talk about Psych. How does it fit as a Sherlock Holmes adaptation? Who's Shawn's Moriarty? Is it Despereaux? Yang? Val Kilmer?

Young Sherlock: The Baby of the Family
Let's squee over our newest Sherlock!