

Acknowledgements

The seeds of this book were sown a few years ago when I was commissioned to write an entry on the 1939 film of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* for an encyclopaedia of 'Books into Film'. Even while writing the 3,000-word entry I realised that there was much, much more that could be said not only about that film but about the whole corpus of Holmesian adaptations in cinema and television. I started writing *Screening Sherlock* during the Great Coronavirus Lockdown of 2020 when the closure of archives and research libraries necessitated postponing the completion of another project. Other than some materials that I had already come across while researching other books, all the primary sources cited have been accessed through online and digital resources: the British Newspaper Archive (British Library), British Periodicals Online, the Entertainment Industry Magazine Archive, FIAF Databases (International Index to Film Periodicals), Gale Primary Sources and ProQuest News and Newspapers. A particular 'shout out' for the Media History Digital Archive, a marvellous collection of trade papers, fan magazines and other film periodicals hosted by the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and available freely on an Open Access basis. Indeed the process of writing this book has been a valuable experience in learning about the nature and extent of online resources for film-historical research.

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Screening Sherlock is dedicated to my father, Colin Chapman (1933–2024), whose cinephilia rubbed off on me from an early age. It was Dad who introduced me to Sherlock Holmes in the person of Basil Rathbone, who may not have been the original but is still the best. ‘Education never ends, Watson. It is a series of lessons, with the greatest for the last.’