

# Sherlock Jr.

Directed by Buster Keaton

USA 1924. 49 min. (U)

Buster Keaton, Kathryn McGuire, Joe Keaton



wimbledon  
filmclub



A film projectionist realises his dream of becoming a private detective – but doubling as the accused is one complication too many. Having found his way into the movie he is projecting, our hero frantically struggles to stay afloat amidst the swiftly-changing sequences cascading over him and strives to extricate himself from his own creation.

The seamless stunts look effortless, but one required weeks of training and took days to shoot, while another gave Keaton a broken neck. The film tricks that come thick and fast are technically so complex that a century later, fans are still puzzling them out. At the same time, some of the biggest laughs come from simple comic tropes and ideas.

Ground-breaking in its use of dream sequences, surrealism and movie-within-a-movie devices, this Pirandellian comedy anticipates the American avant-garde of the 70s and continues to influence filmmakers like Woody Allen and Wes Andersen today.

*“Come for the laughs, stay for the philosophical hall-of-mirrors.”* Keith Phipps on [thedissolve.com](http://thedissolve.com)

The WFC AGM will be held immediately after the film.

**Sherlock Jr. was selected by the Library of Congress for preservation in the United States National Film Registry as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant." The American Film Institute included the film in its list of the 100 funniest films of all time.**

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*Tear between the dotted lines below to rate the film (5\* = top score) & hand in. Please write any comments on the back of this slip.*

