

The Comedy of Crime

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Why Comedy?



Dante's *Divine Comedy* perhaps?



Or



David Marc (1984)

The TV crime drama is.....

.....a sitcom in which The Law is married to Chaos. In each episode Chaos steps out of line, but The Law whips her back into shape before the final commercial....

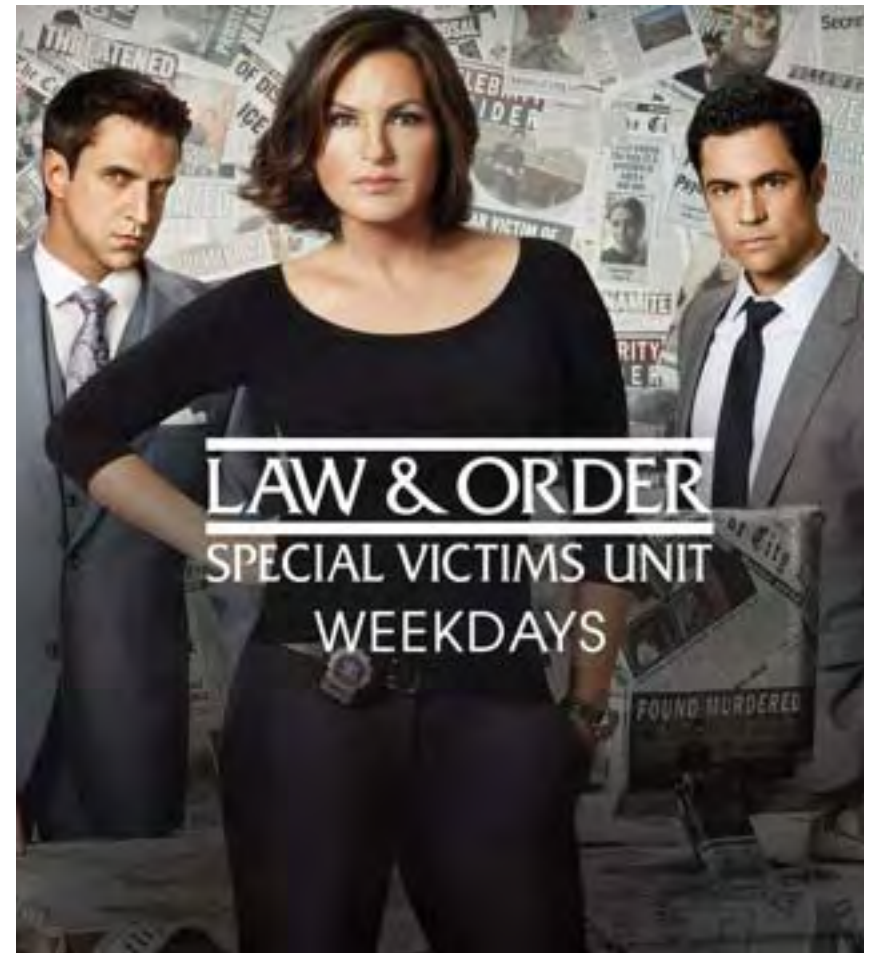
But Not Always True...



An episode...

... or storyline of a crime drama series may offer closure in terms of solving the crime

...



But...



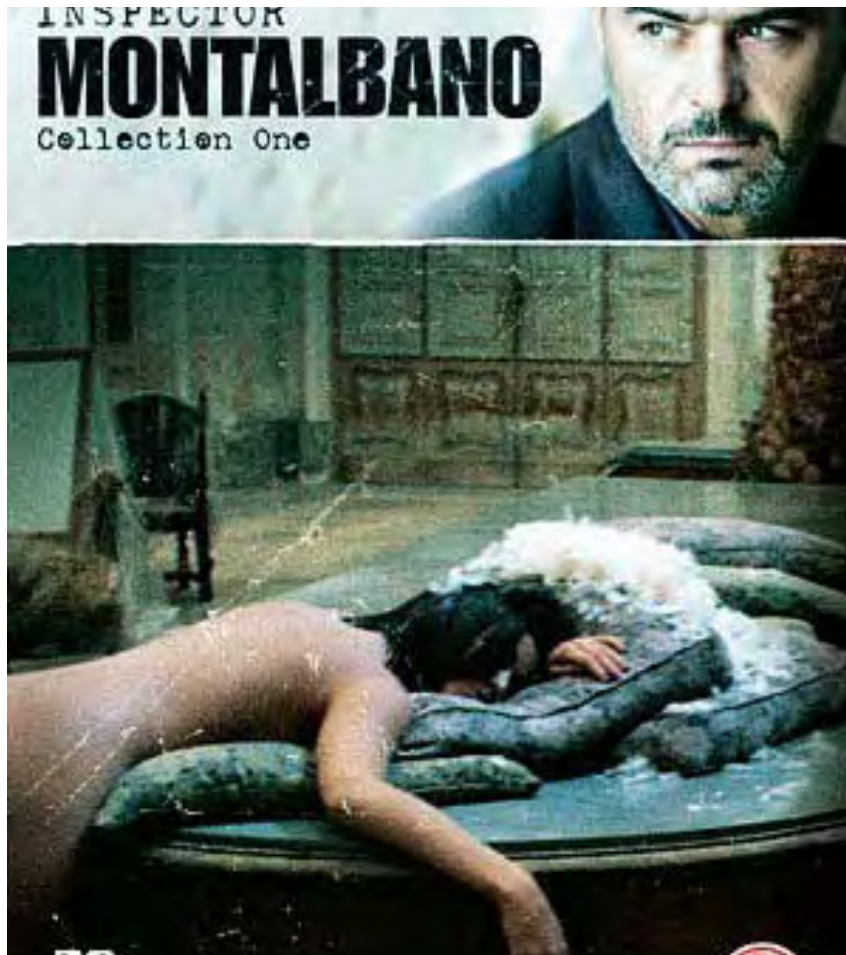
... may not offer a solution to the social or cultural problems which the crime may represent.....

Is it all about



KNOWLEDGE

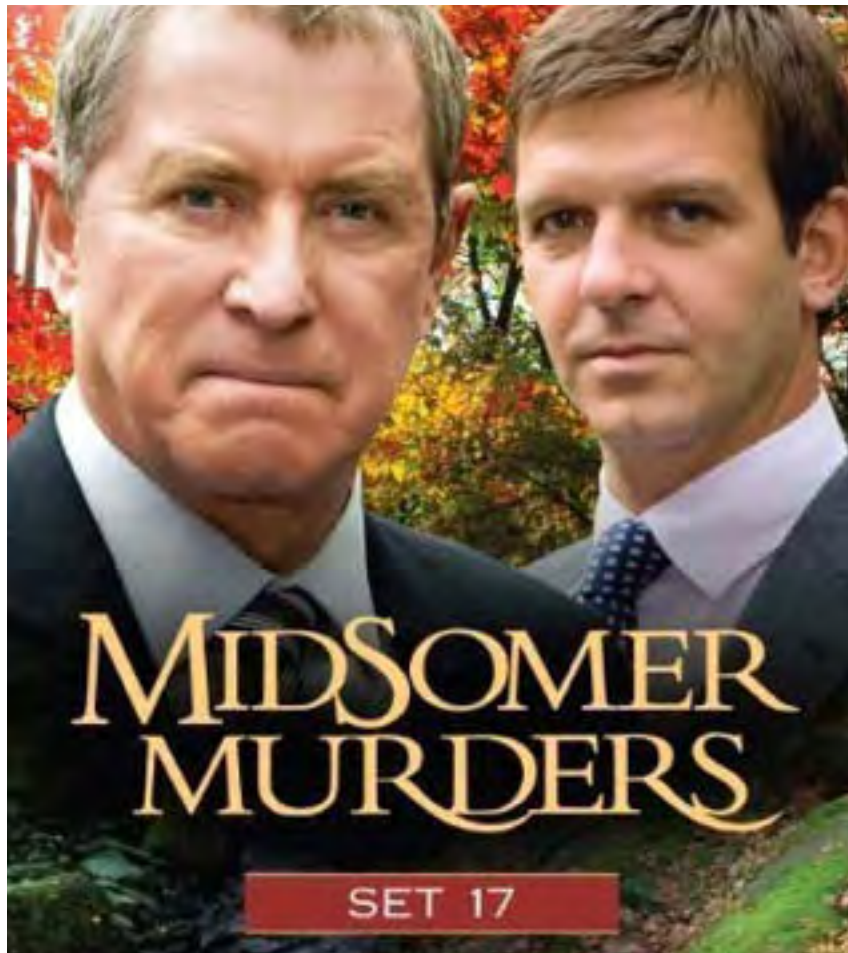
Cultural Tourism?



But..



Nostalgia



And Frocks



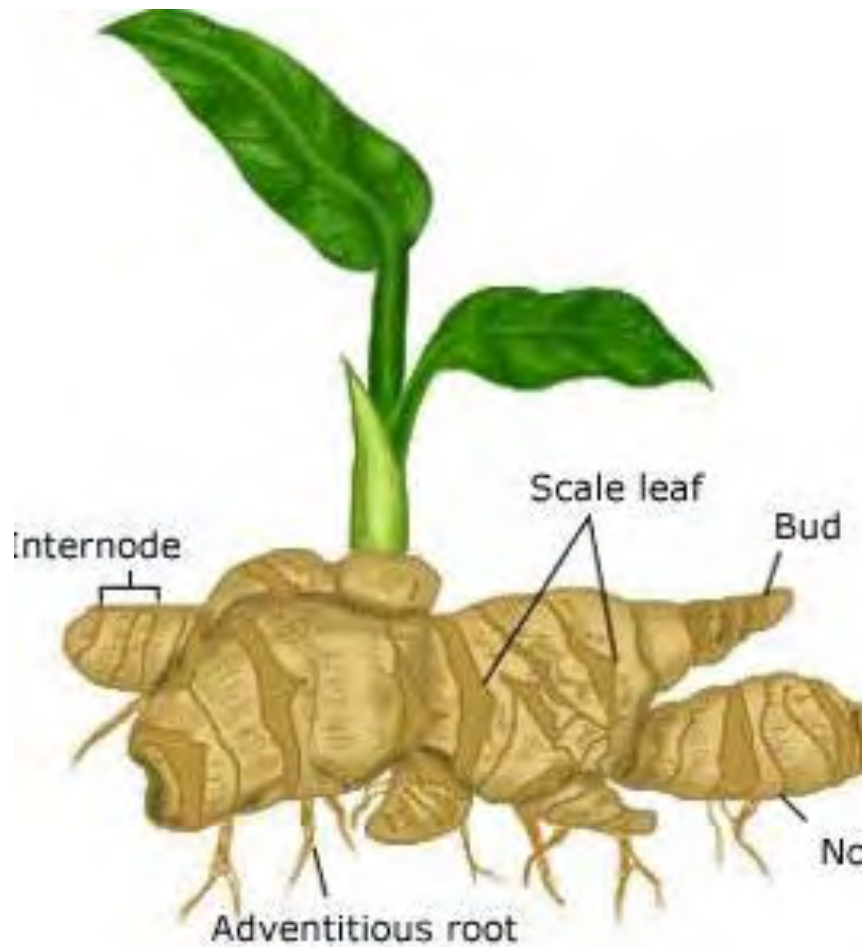
The Beginning



The Book



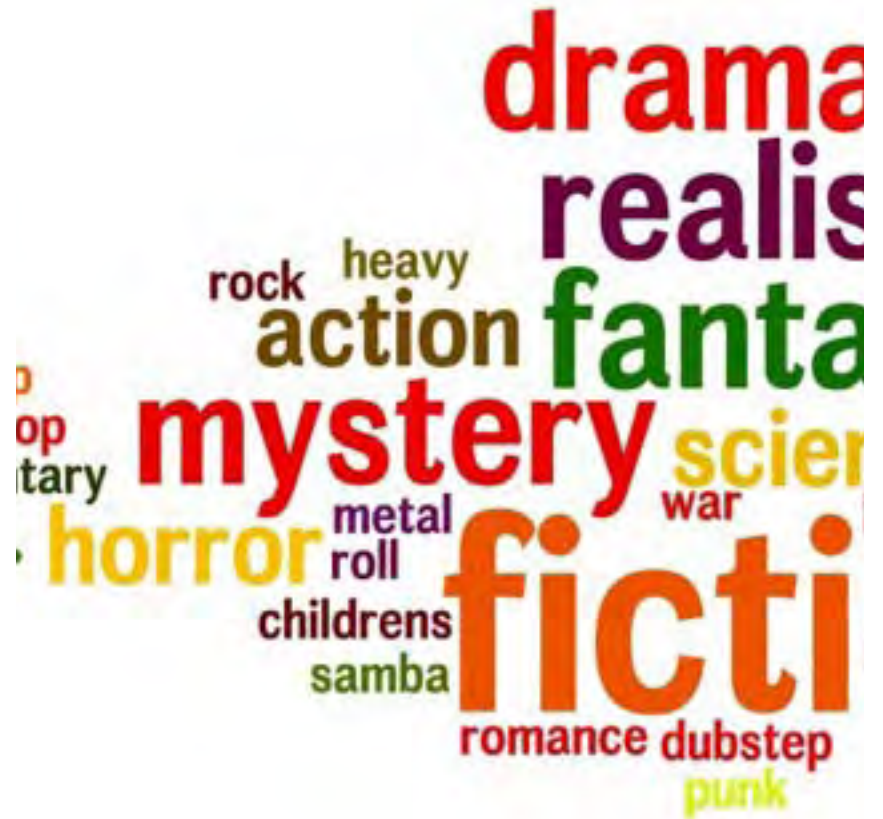
Rhizomatic roots



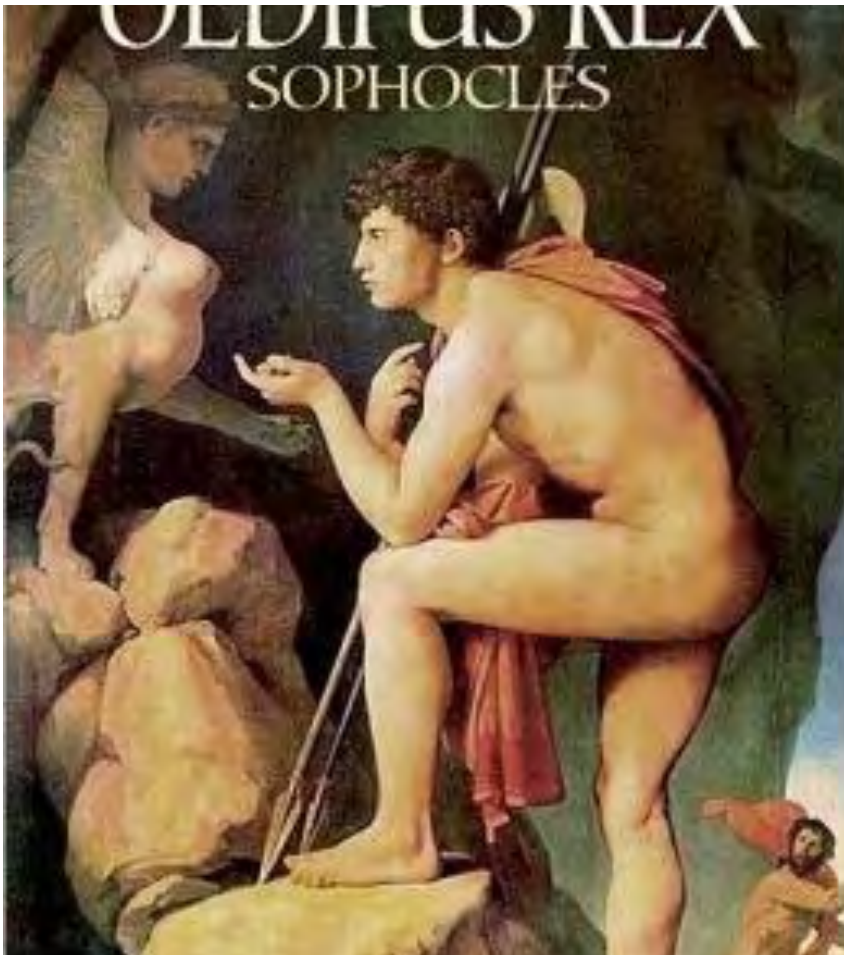
Not one point of origin
but many.....

The Promiscuous Hybridity of

The crime genre....



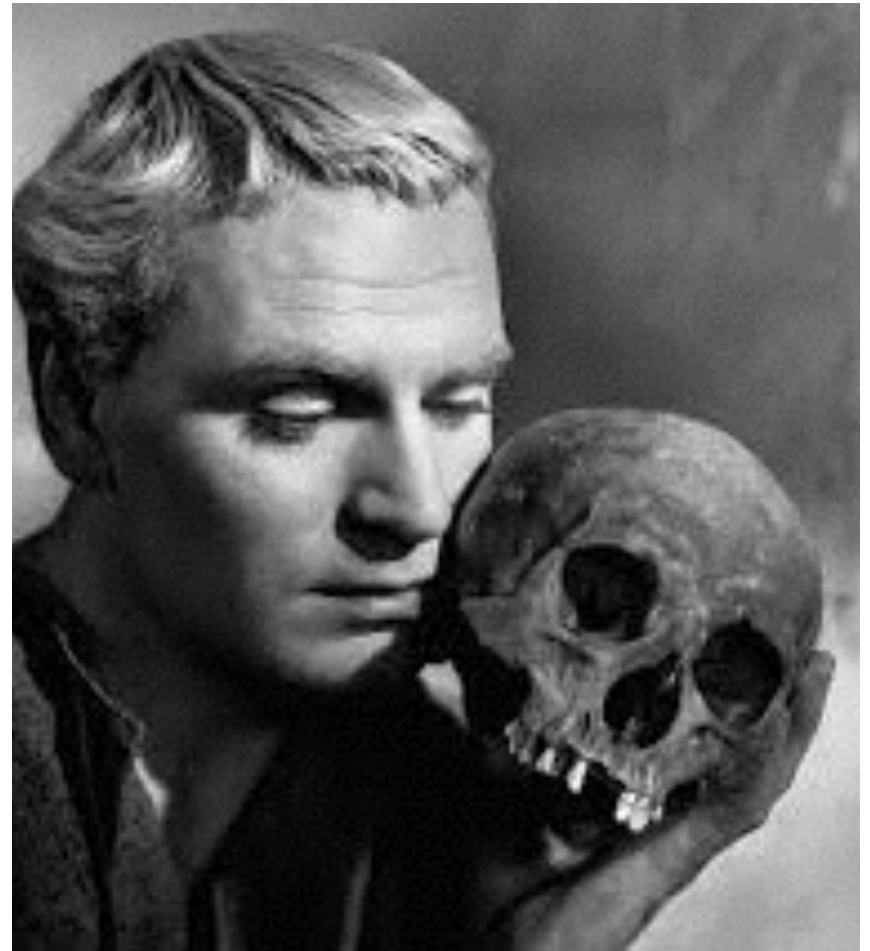
The Mythic.....



Stories of crime and punishment.....

Recurring themes...

Family discord...?



True Crime



- The Newgate Calendar
- A monthly bulletin of executions
- 1774 published as a bound volume



??d??neheC?

?hrmCm hT ?hnr?

Crime and 'Popular Culture'

- Broadsides and Penny Dreadfuls
- Music hall
- Nickolodeon
- Film
- Pulp
- Crime Fiction
- Radio



The Red Barn Murder 1827



Scene from the play of 'The Red Barn'



TEST of Several Discerning Patrons the
Honor to set down below the Words of
which have given Particular Pleasure.

"T WHIP LITTLE BEN!"
"Whip Bessie, don't whip him,
papa don't whip little Ben
and warts you to kiss him,
papa don't whip little Ben.

" ON BEAT "
"Light and day we tramp our way
Down and road, and street
Let you for us shout,
Let your lips to roust
I find us still on beat, on beat!"

"SPEAKING RACE AGAINST THE WORLD"
"Others of the self-same race,
In of the self-same tongue,
Some brave hearts that had no fears,
Fighting since of a thousand years
"What will Britain do,
To rest with banners folded?"
"Nuff! When we go to meet the foe
English-speaking race against the World."

together with the Play-Bills, etc. Decorating the
ed by MR. J. EMERSON
to express their gratitude to the Trustees of the
their assistance in helping to guarantee the
entirety in every respect.

HEATRE CLUB

Establishment, 204 Union Street, Southward.

THE ARTS THEATRE
MARIA MA
(OR THE MURDER IN THE OLD BARN)
By The Hon. ———— in Gen.

Mr. Mark Dignan
WILLIAM CORD

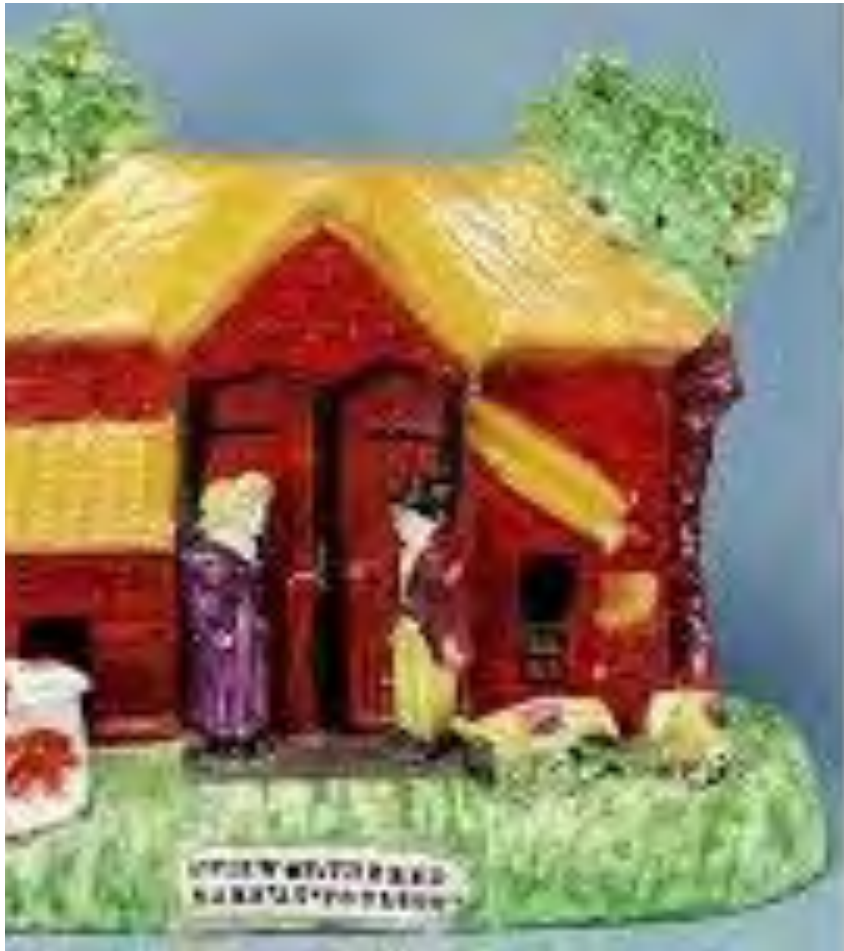
Revised and Re-acted and the Company
MR. A. CLONKS

Programme Price

Theatrical versions...



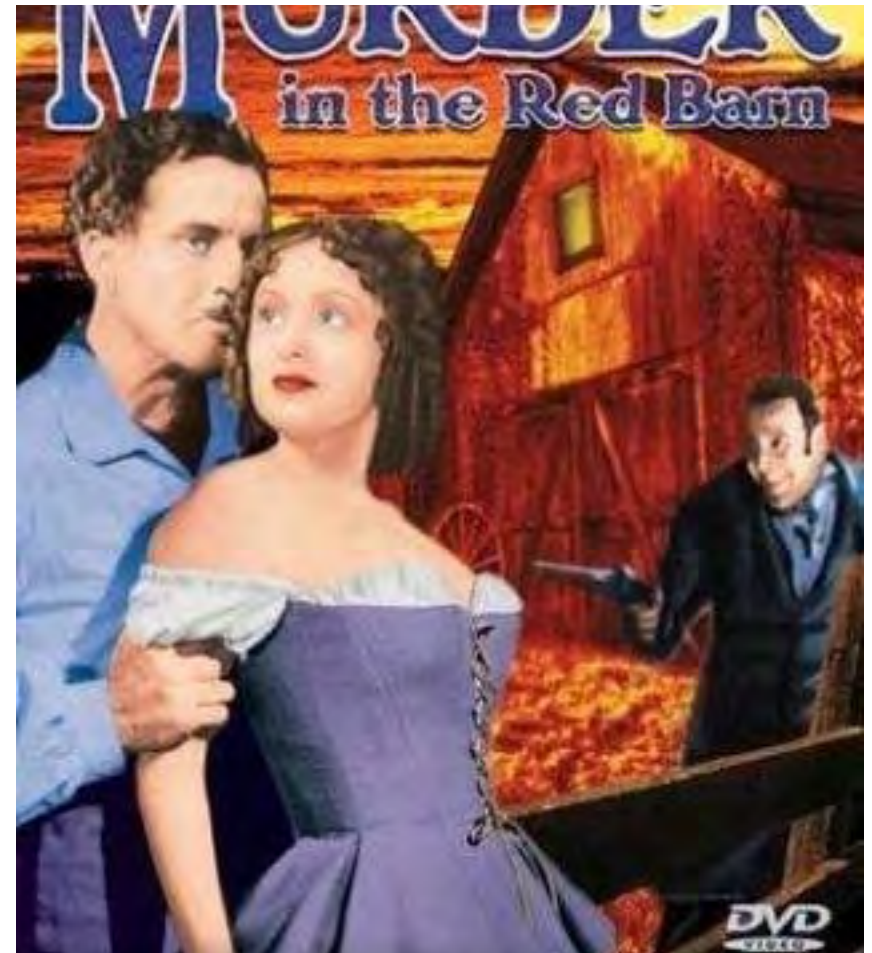
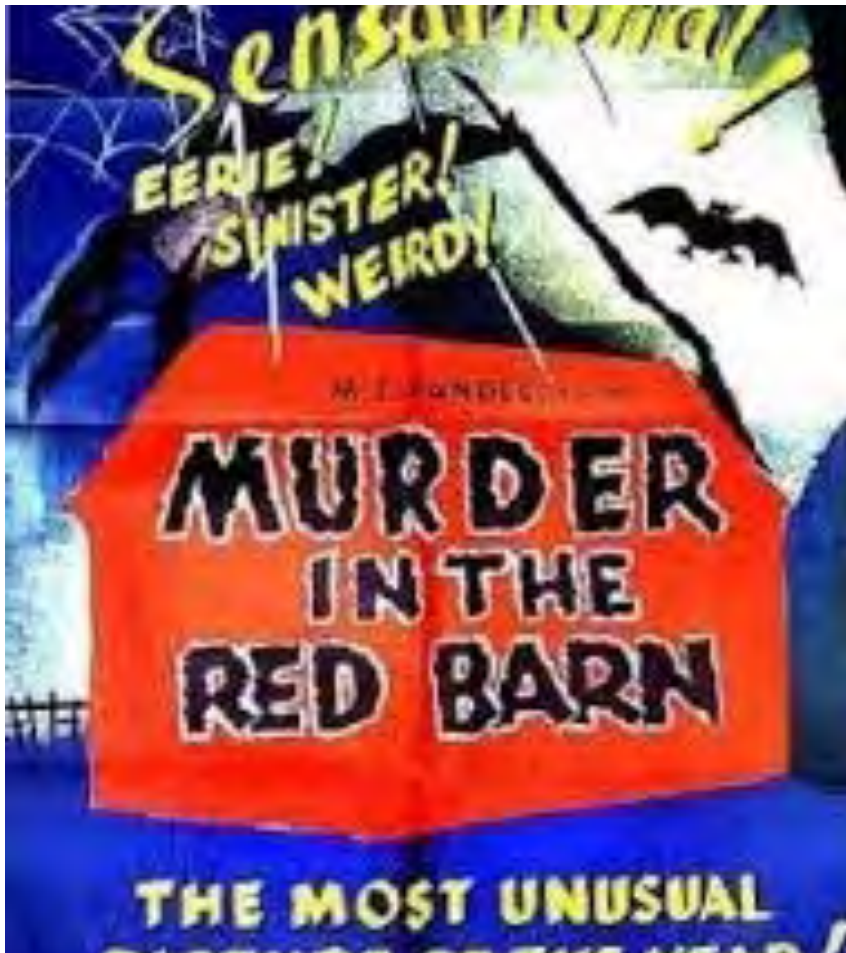
Memorabilia



Collectibles



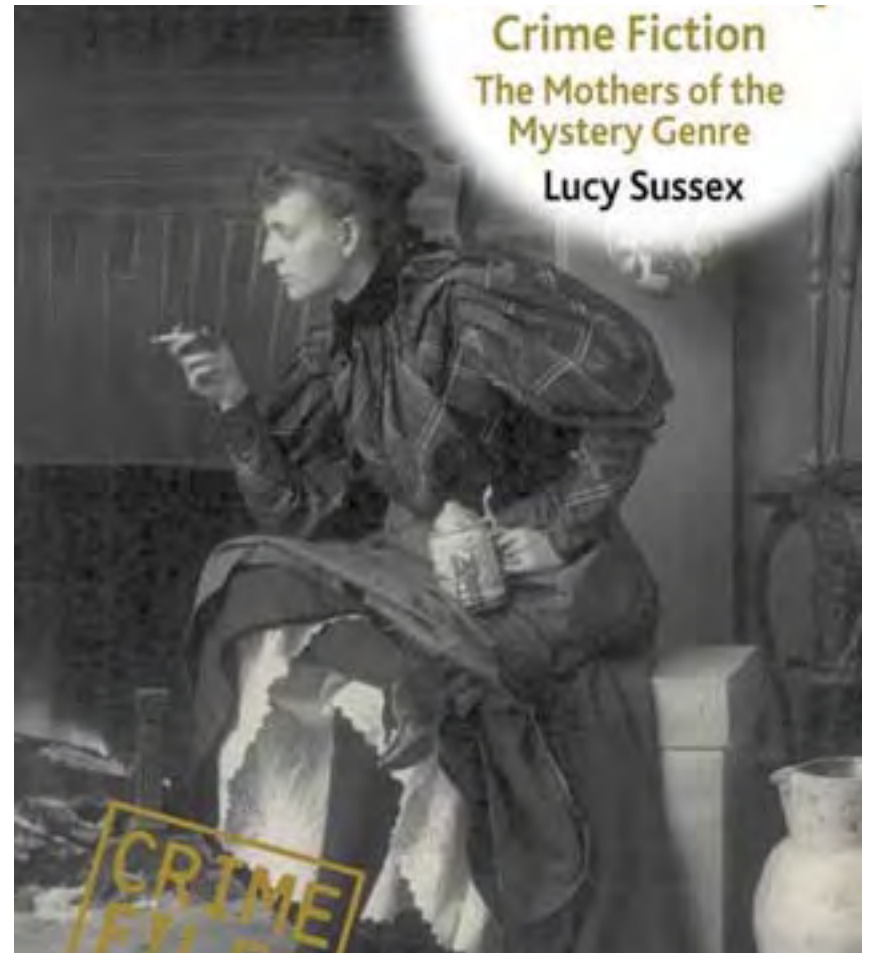
Five Films at least



And a song...



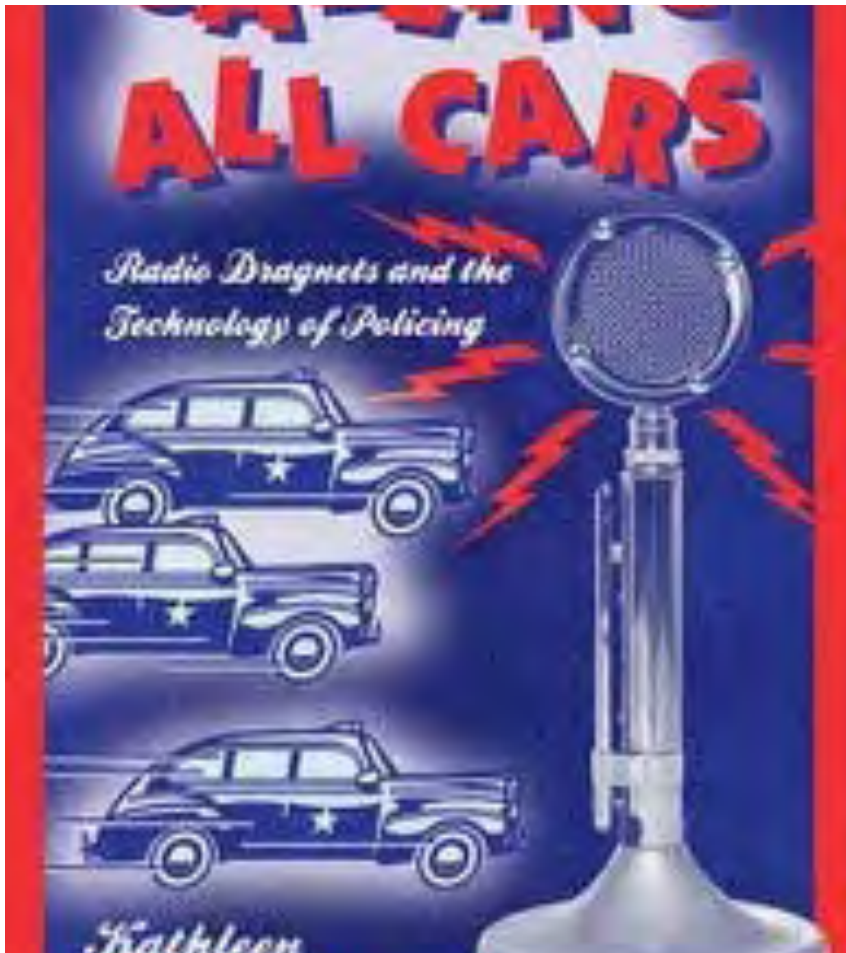
Crime Fiction



Sherlock Holmes... 1900



Radio....



Police procedurals from
G-Men to *Dragnet*

Private Eyes...



Original
Old
Radio
ON THE AIR



**Pat Novak,
For Hire**

© 1997

A composite image featuring a photograph of a man in a white shirt and tie speaking into a vintage microphone. To the right of the photo is a handgun. Below the photo, the text "Original Old Radio ON THE AIR" is written in a stylized font above a large vintage microphone. At the bottom, the name "Pat Novak, For Hire" is written in a bold, serif font. A small copyright notice "© 1997" is visible in the bottom right corner.

'He Walked by Night' 1948

Jack Webb plays a forensic investigator



Dragnet... 1949 onwards

- Police procedural
- Produced, written, directed and starring Jack Webb



The Evolution...



Common elements:

- A crime (murder)
- An investigation
- But how these events unfold may differ a great deal



As will the investigators

- The police procedural
- The 'maverick' cop
- The crime fighting duo
- The PI
- The amateur sleuth
- Crime solving animals
- Specialists
- Asperger afflicted individuals



And...



What about....





DA VINCI'S INQUEST

STATE CORONER

THE COMPLETE 1ST SERIES



Starring Wendy Hughes [*Covey*] as State coroner Kate Ferrari, and Bob Baines [*Andromeda*] as Deputy Coroner Clive Trimble, this compelling TV drama aired on prime-time TV from 1998 and tells the story of the people who conduct vital and absorbing work into the circumstances of unexplained death. Delving into the daily lives of a highly trained forensics team, employed to unravel the mystery surrounding murder, accidents and strange deaths, *STATE CORONER* traces their battles with grieving families, slow or meddling authorities, and organized crime, from the initial inquiry through to the courtroom appearances and the Coroner's final verdict. With echoes of *CSI*, this was the first Australian TV series to explore the complex world of forensic pathology and all 14 episodes of the gripping first series comes to DVD for the first time ever.

UMBRILLA ENTERTAINMENT AUSTRALIA & HARBURY WEST PRODUCTIONS PRESENT STATE CORONER
STARRING WENDY HUGHES AND BOB BAINES CHRISTOPHER STOLLER BLAIR SMITH
PRODUCED BY DAVID SMYTH WRITTEN BY DEBORAH HARRIS JOHN LUDWIG & ROBERT MURPHY
CASTING PRODUCER BRUCE GORDON & JOHN LUDWIG

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DISC SET

THE COMPLETE 1ST SERIES

STATE CORONER

4 DISC SET

STATE CORONER



BOB BAINES WENDY HUGHES

THE COMPLETE 1ST SERIES

UMBRILLA ENTERTAINMENT AUSTRALIA & HARBURY WEST PRODUCTIONS PRESENT STATE CORONER



www.umbrellaent.com.au

Recommended for mature audiences



DAVID 1124



M
Crime and accident themes, infrequent drug use







Cri
Scene
Investigation

The real hero?





Menu

HINT

Beth's Bedroom, Red Brick Condos

IGN.COM

Real Crime?



Ray Surette

- ‘Whatever the media show is the opposite of what is true.’
- In every subject category – crimes, criminals, crime fighters, the investigation of crimes, arrests, the processing and disposition of cases – the entertainment media present a world of crime and justice that is not found in reality’

True but...

The TV crime series as a form of entertainment offers us so much more than reality....

