

# Cracking the Beauty Case

Christine Blundell clues in readers on the upcoming mystery flick, *Sherlock Holmes*.

Working with one of the world's top directors and hobnobbing with Hollywood's most elite actors? It's all elementary for *Sherlock Holmes*' hair and makeup designer, Christine Blundell. *LP* sat down with the savvy North Londoner, who dishes insider scoop and demystifies a few secrets from this season's hottest film set. —Alyson Osterman

## *Sherlock Holmes* is a favorite literary character of mine! What made you choose this project?

I've always been really keen on working with Guy Ritchie, as I feel he has a very unique voice in cinema. When I heard that he was going to direct *Sherlock Holmes*, I thought: "Guy Ritchie + Victorian London + Robert Downey Jr. = I want to work on it!" I immediately called my agent and asked her to set up a meeting with the film's producers to get the job.



Lord Blackwood (Mark Strong) and Holmes



Dr. John Watson (Jude Law), Sherlock Holmes (Robert Downey Jr.) and Irene Adler (Rachel McAdams)



Hair and makeup designer Christine Blundell (right) on the set of one of her many movies

## How did you conceive the looks for each character?

I worked closely with the film's costume designer, Jenny Beavan. We created the characters' styles, then discussed our ideas with Guy, who in turn added his thoughts.

(Rachel McAdams) was a lot of fun to design. We set about making sure that she had that certain "something" that made Holmes slightly vulnerable to her, something that made her unique; she needed to be both classy and sassy!

## What were your go-to products?

I am a big fan of La Mer makeup and skin care. I also love MAC Cosmetics. For hair, I primarily use Frédéric Fekkai, Aveda, lots of L'Oréal gels and buckets of Elnett hairspray!

## Any funny stories from the set?

Robert Maillet, who plays Dredger, always kept us amused; I had to stand on a box in order to do his hair and makeup because he is so tall!

## What are your upcoming projects?

I recently finished filming *London Boulevard*, directed by William Monahan and starring Colin Farrell, Keira Knightley, David Thewlis, and Anna Friel, to name a few. It was quite a cast! And I've just started on a new project with director Mike Leigh, who I have worked with since we filmed *Life Is Sweet* together almost 20 years ago. Between films, I teach makeup and hair at my school, CB\*MA ([cbmacademy.com](http://cbmacademy.com)), in Camden Town, North London.