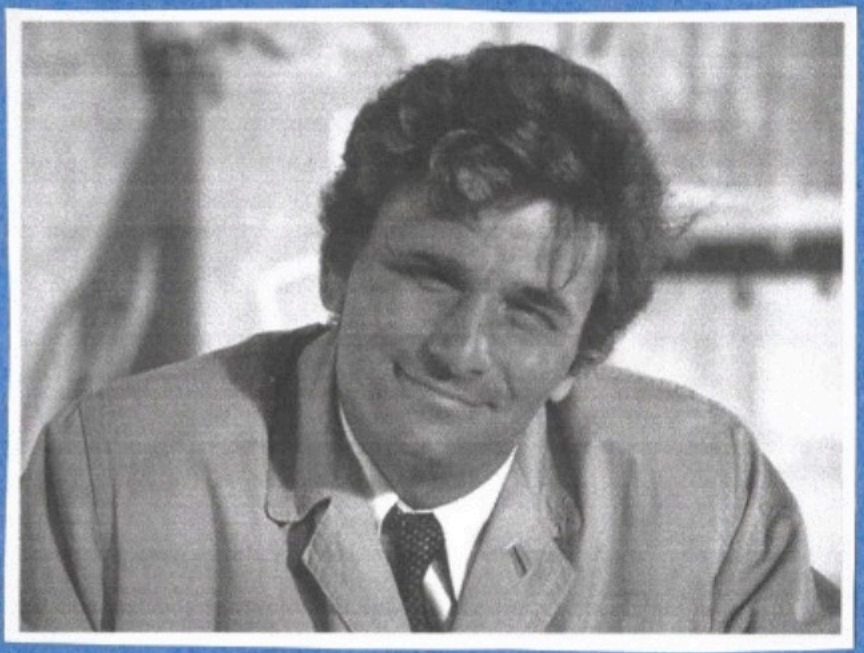
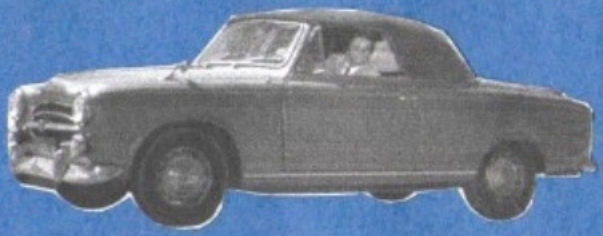
WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH



COLUMBO

By Cory Klein



The Setup

The Murder

Columbo Hits the Scene

Game of Cat and Mouse

The Gotcha!

FORMAT

Columbo's structure is unique from other murder mysteries. Firstly, the episodes are long, ranging from 70 to 98 minutes, and often don't introduce Columbo into the story for more than ten or fifteen minutes. The show isn't a "whodunit" but rather a "howcatchem", where the audience learns the identity of the murderer early in the episode, and follows the process of Columbo gathering evidence in order to catch the killer. We first are introduced to the key characters of the episode, primarily the killer and the victim, and watch the lead up, execution, and cover up of the murder. When Columbo finally shows up, he often seems to figure out the killer quite quickly, or at least has his suspicions. So instead of watching the journey of Columbo discovering the truth, we see him play a game of cat and mouse with the murderer, eventually tricking them into a confession or finding the key piece of evidence he needs to prove them guilty. And when he does, the gotcha moment that concludes the episode is something you look forward to every time you watch. While Columbo's structure is repetitive, you can rely on that familiar pattern to deliver a satisfying story over and over.

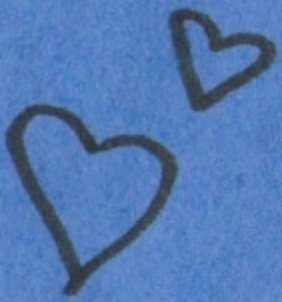
CHARACTER

The joy of Columbo is in the charm of his character and of Peter Falk's performance.



Columbo does not fit what a typical detective character looks like- he appears bumbling, bashful, and unintimidating. Because of this, he is given little respect, but Columbo recognizes that this can be used to his advantage. Nearly every killer underestimates Columbo, seeing him as more of an annoyance than a serious threat, and he understands how to use his status to his advantage and gain information. This makes him incredibly enjoyable to watch and loveable, while also being an incredibly skilled detective.

COLUMBO IS...



Observant:

Columbo is incredibly perceptive and always picking up on the little things. These seemingly irrelevant details often are what leads Columbo to solve the case.

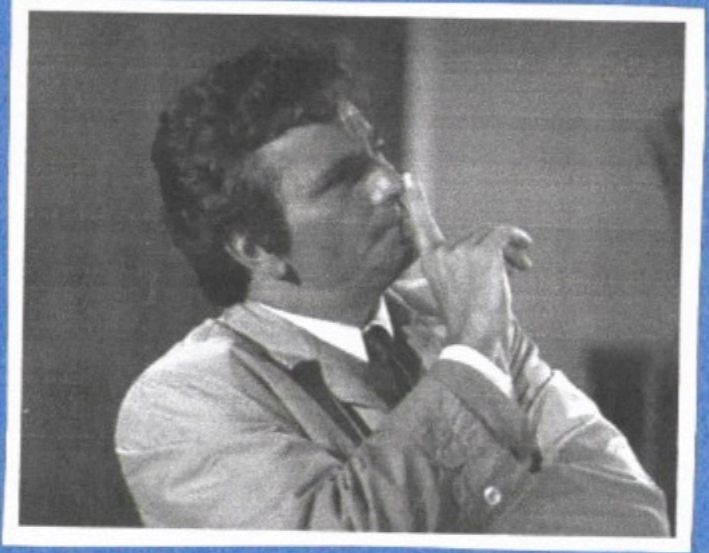
Relentless:

Columbo is hard to get rid of. He is often getting on people's nerves in the way that he seems to be unshakeable, always hanging around and asking questions, in relentless pursuit of answers.

& Socially Adept:

Rather than utilizing violence, threats, or intimidation (most of the time), Columbo flatters the suspect and seemingly harmlessly inquires about their life, presenting himself as a fool who is not picking up on anything. When the suspect lets something slip, it's often because Columbo has manipulated the situation to his advantage in this way. The combination of these three traits are what makes Columbo such an effective detective.

THE MURDERERS



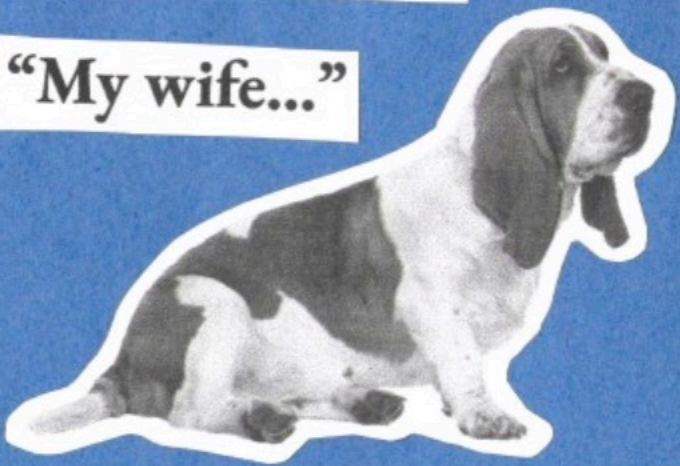
Each episode brings a different murderer with their own large personality, but they often share common themes. The subjects of the episode are most commonly wealthy and powerful, and while they have a reason to kill they are not shown as sympathetic. This plays well with Columbo who presents himself as low status in contrast. The murderers are often cocky and rude, even directly disrespectful and antagonistic to Columbo- their back and forth being one of the most enjoyable parts of the show. When he finally finds the piece of evidence he needs by the end of the episode, we get the satisfaction of the shock on the murderer's face as Columbo takes them down. And look out for some famous faces too!

THINGS TO LOOK AND LISTEN FOR

"Sorry to bother you"

"My wife..."





"Tying up loose ends"

"Can I ask you a personal question?"



"Just one more thing..."

COLUMBO BINGO

Columbo asks for a light or an ashtray	Columbo's car (Peugeot 403)	Accomplice to the murder	"I can understand that"	"Something's been bothering me"
Crime of passion	"Just one more thing"	Columbo apologizes	Murderer patronizes Columbo	Dog appears
Columbo takes 15+ minutes to arrive	Columbo points his finger	**Free Space**	Columbo smokes	Columbo eats something
Greed is a motive for the murder	Mrs. Columbo is mentioned	Murderer kills more than once	Murderer snaps at Columbo	Columbo calls murderer sir or ma'am
Columbo flatters the murderer	Columbo gets distracted	Murderer tells Columbo to go away	Premeditated murder	"Tying up loose ends"

This version of Columbo Bingo is heavily inspired by the Columbo Bingo created by Adam Davis and John Davis. I highly recommend checking it out at **columbobingo.com**! Columbo Bingo is a great way to have more fun watching Columbo and to get to know the key elements of the show.