



Log in ▾

HOME > FILM > ACTORS

Feb 24, 2022 8:10am PT

From Doctor Strange to Sherlock: Benedict Cumberbatch's 10 Best Performances

By Jenelle Riley ▾



Power of the Dog: Netflix; Doctor Strange: Marvel/Disney; Sherlock: BBC

Janelle James Grades Outfits From Abbott Elementary

There are few actors as skilled at capturing the career that's spanned stage, television and film cinematic brilliance. But that's only part of his resume: "Power of the Dog" has played a wide variety of complex characters since he was inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Feb. 28, the latest in a string of Oscar nominations. On the eve of this honor, we take a look back at his best performances.



TIPSHEET

WHAT: Benedict Cumberbatch receives a star

WHEN: 11:30 a.m., Feb. 28

WHERE: 6918 Hollywood Blvd.

WEB: walkoffame.com

Benedict Cumberbatch - Hollywood Walk of Fame



Janelle James Grades Outfits From Abbott Elementary



10**Van Gogh: Painted With Words (2010)**

Photo : Courtesy of BBC

Add Cumberbatch to the growing list of actors who have portrayed the troubled painter to great acclaim. In the documentary about the artist that utilizes re-creations drawn from Van Gogh's letters to his brother, Cumberbatch is absolutely magnetic, showing both the appeal and the cost of genius — a theme that would continue to fascinate Cumberbatch throughout his career. (*Available for rental on Amazon Prime and Britbox.*)

Janelle James Grades Outfits From Abbott Elementary



Read More About:

Benedict Cumberbatch, Doctor Strange, The Power of the Dog

COMMENTS

Want to read more articles like this one?

[SUBSCRIBE TODAY](#)

9

Star Trek Into Darkness (2013)**WEBSITE**

Photo : Courtesy of Paramount/Everett Collection

While every cast member of the franchise's 2009 reboot had to face comparisons to their predecessors, by the time its sequel rolled around Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto were just as much Kirk and Spock as the originals. So all eyes were on Cumberbatch stepping into the role of one of the series' most iconic

champions. Khan. Not only did he bring his polarizing Janelle James Grades Outfits From Abbott Elementary say Cumberbatch's steely eyes and angular fa

Kat. Human. The film at first hides his identity (as d

where, standing behind glass, Cumberbatch c I'm not sure how Third Star was left off this list when he finally announces: "My name is ... Kh

[REPLY](#))

**Julia**

I'm rather partial to his performance as a rathe brilliant! In fact the entire show is just Brilliant!!

REPLY 12 Years a Slave (2013)

Jal

February 26, 2022 at 4:36 am

I've watched almost everything he's been in. His acting is just magnetic. A favorite of mine is Patrick Melrose, and him winning the Emmy against Darren Criss that year was just appealing!!

REPLY



'Dune: Part Two' Debuts Breathtaking Trailer: Timothée Chalamet Rides Giant Sandworm, Assumes Rightful Role as Fremen Leader



Kieran Culkin on Why Roman's Wife and Kid Disappeared From 'Succession': 'They Were Towing With Roman's Sexuality'

Photo : Courtesy of Fox Searchlight/Everett Collection

Hallmark Movies & Mysteries Announces End of 'Mystery 101' Series Despite Cliffhanger, Star Kristoffer Polaha Hopes for a 'Happy Ending...'

C which is an integral part of the ensemble of Steve McQueen's Oscar-winning best picture as plantation owner William Ford, who initially purchases Solomon Northup at a slave auction. At first, Ford seems like Northup's ally — he recognizes his talents and even gifts him a violin. But when Northup expresses his desire to be free, Ford tells him, "I'm a man of my word. I'll help you if you want to help or own the company" even though it goes against his principles. It's one of the most gutting scenes of the film and an early reminder of how even a decent man will quickly choose his own interests over humanity. (Available on Hulu and HBO Max.)



Bam Margera: Pennsylvania Police Issue Arrest Warrant as 'Jackass' Star Remains Missing

'Wonka' Trailer Reveals Timothée Chalamet as Willy Wonka in Musical Take on 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' ADVERTISEMENT Janelle James Grades Outfits From Abbott Elementary

Jennifer Lawrence Lets Sex Jokes



John Stamos Had the Olsen Twins Fired From 'Full House' at 11 Months Old Due to Crying, Then Asked for Them Back: 'I Couldn't Deal With It...'

Aaron Taylor-Johnson Brings Blood-Soaked 'Kraven the Hunter' Trailer to CinemaCon, Sony's First R-Rated Marvel Movie

The Imitation Game (2014)

Harry Belafonte, Calypso King Who Worked for African American Rights, Dies at 96



Janelle James Grades Outfits From Abbott Elementary



Patrick Melrose (2018)

Fox News Breaks Up With Tucker Carlson in Surprise Exit



Photo : Courtesy of Showtime/Everett Collection

TV

Cumberbatch produced and starred in the five-episode adaptation of Edward St. "Dancing With the Stars" Judge Len Goodman Dies at 78 which landed him BAFTA Awards and Emmy nominations for lead actor and limited series, playing the title character over the course of five decades. A struggling addict, Paul is destructive and entitled but as we delve deeply into his past, Cumberbatch reveals the complexity to the character. It's a tour de force in a challenging role, and the actor's performance

(Available on Showtime and Hulu.)



Janelle James Grades Outfits From Abbott Elementary

Sign Up for

Enter your email

By subscribing, I agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy](#)





5 The Hollow Crown: Richard III (2016)

Janelle James Grades Outfits From Abbott Elementary

Photo : Courtesy of PBS/BBC/Everett Collection

It all led up to this: in the seventh and final film ~~Shakespeare's history plays, Cumberbatch takes the Bard's canon as the power-hungry king. This installment, it's "Richard III" in which we fully get asides and confessions directly to the camera. He makes a stunning villain. But Cumberbatch also gives~~



him a self-awareness and soul, particularly in the famous soliloquy: "And if I die no soul will pity me. / And wherefore should they, since that I myself / Find in myself no pity to myself?" (Available for rental on Vudu.)

MORE FROM OUR BRANDS



Nike Co-founder Phil Knight Invests \$400 Million in Portland's Albina Neighborhood

Photo: Courtesy of EBC/Everett Collection

Janelle James Grades Outfits From Abbott Elementary

Though many actors have played Arthur Conan

ha
ha
ct
20
th



SPY

TVLINE

Editor's Choice: I Purchased This TikTok-Viral Walking Pad and I Don't Regret It

ADVERTISEMENT

9-1-1: Lone Star's Gina Torres Unpacks Tommy's Scathing Sermon — Plus, Brett's Murder Mystery Is Solved!

Variety

Legal

Variety Magazine

VIP+ Account

Connect**3 Doctor Strange (2016) and What If...? (2021)**

Janelle James Grades Outfits From Abbott Elementary





Photo : Courtesy of Marvel Studios

Cumberbatch was the perfect choice to join the Marvel Cinematic Universe as Dr. Stephen Strange. He quickly takes us through the arrogant but charismatic doctor's journey as a car accident strips him of his ability to perform surgery and embodies his obsession with healing that leads to a world of sorcery and alternate dimensions. Cumberbatch employs the right amount of snark and heroism throughout all of Strange's appearances, but none of are more heartbreakingly moving than his role in an episode of the animated series titled "What If ... Doctor Strange Lost His Heart Instead of His Hands?" After witnessing the death of his love, Dr. Christine Palmer, Strange repeatedly attempts to change the future, with universe-collapsing results. Playing both Strange and his counterpart Strange Supreme and using only his voice, Cumberbatch guides us through one of the most emotional sequences in the MCU. (*Both available on Disney Plus.*)

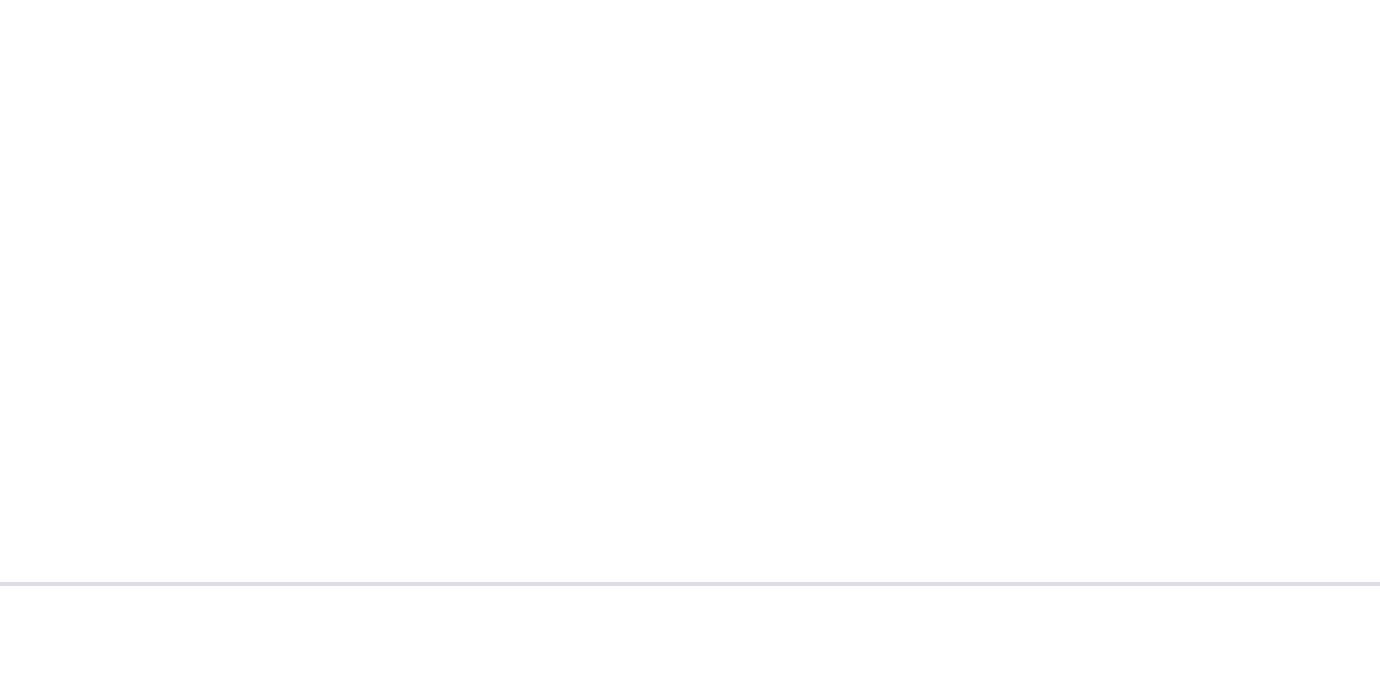
2 **Frankenstein (2011)**



Photo : Courtesy of Catherine Ashmore

Danny Boyle directed this National Theatre production of “Frankenstein,” which screened in cinemas in 2011 and can now be found online. While I’m generally not a fan of filmed plays, this production is an exception: somehow both capturing the spectacle and the intimacy of Nick Dear’s adaptation of the Mary Shelley classic. Stars Jonny Lee Miller and Cumberbatch would alternate the roles of Dr. Frankenstein and the Creature but whichever role you catch Cumberbatch in, you can’t lose. But it’s hard to top his heartbreakingly moving turn as the Creature, which opens with a nearly 10-minute “birthing” scene that is a master class in physical performance. (*Available on SchoolTube.*)

ADVERTISEMENT



1 The Power of the Dog (2021)



Photo : Courtesy of Kirsty Griffin/Netflix

Sometimes the obvious answer is also the correct answer. A bravura performance that ranks with his best, Cumberbatch went against type to play cruel, closeted cowboy Phil Burbank in Jane Campion's stunning Western, which just earned him his second Academy Award nomination. Phil does have something in common with many of Cumberbatch's roles — he's fiercely intelligent — but he masks it with a filthy appearance and chooses to use it more for cruelty than anything, particularly when playing mind games with his brother's fragile new wife. But Phil is not a complete monster, as Cumberbatch simply isn't capable of being a cardboard villain. As the film progresses, we see glimpses of humanity and begin to hope for a different outcome than what we all know will be his destiny. (*Available on Netflix.*)