

**Film blog****| Review |****Benedict Cumberbatch's impressions - review**

★★★★★

To promote new movie *The Imitation Game*, Benedict Cumberbatch was challenged to deliver 11 imitations in a minute. Guardian film critic Peter Bradshaw rates his performances

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For many actors, doing impressions is a secret skill, something you start off doing in the bathroom mirror, along with your Oscar acceptance speech. Dominic West got his gig as a Baltimore cop on *The Wire* by showing the producers his [De Niro](#). Until now, the top actor-impressionist to have come out of the closet is Bradley Cooper, whose [eerily perfect Christopher Walken](#) has been applauded on many a talk show. And Kevin Spacey is [no slouch](#) at mimicking either.

But now [Benedict Cumberbatch](#) has shown the world he can do impressions - and added another starburst to the supernova of his current celebrity heat. Under intense pressure in a video interview, he rattled off a quickfire series of imitations - in honour, naturally, of his new movie *The Imitation Game* - and did everything but include Mike Yarwood's impression of Hugh Scanlon. So here, with star-ratings, is what Benedict gave us ...

Benedict Cumberbatch's Celebrity Impressions | *The Imitation Game* | MTV After Hours



**2) Alan Rickman**

Five stars. Crushed it. Superb, faintly adenoidal drawl.

3) Sean Connery

Four stars. Very nice, subtle, didn't immediately go into the lishp.

4) Jack Nicholson

Four stars. Again very good. Not an easy voice, although Alec Baldwin is in fact the market leader with his impersonation of Nicholson's "chicken salad" speech from Five Easy Pieces.

**5) Tom Hiddleston**

Five stars. Mind-blowingly good. With the purringly subdued voice and diplomatic smile, Benedict nailed it.

6) Owen Wilson

Three stars. Not bad. Not one of Benedict's better voices but still a good approximation of the earnest Wilson frown.

7) Michael Caine

Four stars. Very good - Benedict is doing what Steve Coogan calls "young" Caine, the higher, quicker voice, as opposed to the lower, slower growl of his Nolan era.

8) Christopher Walken

One star. Blew it. Cooper still reigns supreme here.

9) Tom Hardy as Bane

Two stars. No real idea - but showed a classy refusal to do the obvious can't-make-out-what-he's-saying gag.



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10) Matthew McConaughey

Three stars. Under intense pressure, Benedict conjures an interesting impressionistic impression of Matthew's away-with-the-fairies manner.

11) Taylor Swift

Three stars. A game attempt. A request for Miley Cyrus might have allowed Benedict to twerk. This is something for his forthcoming appearance at the Bifas.

Average performance: 3.4 stars, increased to five to take account of the extreme challenge of delivering so many, so quickly.

Verdict: truly outstanding. If Benedict can add Brando, Cary Grant, Gok Wan and Leslie Grantham to the mix, he's got a very nice 20-minute act to fall back on if the movie world goes sour. And if he can do Andy Williams singing Moon River, his agent could get him a lucrative booking for next Saturday's Strictly Come Dancing.

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