

= Hemlock Hoax , the Detective =

Hemlock Hoax , the Detective is an American short comedy film produced and distributed in 1910 by the Lubin Manufacturing Company . The silent film features a detective named Hemlock Hoax who tries to solve a murder , which unbeknownst to him is a practical joke being played on him by two young boys . It was one of many shorts designed to derive its humor from a sleuth whose name was similar to Sherlock Holmes .

The character of Hemlock Hoax was based on a minor character from a film story that had been rejected . The finished film was released in April as a split reel , being presented with two other Lubin comedies . The black @-@ and @-@ white short received positive reviews with several journalists praising the film 's humor . It is unclear whether there is a surviving print of the film , and the identities of the film 's cast and crew are not recorded .

= = Plot = =

Hemlock Hoax is a detective who has little respect in the small tropical town where he lives , despite the fact that he thinks he is a better sleuth than Sherlock Holmes . A pair of boys decide to play a trick on Hoax and tell him about a murder . Hoax rushes to scene of the crime where he discovers a shred of cloth , later finding that a tramp is wearing the same type of clothes that he found . The tramp runs away and Hoax gives chase , with other people helping the pursuit . Eventually , Hoax captures the tramp with the aid of a police officer , and returns to the victim 's body with the man . Hoax then comes to a realization that the body was just a dummy that had been stuffed with the leaves . The crowd has a laugh at Hoax 's expense while the two boys are punished .

= = Production = =

Hemlock Hoax , the Detective was produced by the Lubin Manufacturing Company , a company founded by German @-@ American film pioneer Siegmund Lubin . It was known for producing films that were similar to others successful at the time . Author Ron Haydock wrote in his book *Holmes and Watson On Screen* that Hemlock Hoax " was another in the long and ever @-@ growing line of comedies that were having fun with sleuths whose names were similar to [Sherlock] Holmes " .

The featured character of Hemlock Hoax had originally been a minor character in a film story that had been rejected before he appeared in Hemlock Hoax , the Detective . It is a silent film and was filmed in black @-@ and @-@ white , and the finished product comprised 232 feet (71 m) of film . The identities of the cast and crew are not recorded .

= = Release and reception = =

Hemlock Hoax , the Detective was released on April 11 , 1910 , being distributed by the Lubin Manufacturing Company . Advertising touted the film as " a roaring comedy that cannot but be funny . " The film was a split @-@ reeler , and was presented alongside the Lubin comedies *Jones ' Watch* , about a man who believes his watch has been robbed , and *The Fisherman 's Luck* , centering on a fisherman who causes mischief while at the lake one day .

Hemlock Hoax , the Detective received positive reviews upon release . An article in film journal *The Moving Picture World* written by an unnamed journalist opined that the fact that the films only totaled up to 990 feet (300 m) and yet had " three strong comedy subjects on the same reel " was notable . The reviewer wrote that " the three topics are so entirely different that there is no confliction and the reel is one of the best comedy offerings in a long time . "

Another *Moving Picture World* reviewer wrote positively of the film , opining " the acting is clever , developing many amusing features as it proceeds . To see a detective hunting clues with a magnifying glass is funny indeed . " A May review in Indiana newspaper *The Huntington Herald* described the film positively as " a comical detective picture full of exciting situations " .

A review in Connecticut newspaper The New London Day lauded the three films , writing that the pictures were " a trio of laugh provokers . " Hemlock Hoax , the Detective was still being screened as late as October 1911 . As of October 2009 , it is unclear whether there is a surviving print of Hemlock Hoax , the Detective ; it has likely become a lost film . If rediscovered , the film would be in the public domain .