[Template:Distinguish2](/wiki/Template:Distinguish2" \o "Template:Distinguish2) [Template:About](/wiki/Template:About) [Template:Infobox television](/wiki/Template:Infobox_television) ***Columbo*** is an American television series starring [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) as [Columbo](/wiki/Columbo_(character)), a homicide detective with the [Los Angeles Police Department](/wiki/Los_Angeles_Police_Department).[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) The character and show, created by [William Link](/wiki/William_Link) and [Richard Levinson](/wiki/Richard_Levinson), popularized the [inverted detective story](/wiki/Inverted_detective_story) format, which begins by showing the commission of the crime and its perpetrator; the series therefore has no "[whodunit](/wiki/Whodunit)" element. The plot revolves around how a perpetrator whose identity is already known to the audience will finally be caught and exposed (which the show's writers called a "howcatchem", rather than a "whodunit").

Columbo is a friendly, verbose, working-class, disheveled police detective of Italian descent, whose trademarks include wearing a rumpled, beige raincoat over his suit, and smoking a cigar. He is consistently underestimated by his suspects, who are initially reassured and distracted by his [circumstantial speech](/wiki/Circumstantial_speech), then increasingly annoyed by his pestering behavior. Despite his unassuming appearance and apparent absentmindedness, he is extremely intelligent and shrewdly solves all of his cases and secures all evidence needed for a conviction. His formidable eye for detail and relentlessly dedicated approach, often become clear to the killer (and even the viewer) only late in the story line.

The episodes are all movie-length, between 73 and 100 minutes long, and have been broadcast in forty-four countries. In 1997, "Murder by the Book", directed by [Steven Spielberg](/wiki/Steven_Spielberg), was ranked No. 16 on [*TV Guide*](/wiki/TV_Guide)***s*** [***100 Greatest Episodes of All Time***](/wiki/100_Greatest_Episodes_of_All_Time)[***[3]***](#cite_note-3) ***and in 1999, the magazine ranked Lt. Columbo No. 7 on its 50 Greatest TV Characters of All Time list.***[***[4]***](#cite_note-4)[***[5]***](#cite_note-5) ***In 2012, the program was chosen as the third-best cop or legal show on*** [***Best in TV: The Greatest TV Shows of Our Time***](/wiki/Best_in_TV:_The_Greatest_TV_Shows_of_Our_Time)***.***[***[6]***](#cite_note-6) ***In 2013, TV Guide included it in its list of The 60 Greatest Dramas of All Time***[***[7]***](#cite_note-7) ***and ranked it at #33 on its list of the 60 Best Series.***[***[8]***](#cite_note-8) ***Also in 2013, the Writers Guild of America ranked it No. 57 in the list of 101 Best Written TV Series.***[***[9]***](#cite_note-9)[***Template:TOC limit***](/wiki/Template:TOC_limit)

## Contents

* 1 Series format[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
* 2 Development and character profile[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
* 3 Seasons and broadcast history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 3.1 DVD releases[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
  + 3.2 Blu-ray release[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
  + 3.3 Other media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
* 4 Contributors[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
  + 4.1 Directors and writers[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]
  + 4.2 Score composers[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]
* 5 Awards and nominations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]
* 6 Other appearances[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]
  + 6.1 Film[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]
  + 6.2 Stage[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]
  + 6.3 Television[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]
  + 6.4 Books[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]
  + 6.5 Sculpture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]
  + 6.6 Podcast[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]
* 7 ''Mrs. Columbo'' spin-off[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]
* 8 See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]
* 9 References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]
* 10 External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

## Series format[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Peter_Falk_Richard_Kiley_Colombo_1974.JPG)[Richard Kiley](/wiki/Richard_Kiley) and [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) in [Season 3](/wiki/Columbo_(season_3)) Episode 8 titled "A Friend in Deed" that aired on May 5, 1974 In almost every episode the audience sees the crime unfold at the beginning and knows the identity of the culprit, typically an affluent member of society. Once Columbo enters the story, viewers watch him solve the case by sifting through the contradictions between the truth and the version presented to him by the killer. This style of mystery is sometimes referred to as a "[howcatchem](/wiki/Inverted_detective_story)", in contrast to the traditional [whodunit](/wiki/Whodunit).

Episodes tend to be driven by their characters, the audience observing the criminal's reaction to Columbo's increasingly intrusive presence. In some cases, the killer's arrogance and dismissive attitude allow Columbo to manipulate his suspects into self-incrimination. While details of the murderer's actions are shown to the viewer, Columbo's true thoughts and intentions are almost never revealed until near the end of the episode. Columbo generally maintains a friendly relationship with the murderer until the end. The point at which the detective first begins to suspect the murderer is generally not revealed, leaving the true motivations for his actions for the viewer to decide. In some instances, such as [Ruth Gordon's](/wiki/Ruth_Gordon) avenging mystery writer in "Try and Catch Me", [Faye Dunaway's](/wiki/Faye_Dunaway) mother avenging her abused daughter in "It's All in the Game," [Janet Leigh's](/wiki/Janet_Leigh) terminally ill actress in "Forgotten Lady", or [Donald Pleasence's](/wiki/Donald_Pleasence) [vintner](/wiki/Vintner) in "Any Old Port in a Storm", the killer is more sympathetic than the victim or victims.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Each case is generally concluded in a similar style, with Columbo dropping any pretense of uncertainty, and sharing details of his conclusion of the killer's guilt. Following the killer's reaction, the episode generally ends, with the killer confessing or going quietly and no following or concluding scenes.

There are few attempts to deceive the viewer or provide a twist in the tale. One exception is "Last Salute to the Commodore", where [Robert Vaughn](/wiki/Robert_Vaughn) is seen elaborately disposing of a body, but is proved later to be covering for his alcoholic wife, who he mistakenly thought to be the murderer.[[11]](#cite_note-11)

## Development and character profile[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Case_Study_House_No._22.JPG) [*Stahl House*](/wiki/Stahl_House) served as the filming location of the first Columbo pilot "Prescription: Murder" The character of Columbo was created by [William Link](/wiki/William_Link), who said that Columbo was partially inspired by the [*Crime and Punishment*](/wiki/Crime_and_Punishment) character Porfiry Petrovich as well as [G. K. Chesterton's](/wiki/G._K._Chesterton) humble cleric-detective [Father Brown](/wiki/Father_Brown). Other sources claim Columbo's character is also influenced by Inspector Fichet from the French suspense-thriller film [*Les Diaboliques*](/wiki/Les_Diaboliques_(film)) (1955).[[12]](#cite_note-12) The character first appeared in a 1960 episode of the television-anthology series *The Chevy Mystery Show*, titled "Enough Rope". This was adapted by Levinson and Link from their short story "May I Come In", which had been published as "Dear Corpus Delicti" in an issue of [*Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*](/wiki/Alfred_Hitchcock's_Mystery_Magazine). The short story did not include Columbo as a character.[[13]](#cite_note-13) The first actor to portray Columbo, character actor [Bert Freed](/wiki/Bert_Freed), was a stocky character actor with a thatch of grey hair. Freed's Columbo wore a rumpled suit and smoked a cigar, but he otherwise had few of the other now-familiar Columbo mannerisms. However, the character is still recognizably Columbo, and uses some of the same methods of misdirecting and distracting his suspects. During the course of the show, the increasingly frightened murderer brings pressure from the district attorney's office to have Columbo taken off the case, but the detective fights back with his own contacts. Although Freed received third billing, he wound up with almost as much screen time as the killer and appeared immediately after the first commercial. This delayed entry of the character into the narrative of the screen play became a defining characteristic of the structure of the Columbo series. This teleplay is available for viewing in the archives of the [Paley Center for Media](/wiki/Paley_Center_for_Media) in New York City and Los Angeles.

Levinson and Link then adapted the TV drama into the stage play *Prescription: Murder.* This was first performed at the Curran Theatre in San Francisco on January 2, 1962, with [Oscar](/wiki/Academy_Award_for_Best_Supporting_Actor)-winning character actor [Thomas Mitchell](/wiki/Thomas_Mitchell_(actor)) in the role of Columbo. Mitchell was 70 years old at the time. The stage production starred [Joseph Cotten](/wiki/Joseph_Cotten) as the murderer and [Agnes Moorehead](/wiki/Agnes_Moorehead) as the victim. Mitchell died of cancer while the play was touring in out-of-town tryouts; Columbo was his last role.

[right|thumb|300px|](/wiki/File:NBC_Mystery_Movie_stars_1975_cropped.jpg)[*The NBC Mystery Movie*](/wiki/The_NBC_Mystery_Movie) program worked on a rotating basis – one per month from each of its shows. Top left: [Dennis Weaver](/wiki/Dennis_Weaver) in [*McCloud*](/wiki/McCloud_(TV_series)). Top right: [Richard Boone](/wiki/Richard_Boone) in [*Hec Ramsey*](/wiki/Hec_Ramsey). Bottom left: [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) in *Columbo*. Bottom right: [Rock Hudson](/wiki/Rock_Hudson) in [*McMillan & Wife*](/wiki/McMillan_&_Wife) In 1968, the same play was made into a two-hour television movie that aired on NBC. The writers suggested [Lee J. Cobb](/wiki/Lee_J._Cobb) and [Bing Crosby](/wiki/Bing_Crosby) for the role of Columbo, but Cobb was unavailable and Crosby turned it down because he felt it would take too much time away from the golf links. Director Richard Irving convinced Levinson and Link that Falk, who wanted the role, could pull it off even though he was much younger than the writers had in mind.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Originally a one-off TV-Movie-of-the-Week, *Prescription: Murder* has Falk's Columbo pitted against a psychiatrist ([Gene Barry](/wiki/Gene_Barry)). Due to the success of this film, NBC requested that a pilot for a potential series be made to see if the character could be sustained on a regular basis, leading to the 1971 hour and a half film, *Ransom for a Dead Man*, with [Lee Grant](/wiki/Lee_Grant) playing the killer. The popularity of the second film prompted the creation of a regular series on NBC, that premiered in the fall of 1971 as part of [*The NBC Mystery Movie*](/wiki/The_NBC_Mystery_Movie) [wheel series](/wiki/Wheel_series) rotation: [*McCloud*](/wiki/McCloud_(TV_series)), [*McMillan & Wife*](/wiki/McMillan_&_Wife), and other [whodunits](/wiki/Whodunit). According to *TV Guide*, the original plan was that a new *Columbo* episode would air every week, but as a motion picture star, Peter Falk refused to commit to such an arduous schedule, which would have meant shooting an episode every five days. The network arranged for the *Columbo* segments to air once a month on Wednesday nights. The high quality of *Columbo*, *McMillan & Wife*, and *McCloud* was due in large part to the extra time spent on each episode. The term [*wheel show*](/wiki/Wheel_series) was coined to describe this format, and additional such series were attempted by NBC, but the astounding success of *The NBC Mystery Movie* series was not repeated, and the term is now considered[Template:Who](/wiki/Template:Who) archaic.

*Columbo* was an immediate hit in the [Nielsen ratings](/wiki/Nielsen_ratings) and Falk won an [Emmy Award](/wiki/Emmy_Award) for his role in the show's first season. In its second year the *Mystery Movie* series was moved to Sunday nights, where it then remained during its seven-season run. The show became the anchor of NBC's Sunday night line up. *Columbo* aired regularly from 1971–78 on NBC. After its cancellation by NBC in 1978 *Columbo* was revived on [ABC](/wiki/American_Broadcasting_Company) between 1989 and 2003 in several new seasons and a few made-for-TV movie "specials".[[15]](#cite_note-15) Columbo's wardrobe was personally provided by Peter Falk; they were his own clothes, including the high-topped shoes and the shabby raincoat, which made its first appearance in *Prescription: Murder*. Falk would often [ad lib](/wiki/Ad_libitum) his character's idiosyncrasies (fumbling through his pockets for a piece of evidence and discovering a grocery list, asking to borrow a pencil, becoming distracted by something irrelevant in the room at a dramatic point in a conversation with a suspect, etc.), inserting these into his performance as a way to keep his fellow actors off-balance. He felt it helped to make their confused and impatient reactions to Columbo's antics more genuine.<ref name=JustOneMoreThing>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

A few years prior to his death, Falk had expressed interest in returning to the role. In 2007 he claimed he had chosen a script for one last Columbo episode, "Columbo: Hear No Evil". The script was renamed "Columbo's Last Case". ABC declined the project. In response, producers for the series announced that they were attempting to shop the project to foreign production companies.[[16]](#cite_note-16)[[17]](#cite_note-17) However, Falk was diagnosed with [dementia](/wiki/Dementia) in late 2007.[[18]](#cite_note-18) During a 2009 court trial over Falk's care, Dr Stephen Read stated that the actor's condition had deteriorated so badly that Falk could no longer remember playing a character named Columbo, nor could he identify who Columbo was.[[18]](#cite_note-18) Falk died on June 23, 2011, aged 83.[[19]](#cite_note-19)[[20]](#cite_note-20)[[21]](#cite_note-21)

## Seasons and broadcast history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) After two pilot episodes, the show originally aired on [NBC](/wiki/NBC) from 1971 to 1978 as one of the rotating programs of [*The NBC Mystery Movie*](/wiki/The_NBC_Mystery_Movie). *Columbo* then aired more infrequently on [ABC](/wiki/American_Broadcasting_Company) beginning in 1989 under the umbrella of *The ABC Mystery Movie*.[[22]](#cite_note-22) The last film was broadcast in 2003 as part of *ABC Thursday Night at the Movies*.[[23]](#cite_note-23) See [List of Columbo episodes](/wiki/List_of_Columbo_episodes) for more details. Since 2011, reruns of *Columbo* have aired on [Me-TV](/wiki/Me-TV); the series currently airs Sunday nights and as part of the nightly "MeTV Mystery Movie" block, which features *Columbo* and four other film series rotating in the slot from week to week. The series also airs weekday mornings on the [Hallmark Channel](/wiki/Hallmark_Channel).[[24]](#cite_note-24)

### DVD releases[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

As of January 10, 2012, [Universal Studios Home Entertainment](/wiki/Universal_Studios_Home_Entertainment) had released all 69 episodes of *Columbo* on DVD.[[DVD 1]](#cite_note-25) The episodes are released in the same chronological order as they were originally broadcast. On October 16, 2012, Universal released *Columbo — The Complete Series* on DVD in Region 1.[[25]](#cite_note-26) Because the *Columbo* episodes from 1989 to 2003 were aired very infrequently, different DVD sets have been released around the world. In many [Region 2 and Region 4](/wiki/DVD_region_code) countries, all episodes have now been released as ten seasons, with the tenth season covering the last 14 shows from "Columbo Goes to College" (1990) to the most recent "Columbo Likes the Nightlife" (2003). However, in France, and The Netherlands (also Region 2), the DVDs were grouped differently and released as twelve seasons.

In [Region 1](/wiki/DVD_region_code), all episodes from seasons 8 are grouped differently; all the episodes that were originally aired on [ABC](/wiki/American_Broadcasting_Company) were released under the title *COLUMBO: The Mystery Movie Collection*. Many other sites such as [IMDb](/wiki/IMDb), had grouped the *Columbo* episodes into 13 seasons.[[DVD 2]](#cite_note-27) To avoid confusion, all episodes here will be arranged as it is in the [R2/R4](/wiki/DVD_region_code) release and only episode name will be referred in this article.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Season** | | **#Ep** | **Year** | **DVD release** | | | | |
| **DVD name** | **Ep#** | [**Region 1**](/wiki/DVD_region_code) | [**Region 2**](/wiki/DVD_region_code) | [**Region 4**](/wiki/DVD_region_code) |
|  | [**Pilots**](/wiki/List_of_Columbo_episodes#Pilots) | 2 | 1968–1971 | The Complete First Season | 1~9 | September 7, 2004[[DVD 3]](#cite_note-28) | September 13, 2004[[DVD 3]](#cite_note-28) | December 3, 2004[[DVD 3]](#cite_note-28) |
|  | [**1**](/wiki/List_of_Columbo_episodes#Season_1) | 7 | 1971–1972 |
|  | [**2**](/wiki/List_of_Columbo_episodes#Season_2) | 8 | 1972–1973 | The Complete Second Season | 10~17 | March 8, 2005 | July 18, 2005 | July 13, 2005 |
|  | [**3**](/wiki/List_of_Columbo_episodes#Season_3) | 8 | 1973–1974 | The Complete Third Season | 18~25 | August 9, 2005 | November 14, 2005 | July 20, 2006 |
|  | [**4**](/wiki/List_of_Columbo_episodes#Season_4) | 6 | 1974–1975 | The Complete Fourth Season | 26~31 | March 14, 2006 | September 18, 2006 | September 19, 2006 |
|  | [**5**](/wiki/List_of_Columbo_episodes#Season_5) | 6 | 1975–1976 | The Complete Fifth Season | 32~37 | June 27, 2006 | February 12, 2007 | Unknown 2007 |
|  | [**6**](/wiki/List_of_Columbo_episodes#Season_6) | 3 | 1976–1977 | The Complete Sixth & Seventh Seasons | 38~45 | November 21, 2006[[DVD 4]](#cite_note-29) | April 30, 2007[[DVD 4]](#cite_note-29) | May 2, 2007[[DVD 4]](#cite_note-29) |
|  | [**7**](/wiki/List_of_Columbo_episodes#Season_7) | 5 | 1977–1978 |
|  | [**8**](/wiki/List_of_Columbo_episodes#Season_8) | 4 | 1989 | The Complete Eighth Season (R2) | 46~49 | N/A | March 31, 2008 | N/A |
|  | [**9**](/wiki/List_of_Columbo_episodes#Season_9) | 6 | 1989–1990 | The Complete Ninth Season (R2/R4) | 50~55 | N/A | March 30, 2009 | May 6, 2009 |
|  | [**10 and Specials**](/wiki/List_of_Columbo_episodes#Season_10_and_specials) | 14 [[DVD 5]](#cite_note-30) | 1990–1993 1994–2003 | The Complete Tenth Season – Volume 1 (R2/R4) The Complete Tenth Season – Volume 2 (R2/R4) | 56~63  64~69 | N/A | June 15, 2009[[DVD 6]](#cite_note-31) July 27, 2009 | July 28, 2009 November 28, 2009 |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Other DVD release** | | | | |
| **DVD name** | **Ep#** | [**Region 1**](/wiki/DVD_region_code) | [**Region 2**](/wiki/DVD_region_code) | [**Region 4**](/wiki/DVD_region_code) |
| The Mystery Movie Collection 1989(R1/R4) | 46~50 | April 24, 2007 | N/A | July 4, 2008 |
| The Mystery Movie Collection 1990 | 51~56 | February 3, 2009 | N/A | N/A |
| The Mystery Movie Collection 1991–1993 [[DVD 7]](#cite_note-32) | 57~62 | February 8, 2011[[DVD 7]](#cite_note-32) | N/A | N/A |
| The Mystery Movie Collection 1994–2003 [[DVD 8]](#cite_note-33) | 63~69 | January 10, 2012[[DVD 9]](#cite_note-34) | N/A | N/A |
| Columbo: The Complete Series | 1~69 | October 16, 2012 | October 19, 2009 | N/A |
| Columbo Season 6 and 7 | ? | N/A | March 27, 2007 [[DVD 10]](#cite_note-35) | N/A |
| Columbo Season 8 and 9 | ? | N/A | July 24, 2007 [[DVD 11]](#cite_note-36) | N/A |
| Columbo Season 10 and 11 | ? | N/A | October 23, 2007 [[DVD 12]](#cite_note-37) | N/A |
| Columbo season 12 | ? | N/A | December 4, 2009 [[DVD 13]](#cite_note-38) | N/A |

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

### Blu-ray release[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

To commemorate the death of [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk),[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) the complete series was released on Blu-ray in Japan as a ten-season set, taken from new HD masters and original 1.33:1 (4:3) aspect ratio (1989–2003 episodes are presented in 1.78:1 (16:9)[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)).[[26]](#cite_note-39) The set contains 35 discs and is presented in a faux-wooden cigar box. It features a brochure with episode details, and a script for the Japanese version of **Prescription: Murder**. Special features include the original 96-minute version of **Étude In Black** and the original **NBC Mystery Movie** title sequence. In addition, many episodes include isolated music and sound-effects tracks.[[27]](#cite_note-40) Before the release of this set, only the episodes up to **Murder, a Self-Portrait** were released on DVD in Japan.

### Other media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

Seasons one through seven are available for streaming from [Netflix](/wiki/Netflix).

## Contributors[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

### Directors and writers[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) The first season première "Murder by the Book" was written by [Steven Bochco](/wiki/Steven_Bochco) and directed by [Steven Spielberg](/wiki/Steven_Spielberg). [Jonathan Demme](/wiki/Jonathan_Demme) directed the seventh season episode "Murder Under Glass". [Jonathan Latimer](/wiki/Jonathan_Latimer) was also a writer. Actor [Ben Gazzara](/wiki/Ben_Gazzara), a friend of Falk's, directed the episodes "A Friend in Deed" (1974) and "Troubled Waters" (1975).

Falk himself directed the last episode of the first season, "Blueprint for Murder". Actor [Nicholas Colasanto](/wiki/Nicholas_Colasanto), best known for playing Coach on [*Cheers*](/wiki/Cheers), directed two episodes, "Swan Song" with [Johnny Cash](/wiki/Johnny_Cash), and "Étude in Black".

[Patrick McGoohan](/wiki/Patrick_McGoohan) directed five episodes (including three of the four in which he played the murderer) and wrote and produced two (including one of these). [Vincent McEveety](/wiki/Vincent_McEveety) was a frequent director, and homage was paid to him by a humorous mention of a character with his surname in the episode "Undercover" (which he directed).

Two episodes, "No Time to Die" and "Undercover", were based on the [87th Precinct](/wiki/87th_Precinct) novels by [Ed McBain](/wiki/Ed_McBain),[[28]](#cite_note-41) and thus do not strictly follow the standard Columbo/inverted detective story format.

### Score composers[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

*Columbo* episodes contain a variety of music that contributes to the uniqueness of each. The score becomes of particular importance during turning points of the plots. "The Mystery Movie Theme" by [Henry Mancini](/wiki/Henry_Mancini) written for the [*NBC Mystery Movie*](/wiki/NBC_Mystery_Movie) was used extensively in the whole of 38 episodes, from 1971 to 1977. Unlike the other elements of the *Mystery Movie* wheel, *Columbo* never had an official theme as such, although some composers did write their own signature pieces (such as [Dick DeBenedictis](/wiki/Dick_DeBenedictis) and [Gil Mellé](/wiki/Gil_Mellé)). Several composers created original music for the series, that was often used along with "The Mystery Movie Theme": [Template:Div col](/wiki/Template:Div_col)

* [Dick DeBenedictis](/wiki/Dick_DeBenedictis) (23 episodes, 1972–2003)
* [Patrick Williams](/wiki/Patrick_Williams_(composer)) (9 episodes, 1977–92)
* [Bernardo Segall](/wiki/Bernardo_Segall) (10 episodes, 1974–76)
* [Billy Goldenberg](/wiki/Billy_Goldenberg) (7 episodes, 1971–74)
* [Gil Mellé](/wiki/Gil_Mellé) (4 episodes, 1971–72)
* [Jeff Alexander](/wiki/Jeff_Alexander) (1 episode, 1975)
* [Oliver Nelson](/wiki/Oliver_Nelson) (1 episode, 1972)
* [Dave Grusin](/wiki/Dave_Grusin) (1 episode, 1968)
* [Bob Prince](/wiki/Robert_Prince_(composer)) (1 episode, 1977)
* [Jonathan Tunick](/wiki/Jonathan_Tunick) (1 episode, 1978)
* [John Cacavas](/wiki/John_Cacavas) (3 episodes, 1989–91)
* [James Di Pasquale](/wiki/James_Di_Pasquale) (2 episodes, 1990)
* [Steve Dorff](/wiki/Steve_Dorff) (2 episodes, 1991)
* [Dennis Dreith](/wiki/Dennis_Dreith) (1 episode, 1990)
* [Richard Markowitz](/wiki/Richard_Markowitz) (1 episode, 1990)
* [David Michael Frank](/wiki/David_Michael_Frank) (1 episode, 1990)
* [Ken Jordan](/wiki/Ken_Jordan_(musician)) (1 episode, 2003)
* Jim Latham (1 episode, 2003)

[Template:Div col end](/wiki/Template:Div_col_end)

Series Music department included:

* [Henry Mancini](/wiki/Henry_Mancini) — composer: "Mystery Movie" theme / "Sunday Mystery Movie" theme (38 episodes, 1971–77)
* [Hal Mooney](/wiki/Hal_Mooney) — music supervisor (27 episodes, 1972–76)
* [Mike Post](/wiki/Mike_Post) — composer: "Mystery Movie" theme (9 episodes, 1989–90)

[Patrick Williams](/wiki/Patrick_Williams_(composer)) received two [Emmy](/wiki/Emmy_Award) nominations for Outstanding Music Composition for a Series in 1978 (for "Try and Catch Me") and 1989 (for "Murder, Smoke and Shadows"). [Billy Goldenberg](/wiki/Billy_Goldenberg) was nominated in the same category in 1972 for "Lady in Waiting".

*Columbo* also featured an unofficial signature tune, the children's song "[This Old Man](/wiki/This_Old_Man)". It was introduced in the episode "Any Old Port in a Storm" in 1973 and the detective can be heard humming or whistling it often in subsequent films. [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) admitted that it was a melody he personally enjoyed and one day it became a part of his character.[[29]](#cite_note-42) The tune was also used in various score arrangements throughout the three decades of the series, including opening and closing credits. A version of it, entitled "Columbo", was created by one of the show's composers, [Patrick Williams](/wiki/Patrick_Williams_(composer)).[[30]](#cite_note-43)

## Awards and nominations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

*Columbo* received numerous awards and nominations from 1971 to 2005, including 13 [Emmys](/wiki/Emmy_Award), two [Golden Globes](/wiki/Golden_Globe), two [Edgar Awards](/wiki/Edgar_Award) and a [TV Land Award](/wiki/TV_Land_Award) nomination in 2005 for [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk).[[31]](#cite_note-44)

|  |
| --- |
| **Awards and nominations** |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Primetime Emmy Awards** | | | | | **Year** | **Category** | **Nominee** | **Result** | | style=white-space:nowrap| [1971](/wiki/23rd_Primetime_Emmy_Awards) | Outstanding Single Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role | [Lee Grant](/wiki/Lee_Grant), for "Ransom for a Dead Man" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | rowspan=10|[1972](/wiki/24th_Primetime_Emmy_Awards) | Outstanding Writing Achievement in Drama | [Jackson Gillis](/wiki/Jackson_Gillis), for "Suitable for Framing" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | Outstanding Writing Achievement in Drama | [Steven Bochco](/wiki/Steven_Bochco), for "Murder by the Book" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | Outstanding Series – Drama | [Richard Levinson](/wiki/Richard_Levinson), [William Link](/wiki/William_Link), Everett Chambers | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | Outstanding New Series | [Richard Levinson](/wiki/Richard_Levinson), [William Link](/wiki/William_Link), Everett Chambers | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Drama – A Single Program of a Series with Continuing Characters and/or Theme | Edward M. Abroms, for "Short Fuse" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | Outstanding Achievement in Music Composition – For a Series or a Single Program of a Series | [Billy Goldenberg](/wiki/Billy_Goldenberg), for "Lady in Waiting" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | [Outstanding Continued Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Dramatic Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Lead_Actor_in_a_Drama_Series) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |  | | [Outstanding Writing Achievement in Drama](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Writing_for_a_Drama_Series) | [Richard Levinson](/wiki/Richard_Levinson), [William Link](/wiki/William_Link), for "Death Lends a Hand" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |  | | Outstanding Achievement in Film Editing for Entertainment Programming – For a Series or a Single Program of a Series | Edward M. Abroms, for "Death Lends a Hand" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |  | | Outstanding Achievement in Cinematography for Entertainment Programming – For a Series or a Single Program of a Series | Lloyd Ahern, for "Blueprint for Murder" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |  | | rowspan=5|[1973](/wiki/25th_Primetime_Emmy_Awards) | [Outstanding Writing Achievement in Drama](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Writing_for_a_Drama_Series) | [Steven Bochco](/wiki/Steven_Bochco), for "Étude in Black" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | [Outstanding Drama Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Drama_Series) | [Dean Hargrove](/wiki/Dean_Hargrove) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Drama – A Single Program of a Series with Continuing Characters and/or Theme | Edward M. Abroms, for "The Most Dangerous Match" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | [Outstanding Continued Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Lead_Actor_in_a_Drama_Series) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | Outstanding Achievement in Costume Design | Grady Hunt, for "Dagger of the Mind" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | rowspan=3|[1974](/wiki/26th_Primetime_Emmy_Awards) | Best Lead Actor in a Limited Series | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | Outstanding Limited Series | [Dean Hargrove](/wiki/Dean_Hargrove), [Roland Kibbee](/wiki/Roland_Kibbee), Douglas Benton, Robert F. O'Neill, Edward K. Dodds | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |  | | Best Cinematography for Entertainment Programming – For a Series or a Single Program of a Series | Harry L. Wolf, for "Any Old Port in a Storm" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |  | | rowspan=5|[1975](/wiki/27th_Primetime_Emmy_Awards) | Outstanding Limited Series | [Dean Hargrove](/wiki/Dean_Hargrove), [Roland Kibbee](/wiki/Roland_Kibbee), Douglas Benton, Everett Chambers, Edward K. Dodds | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | Outstanding Individual Achievement in Art Direction or Scenic Design – For a Single Episode of a Comedy, Drama or Limited Series | Michael Baugh, Jerry Adams, for "Playback" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | Outstanding Lead Actor in a Limited Series | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |  | | [Outstanding Single Performance by a Supporting Actor in a Comedy or Drama Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Guest_Actor_in_a_Drama_Series) | [Patrick McGoohan](/wiki/Patrick_McGoohan), for "By Dawn's Early Light" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |  | | style=white-space:nowrap|Outstanding Achievement in Cinematography for Entertainment Programming for a Series | Richard C. Glouner, for "Playback" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |  | | rowspan=2|[1976](/wiki/28th_Primetime_Emmy_Awards) | [Outstanding Drama Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Drama_Series) | Everett Chambers | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | [Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Lead_Actor_in_a_Drama_Series) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |  | | rowspan=2|[1977](/wiki/29th_Primetime_Emmy_Awards) | [Outstanding Drama Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Drama_Series) | Everett Chambers | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | [Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Lead_Actor_in_a_Drama_Series) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | rowspan=4|[1978](/wiki/30th_Primetime_Emmy_Awards) | [Outstanding Achievement in Music Composition for a Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Music_Composition_for_a_Series) | [Patrick Williams](/wiki/Patrick_Williams_(composer)), for "Try and Catch Me" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | [Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Lead_Actor_in_a_Drama_Series) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | [Outstanding Drama Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Drama_Series) | Richard Alan Simmons | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | Outstanding Film Editing in a Drama Series | Robert Watts, for "How to Dial a Murder" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | [1989](/wiki/41st_Primetime_Emmy_Awards) | [Outstanding Achievement in Music Composition for a Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Music_Composition_for_a_Series) | [Patrick Williams](/wiki/Patrick_Williams_(composer)), for "Murder, Smoke and Shadows" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | rowspan=2|[1990](/wiki/42nd_Primetime_Emmy_Awards) | [Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Guest_Actor_in_a_Drama_Series) | [Patrick McGoohan](/wiki/Patrick_McGoohan), for "Agenda for Murder" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) | | [Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Lead_Actor_in_a_Drama_Series) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |  | | rowspan=2|[1991](/wiki/43rd_Primetime_Emmy_Awards) | [Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Guest_Actor_in_a_Drama_Series) | [Dabney Coleman](/wiki/Dabney_Coleman), for "Columbo and the Murder of a Rock Star" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | [Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Lead_Actor_in_a_Drama_Series) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | rowspan=2|[1994](/wiki/46th_Primetime_Emmy_Awards) | [Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Guest_Actress_in_a_Drama_Series) | [Faye Dunaway](/wiki/Faye_Dunaway), for "It's All in the Game" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) | | [Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Lead_Actor_in_a_Drama_Series) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | **Edgar Allan Poe Awards** | | | | | **Year** | **Category** | **Nominee** | **Result** | | 1972 | Best Episode in a TV Series | [Steven Bochco](/wiki/Steven_Bochco), for "Murder by the Book" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | 1974 | Best Episode in a TV Series | [Jackson Gillis](/wiki/Jackson_Gillis), for "Requiem for a Falling Star" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | 1979 | Best Episode in a TV Series | Robert Van Scoyk, for "Murder Under Glass" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) | | 1979 | Special Edgars | Richard Levinson & William Link for "Columbo and Ellery Queen TV series" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) | | **Golden Globe Awards** | | | | | **Year** | **Category** | **Nominee** | **Result** | | [1972](/wiki/29th_Golden_Globe_Awards) | [Actor in a Leading Role – Drama Series Or Television Movie](/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Actor_–_Television_Series_Drama) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | rowspan=2|[1973](/wiki/30th_Golden_Globe_Awards) | [Best Television Series – Drama](/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Television_Series_–_Drama) |  | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) | | [Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series – Drama](/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Actor_–_Television_Series_Drama) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |  | | rowspan=2|[1974](/wiki/31st_Golden_Globe_Awards) | [Best Television Series – Drama](/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Television_Series_–_Drama) |  | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | [Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series – Drama](/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Actor_–_Television_Series_Drama) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | rowspan=2|[1975](/wiki/32nd_Golden_Globe_Awards) | [Best Television Series – Drama](/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Television_Series_–_Drama) |  | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | [Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series – Drama](/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Actor_–_Television_Series_Drama) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | [1976](/wiki/33rd_Golden_Globe_Awards) | [Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series – Drama](/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Actor_–_Television_Series_Drama) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | rowspan=2|[1978](/wiki/35th_Golden_Globe_Awards) | [Best Television Series – Drama](/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Television_Series_–_Drama) |  | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | [Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series – Drama](/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Actor_–_Television_Series_Drama) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | [1991](/wiki/48th_Golden_Globe_Awards) | [Best Performance by an Actor in a TV-Series – Drama](/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Actor_–_Television_Series_Drama) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | [1992](/wiki/49th_Golden_Globe_Awards) | [Best Performance by an Actor in a Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for TV](/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Actor_–_Miniseries_or_Television_Film) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | rowspan=3|[1994](/wiki/51st_Golden_Globe_Awards) | [Best Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for TV](/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Miniseries_or_Television_Film) | "It's All in the Game" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | | [Best Performance by an Actor in a Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for TV](/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Actor_–_Miniseries_or_Television_Film) | [Peter Falk](/wiki/Peter_Falk), for "It's All in the Game" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | | [Best Performance by an Actress in a Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for TV](/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award_for_Best_Actress_–_Miniseries_or_Television_Film) | [Faye Dunaway](/wiki/Faye_Dunaway), for "It's All in the Game" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |  | |

## Other appearances[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

### Film[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

In [Wim Wenders'](/wiki/Wim_Wenders) 1987 film [*Wings of Desire*](/wiki/Wings_of_Desire), Falk portrays "himself" and muses about his previous role as Columbo. He is addressed affectionately as "Lieutenant" by some people in the film, illustrating the character's popularity in Germany. In one scene, the character Marion played by [Solveig Dommartin](/wiki/Solveig_Dommartin) speaks to Falk as if he is Lt. Columbo, though they are only joking. Of course, Falk's character is eventually revealed to be a former angel, so this character may also be considered to be fictional.

Writer [Gary Whitta](/wiki/Gary_Whitta) has expressed interest in writing a crime drama film with [Mark Ruffalo](/wiki/Mark_Ruffalo) in mind as Columbo.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

In the 1979 [Romanian](/wiki/Romania) movie [Uncle Marin, the Billionaire](/wiki/Uncle_Marin,_the_Billionaire), Lt.Columbo is portrayed by [Puiu Călinescu](/wiki/Puiu_Călinescu).

### Stage[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

The Columbo character first appeared on stage in 1962 in "Prescription: Murder" with [Thomas Mitchell](/wiki/Thomas_Mitchell_(actor)) in the role of Columbo.

In 2010, *Prescription: Murder*, was revived for a tour of the United Kingdom with [Dirk Benedict](/wiki/Dirk_Benedict) and later John Guerrasio as Columbo.[[32]](#cite_note-45)

### Television[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

Falk appeared as Columbo in a faux episode of [*Alias*](/wiki/Alias_(TV_series)) produced for a 2003 TV special celebrating the 50th anniversary of ABC.

Falk appeared in character as Columbo in 1977 at *The* [*Dean Martin Celebrity Roast*](/wiki/Dean_Martin_Celebrity_Roast) of [Frank Sinatra](/wiki/Frank_Sinatra).

### Books[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[thumb|Columbo, as he appeared in volume 7 of](/wiki/File:Detective_Columbo_in_Case_Closed.jpg) [*Detective Conan*](/wiki/Detective_Conan) A *Columbo* series of books was published by MCA Publishing in 1972 by authors Alfred Lawrence, Henry Clements and Lee Hays, mostly adapted from the TV series.[[33]](#cite_note-46) Columbo was also used as the protagonist for a series of novels published between 1994 and 1999 by [Forge Books](/wiki/Forge_Books), an imprint of [Tor Books](/wiki/Tor_Books). All of these books were written by William Harrington.

William Link, the co-creator of the series, has written a collection of Columbo short stories, entitled *The Columbo Collection*, which was published in May 2010 by [Crippen & Landru](/wiki/Crippen_&_Landru), the specialty mystery publisher.[[34]](#cite_note-47) The Columbo character is highlighted in volume 7 of the [*Detective Conan*](/wiki/Detective_Conan) [manga](/wiki/Manga) edition of [*Gosho Aoyama's*](/wiki/Gosho_Aoyama) *Mystery Library*. Columbo was briefly mentioned in the anime adaptation in the episode "The Forgotten Cellphone Part 2" when Conan said one of Columbo's lines: "You know, my wife says...".

*Columbo* was briefly mentioned in a 1990 chapter of the long-running manga, [*JoJo's Bizarre Adventure*](/wiki/JoJo's_Bizarre_Adventure), where the main character Jotaro Kujo begins to suspect the actions of a suspicious old woman. He mentions to her that he couldn't sleep at night if he had doubts, because he frequently watched *Columbo* as a child.

### Sculpture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[thumbnail|right|159px|Peter Falk statue as Columbo with his Dog in](/wiki/File:GézaDezsőFekete-Columbo.JPG) [Budapest](/wiki/Budapest), [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary)

A statue of Lieutenant Columbo and his dog was unveiled in 2014 on Miksa Falk Street in [Budapest](/wiki/Budapest), [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary).[[35]](#cite_note-48) According to Antal Rogán, then-district mayor of the city, Peter Falk may have been related to Hungarian writer and politician [Miksa Falk](/wiki/Miksa_Falk), although there is no evidence yet to prove it.[[36]](#cite_note-49)

### Podcast[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

A podcast about *Columbo* was launched in 2014, primarily considering episodes of the television series.[[37]](#cite_note-50)

## ''Mrs. Columbo'' spin-off[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) *Mrs. Columbo*, a spin-off TV series starring [Kate Mulgrew](/wiki/Kate_Mulgrew), aired in 1979 and was canceled after only thirteen episodes. Lt. Columbo was never seen on *Mrs. Columbo*; each episode featured the resourceful Mrs. Columbo solving a murder mystery she encountered in her work as a newspaper reporter. Connections with the original *Columbo* series were made obvious: the glaring presence of Columbo's car in the driveway, Dog, and Mrs. Columbo emptying ashtrays containing the famous green cigar butts—all featured in the show's opening sequence. References were also made to Kate's husband being a police lieutenant.

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

* [Furuhata Ninzaburo](/wiki/Furuhata_Ninzaburo)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Commons category](/wiki/Template:Commons_category) [Template:Wikiquote](/wiki/Template:Wikiquote)

* [Template:IMDb title](/wiki/Template:IMDb_title)
* [Peter Falk's website](http://www.peterfalk.com)
* [Encyclopedia of Television](http://www.museum.tv/archives/etv/C/htmlC/columbo/columbo.htm)
* [The Columbo Podcast](http://www.columbopodcast.com/)
* [Columbo on DVD](http://www.columbodvd.com/)
* [Columbo Prescription:Murder – U.K. stage play tour](http://www.columbo-prescription-murder.com)
* ['Columbo: Just One More Thing' – BBC Radio 4](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007y9sl)
* [Template:Tv.com show](/wiki/Template:Tv.com_show)

[Template:GoldenGlobeTVDrama](/wiki/Template:GoldenGlobeTVDrama)

[Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Columbo](/wiki/Category:Columbo) [Category:1960s American television series](/wiki/Category:1960s_American_television_series) [Category:1970s American television series](/wiki/Category:1970s_American_television_series) [Category:1980s American television series](/wiki/Category:1980s_American_television_series) [Category:1990s American television series](/wiki/Category:1990s_American_television_series) [Category:2000s American television series](/wiki/Category:2000s_American_television_series) [Category:American crime television series](/wiki/Category:American_crime_television_series) [Category:Mystery television series](/wiki/Category:Mystery_television_series) [Category:Television series by Universal Television](/wiki/Category:Television_series_by_Universal_Television) [Category:Edgar Award-winning works](/wiki/Category:Edgar_Award-winning_works) [Category:Television series by Stephen J. Cannell Productions](/wiki/Category:Television_series_by_Stephen_J._Cannell_Productions) [Category:Television shows set in Los Angeles, California](/wiki/Category:Television_shows_set_in_Los_Angeles,_California) [Category:American television films](/wiki/Category:American_television_films) [Category:American films](/wiki/Category:American_films) [Category:American Broadcasting Company network shows](/wiki/Category:American_Broadcasting_Company_network_shows) [Category:NBC Mystery Movie](/wiki/Category:NBC_Mystery_Movie) [Category:NBC network shows](/wiki/Category:NBC_network_shows) [Category:1968 American television series debuts](/wiki/Category:1968_American_television_series_debuts) [Category:2003 American television series endings](/wiki/Category:2003_American_television_series_endings) [Category:Best Drama Series Golden Globe winners](/wiki/Category:Best_Drama_Series_Golden_Globe_winners) [Category:Fictional portrayals of the Los Angeles Police Department](/wiki/Category:Fictional_portrayals_of_the_Los_Angeles_Police_Department) [Category:Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Miniseries winners](/wiki/Category:Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Miniseries_winners) [Category:English-language television programming](/wiki/Category:English-language_television_programming)