

Cinema Express

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadow

While Robert Downey Jr **reprises** (重演) his role as the world's most famous detective, Sherlock Holmes, Jude Law returns as his friend and colleague, Dr Watson, in **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows**.

Sherlock Holmes has always been the smartest man in the room... until now. There is a new criminal **mastermind** (主腦) at large — Professor James Moriarty (Jared Harris). Not only is he Holmes' intellectual equal, but his capacity for evil, coupled with a complete lack of **conscience** (良知), may give him an advantage over the renowned detective.

Scandal takes down an Indian cotton tycoon; a Chinese opium trader dies of an apparent overdose; bombings in Strasbourg and Vienna; the death of an American steel **magnate** (富豪)... No one sees the connections between these seemingly random events, except the great Sherlock Holmes. At the centre of this web of death and destruction sits a singularly

sinister (陰險的) spider: Moriarty.

Holmes' investigation leads him and Watson out of London to France, Germany and finally Switzerland. But the cunning Moriarty is always one step ahead, and moving perilously close to completing his **ominous** (不祥的) plan. If he succeeds, it will not only bring him immense wealth and power but alter the course of history.

New to the movie, Swedish actress Noomi Rapace (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*) plays a mysterious Gypsy named Sim in her first English-speaking role. The exotic beauty becomes allied with Holmes and Watson in their quest to stop Moriarty.

Scheduled for release on 16 December in America, **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** will hit Hong Kong's cinema early on 14 December 2011. Surely movie lovers in Hong Kong cannot wait to enjoy the early release of the **sequel** (續集) of the US\$200-million-earning blockbuster!



Foreigner in HK

Christmas Reflection

by John W

Audio link.mingpao.com/15210.htm

Two of my favourite Christmas songs are *Jingle Bells* and *Silent Night*.

Jingle Bells comes from the town of Medford in Massachusetts, the USA. It was written in 1850 and was originally called *One Horse Open Sleigh*. It describes the sleigh races held in Medford in the early 1800s.

Silent Night comes from the town of Arnsdorf in Austria. It was first used on 24 December 1818 in the local church.

The word "Christmas" comes from "Christ-Mass", "the Mass (彌撒) of Jesus' Birth".

Christmas and Lunar New Year have many similarities:

family gatherings, gifts, special meals, a time of extra-friendliness to everyone.

Children look forward to receiving Christmas gifts.

As we get older, we understand that Christmas is a time for giving rather than getting.

A Christmas giving story: In 1972, some people in the town of El Paso, Texas, the US, decided to celebrate Christmas dinner with the poor people of a garbage dump across the border in nearby Juarez, Mexico. The rubbish dump people, like the people of the famous Smokey Mountain district in Manila, lived by sorting out rubbish items and then reselling them. They often had very little to eat.

The USA group prepared food enough for 150 poor people. But more than 300 showed up.

Then something wonderful happened. As the food was given out, it didn't run out!

In fact, there was so much left over that many baskets of food were given to local orphanages!

Google "the miracle of the rubbish dump" for the details of this beautiful true story.

May Christmas 2011 be a time for giving as well as receiving!

My Gap Year Diary

End of The Trip

text and photo by Amanda Yu



As I reclined on (躺在) the deck of the boat, feeling the rhythmic lull of the waves, I reflected on the end of my epic journey in South America. I was completely content with myself. The trip felt like aeons (千萬年) of experience — so much had happened, but three months was definitely not enough to satisfy every part of my travel bug.

Throughout my journey (and long after it), the following sequence of words were repeated over and over again, so that I could almost say it without thinking: Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador including the Galapagos Islands.

From the lush cloud forest of Peru, defeating the altitude sickness (高山症) to see the mystical Macchu Picchu, and the vast Atacama Desert with the most incredible sights, to the startling heights of the Death Road in Bolivia and the vogue tango-filled streets of Argentina, ending in the stunning origin of Darwin's theory of evolution, the wealth of amazing experiences and events floods my memory. Not only have I been to some of the most spectacular places in the world, but I have also met some of the most interesting people who have considerably change my perspectives on life. Thinking back,

the things I have done and the fact that I have traveled independently have added something to my greatest worldly achievement so far.

I can say no more to encourage every youngster to step out and travel as much as he or she can. For me, by talking to people from all walks of life, being exposed to other parts of the world and fending for myself in all sorts of difficulties, I have learned more, in general, in those mere three months than in a lifetime of education.

Would I do it all over again on my own? Definitely.

Writer's Profile

An Oxford student talks about her unique gap year travelling adventures and her experiences of settling into the prestigious University.



Ask & Learn 問問切切

Have you any questions about English usage? Don't hesitate to send them to us!

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Against All Odds (2)

今次繼續解答 Michelle 有關 **against all odds** 的問題。同一句話，為什麼會有兩個截然相反的翻譯呢？

我看主要是因為 **against all odds** 只是形容一個不利的形勢，並沒有涉及當事人奮鬥完之後的結果。如果當事人成功了，我們當然可以說「排除萬難」，但萬一畏難卻步，我們也極有可能稱之為「知難而退」。

上次用了球賽為例子，令我想到美國常春藤大學 (Ivy League) 的美式足球賽。耶魯 (Yale

University) 和哈佛 (Harvard University) 都一直把對方視為第一大敵，雙方的支持者在球場上一方面為自己的球隊打氣，另一方面又用盡方法來揶揄對方。耶魯學生當中流傳一首歌，取笑哈佛學生說自己的隊伍會如何奮勇作戰到底，比賽時成千上萬的學生高聲合唱，可謂聲勢浩大，歌詞曰：

Harvard's team may fight till the end,

But Yale will win.

由此可見，奮鬥歸奮鬥，但並不擔保一定成功。