

Crime Scene: True Life Forensic Files

Forensic Files

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Forensic Files, originally known as Medical Detectives, is an American documentary television program that reveals how forensic science is used to solve violent crimes, mysterious accidents, and outbreaks of illness. The show was originally broadcast on TLC. It is narrated by Peter Thomas, produced by Medstar Television, and distributed by FilmRise, in association with truTV Original Productions. It broadcast 406 episodes from its debut on TLC in 1996 until its final episode in 2011. Reruns shown on HLN were initially retitled Mystery Detectives before settling on the main title of the show in 2014.

A version of the program was broadcast on Five in the United Kingdom, under the name Murder Detectives. Most of the 400 episodes are also available on the "FilmRise True Crime" channel that is managed by distributor FilmRise.

On October 1, 2019, HLN announced it had greenlit a revival of the show, titled Forensic Files II, which began airing on February 23, 2020. Due to long-time narrator Peter Thomas' death, the show is narrated by Bill Camp.

Forensic Files II

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Forensic Files II is an American true crime documentary series revival of Forensic Files. Broadcast by HLN for its first three seasons, its fourth season is being broadcast by sister network Investigation Discovery. The series has been promoted as a separate continuation of the franchise to differentiate it from the original series, with Bill Camp succeeding Peter Thomas as narrator.

The series premiered on February 23, 2020, with a 16-episode first season. On May 12, 2020, the series was renewed for a second and third season. The second season premiered on July 11, 2021, followed by the third on February 27, 2022, and the fourth on July 9, 2023.

Crime Scene (website)

controversially, the site also sells forensic science kits and "boxed crime scenes" for use in classrooms. The Crime Scene universe is very much interwoven

Crime Scene is a website that presents fictional crime stories that are told through realistic case documents which can be investigated by the public. It was started in 1995 by Tom Arriola, an experimental theater director in Oxford, Mississippi, and was one of the earliest examples of an Alternate reality game, internet hoax, or superfiction. Early on it received some criticism from viewers who, after having believed it to be part of a real murder investigation, discovered that it was actually a work of fiction.

Forensic firearm examination

Forensic firearm examination is the forensic process of examining the characteristics of firearms or bullets left behind at a crime scene. Specialists

Forensic firearm examination is the forensic process of examining the characteristics of firearms or bullets left behind at a crime scene. Specialists in this field try to link bullets to weapons and weapons to individuals. They can raise and record obliterated serial numbers in an attempt to find the registered owner of a weapon and look for fingerprints on a weapon and cartridges.

By examining unique striations impressed into a bullet from the barrel of a gun, expended ammunition can be linked back to a specific weapon. These striations are due to the rifling inside the barrels of firearms. Rifling spins the bullet when it is fired out of the barrel to improve precision. Although bullet striations are individualized unique evidence, microscopic striations in the barrel of the weapon are subject to change slightly, after each round that is fired. For this reason, forensic ballistics examiners may not fire more than five shots from a weapon found at a scene. Known exemplars taken from a seized weapon can be compared to samples recovered from a scene using a comparison microscope as well as newer 3-D imaging technology. Striation images can also be uploaded to national databases. Furthermore, the markings can be compared to other images in an attempt to link one weapon to multiple crime scenes.

Like all forensic specialties, forensic firearm examiners are subject to being called to testify in court as expert witnesses. However, the reliability of some techniques of forensic firearm examination have been criticized.

Mia Zapata

emerging grunge scene, Zapata was raped and murdered in Seattle in 1993 while walking home from the Comet Tavern at the age of 27. The crime went unsolved

Mia Katherine Zapata (August 25, 1965 – July 7, 1993) was an American musician who was the lead vocalist and lyricist for the punk rock band The Gits. After gaining praise in the emerging grunge scene, Zapata was raped and murdered in Seattle in 1993 while walking home from the Comet Tavern at the age of 27. The crime went unsolved for a decade before her killer, Jesus Mezquia, was arrested in 2003. The following year, Mezquia was tried, convicted, and sentenced to 36 years in prison.

Forensic science

currently an estimated 18,500 forensic science technicians in the United States. Real-life crime scene investigators and forensic scientists warn that popular

Forensic science, often confused with criminalistics, is the application of science principles and methods to support decision-making related to rules or law, generally specifically criminal and civil law.

During criminal investigation in particular, it is governed by the legal standards of admissible evidence and criminal procedure. It is a broad field utilizing numerous practices such as the analysis of DNA, fingerprints, bloodstain patterns, firearms, ballistics, toxicology, microscopy, and fire debris analysis.

Forensic scientists collect, preserve, and analyze evidence during the course of an investigation. While some forensic scientists travel to the scene of the crime to collect the evidence themselves, others occupy a laboratory role, performing analysis on objects brought to them by other individuals. Others are involved in analysis of financial, banking, or other numerical data for use in financial crime investigation, and can be employed as consultants from private firms, academia, or as government employees.

In addition to their laboratory role, forensic scientists testify as expert witnesses in both criminal and civil cases and can work for either the prosecution or the defense. While any field could technically be forensic, certain sections have developed over time to encompass the majority of forensically related cases.

True crime

An earlier example—Court TV—featured a mix of true crime-oriented programming (such as Forensic Files), as well as a daytime news block featuring coverage

True crime is a genre of non-fiction work in which an author examines a crime, including detailing the actions of people associated with and affected by the crime, and investigating the perpetrator's motives. True crime works often deal with violent crimes such as murders and serial killers, including high-profile cases (such as Ted Bundy, Charles Manson and the Zodiac Killer). A true crime work may use either a journalistic style with a focus on known facts, or a speculative style with a larger focus on the author's personal conclusions regarding a crime.

True crime has taken the form of various media, including literature such as magazines and books, television series and documentaries (which may sometimes feature dramatized scenes of the crime based on published accounts), and digital media such as podcasts and internet video. A true crime series may be structured as an anthology of stories focusing on different cases, or cover a single case in a serialized format. True crime podcasts experienced a major growth in popularity in the mid-2010s, with Serial setting listenership records, and the genre as a whole having seen long-term gains in overall listenership. True crime works have been particularly popular among women.

True crime has been credited with helping to increase interest in crime among the general public, while decreasing trust in the criminal justice system. Some true crime series have influenced perceptions of specific cases among the public and authorities. The genre has faced criticism for often relying on sensationalism and shock value, with concerns that true crime works are disrespectful to crime victims and their families, may emphasize specific points over others in order to suit an author's preferred narrative or opinion, or may contain fictionalized content. Further criticism, based on analysis of popular podcasts, suggests that the genre's narrative conventions can lead to the dehumanisation of female victims, whose stories are often framed around their bodies rather than their personhood.

Darlie Routier

series Forensic Files titled "Invisible Intruder" (S4; E1), reports on how detectives discovered who the killer was by analyzing the crime scene's blood

Darlie Lynn Peck Routier (born January 4, 1970) is an American woman from Rowlett, Texas, who was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of her five-year-old son Damon in 1996. She has also been charged with capital murder in the death of her six-year-old son, Devon, who was murdered at the same time as Damon. To date, Routier has not been tried for Devon's murder.

Damon and Devon were stabbed to death with a large kitchen knife in the Routier's home, while Routier sustained knife wounds to her throat and arm. Routier told authorities that the crime was perpetrated by an unidentified intruder. During the trial, the prosecution argued that Routier's injuries were self-inflicted, that the crime scene had been staged, and that she murdered her sons because of the family's financial difficulties; the defense argued that there was no reason Routier would have killed her children, and that the case did not have a motive, a confession, or any witnesses. In February 1997, the jury found Routier guilty of the murder of Damon, and sentenced her to death by lethal injection.

Two appeals filed by Routier, based on allegations of irregularities during the trial, were denied. Since at least 2018, DNA tests have been ordered multiple times after technology has advanced. As of 2024, the results of these tests are still pending. Routier's case has been the subject of multiple books and television shows. Routier's ex-husband believes that she is innocent.

Henry Lee (forensic scientist)

the state police forensic laboratory from 1978 to 2000. In 2004, a crime documentary series hosted by Lee, Trace Evidence: The Case Files of Dr. Henry Lee

Henry Chang-Yu Lee (Chinese: 李昌钰; pinyin: Lǐ Chāngyù; born 22 November 1938) is a Taiwanese and American forensic scientist and biochemist.

Forensic photography

Forensic photography may refer to the visual documentation of different aspects that can be found at a crime scene. It may include the documentation of

Forensic photography may refer to the visual documentation of different aspects that can be found at a crime scene. It may include the documentation of the crime scene, or physical evidence that is either found at a crime scene or already processed in a laboratory. Forensic photography differs from other variations of photography because crime scene photographers usually have a very specific purpose for capturing each image. As a result, the quality of forensic documentation may determine the result of an investigation; in the absence of good documentation, investigators may find it impossible to conclude what did or did not happen.

Crime scenes can be major sources of physical evidence that is used to associate or link suspects to scenes, victims to scenes, and suspects to victims. Locard's exchange principle is a major concept that helps determine these relationships of evidence. It is the basic tenet of why crime scenes should be investigated. Anything found at a crime scene can be used as physical evidence as long as it is relevant to the case, which is why the documentation of a crime scene and physical evidence in its true form is key for the interpretation of the investigation.

Knowing that crucial information for an investigation can be found at a crime scene, forensic photography is a form of documentation that is essential for retaining the quality of discovered physical evidence. Such physical evidence to be documented includes those found at the crime scene, in the laboratory, or for the identification of suspects.

All forensic photography must consider three elements at a crime scene: the subject, the scale, and a reference object. Also, the overall forensic photographs must be shown as a neutral and accurate representation.

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