



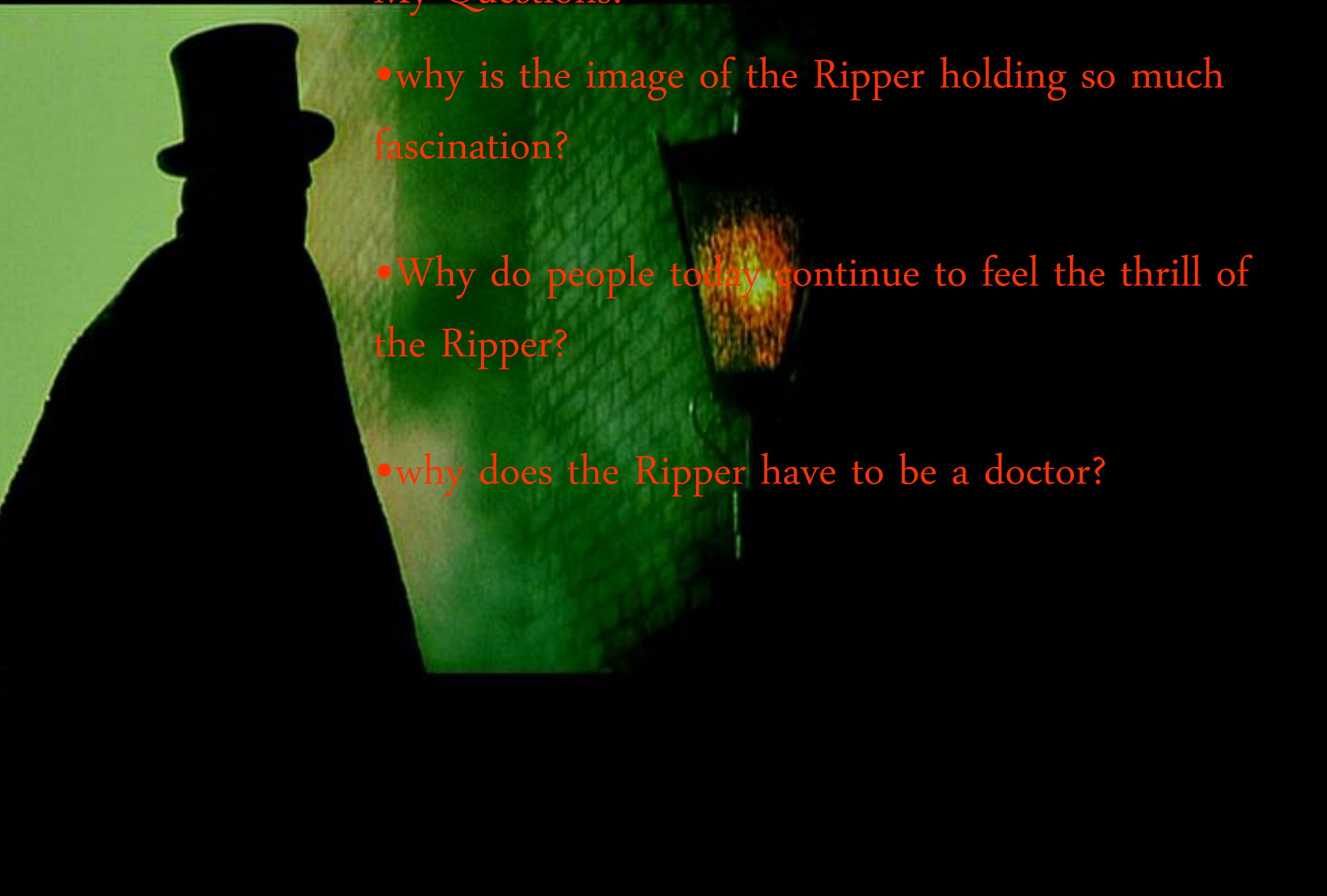
The Medical Fascination of
Jack the Ripper

By Chen, Chung-Jen

Taipei Medical University

My Questions:

- why is the image of the Ripper holding so much fascination?
- Why do people today continue to feel the thrill of the Ripper?
- why does the Ripper have to be a doctor?



Legacy of the Ripper on Film

- 311 entries of cinematic and television reproduction of the Ripper (IMDB)
- 63 movies from 1915 to 2001 on The Ripper
- Box office performance ranking #1 in the U.S., the U.k., Australia, Germany, etc.
- 3 Ripper movies released in 2001

A silhouette of a man wearing a top hat and a long coat, standing against a green background. To the right, there is a glowing, textured orb or light source. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric.

From Hell (2001)

Directed by the Hughes Brothers

Starring Johnny Depp as Inspector Abberline and Heather Graham as Mary Kelley

Based on the Graphic Novel

From Hell

by Alan Moore (author) and Eddie Campbell (graphic artist) Which is based on the Stephen Knight's book,

Jack the Ripper: The Final Solution



Outline of my paper:

I. The Enactor of Punishment

II. The Medical Fascination of JTR

I. The Enactor of Punishment

- “By the Ear and eyes”:

The mutilated bodies

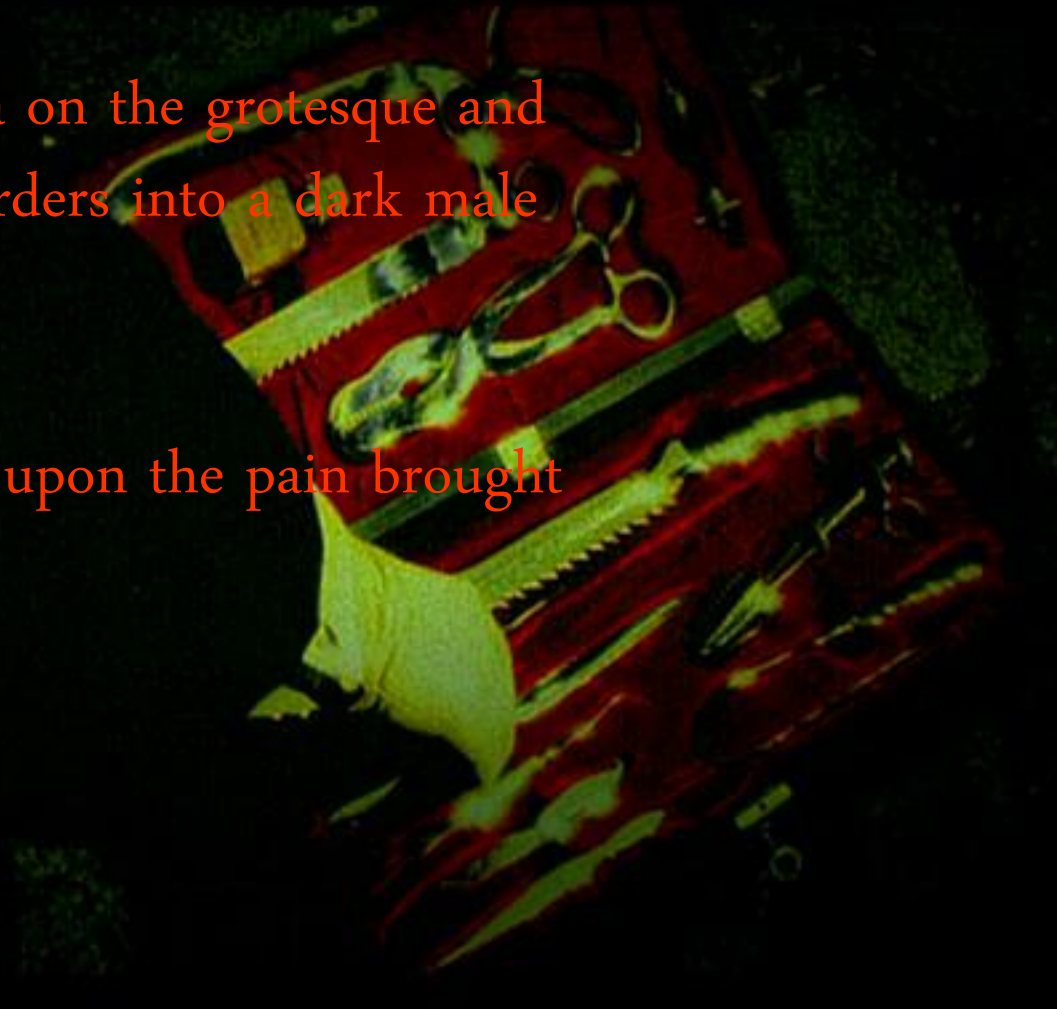
- “. . . The face was gashed in all directions, the nose, cheeks, eyebrows, and ears being partly removed. . . .”

- excessive violence as a form of punishment



I. The Body of Punishment

- a fantastic Gothic melodrama on the grotesque and promiscuous female body; murders into a dark male fantasy (Walkowitz)
- bodies of the criminals carry upon the pain brought by punishments (Foucault)
- the spectacle of punishment:
Movie as a form of spectacle



I. The Enactor of Punishment

- “When a doctor does go wrong he is the first of criminals. He has nerve and he has knowledge”

(Sherlock Holmes)

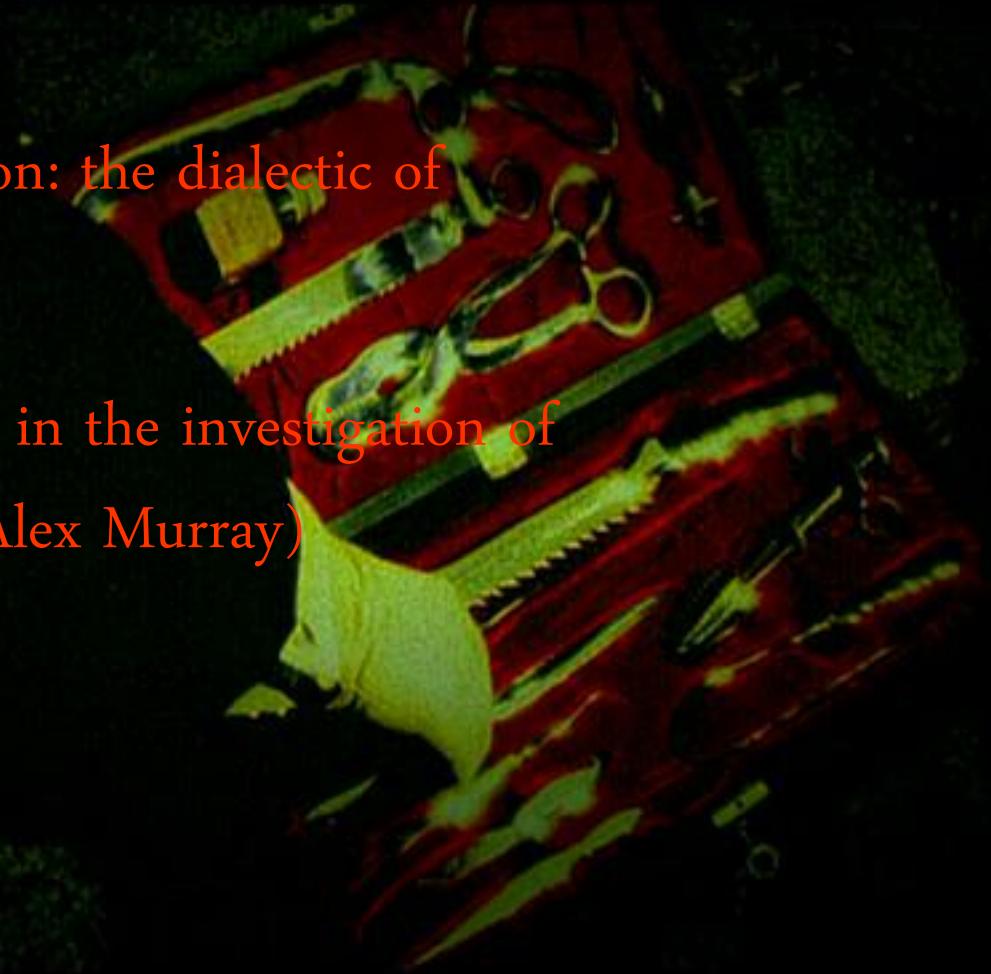
- Why does the Ripper have to be a doctor?

- awe of medical knowledge



II. The Enactor of Punishment

- paradox of Western civilization: the dialectic of enlightenment
- “the only thing to be revealed in the investigation of Jack the Ripper is ourselves” (Alex Murray)



II. The Enactor of Punishment

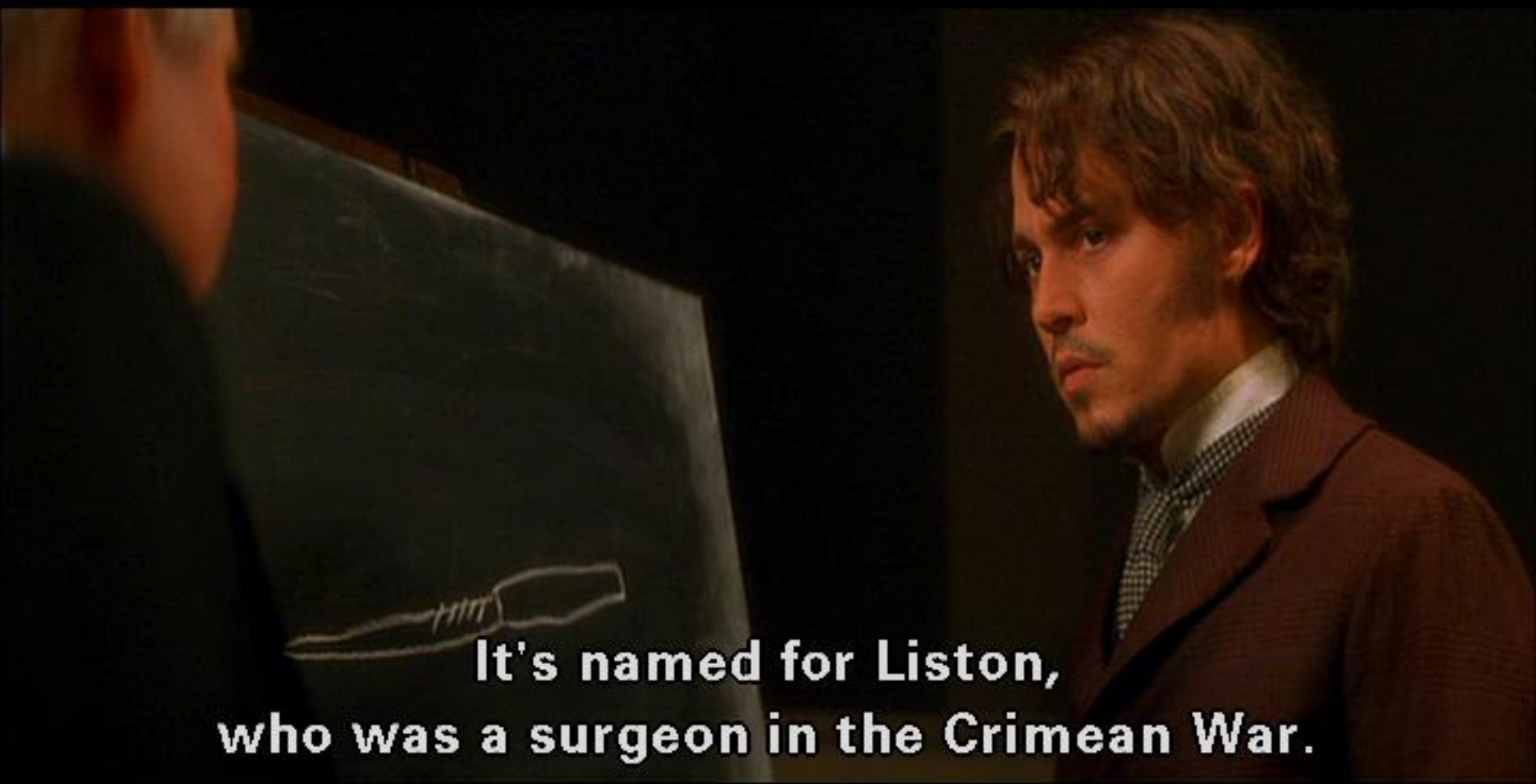
- “I gave birth to the twentieth-century,”

thus points to his having given instrumental rationality
of the twentieth-century.

II. The Medical Fascination of JTR



II. The Medical Fascination of JTR

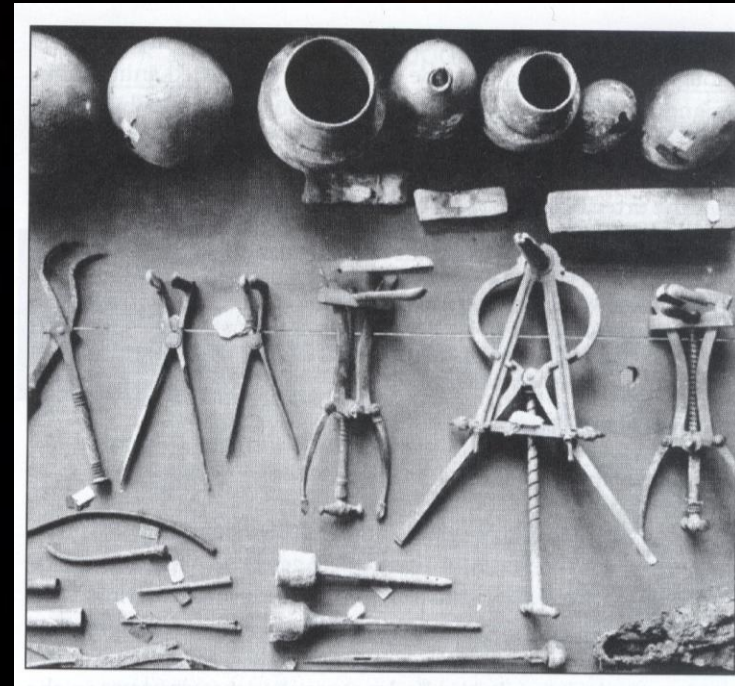
A scene from the movie 'The Lone Ranger' showing Johnny Depp as Tonto looking at a chalkboard. On the chalkboard, there is a simple line drawing of a scalpel. The scene is dimly lit, with a focus on the character's face and the drawing on the board.

**It's named for Liston,
who was a surgeon in the Crimean War.**

II. The Medical Fascination of JTR



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- the image of the Ripper remains unchanged in public imagination:

it is wrongdoers in whatever sense to be punished, and it has to be punished by doctors.



A silhouette of a man wearing a top hat and a long coat, standing against a green background. To the right, there is a glowing, textured orb. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric.

Who is the Ripper?

- “we all “know” who Jack the Ripper is.” Kate Lonsdale
- JTR is nobody, somebody, and everybody
- He resides in your and my imagination; he is in you and in me.

A silhouette of a man wearing a top hat and a long coat, standing against a green background. The silhouette is on the left side of the image.

Who is the Ripper?

“I gave birth to the twentieth-century,”

As the Ripper resides in our imagination, his legends
will live on