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| **Character + Costume** |  | Connotations/Analysis |
| John Luther | -All black  -Dark brown hooded jacket  -Casual dark trousers | -Luther is dressed in dark colours with a large hooded jacket to make him look intimidating. This arguably feeds into a black male stereotype being associated with crime and violence. A long shot of him standing opposite Henry Madsen allows the audience to see his full body, the dark clothing and aggressive posture.  -In the opening sequence due to this costume it is unclear that Luther is the hero, looking more like the Proppian type of ‘the villain’. His costume could have been selected to meet audience expectations of an archetypal black male in a crime drama series. This however is somewhat subverted as the episode continues and we learn Luther is supposed to be on the side of the law.  -The colour black is commonly associated with death, this could imply that Luther has an association with death, or an ability to kill when pushed; an idea reinforced as he lets Madsen hang to his potential death.  -Further connotations of his costume could imply he has a ‘dark side’ or is suffering with mental instability. This is reinforced by the rapid editing of several close-up shots when he lets Henry Madsen hang from the platform.  -His dark costume combined with the low-key lighting allows Luther to remain hidden in the shadows until he squares off against Henry at the end of the sequence. This could imply Luther is mysterious, secretive and dangerous. |
| Henry Madsen | -smart suit and tie  -dark jacket/overcoat  -middle-class/business dress | -His costume is in binary opposition to Luther’s as he wears a smart suit and tie.  -His suit has some elements of a stereotypical villain in crime dramas and is reminiscent of Frank Kemble’s suit in The Sweeney, who is a gangster. This could potentially associate Madsen with crime.  -Typically a suit would connote power, but here Madsen looks in a vulnerable position, reinforced by a series of high angle shots as he races through the factory.  -His white shirt could connote a level of innocence, misleading the audience into thinking Madsen is the hero or victim in the sequence. Much like with John Luther and his costume, this notion is then subverted as we find out what he has done. |
| Rose Teller | Professional dress i.e. suit and shirt | -Costume indicates she is in power/lead detective  -Subverts crime drama stereotype of the weak female/victim |
| Ian Reed | Professional dress |  |