

SONIC SCREWDRIVER

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60th Anniversary Double Issue!

An Evening with Frazer Hines

Katy Manning in Melbourne

The Moment

Power of the DWCV

Class

DWCV Origins



PART SIX: 2013 - 2023

Editorial

Having seen “the eyebrows” in the 50th, we were looking forward to the beginning of Capaldi this decade. Even more so when Australia started getting more recognition - first with Sydney as a stop on the World Tour and then in the show itself.

The show felt a little different, a little darker - sort of trying to do the Colin Baker thing properly this time. Watching again on Foxtel’s popup channel recently, I’m not sure it works. Capaldi’s first series seems inaccessible; the second is more adventurous with some great moments but it’s with Bill Potts that the “old rocker” really hits his stride.

And then we had that preview... the hoodie pulled back to reveal... oh wow they’ve actually done it this time. I saw Jodie’s first episode on BBC America, and it felt weird... maybe the unusual situation. But no, this is a darker, slower, more epic presentation style, supported by Segun Akinola’s very different music. With a big TARDIS crew it takes time to get to know them - I’m not even sure we ever do really - the “fam” is more said than shown. Big ideas are also explained more than demonstrated - the Timeless Child takes us to the Flux - an audacious season-long adventure given the Covid situation.

And a couple of years of specials brings us to the 60th - the surprise return of David and the even more surprising origins of our 15th Doctor, Ncuti Gatwa.

We’ve gone a little overboard for the 60th in this double issue, covering 2013-2023 and the anniversary itself (and the club’s origins), plus loads of freebies - postcards, art, posters, new comic adventures and artworks. A huge thanks to former editor Michael Young for his help with putting this special issue together.

Mark Longmuir

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News

The Specials

The 60th specials aired with *The Star Beast* on November 25 achieving the show's best UK ratings in 5 years, *Wild Blue Yonder* on December 2, and *The Giggle* December 9. The press launch was attended by Colin Baker, Sylvester McCoy, Carole Ann Ford, Wendy Padbury, Janet Fielding, Nicola Bryant and Sophie Aldred. Episodes air on Disney+ the next morning in Australia. Disney's promotion has been limited so far, with a full campaign expected for Ncuti's episodes; nonetheless *The Star Beast* was AU/NZ's number 1 Disney+ movie for its first week of release. DVD & Blu-Ray releases are out Dec 18 in the UK.



And So This Is Christmas

Christmas special *The Church on Ruby Road*, in which Ncuti's Doctor meets Ruby Sunday, will premiere on 25 December in the UK. A charity single from it, *The Goblin Song* by Murray Gold has been released to raise funds for Children In Need, and topped the charts on release day. Guest stars include Michelle Greenidge and Angela Wynter as Ruby's family, Anita Dobson as Mrs Flood, and Davina McCall as herself. Pre-orders are open for the DVD/Blu-Ray, Target book, and audiobook read by Angela Wynter.

Visitors from Outer Space

13th Doctor Jodie Whittaker has been announced as a panel guest for Supanova 2024 in Melbourne (April 7 only) and the Gold Coast (April 14). Tickets on sale soon. Autographs are \$150 and photos \$160.

Wendy Padbury (Zoe) visits Sydney and Melbourne with Sirens of Audio in February, at the Treacy Centre Parkville on Sunday 18th with her daughter, Big Finish regular Charlie Hayes. Early bird tickets \$90, autographs \$40, photos \$60, VIP tickets with dinner \$400.


Presenting
Jodie Whittaker
Doctor Who
Broadchurch
Melbourne 2024
Gold Coast 2024
(Sunday only in both cities)



Wendy
PADBURY
SYDNEY - 10TH FEB
MELBOURNE - 18TH FEB



Presented by
AUDIO



Tickets & Info: wendypadbury.sirensaudio.com

This Time Next Year

The 15th Doctor's Sonic Screwdriver has been revealed, with a very different look. Nicola Coughlan, star of *Bridgerton*, and *Barbie* with Ncuti Gatwa, joins the cast of 2024 *Who* in an undisclosed role. A Regency-era episode is co-written by Kate Herron (*Loki* producer) and Briony Redman (*Pont Breck*). Filming has now begun with Ncuti for season 15 (2025).



Remembrance of the TARDIS

With the launch of the “Whoniverse” on iPlayer in the UK including many classic episodes, a new series *Tales of the TARDIS* reunites past TARDIS teams in a ‘memory TARDIS’ to introduce and outro stories in character. The pairs are Vicki & Steven (*The Time Meddler*), Jamie & Zoe (*The Mind Robber*), Jo & Clyde Langer (*The Three Doctors*), 5 & Tegan (*Earthshock*), 6 & Peri (*Vengeance on Varos*), 7 & Ace (*The Curse of Fenric*). As it involves classic stories, Disney+ don't have rights to the series.

The Timely Children

Doctor Who returned to *Children In Need* on November 17 with David Tennant encountering a Kaled scientist (Mawaan Rizwan) early in the development of Davros' creations. Tennant's Doctor also read the CBeebies *Bedtime Story* on November 24.

Now in technicolour!

On 23rd November, BBC Four debuted a new colourized edit of 1963's *The Daleks*. The 7-episode story has been edited down to a 75 minute movie, with new sound and a new score by Mark Ayres. It will be released on DVD & Blu-ray next February.

Etch A Sketch

The Celestial Toymaker is the next animation released, the Toymaker having recently returned in *The Giggle*. All four episodes are animated in colour to match off-air audio recordings, taking a more expansive fantastical approach for the animations. The discs include reconstructions, restoration of episode 4, commentaries, VHS intros and making-of.



A New Adventure in Space and Time

The recent BBC Four repeat (and iPlayer release) of *An Adventure in Space and Time* includes a surprise new edit at the end to have William Hartnell see Ncuti Gatwa across the console. Matt Smith appeared in the 2013 version, with suggestions it would be updated.

Eye Lights

Ncuti and Millie turned on the lights on the London Eye to celebrate the premiere screening of the Christmas special at South Bank. As part of a show takeover of the area, interactive sculpture *The Art of Regeneration* shows David Tennant and Ncuti Gatwa.

Water Always Wins

A water-based audio-visual projection show ran at Cardiff Bay (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sb5J1_qGf18). Scripted by Gary Russell with Murray Gold's music, it covers classic highlights right up to Ncuti.



Friction, fiction, mixing

The lineup for BBC Radio 2's *My Life in a Mix-tape* for the 60th anniversary includes Peter Davison, Sylvester McCoy, Janet Fielding, Bonnie Langford, Sophie Aldred, Ruth Madeley, Nicholas Briggs, Segun Akinola and an archive show with Andrew Garfield. The artists introduce songs that have soundtracked their careers. Jo Whiley also looks at *The Classic Years* and *The Modern Era* with new and archive interviews, and David Tennant and RTD joined *Zoe Ball and Friends* to promote the anniversary.

Worlds of Down Under

The exhibition *Worlds of Wonder: Where Science Meets Fiction* featuring show exhibits and props moves from Edinburgh to Wellington, New Zealand from June-Oct 2024.

Satellite Five

Foxtel ran a *Doctor Who* *Popup* channel 128 to celebrate the 60th, running through the episodes from *Rose* to *The Power of the Doctor* including specials and *Dreamland*.

Committee Changes

Linton Kenneally has resigned as Secretary. The committee will assign an acting Secretary shortly. If you are interested in the position please contact our President, David at president@dwcv.org.au. Responsibilities are to be the club's point of contact, respond to email and social media, keep minutes, and lodge records with Consumer Affairs.

Due to absence from the club, Dianne Davies is no longer on the general committee. We thank her for her contribution to the club including as Vice President in recent difficult times. Colin Russell has been offered the position and returns to the general committee.

President's Report

Hello, welcome to Christmas. I'm writing this report in the post Oz Comic-Con Xmas glow. I'm both excited and exhausted but I'll come back to that in a minute.

What a year it has been so far. One of the great things about Christmas is that we get to stop and look back.

We are lucky to be fans of a show where our hero judges people by their actions and who they are on the inside. To the Doctor, which planet you are from is not an issue. The Doctor believes in giving people a chance to make the right choice and challenges us to the best of humanity.



For this reason *Doctor Who* Fandom has always been inclusive and accepting of fans from all walks of life. With *Doctor Who* going to Disney Plus our show will get exposure in parts of society that have never seen and don't understand the show. You may have seen some recent discussion online claiming *The Star Beast* was woke.

If we are going to be the best of humanity, then we need to accept and respect people's right to choose how they want to be identified, even if we don't understand. This type of choice is very personal and not taken lightly. We all want to be accepted for who we are and to feel free enough to be ourselves without fear.

We are trying to build our club into a safe community where we can feel free enough to be ourselves. I encourage all members to, like the Doctor, stand up for the little guy and defend other people's rights to be whoever they want to be.

It's amazing to think that I have only been Club President for 6 months and yet we as a club have done so much. I'm not going to pretend everything has gone to plan but it's the things that go wrong that you learn from. One thing I have learnt is that to be successful you need a team that all pitches in and works hard. Luckily I have an amazing committee and I want to thank them for their hard work.

When I decided to nominate for the Club President, I saw three big things we needed to do in the first 6 months.

1) To publicize the club and spread the love of *Doctor Who*.

We have been to conventions in Bendigo, Ballarat, Mill Park, Parkville, Reservoir and OzCC Xmas at Jeff's Shed and everywhere we have gone people love to talk about *Doctor Who*.

2) Bring Value to our members.

Money doesn't grow on trees in my house. I want all members to feel that your membership fee is money well spent. As a Committee, I think we have done some real things to add value to members. Mark has done a fantastic job getting our *Sonic Screwdriver* fanzine out regularly.. We also ran the mid-week Frazer Hines event in November to celebrate the 60th. We choose to run the event at a small loss to keep the cost down. We have also trialled a Ticket Box at meetings to help members buy tickets to local conventions.

3) Bring the fun back.

I'll let you be the judge on if we have achieved this goal.

OzCC Xmas was an amazing weekend. We got to meet so many amazing people and the Whovians of Victoria are loving the 60th Specials. At OzCC we had 3 interactive displays; the TARDIS, a Dalek and my Junk style TARDIS Console. The volume of smiles and joy our display gave people will stay with me for some time. Especially the console which is basically a giant fidget toy yet made so many people smile.

Our first event for 2024 is a BareFoot Lawn bowls day interclub event on Sunday 28th January at Flagstaff Gardens in the city. The event costs \$15 and runs between 2:30 - 5:30pm. Please note there are limited numbers so if you are interested please register your interest by contacting me at president@dwcv.org.au. I hope you can join us for a great afternoon.

I want to wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a safe new year.

David Pryn
Club President

Events

December

Oz Comic-Con Christmas Edition - Sat 9th - Sun 10th December, 9:30 AM - 5 PM.
Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre.

January

InterClub BareFoot Bowls with Southern Cross - Sunday Jan 28th, 2:30 - 5:30 PM
Flagstaff Gardens. \$15. Register interest by email to president@dwcv.org.au

February

DWCV February Meeting / Games Day - Saturday Feb 10, 1 PM - 5 PM

The Hub, 80 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands. \$6 members/\$8 non-members.

Wendy Padbury - Sirens of Audio - Sunday Feb 18, 11 AM - 6 PM

Treacy Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville.

Tickets \$90 (early bird), autographs \$40, photos \$60, VIP dinner \$400.

<http://wendypadbury.sirensaudio.com>

March

DWCV March Meeting - Saturday Mar 9, 1 PM - 5 PM

The Hub, 80 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands. \$6 members/\$8 non-members.

April

Supanova - Saturday Apr 6 - Sun 7, 10 AM - 6 PM

Melbourne Showgrounds, Epsom Rd, Ascot Vale

Guest: Jodie Whittaker (autographs \$150, photos \$160).

Check the club website and Facebook page for latest information and updates.

DWCV Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas party was held at The Hub on November 18. Attendance was fantastic, with plenty to keep everyone busy - freebies and competitions with art from Y. Martin Painting and Manuel Bouw, popular mystery bags, board games and even a visit from Santa (or was it?). To celebrate the anniversary, we watched *The Three Doctors*, *The Five Doctors* and *Time Crash*, as well as the recently-released *Children in Need* special.



Melbourne Collector's Market

On October 29 the club joined over 100 other vendors and fan clubs (2 basketball courts' worth!) at the Darebin Community Sports Stadium for a day of pop culture. Kids loved playing with our interactive TARDIS console or meeting the Dalek, plenty of people stopped by our booth for a chat, and photos with the police box raised \$70 in donations for the Starlight Children's Foundation.



LIB-CON

Mill Park Library's annual "LIB-CON" took place on Saturday October 21st. There were plenty of activities available from Lego to face painting to lightsaber workshops and manga drawing, with loads of local fan clubs present to help visitors discover the fun and social side of public libraries.



Oz Comic-Con Xmas

DWCV attended Oz Comic-Con Xmas edition on December 9-10. This is a smaller convention with only a few guests, more about everyone local getting together and having some fun (and maybe doing some geeky Christmas shopping).

As a fan club stall, our focus this time was on providing an experience for visitors and we had a TARDIS console room setup complete with hat stand and our interactive console - hugely popular with the kids - as well as a Dalek and the usual TARDIS exterior for photos, which raised \$33 for the Starlight Children's Foundation. Nonetheless the table also had very healthy sales which ultimately helps the club to continue to keep our membership costs down, and fund events and *Sonic* for members (and insurance!).

We were situated in an interesting spot next to the exit - many people only just spotting us on the way out! - and next to the Entertainment & Music Stage. So, visitors to the booth might hear some fantastic singing... or loud lip-sync music... or some varying levels of karaoke.

Guests at the convention were Con O'Neill (*Our Flag Means Death*), Elizabeth Maxwell and Jason Liebrecht (voice artists). You could also *Just Dance*, visit Artists Alley, see a huge collection of droids, experience the new *Aquaman* and *Rebel Moon*, play *Magic* or other tabletop games, watch others roleplay *Critical Hit*, get a picture with Santa (or Shrek Santa), join the cosplay parades, get your YMCA on in a mass dance-off.

It was fantastic to get to meet so many people around the table, whether buying or just wandering by, and hopefully we'll see some of you at club events in the future.

An Evening with Frazer Hines

DWCV welcomed Frazer Hines to The Hub, Melbourne on Wednesday 15th November 2023 in celebration of the show's 60th anniversary.

Frazer began by rattling off a list of answers to common questions he is often asked at conventions before chatting with our President, David, and taking audience questions.

This was not long after *Tales of the TARDIS* had premiered - Frazer had jumped back into the kilt, but Wendy Padbury had worried about acting for her first time in years - reading Big Finish scripts notwithstanding - since she became an agent (discovering Matt Smith!). At the end of their scenes, Russell T. Davies had run up to them in tears at seeing Jamie and Zoe together again - "surely we weren't that bad!"

It had been fun revisiting *The Mind Robber* - despite his absence in the story due to catching chicken pox off his nephew (who he pointed out in the audience). He would like to do more - would *The War Games* result in 10 fees? Ideally, if they could find the lost episodes of *The Highlanders* that would be great - after all it's only four episodes.

In the meantime, it had been interesting to see the animations - with the quality steadily improving over the years (*The Macra Terror* was "a bit *Looney Tunes*"). He noted that some details weren't quite right, and if you wanted accuracy "just ask the actors" - especially about costumes, which they remember well. They should have been in orange jumpsuits during the story. Similarly, he pointed out that the recent *Magic* cards had an inaccurate left-handed Jamie. He's also been exploring *Evil of the Daleks* for his novelisation, written from Jamie's point of view... at least, up until the scenes Jamie's not in.



Life on the 60s set had been entertaining, working closely with Patrick, Debbie and Wendy. Having worked on other productions, he liked sets where the regular actors came up and introduced themselves at the start of the rehearsals and created a friendly atmosphere. Pranks were rife - he recounted the infamous one where they were supposed to



find Victoria's handkerchief, and substituted a pair of knickers. "These are Miss Waterfield's, Doctor, I'd recognise them anywhere!", much to Debbie's horror and protestation. The joke was taken up by the cast, with Maxtible pulling them out to mop his brow, and then a Dalek approaching with them hanging off its eyestalk... "These - Are - Miss - Waterfield's!"

Scripts had almost encouraged the jokiness, with his first written line "Quick Miss Waterfield, up your passageway!" and their encounter with the Emperor Dalek - "Look at the balls on that thing, Doctor!". That became the famous exchange that they rewrote in *The Two Doctors* to match - "We told JN-T... I always say, 'Look at the size of that thing Doctor', and he always replies, 'Yes, Jamie, it is a big one...'"

The Two Doctors resulted from his efforts to appear in *The Five Doctors* a couple of years before. He was meant to appear as Patrick's main companion, but couldn't get free from *Emmerdale* commitments to do so. He wrangled a brief break in order to come down and film a brief scene - mainly just to see Patrick and Wendy again (Zoe covered in emergency bubble-wrap, due to her catsuit not suiting her pregnant state).

He'd hoped *The Two Doctors* might film in New Orleans, but Seville was still nice. After recording, he kept Jamie's shoes and shirt which he still uses for conventions. Unfortunately, however, not the kilt - "shoes and shirts can easily go missing in wardrobe, but a kilt..." He was committed to other work, which scuppered an idea that Jamie might have





carried on travelling with Colin Baker. Perhaps that was fortunate given the next series didn't happen - but the idea was later picked up by Big Finish.

He was asked about doing Patrick's voice in the Big Finish audios. It was something he'd been messing around with during *Helicon Prime*, a companion chronicle told via Jamie's narration. With a little work he took it from Jamie's impression to a more realistic version of the 2nd Doctor, and they asked him to continue performing it - however, have so far declined to pay an extra fee for playing both parts!

Beyond *Tales of the TARDIS*, he's yet to be invited back to the new series and hadn't visited the new TARDIS (only the "memory TARDIS"). Even there his scenes were rushed through quite quickly. He would have liked to play the Mark Gatiss part in *Twice Upon A Time*, with the character turning out to be Jamie's descendant. "Oh, this time you're fighting *for* the English!"

Going back to his early acting career, he noted that in general fame wasn't as big a thing then, and his view is that actors are doing a job and shouldn't be seen as better or worse than anyone else. When some actors get on a high-horse and start proclaiming advice "well as Sir Laurence said to me..." he can always come back with "well, as Charlie Chaplin said to me...!". While filming *A King in New York* (1957), Chaplin had not only been willing to listen to this child actor's idea for a funny scene of putting icing on his hat like a cake, but had explained where it didn't work and how to make it funnier, and used it.

He was asked about *Outlander*, given that apparently the books were inspired by the author watching Jamie as a child (thus Jamie Fraser). He had actually proposed that the books might make a great television series years before (and a cheap one, lots of filming on the moors) but it wasn't taken up. By the time they decided to make it, he was perhaps too old for the main roles, but would like them to have brought back Sir Fletcher more, perhaps in America.

A question on a go-kart movie had him reminiscing about boy actors filming *Go Kart Go* in 1964 with Bud Tingwell and Dennis Waterman.





At the mention of his music career, he gave us some quick renditions of *Who's Doctor Who?* and *Punch and Judy Man* - which he thought was the much better song, however for marketing they insisted it was the B-side - which couldn't get commercial play in those days. He described the record as the only failure Mason & Reed ever wrote - or indeed that Jimmy Paige performed guitar on. We also got a brief bit of his *Time Traveller*.

On some of the worst fan gifts he's ever received, he noted that someone had given him a recreation of the set of *Evil of the Daleks* in clay - fine except he had to carry it home on a flight somehow. It still sits in his house today and hasn't managed to be dropped down the stairs.

Hoping not to add to that this, the DWCV presented him with some recent *Sonic* issues including the 1963-1973 edition, and honorary club membership #67 - to match the year of *Tomb of the Cybermen*, *The Ice Warriors* and *The Web of Fear*. 📺



The Moment: 2013 - 2023

Kicking on from the 50th anniversary, the show continues to broaden its horizons...

1. When the Doctor was me (2013)

The "...of the Doctor" anniversary stories concludes with *Time of the Doctor*, Matt Smith's finale, throwing all his best enemies against a town called Christmas. In an epic story (well, a solid 900 years for him anyway) he gets naked, shaves his head, cooks turkey and fights Dalek-controlled humans, Weeping Angels, invisible Sontarans and a wooden Cyberman. He returns to Trenzalore, learns where Gallifrey is, gets back to the crack, learns why Silence Must Fall, dreams about Amelia Pond, gets a new regeneration cycle (finally resolving 10's cheap trick)... and even has time to phone ahead before a quick kidney swap.



2. I couldn't very well keep calling myself the Master, now could I? (2014)

Capaldi's first season has been dark in tone, with a less-friendly Doctor playing out the sort of progression Colin Baker might have made, given the chance. The season delves into unusual areas, hinting at an afterlife, and culminating with the death of Clara's boyfriend Danny in *Dark Water*. Some possibly tasteless graveyard Cyber-conversions are offset by comedy with the Nethersphere and the UNIT crew. But Missy turning out to be the Doctor's oldest frenemy, in a regeneration gender swap, came as a surprise (despite rumours) - and practically guaranteed the press would redouble their campaign for a female Doctor.



3. This is the nightmare scenario (2015)

The Zygons were so memorable from 1975 it's surprising they barely been mentioned since - particularly as shapeshifting could save costs. Having finally returned in *Day of the Doctor*, and resettled quietly across Earth, the stage is now set for a full-blown conflict in *The Zygon Invasion/Inversion*. Between the Bond-ish action adventure and expansive American settings, there are emotional family scenes and overt but not overdone parallels made to modern political issues; refugees, splinter cells and the truth and consequences of war. Jenna Coleman excels playing both Clara and evil Zygon duplicate Bonnie, but the standout performance comes from Peter Capaldi whose anti-war speech here goes down as one of his Doctor's greatest moments.



4. That's a hell of a bird (2015)

In the immediate aftermath of a companion death, the Doctor finds himself alone - almost - in a strange castle prison. A bold experimental episode places Peter Capaldi right at the center of the action, carrying a grief-laden and complex story basically single-handedly - which he accomplishes brilliantly. The score escalates to an epic finale as The Shepherd's Boy spends a truly awesome amount of time on his escape, to avenge Clara and keep the secret of the Hybrid. *Heaven Sent* was highly rated at the time, and recently DWM readers ranked it the best episode in 60 years.



5. Hello, Sweetie (2015)

The Husbands of River Song starts out rather silly, with Matt Lucas' Nardole and Greg Davies as a ranting robot King. It's the usual light runaround fare you want from a Christmas episode, with great comedy in River not recognising the Doctor... until she does. Even then it's a riotous double-act... but we are headed to the conclusion of River's amazing tale, and the episode makes time for this. Only in *Who* can you get such emotion from a tale told half-backwards; meeting your best friend as a stranger, first/last kisses; births, marriages, deaths and regenerations; multiple simultaneous date nights and suspicions; and here in the finale, events perfectly yet sadly dovetailing into her final adventure - which happens tomorrow, but was told 7 years earlier, when he was a different man.

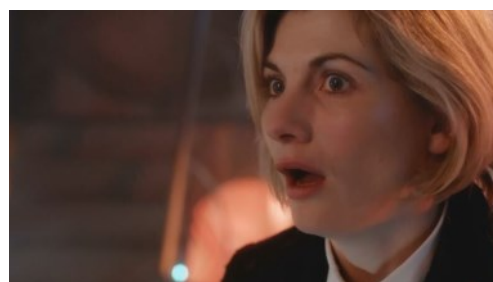


6. Never, ever eat pears (2017)

It's been a more fun ride with Bill Potts and Nardole, right up until yet another dramatic companion death (and another cheap twist to reverse it).

Capaldi continues to shine in his final episodes, fighting Mondasian Cybermen and perhaps finally convincing Missy to turn good - against the unfortunate influence of her predecessor, who is back to wearing disguises again. The Doctor's Sonic fight in the forest is wonderfully staged, taking us to his supposed final moments. But then as a bonus we get a prolonged swansong crossover with David Bradley's first Doctor circa 1966, with *The Tenth Planet* moments recreated, and Mark Gatiss' confused Captain.

And finally, after 55 years we have our most dramatic change in Doctor so far...



7. You're treading on your own history (2018)

In Jodie's first season, unusually it's the historical episodes that shine. *Rosa's* depiction of a key moment in the civil rights movement, and *Demons of the Punjab's* tale of the Partition of India, feel like they have expanded the show's horizons - telling strong human stories which the show might previously have addressed only in passing, or via metaphor. The local characters retain agency in the stories, leaving the TARDIS crew as observers or unwilling participants in the events. Both episodes choose to change their closing theme in keeping with the style and importance.



8. I've never been anything like you (2020)

Fugitive of the Judoon brings back those big, silly rhinoceros policemen for some fun in Gloucester. Even more fun - we get a throwback with the return of Captain Jack, who initially assumes Graham to be the Doctor, before leaving an ominous warning for her about the season finale. But it's the revelation that Ruth is a (past? future? parallel?) Doctor that sets up the biggest mystery for the coming series and beyond.



9. You've given me a gift. Of myself (2020)

A slightly confusing tale of an Irish garda seems to have little to do with the TARDIS crew fighting Cybermen. But the Master's return to Gallifrey has uncovered revelations about the Timeless Child - which will finally explain how Ruth fits. A controversial attempt to explain *The Brain of Morbius'* extra Doctors gives us an epic flashback, and a whole new pre-Hartnell life for the Doctor - has she forgotten several lifetimes working for The Division? Or that she's not even Gallifreyan?! These mysteries will drive 2021's experimental *Flux* series of linked episodes.



10. Tag, you're it! (2022)

Jodie's finale is a huge celebration of the history of the show and her era. Past favourite companions Tegan and Ace return, along with Kate Stewart and our new *Flux* characters, versus a teamup of the Master, Daleks and Cybermen. The nature of regeneration is redefined introducing the Guardians of the Edge, past companions gather with UNIT actively recruiting, and Yaz buries her feelings.

And then, the Doctor returns to a past face... 🏰



Coming Soon

Books

The 60th anniversary special novelisations are scheduled for April in Australia. *The Church on Ruby Road* will be novelised by Esmie Jikiemi-Pearson and read on audiobook by Angela Wynter.

Two new books from Candy Jar examine *U.N.I.T. - A Legacy in Doctor Who*, by Baz Greenland on the history of the organisation, and *Down In The London Underground* by George Ivanoff, illustrated by Martin Baines, a kids book retelling of *The Web of Fear*.

Audio

Upcoming BBC audios include Katy Manning reading Steve Lyons' *Escape the Daleks* (January), Nicola Bryant reading John Peel's *River of Death* (March) then David Banks with Gary Russell's *The Demons Within* (May).

The Phaser Aliens & Other Stories is a collection of stories from *Doctor Who Annual*, read by Maureen O'Brien, Anneke Wills, Tim Treloar, Mina Anwar, Geoffrey Beevers and Dan Starkey. Out in March.

10th Doctor stories *Pest Control* and *The Forever Trap* are on vinyl in May.

Book adaptations continue with *Attack of the Cybermen* read by David Banks in February and *Horns of Nimon* with Geoffrey Beevers in April, plus *The Invaders Collection* (*The Tenth Planet*, *The Dominators*, *The Pirate Planet* and *The Christmas Invasion*) collated in February.

From Big Finish, Charlie and C'rizz and the 8th Doctor return in January to launch series *Sontarans vs Rutans* with *The Battle of Giant's Causeway*. Paul Davis' *The Hoxteth Time Capsule* has won the Paul Spragg memorial short trips award, available free from December 29. Jacob Dudman is the 10th Doctor in *Defender of the Earth*, and the 11th in *Broken Hearts*, out now; his last 11th Doctor appearances will be *Everywhere and Anywhere* in December and *Victory of the Doctor* in February. Eric Roberts and Paul McGann face off in the box set *Master: Planet Doom* in January.

Video

Reeltime's *Reverse the Polarity* remasters 1990s fan productions covering *Who* auctions, Pertwee appearances and a Richard Franklin interview.

Clothing

Lovarzi have new *Who* festive beanies, scarves and sweaters featuring the TARDIS, weeping angels and the Great Intelligence snowmen.



Katy Down Under

The Sirens of Audio brought us Katy Manning at the Treacy Centre in Parkville on Sunday 22nd October, after appearing in Sydney the previous week.

This was more like the old-school conventions - a bunch of *Who* fans in a room getting together to catch up and chat, watch episodes and be entertained by Katy.

Katy entered to huge applause and proceeded to bounce around the room - and swing on her chair - through her introduction and panel sessions, wandering over and getting up close to those asking questions, and bringing co-players up to interact with.

She took us through the story of her audition - running late, she eventually made it to the BBC and found the production office. Unable to read an audition script without her coke-bottle glasses, she was asked to improvise being terrified by a furry hat on a nearby hatstand, then relieved to realise it was safe. Having lived a life unable to see things, she had no troubles with imagination. Barry liked it, introduced her to Jon who gave his approval and the deal was done.



Short-sightedness and perhaps scattered-brainness were very much themes of many of the stories. She describes herself as someone who'd "water a telegraph pole". At one point having bought a new house in London, she then immediately travelled back to Australia. On her return to London, she not only couldn't remember which number apartment was hers - or on which



floor - but she managed to fall over in a muddy gutter on the way there. This bedraggled, mad old woman running up and down the apartment block trying every door... only to discover the door had been replaced and repainted while she was gone.

She had been working on a movie in Australia with Henry Thomas (1986's *The Quest*) and was filming a key scene out in the cold at 4 AM. In an emotional scene with her husband, she gave it her everything... to be told "That was wonderful honey... but *that's* not your husband".

That was one of many 'clangs' - it's a little hard not to namedrop when you went to school with Liza Minelli and visited Judy Garland's regularly. Later, sharing a flat with Minelli they would host large house parties. Apparently she - unlike his crew of yes-men - told off Sean Penn for failing to have good endings to his stories.

A trivia quiz also brought us to some unusual admissions including that she had broken a co-stars nose while on-stage, getting overexcited opening a door, then accidentally shot someone... and then there was the time she was caught up in a revolution in Juárez, Mexico - again bedraggled in a soaked sweater - and needed to be snuck out by a Graham Green agent and an Elvis-singing pilot. All this and a chicken impression. She suggested she couldn't write the story of her life, as it's all just too unlikely!

The photograph session was not your typical convention in-and-done booth. Katy was telling stories and entertaining everyone waiting in the queue, and making sure that everyone was relaxed and got a fun and different pose for a few pictures.

Between panels, our President David Pryn spoke a little about our Club and the events that we hold.

A small cosplay parade was then held for the several Doctors in the audience, with Katy demanding a photograph with all of them.





Through a selection of *Who* questions, she spoke of how the UNIT crew in the 70s had worked as such a great team. She visits Richard Franklin - of late fairly ill - on a regular basis and sends love around, and sees John Levene when she can. She also carries Jon, Nick Courtney and Roger Delgado around with her; by telling her stories she is continuing their memories. Some long-lost black & white publicity photos had recently been unearthed - she will kill anyone who tries to colourize them!

She talked a little about filming *The Three Doctors* and the initial frosty - but later solid - relationship between Troughton and Pertwee. Her own relationship with Jon had been wonderful, apart from a single argument when they'd become frustrated getting lost in Bessie on the way to a shoot ("That's not the real Bessie by the way" she commented of recent documentary shoots with Stewart Bevan).



She reminisced further about him and Jon with a commentary on the last 10 minutes of *The Green Death*. With food supplies being grown out of mushrooms, “we invented Quorn!”. With the show embracing environmental concerns, she commented on Barry Letts’ intention to include a moral message - however, one which was woven into the stories compared to some recent “in-your-face” attempts. She noted that many of the audience probably weren’t even born when those episodes originally went out, and if watching the old episodes you must “watch not with modern eyes” - accepting they are of their time - if you want to enjoy.



Shortly after the show, she had appeared on *Whodunnit* with Jon Pertwee hosting - however it had been such a whirlwind she didn’t remember much.

Her more recent returns to the Whoniverse brought her to *The Sarah Jane Adventures* with the wonderful Elisabeth Sladen and her “gorgeous” grandson Santiago. She loved the idea of Jo having her own whole tribe with 7 kids - “that’s what happens when you go up the Amazon!”

Asked about Melbourne, she commented that it is one of her favourite cities and she would have loved to live here - however, the move to Australia was for her children’s health and so Sydney had the necessary climate. However her favourite place in the world was simply “anywhere under a tree”.

At the autographs Katy was again keen to chat to everyone, hear their stories and tell her own. She recalled being an honorary member of DWCV back in the day, as we presented her with card #71 and some recent *Sonics*. Our archive stories reminded her of a 1989 appearance at Fitzroy Gardens in a live *Who* mass-participation play with Mark Strickson and Peter Daicos.

Katy is a hugely entertaining guest with a wealth of zany stories from her life to tell - but more than that, she makes sure everyone in the audience is welcome and having a great time. 🏠



Katy Manning in Melbourne

Michael Young's thoughts on the Sirens of Audio convention

Had a fabulous day in November with KATY MANNING (Jo Grant/Jones) and a bunch of enthusiastic fans at the SIRENS OF AUDIO event at the Treacy Centre, in Parkville, Melbourne.

So many people there who hadn't been in the same space for a long time and the energy was amazing. Familiar faces including many former Presidents of DWCV, and Sonic Editors, and also people that I've written about as I've gone through the history for the DWCV/Sonic timeline articles in this year's Sonics. Great to see some for the first time in ten years and meet many others with brilliant stories from the past.

Katy Manning, at 77, is more sprightly, energetic and fired up than I am. She always brings a kind of full-on energy. She tells a story about how she shared an apartment in New York with Liza Minnelli when she was younger and they were the best of friends, and it shows. When she was introduced and came into the main room to talk to everybody, her energy is just like Liza Minnelli walking into the room... "Here I am, Hello, how are you," a full-on the stage performance energy. In contrast to that, I arrived at the event early, wasn't sure where to wait, there seemed no one around, then I turned around and there's Katie and her good friend that was with her. Katie straightaway walks up, she says, "hello, darling", gives me a great big hug, and we start chatting about things. Just a friendly, everyday person. Wonderful.

Katy was an absolute Star! Entertaining and delightful throughout the entire day. From the photo shoot, the interviews, the trivia session, the commentary on the last 10 minutes of The Green Death, to coping with the slowly rotating chair and finally the long signing session at the end.

I was fortunate to be in the front row so was able to take some video of her stories which I have uploaded to my YouTube Page for all to enjoy!



KATY MANNING: Moments In time! Is a Video Playlist at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@avaorionmedia4145>

Thank you to the organisers, **THE SIRENS OF AUDIO**, and to everyone involved. They put on a brilliant event! www.sirensaudio.com



Colour-in



Manuel Bouw

Parallel Worlds: Class

The return of *Doctor Who* in 2005 reintroduced the idea of family viewing, with early spinoffs *Torchwood* targeting an adult audience and *The Sarah Jane Adventures* for kids. But what about something for a teenage audience, *Buffy*-style?



In 2015, Steven Moffat and Brian Minchin invited award-winning young adult author Patrick Ness to write a *Who* episode - but he was keen to do something original. Ideas began to form based on recent *The Caretaker* - what if the strange goings-on at Coal Hill since 1963 had stretched the walls of reality thin, creating a rift-like gap through which monsters would arrive? How would students deal with on top of hormones and exams?



Class would be a multi-media production, co-produced with BBC America and initially 'broadcast' from October 2016 on the newly digital BBC Three. The eight-part series would feature a gang of misfit students at Coal Hill Academy - April (Sophie Hopkins), organising the prom she has no date for; Charlie (Greg Austin), a posh new boy; Ram (Fady Elsayed), the football star; and Tanya (Vivian Oparah),

the smart kid moved up three grades. We first meet them in the class of Miss Quill (Katherine Kelly), a physics teacher who seems to have little time for her students.

To create the connection with *Who*, head teacher Frank Armitage returns, and episode 1 - *For Tonight We Might Die* - features Peter Capaldi guest starring as the Doctor. However, as with *Torchwood*, this show sets out to distinguish itself from the main show quickly. Psychedelic colourful opening credits set to Alex Clare's *Up All Night* give way to almost American school scenes, but once the action starts the tone is darker and gorier than the parent program, which makes Capaldi's presence feel strange. By the end of the first episode, the evil Shadow Kin have attacked and April's heart is bound to them; Ram has lost a leg (but gained a cybernetic one); and Charlie and Quill are revealed to be aliens rescued by the Doctor - the boy a Rhodian Prince, and the teacher a former terrorist, now sentenced to protect him.



Between teen angst and sci-fi drama around these characters, it takes time to like them - they don't even like each other much. Miss Quill stands out quickly; it's fun watching her dismissive attitude to students, and attempts to break the curbs on her violent tendencies. The other highlight is Matteusz (Jordan Renzo), a Polish student with a natural sense of humour towards the strange goings-on; his relationship with Charlie brings more relatable down to Earth scenes to the show.



The Coach with the Dragon Tattoo follows Ram's soccer and feels like an early *Buffy* episode. *Night-visiting* is more emotional, as an alien takes the form of lost loved ones. April's connection to the Shadow King is explored in a two-parter, *Co-Owner of a Lonely Heart* and *Brave-ish Heart*. Then we have two experimental episodes. *Detained* traps the students in a classroom outside of space and

time, getting aggravated and forced to make confessions, which feels very *Sapphire & Steel*. The following episode, *The Metaphysical Engine, or What Quill Did* takes place simultaneously as she seeks her freedom. Finale *The Lost* brings the war with the Shadow Kin to a conclusion, but reveals some familiar faces are behind Coal Hill's board of Governors.

The series ends on unresolved cliffhangers, as it hadn't lived up to BBC Three's expectations (nor performed well in BBC One repeats) and was cancelled. Big Finish reunited the characters in 2018 for two box sets, with two more in 2020 (recasting Tanya and Miss Quill) and *Secret Diary of a Rhodian Prince* in 2023. They are set between series episodes, and tell creative stories such as a threat transmitted with the words "I love you", a truly haunted house, an abduction into a historical hunt, pressures at exam time, and *In Remembrance* - a crossover with the events of *Remembrance of the Daleks* involving Ace.

The audios were more able to do what the TV show couldn't in its short run - spend time developing the characters and relationships, and put characters we like in interesting situations. They could tell smaller stories; often the show had little regard for secondary characters, and villains felt insurmountably powerful until they weren't. Still it was a worthwhile addition introducing some great characters to an expanded *Whoniverse*. Worth a look - if you don't mind teenagers and those unresolved cliffhangers... 🏠



Power of the DWCV

Michael Young brings us up to date with the history of the Club over the past decade, with contributions from Mark Longmuir.

The 50th Anniversary Year ended on a high with amazing episodes and other offerings that would be hard to ever top. We then moved into a period of change and declining popularity for Doctor Who that marked the following 10 years. Amazingly, DWCV and Sonic Screwdriver Magazine weathered the “Oncoming Storms” well and are still holding firm in 2023!

2014:

We get a new Doctor in Peter Capaldi and he does a World Press Tour with Jenna Coleman, coming to Sydney. Peter Davison hosts the MSO and a bunch of monsters at MCEC for the Symphonic Spectacular. Other visitors to our shores include Arthur Darvill at the 2nd Melbourne Oz Comic-Con, John Barrowman & Terry Molloy (interstate), Freema Agyeman at Supanova, Jenna Coleman at the last “Armageddon”; and at Lords of Time 3 - Katy Manning, Matthew Waterhouse, Gary Russell, Geoffrey Beevers, and Terrance Dicks! (Damn! I so wish I had gone to see them and not still been in my self-imposed exile). Rob Lloyd’s *Science of Doctor Who* runs at the Malthouse. A *Who* popup shop opens in Melbourne. The Master also regenerates into Missy and starts the first of our gender changing Time Lord experiences.

On the Committee was President: Phillip Nicholls who will hold this position for an amazing 9 years, and who marries our Treasurer: Kristen in a Final Fantasy/Kingdom Hearts/steampunk/*Who*-themed wedding! Also VP: Jayde Campbell/Colin Russell, Secretary: Miriam Eisfelder, General Committee: Colin Russell/Nick Steedman/Jason Grasso/Beau Berill/David Pryn. Sonic Editors were Colin Russell & David Pryn.

Classic Membership cards 2015



Club website c. 2015

2015:

Visitors for this year include Matt Smith, Karen Gillan & Alex Kingston at the postponed *Whoniverse*, Billie Piper (interstate), and Richard Franklin at the newly-branded AMC convention. The *Doctor Who Festival* takes place in Sydney with Peter Capaldi, Sylvester McCoy, Ingrid Oliver, Mark Gatiss, Dan Starkey and Steven Moffat. The Bendigo Whovian Society was discovered hidden away in country Victoria and became firm friends with DWCV. We take part in the Australia Day Parade, despite a slight sign mishap, and our current membership prices are first set, with Classic and Digital memberships available.



Changes on the Committee are VP: Colin Russell, Secretary: Kane Dawson, General Committee: Jason Grasso, Nick Steedman, David Pryn, Kristie Cregan. Sonic Editor was now David Pryn.

2016:

DWCV moves meetings from the Northcote Town Hall (now priced for weddings), to The Hub at Docklands. At our first meeting we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cybermen with their designer Alexandra Tynan. We participate in the Australia Day Parade, Heidelberg's ArtyFarty Fest, and the Easter Parade in Bendigo and start to have a presence at every possible related Convention or event. The *Who* Showrunner regenerates from Steven Moffat into Chris Chibnall, hopes were high. Visiting cast included John Barrowman (playing Tim Tam Jenga in Melbourne this time), John Leeson, Michelle Gomez, Gareth David Lloyd, Burn Gorman, Naoko Mori, Ingrid Oliver and Samuel Anderson.

Changes to the DWCV Committee are VP: Jayde Campbell, Treasurer: Kristen Nicholls, Secretary: Kristie Cregan.



2017:

Yes, of course, they were determined it would happen eventually... Peter Capaldi regenerates into Jodie Whittaker at the end of the year... a Female Doctor! DWCV powered on with meetings and also Tardis Trips including conventions, activities, and bowling. Visitors included Sylvester McCoy and Tom Hooper.

Changes to the DWCV Committee are VP: David Pryn, Secretary: Lisa Jung, General Committee: Colin Russell, Dianne Davies, Kathryn Beaton, Jason Grasso, Madeline Seiter, Ric Mauger.

2018:

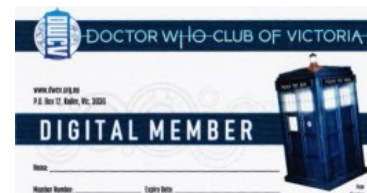
The brilliant Blu-ray Series Collections begin with Season 12 starring Tom Baker. Behind The Sofa becomes a fan favourite Extra.

Peter Capaldi, John Barrowman, Pearl Mackie, come to conventions with a huge Who console & Daleks display at Supanova. Catherine Tate visits to perform comedy and stops by at Lords of Time 4.

Changes to the DWCV Committee are General Committee: Colin Russell, Jason Grasso, Dianne Davies & welcome for the first time Michael Witton and Linton Kenneally. Daniel Payne returns as Sonic Editor giving it a new look and old style illustrated covers.

2019:

DWCV celebrated its 40th Birthday with a Yarra River Cruise. Blu-rays are the new 'In Thing' with Series Collections, Current Episodes and even Animated Troughton episodes coming thick and fast. The book of the Story/Movie that never happened, conceived by Tom Baker and Ian Marter, was finally released as a novelisation by Tom Baker. Terrance Dicks (one of my Who Heroes) died in September.



Digital Membership cards 2020



2020/2021:

Well, it all went to “hell in a handbasket” at the start of 2020 with the revelation of the Covid circus. There was Silence In The Library, the city, most of the damn World! There were, obviously, no physical Meetings or TARDIS Trips for the DWCV. However, “Watchalongs” started August 2020. Online Meetings with special guests started in October including David J Howe, Simon Fisher Becker, Jon Davey, Ben Tedds, Beverley Cressman and Colin Howard. Thankfully, Blu-ray Collections, Books, Audio Offerings and all things merchandise continued. To those ever faithful few who helped sustain DWCV through this traumatic time... a Huge Thank You!

When we can finally hold an AGM, Dianne Davies becomes VP, Kylie Chappell Secretary, Mark Longmuir as Treasurer, and General: Colin, Jason, Tim Cutter and Rick Ling. *Sonic Screwdriver* chose to go into self-isolation for the full two years!

2022:

A new era begins as the madness of the previous two years magically dematerialised into thin air... leaving only the PTSD of it all! Return of RTD announced. Ncuti Gatwa announced as the next Doctor. Bernard Cribbins died not long after filming his scenes for the 60th Anniversary Specials. *The Power Of The Doctor* ends the Chibnall/Whittaker years with a brilliant episode (about time). Meetings and conventions and all that jazz begin again and Christopher Eccleston graced our shores.

On the DWCV Committee, Linton becomes Secretary with Colin & Jason on General. Mark Longmuir takes over *Sonic*.

2023:

The 60th Anniversary Year arrives! The Anniversary Specials arrived in November/December and Ncuti Gatwa takes over as The Doctor for the Christmas Special. We also had *Tales Of The TARDIS*, and a Colourised version of *The Daleks*. The Sonic Screwdriver Archive Project started, after years of false trying, and 13 Facebook Groups were created to spread around the existing copies of issues. By the end of this year, over 70 Missing Issues were recovered and only a handful remain to be found! I am very proud of what I’ve achieved with the help of so many.

Visitors this year included Sophie Aldred, Katy Manning and we host our own convention with Frazer Hines. Changes to the DWCV committee were President: David Pryn and VP: Kathryn Beaton, with Michael Witton and Nicole Small joining Colin & Jason on General.

So let’s see if Doctor Who will survive another ten years! 🚶



Business cards

Review: The Power of the Doctor

Change, My Dear... And Not A Moment Too Soon!

Michael Young, former Sonic Screwdriver Editor (2008 to 2012) during the Russell T Davies years, decided at the beginning of 2023 to come out of his Sonic Retirement and share his thoughts and contributions again in honour of this amazing 60th Anniversary year of 2023, and the return of RTD to the show created the perfect storm that was just impossible for him to resist. In this first contribution that he wrote in January 2023, he shares his unique perspective on The Power Of The Doctor, the departure of Chibnall, the return of RTD, and what the future may or may not hold, including some predictions that, eleven months later, have turned out to be true...

I started viewing *The Power Of The Doctor* thinking I would watch a few minutes and come back to it later. I was thankful that I would hopefully never hear the name Chris Chibnall again, or see Jodie Whittaker's Doctor, and especially not see or hear Dan again. Miraculously, 90 minutes later, I had survived the entire episode in one sitting and, overall, thought it was excellent!



After a very typical “action hero excess” start I was very pleased to see Dan and his incomprehensible “Scouse” accent were gone... if I struggle to understand him, what hope would Americans (for example) have? He was a mistake from the start for me. The Cybermasters were very pretty, I like their look but they were almost as difficult as Dan to understand at times, even when I was watching it with Dolby Atmos Immersive Surround Sound. Thankfully, things improved rapidly with the appearance of Rasputin.

The standout and show-stealing performance for me was from Sacha Dhawan as the Master and Rasputin. He was astounding, electric, insane, dangerously unpredictable and that moment where he actually spat at Yaz as he abused her face to face was amazing.



When the song Rasputin by Boney M started to play, I actually screamed with delight as I have loved that song since 1979 and seeing him dancing around to it will be an all-time unforgettable Master moment for me.

The Master regenerating into the Doctor was brilliantly twisted, and I loved him dressed in the Doctor's clothes, as well as the multi-Doctor outfit and playing the recorder. I don't want him to go!!!

The return of Tegan and Ace as part-time additions to UNIT, working with Kate Stewart, was a winner. I loved that teaming. The idea of the Hologram Doctor was also a genius way to bring back old Doctors but have them look older because of the psychic influence of the companion interacting with it. I was sad we didn't see Tom, but he clearly



looked frail in the recent Season 17 Collection interview so it is understandable. The "Friends Of The Doctor Support Group" is a brilliant idea and it should have started way back when Russell T Davies was in charge. I loved seeing Jo, Mel, Ian (amazing at his age) and Graham, and I hope that RTD will fully exploit the idea of them all working with UNIT in future episodes... or even create a new spin-off for them all.

I know that the resolving of the relationship between the Doctor and Yaz was an important part of this story, but I found it of little interest. I actually couldn't remember her name when first writing this and had to look it up, even after watching every episode she was in... that's how uninteresting a companion she was for me... she was like a "placeholder" with no real presence of her own! I never liked the direction the relationship took or felt that it added anything of value to the Who Legacy and was just more unnecessary, politically correct box ticking. Female... tick! Lesbian... tick! For me, the Doctor always works best when he is asexual or awkwardly unaware and out-of-place in that level of interaction with others.



The effects, which were a massive part of *The Power Of The Doctor*, were exceptional as were the sets. I was, however, left wondering how Tegan survived her fall down that shaft in UNIT. I was also, initially thinking it was a mistake when, after so much fun with the Master regenerating into the Doctor's outfit, David Tennant



regenerated his outfit as well as his body. Clearly it was deliberate and due to some timey-wimey thingy, or my theory is that it actually is the 14th Doctor but being deluded into thinking he is the 10th Doctor by the Celestial Toymaker. Now we have to wait a whole damn YEAR to find out!

After watching the episode for a second time, I realised that my initial positive reaction to *The Power Of The Doctor* was nothing to do with the regular cast and the Doctor, it was because of the Master, Tegan, Ace, Kate, and the appearances of the other Doctors and companions. Considering that some of the recent episodes were the worst *Doctor Who* I had ever watched, incomprehensible and wastes of time and money, *The Power Of The Doctor* was almost unrecognisable as Chibnall Era *Who*. It all makes me wonder if RTD had considerable input into this movie-length episode.

While Chibnall has written some good episodes of TV under other leadership, he was not the right choice as Executive Producer for something as complex and massive as *Doctor Who*. His other Producer/Creator credited programs rarely progressed past one season, *Broadchurch* being his greatest success, although I was never able to engage with that despite the presence of David Tennant. Trying to be smart and “politically correct” and make the Doctor a woman was a cheap shot that ultimately did not pay off under HIS leadership and came close to destroying all the great work since 2005. The only episodes I remember being great were *Rosa* and *Nikola Tesla's Night Of Terror*, I hated Season 13 so much that I refuse to buy it on Blu-ray and would rather leave a hole in my collection!

It is clear to me that, without the surprise return of Russell T Davies and his Bad Wolf Productions team over a year ago, *The Power Of The Doctor* would have been the end of *Doctor Who* for now, if not for ever. While I am thrilled that RTD is back and I am expecting a lot from him to resurrect *Doctor Who*, once again, I have to admit that I am cautiously concerned by some things we have heard already.

- The Disney+ alliance is one. An insatiable media monopoly that could easily buy Bad Wolf Productions from Sony at any moment and secure full control of the show, de-

spite the current illusion they present of not wanting control and being just a partner. It's a "deal with the devil" and their talons are already evident in the choice of a "young and pretty" new cast so typical of Disney+.

- I love the idea of more *Doctor Who* Spin-offs which I am sure RTD is working on, or even the return of *Torchwood* rebooted. At least a UNIT or Friends Of The Doctor show including old companions as I suggested above, or a show featuring Mel Bush or Jo Grant. However, Disney+ has an obsession with sucking dry any franchise that they invest in, as can be seen with their current excessive exploitation of *Star Wars* and Marvel. Also, having recently subscribed to their channel, I found nothing worth watching (I hate *Star Wars*, never worked for me), and a general flavour to their shows that would ultimately not serve the *Doctor Who* legacy very well.
- RTD's comment that "This will be the most Woke Doctor ever" is a sign of potential excess of preaching Political Correctness, extreme Leftist Ideologies, and I personally find all these kinds of things unbalanced, divisive and offensive. We should never be bullied into aligning ourselves with "what is expected" and must be bold to always speak our truth.
- Finally, there is the choice of a Young Black and Gay man to play the Doctor, which already screams 'politically correct and woke' casting. As a gay man, I don't think it is appropriate for "the Doctor" character to be gay, I strongly hope that is not what is happening. As I said, Chibnall tried this kind of "ticking the boxes" with his Doctor which was a big failure, and sadly this new casting smacks of more deliberate "box ticking".



Still, I hope that all these concerns become a non-issue, that the new Doctor is not written as being gay, Ncuti Gatwa turns out to be a great Doctor, and the return of RTD is not just a way of delaying the end of *Doctor Who* by a few more years. I apologise if what I have written seems negative, but it is "my truth", if you have a different opinion then please share it. Above all, I desperately hope that I will still be seeing new episodes of *Doctor Who* and loving them when I am in my 70s!

The Power Of the Doctor gets 4 out of 5 Jelly Babies from me! 🍬



That's how it all started...

Michael Young (MY) recently had a very long lunch with DWCV Founding Member and Former President, Judith McGinness (JM), to talk about all things Doctor Who and DWCV. Here are some very abridged highlights...

MY: This year we are celebrating 60 years of Doctor Who, 44 Years of Doctor Who Club of Victoria and 43 years of our Sonic Screwdriver Magazine. All astounding achievements, and you, Judith McGinness, have been there for it all!

JM: All that makes me feel so old... hahaha... but it's wonderful to still be here.

The DWCV:

MY: Let's go back to the very beginning of the Club. Suddenly, you hear that Tom Baker's coming to Australia, what happens?

JM: What happened was I probably read it in the Green Guide in the Age newspaper. That's basically all we had except for TV Week. So I read he was coming to Doncaster Shoppingtown, and it was in the early days of shops being open until nine o'clock at night. I was working in Chapel Street at the time, painting signs for Waltons. Yeah, that was a happy place to work. I remember it was on a Friday night at six o'clock because I arranged to knock off work early. My boss was a real gem. I had a lovely picture of Tom Baker on my little cubicle wall, they all knew I was a nerd but I was just that "weird" person, wherever I went. I said I had to knock off early because I had to go to the doctor.



Haha. Which one? Doctor Who? Oh, he knew because I've spoken of nothing else ever since I read the article. But then something unexpected happened, and none of us were allowed to leave early because some one of the head honchos was coming and they chose that day to. How dare he!

MY: So what time did you eventually get there?

JM: So I got out of work and when I arrived, I think he already started the book signing and there were a lot of people around doing late night closing on a Friday night, lots of families. So there he was sitting at a table and looked more like a homeless person than the Doctor. He wasn't wearing one of his nice coats or anything, he was wearing a collared shirt and one of those old Flasher coats. He looked like you'd give him \$1 on the street. Anyway, when my turn came, it was wonderful, and I was wearing my scarf that had been knitted by 12 different people on the train into work every day. In those days, I would get on the train at Werribee and it wasn't electrified then. It came from Geelong, stopped at Werribee and went on to Melbourne, and we were in little compartments that had a corridor and leather seats. We got to sit with the same people all the time and lots of romances blossomed on that train. You saw the same people every day and every night. It was a really good time. Nobody had iPads then and everybody talked, and my scarf got passed around. Twelve different people helped with it. So Tom sees the scarf and says to me, "That's as good as mine," so my head just exploded. He signed *The Making of Doctor Who* which has since accumulated a lot of signatures. He wrote: 'To Judith, Love Tom Baker,' with three little kisses. Then at the end, when he packed up, it was mostly families just shopping there, and then there were people like me who had gone there on purpose. I suppose there might have been about a dozen of us, all teens and 20s. We just spoke to each other, started a conversation like, "Oh, what did he say to you? How long have you been watching it?" You know, the usual stuff. So we all got very matey standing there in the Shoppingtown. Then somebody says, "Is there a *Doctor Who* club?", "No, I haven't heard of any.", "Oh, there ought to be one. Why don't we start one?" And that's it, that's exactly what happened. That would have been me, actually who said that. And look at it now. We're still here 44 years later.



We've been through so much, and we are still here, just like Doctor Who's still here. What a difference Tom Baker's signing that night did in the universe.

MY: Absolutely. You and I wouldn't know each other for a start. We would never have had the joy and drama of editing *Sonic* or being on the Committee and meeting so many fascinating people. So who do you remember was there, who became club members?

JM: Adrienne Losin was there and said, "Well, it's Anzac Day next week, a public holiday. Come over to my place and we'll talk about it." She lived with her parents, as we all did in those days, that's how young we all were. She lived in Ringwood and taught at the Croydon High School. So a whole lot of us went over there, and it was very exciting. Just to have other people to talk to about *Doctor Who*. That's the first time I met Ellie and Tessie, Ellie was a legend. She came with a whole lot of people from Austrek, it was a bit of an overlap of interest you see. There were a couple of other people come to help out. Doug McLeod, a writer, he died recently, he ended up running *The Comedy Company* and lots of other things. Then there was a kid called Graham Jones who was only 14 and was one of Adrienne's students who was a huge fan. It was very productive. I asked, "Okay, so right, we're going to start our club. When's the next meeting?" And Ellie says, "We can have it this time next month at my place." She lived in Port Melbourne, near City Road. So we went and had a meeting, a lot more people were there because Ellie's house was always full of people. She ran what was known as a Fan House, she lived alone there for



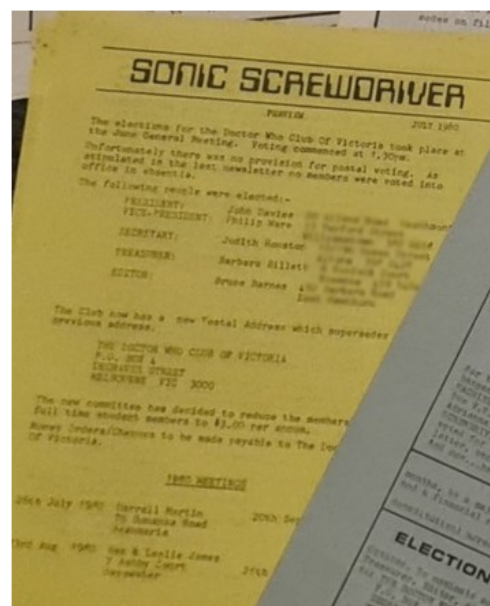
people contributed to the Newsletter, for us it was only a source of the date and place of the next meeting. It was printed using some kind of a tinfoil plate and you'd roll purple ink over. Quite primitive, but we thought it was pretty cool at the time. No word processors then! I bought a state of the art electric typewriter when I was doing *Sonic Screwdriver*. And now I can't even imagine using a typewriter to do it because it's so hard to correct anything.

MY: So, how did *Sonic Screwdriver* start?

JM: More people were joining all the time so it was becoming unmanageable. Too much for one person who wouldn't admit it. I can say that now. Adrienne and I were the closest of friends as a result of our involvement in the Club, and then we had what you might call a falling out. It was nothing personal, I could see that the Club was being neglected, and I could see why it's being neglected. All the people said were saying we needed to do things right, by the book.

MY: People often do that, usually not even realising that's what they're doing. They don't understand the power of a "team", and the team is the only reason we're still here. 60 years of *Doctor Who*, 44 years of the DWCV, 43 years of *Sonic Screwdriver*, all that is because of teams. Motivation, appreciation, new ideas, going further, shared success. The Committee is always an essential team for the Club also.

JM: As the months went on, we're having these little meetings, many people are joining, they're telling all their schoolmates, and families are joining. Average age was mid-teens to mid-twenties, High School. So a few people said to Adrienne, "Look, we really need more people that want to volunteer to help, because it's too big for one person." So we investigated and found that the Club had to have a Committee, so we held a meeting and that was elected. Then everybody agreed, by voting, we needed a publication specifically for the Club. I suggested *Sonic Screwdriver* as a name, which all thought was a great idea. Now, 43 years later, *Sonic Screwdriver* is still going, which is just incredible. So, we got onto doing an Issue ASAP. The first issue was a preview issue from July 1980, which was not paid for, it was just a trial, which is the yellow one, Issue 000. We just wanted to find out what the members thought about it. The very first one was in August 1980, which is Issue 001. *Supervoc* was also my idea. Now we have the *Sonic Screwdriver* Archive Project, so now they are collected together and being shared for everyone to freely access.



MY: We now have all Issues from the 1980s, thanks to many members sharing them with me, which is amazing considering I had almost none at the start of this year.

JM: One of the most beautiful results of all this is, no matter how many years have passed, or how people have drifted apart distance wise or life getting in the way, different circumstances, as soon as we meet in the same room again it's like no time has passed. It's either at a convention, or a funeral. The word gets around out by the Bush Telegraph that someone from fandom has died. It happens in the *Doctor Who* World, but also in the general Fan World as well, it's across the board.



DOCTOR WHO:

MY: Okay, so if we go right back to the start of Doctor Who... 1963. You saw the very first episode, *An Unearthly Child*, when you were in the UK. What did you think of it?

JM: To be honest, a lot of it went over my head. I was 9 years old, 9 going on 29. Had the school in it been a primary school, I might have related to a bit more, but I watched it. I remember clearly President Kennedy being shot the night before, we sat through that on the news. I didn't catch on to a lot of what was happening in the first episode. It wasn't until *The Daleks* episode, four episodes on, when it made sense to everybody. I remember one of the *100,000 BC* episodes where the Doctor teaches them to make fire because it was constant winter. In November, in Ireland, it got dark at maybe 4pm in the afternoon. I recall playing in the street in the dark with one of the neighbour's little girls and we were experimenting with making fire, sitting on the footpath with two flintstones, scratching them together, making little sparks all night.

MY: Inspired by *Doctor Who*? He must have caused a whole bunch of fire starters.

JM: Yeah. Then the Daleks came and every kid in the schoolyard was talking about them. So the rest is history. I saw every episode up until we left Ireland which was in March of '64. So I was really in at the ground level. Then I get here and there's nothing. It hadn't started over here at all, not until April 1965, so I believe. We couldn't bring our TV with us anyway, as it was on a different system. So we didn't have a TV for a while, and we started out here in the migrant hostel.

MY: So what was the last episode you saw before you left the UK?

JM: The last I saw before leaving the UK was *Marco Polo*, I remember because of my younger brother and sister being scared of it, *The Cave With Eyes* episode. We didn't

stumble across *Doctor Who* on the ABC until 1968 or '69, but it had all changed. William Hartnell wasn't the Doctor anymore, which was a shock, there was this guy who looked like Mo from the 3 Stooges, and new companions. But the Daleks and the TARDIS were still there, and all three children watched it.

Patrick Troughton got a stranglehold on us, they showed him four afternoons a week in the school holidays, the first screenings. By this time I was 14 years old and, like most young girls, was in love with Jamie. Jamie and Victoria were such good characters, them combined with Patrick Troughton was just the best. We named our daughter Victoria, a combination of *Doctor Who's* assistant and Victoria Park where Collingwood plays. Then in 1971 we had *The War Games* for 10 weeks and the last episode left us traumatized because we didn't know what was coming and suddenly Jamie, Zoe and our Doctor were gone. Then we get the Time Lords sending the Doctor anywhere they want. So we watched the next week, and there's this ordinary looking guy with a mop of curly hair falling out of the TARDIS, doesn't look like a Doctor at all, was just not the same. We watched *Spearhead From Space* and decided this guy's a dud. We're not going to watch this anymore. We couldn't handle it, felt robbed, because we've been watching it all that time, hanging on every word of the script and every scene and then all of a sudden, our hero's gone. My eye-candy, Jamie, is also gone. Not impressed.

MY: So when did that change? What changed that?

JM: I went to the UK in 1976, which was my first time back to the old country. In England I read something in a newspaper about a guy called Tom Baker, the new Doctor, had been in the role for a little while and how he was a brickie's labourer one week, and an icon the next. So when I got back home, I finally bit the bullet and started watching *Doctor Who* again, it was still Jon Pertwee, and they had started doing repeats. The Brigadier was in it, so that was someone familiar, and then Jo came into it, and it was in colour by then. So, got used to Jon and then Tom Baker was shown in Australia finally. I got to see *Robot* and *The Ark In Space*, and I was just enchanted by it, by his performance. Then I started knitting a scarf, yeah, those were the days!



MY: Yes, I knitted myself a 17 foot long scarf too. Then did you continue to watch everything from then on? Was there ever a time when it didn't work for you?

JM: Well, I watched all Sylvester McCoy, Peter Davison, love Colin Baker. Also from 2005 on until the BBC chose to cast a blonde, tall, thin, white Anglo, good looking, well-spoken female Doctor. I couldn't handle that. I have no disrespect at all for Jodie Whittaker, who as an actor, happened to accept the challenge of an iconic role with a new employer. My initial reaction was that the decision by the BBC flies in the face of the overdone inclusive agenda with which the fans were saturation-bombed since the tail-end of the David Tennant era. If they truly wanted to move forward in this respect, they failed. In my opinion, Pearl Mackie who played Bill Potts would have made a brilliant first female Doctor, as would Catherine Tate, who went out as Doctor-Donna anyway, and would have fitted the profile of several of the Doctors by virtue of being obnoxious. Someone like Chibnall, who is a Writer first, doesn't necessarily make a great Showrunner, just like in football, a great player doesn't automatically make a great Coach. They need different skills. You consider the atypical characteristic female fan, they're not like that, they all wear glasses etc., and people say to me, "she'll be a good role model for the young ones." I say, "excuse me, you been to a convention lately?" Role model? It does really nothing for their body image. Rather, just be yourself.

MY: I tried and I tried to like it. My partner gave up after one season, refused to watch it. However, he enjoys watching old Hartnell and Troughton stories with me. I had to force myself to watch all the Chibnall era stuff. Only two episodes that I remember well and would ever re-watch, the one about Rosa Parks, and the one about Nikola Tesla. Then, of course, the final one which was *The Power Of The Doctor* which, finally, was just fantastic.

MY: So, who is your favorite companions, Doctors, and episodes out of all of it?

JM: That would be Jamie and Victoria, and Catherine Tate, she was a kickass. Favorite Doctors are Patrick Troughton, and Tom Baker. Favorite episodes are *The Faceless Ones*. *Doctor Who* was only meant to go for six weeks, originally. Now *Doctor Who* is the longest running Sci-Fi, it's amazing. 60 years now! 🏰



Review: The Daleks in Colour

60th Anniversary Rerelease

Reviewed by Michael Young

I've just watched The Daleks Colourised... well, about half of it so far... I had to take a break!

Now, I'm not a purist who thinks that the old episodes should ONLY be in Black & White; in fact, I love the coloured animations that have been done. But this??? Oh dear! Oh dear, oh dear! Oh my!



The colour, for a start, is like an overdose of candy... too sugary, and bright, and pink, and green, and purple, and blue... basically like one of us had done it at home for fun... definitely not the professional standard that is achievable these days. Maybe an explosion in a Candy Factory? Sadly, I found it a bit sickening to watch.

The seven episodes have been cut up and rewritten into 75 minutes. The pacing is weird, the performances look bad because of the way it has been re-edited, the Daleks have been revoiced (at least some) and words changed. The music is updated with new music that just sounds all wrong.





All of this because Russell and Disney+ think that kids won't watch the old episodes in Black & White! They have imaginations, don't they? Why care if they watch old episodes or not... apart from making money! Nothing justifies this half-baked butchery of classic television. I am starting to think that this new incarnation of Russell T Davies and Disney+ are proving a bad move for Doctor Who!



Don't rush to see it, or to buy it!

1 out of 5. (The look on Barbara's face in the pic sums it up well! And why does her shirt have to be such a horrible shade of pink?)



Review: The Star Beast

60th Anniversary Special 1 - Reviewed by Mark Longmuir

Tennant is back! Tate is back! RTD is back! It's the 60th anniversary! Can this first new episode live up to the high expectations?

Well, sort of. Spoilers ahead.

The Star Beast opens with 14 & Donna's awkward to-camera potted history of their adventures and the memory wipe. This makes it clear why Disney+ would wait for Ncuti before ramping up publicity - these episodes are more like series 4 continued, not a great jumping-on point for new viewers.



The spectacular new opening credits and special effects really show what the Disney money can do, especially in 4K UHD. But early on, we're too busy enjoying new *Partners in Crime*-style comedy. Donna somehow misses the craziness going on around her, even without her family's cover-up efforts. Incidentally, we get clarification - she has to 'remember' the Doctor not just see him - hence his goodbye in *Journey's End* was OK. But maybe she remembers something - her husband, Shaun Temple (Karl Collins) reveals Donna unusually gave away her £166 million lottery win to charity.

She also has a 15-year-old daughter, Rose Noble (Yasmin Finney). Rose is transgender, and we get all the soap-opera cliché moments with varying degrees of success - Donna is brilliant raging at the deadnaming bullies, and her conversation with Sylvia contrasting their comfort levels work well. However a conversation about alien pronouns feels a bit forced - even if Rose would obviously be sensitive to it. Maybe I expected the Doctor to assume "she" from the voice, or was distracted that "space rat", "ferret" and "mad Paddington" slid past but not "him" (incidentally RTD has used "he" in interviews). Ultimately, it's a clever tie-back to Donna's repeated word "binary"; however up to that point Rose has been described as transgender more than non-binary. I'm also not sure the Doctor deserves the credit for being a gender-busting hero just yet, at a ratio of ~15/1.

Towards the end there's an awkward speech about "male-presenting Time Lords" knowing nothing and not understanding how to let go. In an episode about tolerance it feels out of place - maybe designed to stir up online arguments and publicity, or prove a point for *The Gigggle*. Some suggest it's a comment on Jodie's acceptance of regeneration vs her predecessors - although "I let you go" was ultimately Capaldi's line. It is unexplained here why Donna and Rose would even know of Jodie's Doctor or anything since *The End*

of Time (though they do, hints including *Nightmare in Silver* Cybermen and Karvanista). Anyway back to that alien voice... Miriam Margolyes is wonderful as The Meep, which is also well-realised on-screen. I was vaguely familiar with the original *Star Beast* comic so expected some of the plot twists. However a friend on seeing The Meep immediately announced "I don't trust it." Whether that was overly saccharine writing or just because it's Miriam, I would say the episode doesn't mask its surprises well.



UNIT is back on screen with some spectacular action sequences. This gives us Shirley Anne Bingham (Ruth Madeley), their 56th scientific advisor. Her interactions with the Doctor are great fun, as she refuses to be wowed by his presence. Her wheelchair use seems well portrayed, recognising some limitations (initially, saving her from being controlled) but "don't make me the prob-

lem", and she later proves to have some 'special powers' with add-on devices. The only distraction was that this aired shortly after RTD's *Children in Need* comments where he retconned Davros's wheelchair, erasing a popular 'disabled' character to avoid a trope. The special effects also lead to some shortcuts, 2000s series finale-style. The new Sonic has ever greater superpowers, able to project visual screens and even generate bullet-proof shields (and resonate concrete). The 'dagger drive' is clearly chosen to give great shots of chasms and fire spreading along London's streets - but this damage is somehow magically reversed? (hope no cars or people fell in....). The Doctor and Donna are conveniently kept alive and thrown into the room with all the buttons to solve the problem, bar some random obstacles out of nowhere. The new TARDIS interior does look spectacular and huge - Tennant running around to prove it's not CGI - but it will be interesting whether such a large white room, even with smart LED lighting, can evoke much atmosphere. This is just a fun episode, great to see Tennant and Tate throwing the most ridiculous technobabble at each other and the Noble-Temple family interacting well, between arguments (a shame Wilf is always just off-screen... I wonder if he was planned to be in this more). Tennant is a slightly more sober, sensible Doctor and Donna has grown up a bit. It all looks great but the plot is a little thin and easily resolved.

I give it 3 out of 5 jelly babies.



Review: Wild Blue Yonder

60th Anniversary Special 2 - Reviewed by David Pryn

Online prior to the episode being aired, Russell T Davies teased us that the 2nd special was scary and different to what had come before. I will do my best to minimize spoilers but there is so much to talk about with this episode.



The story opens with a brief encounter with Sir Isaac Newton. While I love the scene for me this doesn't fit with the rest of the story.

Post credits an out of control TARDIS crashes into a spaceship on the edge of the universe. While the TARDIS is repairing itself the Doctor and Donna start looking around. But when the HADS

(Hostile Action Displacement System) kicks in, the TARDIS dematerialises, the Doctor and Donna are trapped on the ship with an unknown hostile.

Catherine Tate and David Tennant make the most of the brilliant dialogue in this episode and many of these scenes will stay with me for a long time. For example "my arms are too long" or Donna talking about how the family will react to her missing but especially Donna saying "There's something on this ship that's so bad the TARDIS ran away? ... Then we go and kick its arse."

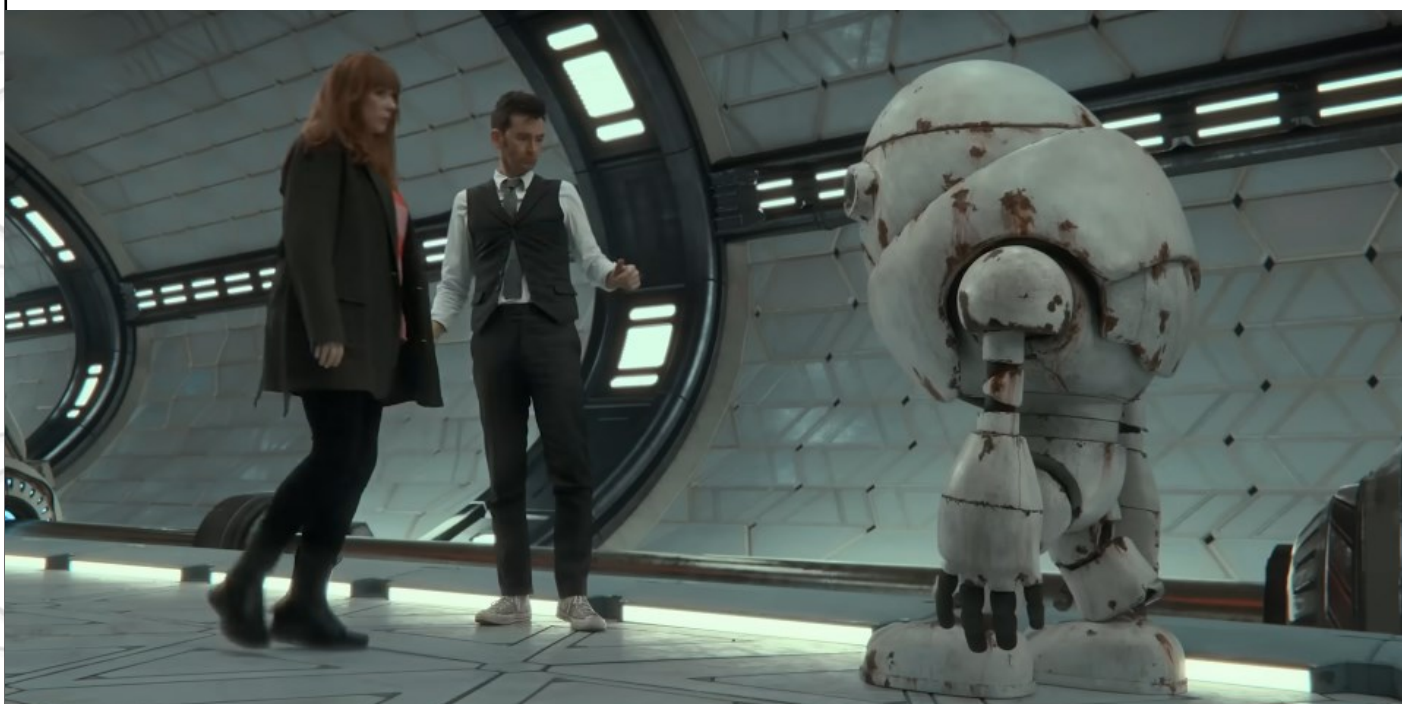


David and Catherine's chemistry as mates is real. Donna and the Doctor teasing and pranking each other feels really and love that mates have for each other is explored without being romantic.

The unknown hostile trying to copy the Doctor and Donna could be scarier and Russell could have dived deeper into the darker side but the way he has written this we are given many scenes where we can deep dive into what makes the Doctor and Donna tick.

As a writer Russell has a talent for scattering the pieces for his puzzle throughout his story and yet being able to provide his characters the scope to grow and develop. Donna's ability to be both dumb and brilliant at the same time is explored in this story and this duality of being two opposing things simultaneously is so very human. I think we all experience this duality at times in our lives.

The only part I didn't get was the relevance to the meaning of Wild Blue Yonder.



I feel this episode is more a teaser of things to come with Ncuti's Doctor and with Russell's amazing writing the future of Doctor who is in good hands.

I really enjoyed this episode and I give it 3.5 jelly babies out of 5. But if I'm really honest I would have preferred a 2 parter story with the Toymaker.



Review: The Giggle

60th Anniversary Special 1 - Reviewed by Michael Young

If you haven't read my review of The Power Of The Doctor elsewhere in this Sonic, it would provide good background for what I discuss here!

I had very high expectations for the return of Russell T Davies as *Doctor Who* Showrunner, a bit too high it seems. *The Star Beast* was predictable and preachy but the CGI was great, *Wild Blue Yonder* was a lot of talk, but the performances of David Tennant and Catherine Tate were brilliant and the CGI was amazing. Neither leave me wanting to view them again. *The Giggle*, however, was a return to good quality Doctor Who. Right from the start we had the powerful historical tie in with John Logie Baird, Stooky Bill, and the creation of television that formed a central part of the entire story.



Neil Patrick Harris was powerful as The Toymaker, although his German accent did start to grate on me very quickly. His Spice Girls routine was spectacular but rather pointless other than for killing people off. I predicted that he would be the return of the Celestial Toymaker, and he was, but Russell had to get all “over sensitive” and remove the name Celestial because it apparently is attributed to people of Oriental heritage, sometimes, in an obscure way... but that seemed an issue for him, though, curiously giving the bad guy a deliberate German Accent was perfectly acceptable.





Mel is back! She was perfect, and a great addition to UNIT as now is Donna for £120K per year. Having UNIT back is exciting and surely this is the beginning of a spin-off! Surely? It was certainly set up that way at the end so we could have Doctor 14, Donna and family, Mel, Kate, the Vlinx, the TARDIS and

many more appearing in it. Did I predict some of that as well? The UNIT Tower was magnificent, reminded me of Thunderbirds for a moment, and the set was cool. To have the Doctor/Donna dilemma resolved in such a pleasant way is unexpected but very welcome.

The themes “programmed by the screen”, “I am always right”, and others are all very deliberate inclusions to make some statement. “Shout, type, cancel,” oh, isn’t that exactly what Russell is doing with the Celestial thing, and Davros not being in his travel machine, and his “Tough” comment? Cancel?

Mirror, Mirror! This time, his preachings only came across as lame.

I was, for the past year, concerned that Ncuti Gatwa would play the Doctor as gay... well looks like my fear came true. However, I can’t see him playing it any other way, and... I love him already!!!



Revealing him in this way was inspired and the bi-generation was a great way to keep both versions of the Doctor on screen. Loved how they split in two and DT had undershirt, vest, trousers, bare feet while NG had shirt, tie, underwear, socks and shoes. We still don’t have an explanation for why DT regenerated into a different outfit than Jodie!

The TARDIS in the back garden was brilliant, and that scene had me in tears. The Master will return, it seems, but who picked up the gold tooth? Only Kate had red nail polish on that I could see. So, just who are “my legions” and “the one who waits?” All those answers and more in Season 1 next year (did they have to start at 1 again!!!).

I’m giving this 3.5 out of 5!



Tales of the TARDIS: Earthshock

Adapted by Michael Young from the Russell T. Davies iPlayer adventure.



The Doctor was feverishly pulling levers, pushing buttons, and twisting dials in the TARDIS control room. Well, it was a TARDIS control room, but not the one he was used to, or at least bits of it were not in their rightful places, when he thought he heard a familiar voice from the past...

Tegan was a bit confused. She found herself suddenly transported to a large, bright storeroom. A jumble of seemingly unrelated objects surrounded her, but something about it felt... familiar. She couldn't help wondering out loud, as she began to look around...

"I was fast asleep, in bed. I'd said goodnight to Nyssa, and..." She was stopped in mid thought as she turned her head to the left. She couldn't believe her eyes, was that a very familiar old Cricket style of outfit? And that face! "Oh, goodness me..." she said as she stepped over and gave the Fifth Doctor a big warm hug.



"Oh. We never really did this sort of thing, did we?" said the Doctor, with a joyful but slightly uncomfortable look on his strangely older face.

"We do now! Oh, you got old?" Tegan compassionately informed him.

"You didn't. Not one line."

"Don't get clever."

"Oh, there's one... hundred," the Doctor teased her.

"That's enough!" Tegan said, giving him a light, playful slap on the shoulder. "But it's good to see you. I mean how? What kind of gin cracked TARDIS is this?" As she looked around, she spied the Doctor's hat and playfully put it on her head as she teased him, "Don't tell me. You had an accident."

"Believe it or not. I woke up in here myself," the Doctor replied excitedly as he adjusted the hat on Tegan's head. "I think it's a memory. It's a remembered TARDIS."

"I don't remember it being such a mess!"

"No, but time is memory and memory is time. So this is the memory of a time machine. And it's reached out and remembered... Us," the Doctor realised, amazed.



"I've missed you."

"I missed you too, once or twice." He got another playful slap on the shoulder. "But that's not the point. I think this thing needs feeding..."

Tegan and the Doctor took a seat in the two comfortable chairs that have now materialised behind them.

"Maybe we should tell the story," the Doctor continued. "I'm sorry, Tegan, but IF we're going to tell a story, maybe it should be the strongest of all. The day we met the Cybermen."

"I can't!" Tegan resisted the idea, but quickly came round. "Okay, I'll do it for him."

"Brave heart! I wonder, where to begin?"

"Well, it began with Adric because he was traveling in the TARDIS before I ever met you. He stowed away from a different planet. But then he told you that he wanted to go home."

"No, but before that. It's hard to tell where a story begins, isn't it? But before we came blundering in, it began on Earth. Think back, Tegan. It all started with those mysterious deaths in the caves..."



The Doctor and Tegan recalled the events that we have come to know as “*Earthshock*.”

As they finished, they were both looking at Adric’s Star for Mathematical Excellence that the Doctor now, miraculously, held in his hand...

“Poor soul,” Tegan said with an aching heart.

“And here it is. Remembered. He was so...”

“Oh, he was a nightmare!” Tegan joked, lovingly.

“He was daft and silly and sulky and... he was just a kid.”

“He loved you.”



"Yes. I realize that now."

"Looking back, I think... Wow. We never stopped running. He died, we sailed on. We had more adventures we never stopped. Never stopped to think."



"That's because of me," the Doctor admitted with some regret, "I never look back."

"Maybe that's what a memory TARDIS is."

"Therapy," he said with a smile.

"About time."

"I think it's done me good. And telling the story keeps him alive. Now, tell me stories about you," the Doctor asked Tegan, deliberately moving on to another subject. "About life. About everyday things."

"Little tiny, boring human things, you mean?"

"They are the jewels in this vault of memories, an ordinary life is one of the most shining things of all," the Doctor announced, wisely.

"Oh. Okay... I left you, remember? I found myself on the bank of the Thames, with a load of dead Daleks. Long story. But in the end, I got myself back to Brisbane and it took a while. I think I was in shock. I thought what can I do with my life? What can we do that would make the Doctor proud. So I started campaigning for the environment. And I used every trick you taught me. To never give up, to never be defeated. To keep fighting even in the darkest times. Oh, there were some times I thought, 'He would be proud of me!'" 🏠



The Randomiser: 2013 - 2023

- In the *Day of the Doctor* script, as a bluff John Hurt was called Omega.
- Matt Smith shaved his head for *How to Catch a Monster*, and Karen Gillan for *Guardians of the Galaxy*. So in *The Time of the Doctor* both are wearing wigs.
- When cast in 2013, Peter Capaldi was credited as a W.H.O. Doctor in *World War Z*
- Capaldi (age 15) wrote to Radio Times in 1973 to compliment their Dr Who Special.
- He's in his 2nd cousin once removed (Lewis Capaldi)'s video, *Someone You Loved*
- 2014's World Tour visited Cardiff, London, Seoul, Sydney, New York, Mexico City, Rio.
- On set, Missy announced she was a Random Access Neural Interface - RANI.
- At the 2015 Doctor Who Festival in Sydney, the team of Peter Capaldi, Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss only came in 3rd in the trivia quiz.
- A lever in *Twice Upon A Time* is labelled "Bernard Wilkie" after the 60s VFX designer.
- Jodie Whittaker originally asked Chris Chibnall if she could play a villain in the show
- The TARDIS' custard cream dispenser was a gift to Jodie from the set designers
- The Doctor apparently has 7 grandmothers (5 thought 2 was a secret Zygon agent?)
- The *Resolution* Dalek's appearance was disguised by the codename "Kevin".
- The Master's temporal map of computing in *Skyfall* includes Ada Lovelace, Bill Gates, Alan Turing, Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Grace Hopper.
- *Fugitive of the Judoon* platoon leader Pol-Kon-Don is a tribute to the convention organiser, Gallifrey One DJ and BBC online producer Paul Condon who died in 2019.
- To cover up his appearance, John Barrowman lied he was renovating his Cardiff flat. He ended up actually renovating it to maintain the ruse.
- The first people killed in *Revolution of the Daleks* are all red-shirts.
- *Survivors of the Flux* confusingly states Lethbridge-Stewart is a corporal in 1967, when he should be ascending the higher ranks of Colonel (*The Invasion*) to Brigadier.
- Karl from *The Woman Who Fell To Earth* is seen at the end of *Eve of the Daleks*.
- William Russell was awarded a Guinness World Record for the longest gap between televised appearances of a character, from *The Chase* to *Power of the Doctor*
- The Toymaker's playing cards appear to feature Matt Smith as the King
- Millie Gibson was born 9 months after the announcement of *Who's* 2005 return.





What an amazing year for The Archive Project! Over 70 Missing Issues of *Sonic Screwdriver* Magazine and Newsletter have been found. A far better result than anyone expected.

A Huge Thank you to everyone who assisted in this process! If only it was that easy to find Missing Who Episodes!!!

Start your journey through the history of *Sonic Screwdriver* with the GROUP called: [SONIC Archive \(1980 to 1984\)](#) on Facebook.



A specific thanks to Andrew Kutzer, Glenn Robinson and Greg King for providing all the remaining issues from the 1980s! Also Daniel Payne for Issues 117/118.

ISSUES STILL MISSING:

- Issues 74, 75, 76 from 1992/1993.
- Issue 108 from 1998.
- Issues 116, 119 from 1999/2000.
- Issue 136 from 2003.
- PDF versions #N07 to #N15 (2013-14)
- Any Supervocs from #7 on, Victorian Time Machines, and other publications (excluding Nemesis) and Extra material.

If you have other Missing Issues, or are a former Editor or Contributor and supportive of this project, or have original PDFs, please email: SonicScrewdriverArchive@gmail.com

~ Michael Young ~ Former SONIC Editor and Dr Who Fan since 1975.

Audio Files: 2013 - 2023

On the show, Murray Gold's music accompanies memorable moments, all released on CD (except for Series 10, now a running joke). Segun Akinola takes over with Jodie, and *his* do all get released. The *Proms* concerts from the UK tour Australia, New Zealand and the UK.

Dominic Glynn releases several soundtrack *Remixes* and on Bandcamp you could find Jim Mortimore's *Vortis* or The Sevateem's *The Caves*.

It's an era for nerd rap with Devo Spice's 2014 *I Am The Doctor* with Katy Manning, Peter Davison and Sophie Aldred; more Trock with Legs Nose Robinson's *The Oncoming Storm*; and geek-pop with Meri Amber's *Pop Goes the TARDIS*. The Hillywood Show even do a Tennant cover of *The Time Warp*. Particular during lockdown, fans come together on sites like YouTube for mass sing- and play-alongs... or upload to SoundCloud their own acapella, acoustic guitar, dubstep or heavy metal show covers.



Review - Destination: Skaro

2023 Children in Need Special - reviewed by Michael Young

When I first watched this, I found it amusing and well written. The Doctor stumbling in on the creation of the Daleks, saying things that created the future/past like “Dalek”, “exterminate” and “Genesis of the Daleks”, and then the plunger joke. Also that name Mr Castavillian... Cast-A-Villain! But, stupid me thought it was meant to be Davros BEFORE he ended up in his Travel Machine/Life Support... then Russell opened his mouth and ruined it all!

Russell T Davies said this in the behind-the-scenes: “There’s a problem with the old Davros: he’s a wheelchair user who is evil. I had problems with that. A lot of us on the production team did too, associating disability with evil. Trust me, there’s a very long tradition of this... So we made the choice to bring back Davros without the facial scarring and without the wheelchair – or his support unit, which functions as a wheelchair... [We’re saying,] Davros used to look like that, and now he looks like this. We are absolutely standing by that.”

It is essential that Davros and his creation are alike in this way and that should never be changed!!!

Russell seems to think he is The Pope Of Woke and can pick and choose what is and isn’t acceptable on TV or in society. Can’t have a bad guy in a wheelchair (this week) but can have two heroes in wheelchairs with Wilf and Shirley Bingham. Politically correct, and totally confusing. Most people don’t see it as a wheelchair anyway! I certainly never did. If he wants to get a message across, particularly a minority of a minority of a minority opinion, it has to be delivered with subtlety and respect for alternate and opposing opinions... not these sledge-hammer tactics.

Cancel-Culture strikes down Davros!



Technobabble of The Star Beast

Double-Bladed Dagger Drive - Tripledrive
the particle manifesto - Vindicate the
cyberline - Brandish the gravity stanchions
- Activate the initialisers - Channel up the
booster drive - Calibrate the flight deck -
Bisect the maxifold - Maximise petrolinks
and combustible hyperlines - Closing down
all psychedelic lightwave emanators -
Deadlock seal - Primary ignition signature
installed - Shadow Proclamation Protocols
15, P and 6 - Subconscious infracutaneous
retrofold memory loop - Shatterfry the
positrons - Transferring excess power to
the brokendrone pre-fixilators - Overstep
the umbilical feed - Solar psychedelia -
Maximise the stressfold links - Roast the
hyperfeeds - Inculcate the plexidrones

Sonic Match

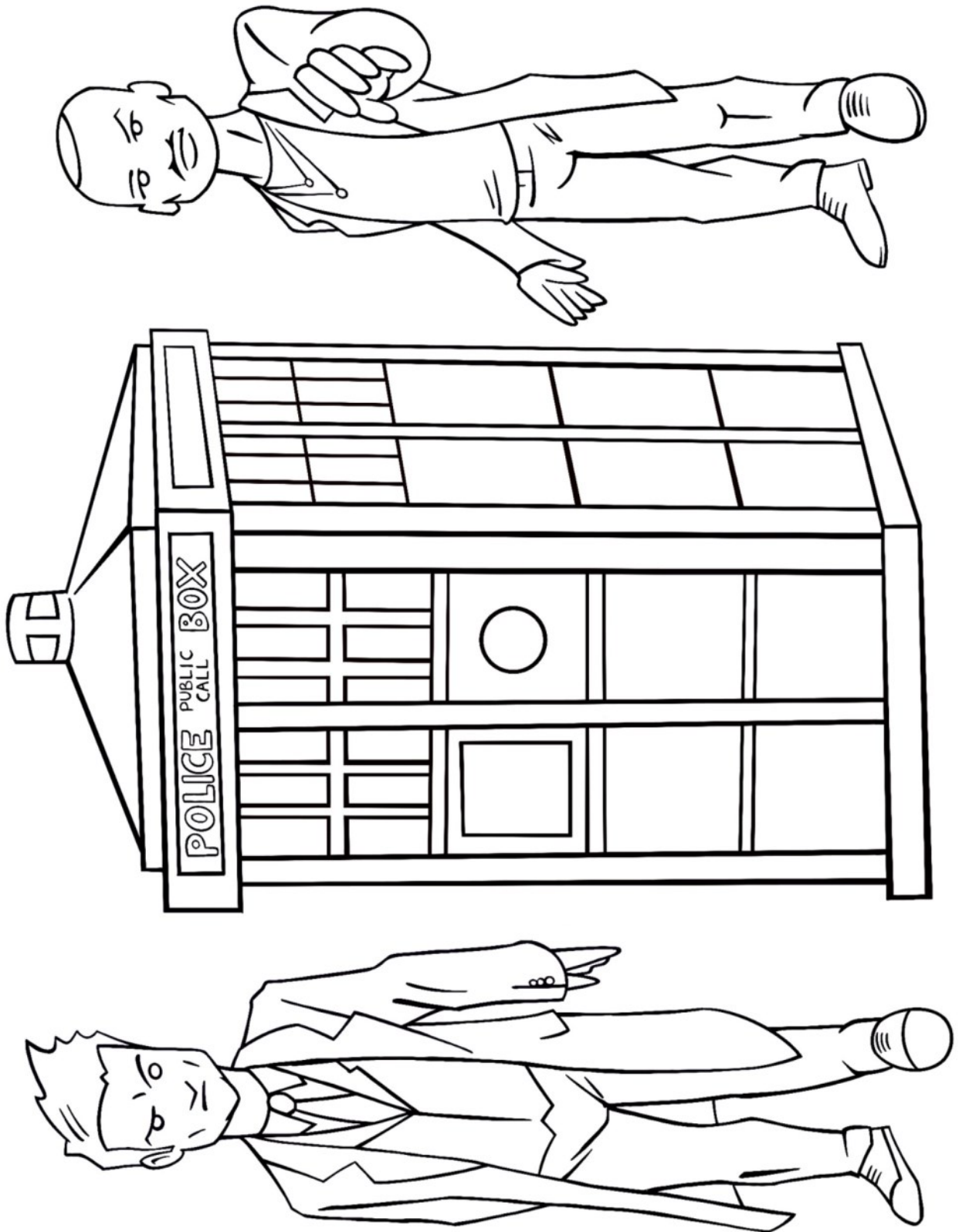
Match the Doctor to their Sonic Screwdriver



Match the Doctor to their Sonic Screwdriver



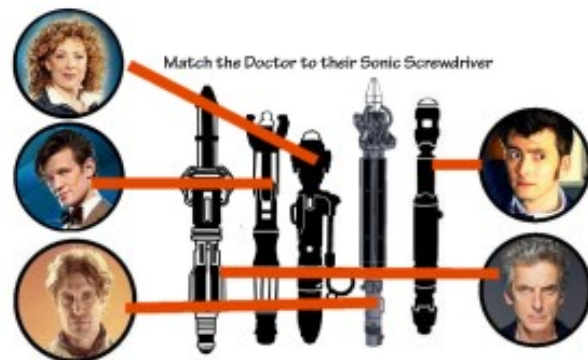
Colour-in



Manuel Bouw

It's the End...

Puzzle Answers



Next Issue...

Ncuti is the Doctor! We take a look at the Christmas special and a wealth of releases due out early in 2024.

Out in March. Submissions welcome at the editorial address below.

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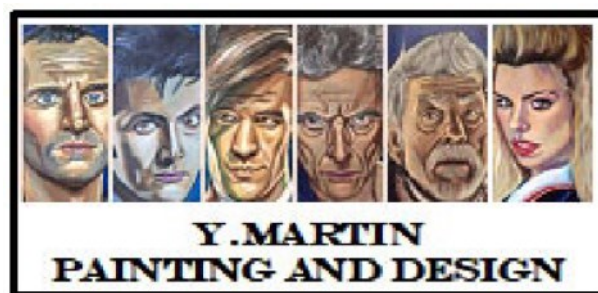


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