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# EDITORIAL

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**W**HEN I was a wee boy, there were two things I loved, unequivocally. One was obviously **Doctor Who**. The other was any output from the Gerry Anderson stable.

My first introduction to the worlds of Anderson came in the form of **Thunderbirds**, which must have been repeated by the STV region some time around 1982, and I instantly fell in love with the whole idea of fantastic machines, futuristic set ups, and recognisable characters that were easy to latch on to.

Those repeats were followed by **Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons**, which I loved just as much. It was darker, it was grittier and, what's more, characters actually died! That's quite strong stuff for a TV show that's thought of as being just for kids, where more often than

not characters always escaped at the last minute to live again.

And of course, there are the theme tunes. **Thunderbirds** has its legendary theme, and with **Captain Scarlet** it's impossible not to sing along with the vocal version of the end credits. It also has the memorable drum beat section used to cut between scenes in the original series, which was popularised again by Chris Evans in the 1990s.

Long-term readers of *Vortex* know that I rather love another show created by Gerry Anderson, my beloved **Terrahawks**. If you've not heard Series Three from Big Finish, I strongly urge you to give it a go. There are plenty of in-jokes ahoj, especially for **Doctor Who** fans!  
**KENNY**

## SNEAKPREVIEW

### *Tales From New Earth*

**C**ATS AND trees come to life in the far future as Big Finish adds the first volume of **Tales From New Earth** to its ever-growing **Doctor Who** stable.

These four new tales are inspired by the Ninth and Tenth Doctor's adventures in the **Doctor Who** TV episodes *The End of the World*, *New Earth* and *Gridlock*, all created by Russell T Davies.

The adventures, *Escape From New York* by Roy Gill, *Death in the New Forest* by Roland Moore, *The Skies of New Earth* by Paul Morris and *The Cats of New Cairo* by Matt Fitton, explore the universe five billion years from now.

Heading the cast are Anna Hope playing (Senator) Hame, Adjoa Andoh playing Sister Jara – the biological sister of Sister Jatt, and Yasmin Bannerman playing Vale, the sapling of her character Jabe: Vale is very much like her ancestor – strong-willed, fair minded and resourceful. Also joining them is Devon Pryce, played by Kieran Hodgson.

Series producer David Richardson, explains: "Russell T Davies created such a rich, fully-formed world in *New Earth* that it was ripe for its own spin-off series – and not only did Russell wholeheartedly approve of this idea, he generously

gave us some very helpful suggestions and steers in the right direction for certain characters.

"I'm so thrilled with this set. It's imaginative, vividly colourful and witty storytelling, filled with all manner of aliens – not only Catkind and Tree People, but some brand new creations from the minds of our four writers."

Guest stars include Derek Griffiths (Xylem Maple Dorm); James Dreyfus (The Most Exalted High Persian); Julian Rhind-Tutt (Berkhoff) and Louise Gold (President Grosseteste).

**Tales From New Earth** is scheduled for release in March 2018.

**VORTEX**



KENNY SMITH CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF  
CAPTAIN SCARLET AND THE MYSTERONS...

# SPECTRUM IS GOLD



**C**APTAIN SCARLET and the *Mysterons* is undoubtedly one of the greatest Gerry Anderson series. It has it all – death, action, danger, excitement, great vehicles and a memorable villain.

Now, the adventures of Paul Metcalfe (Captain Scarlet's real name) are coming to Big Finish in a double celebration.

The first half of the celebration is a painstaking restoration of some classic **Captain Scarlet** and **the Mysterons** tales from the 60s in a 50th Anniversary Box Set, so there's a real celebration of old and new at the same time.

The box set is a seven-disc collector's limited edition deluxe piece, featuring five digitally remastered full-cast audio-only stories from 1967, plus adaptations



“ WE’VE COME UP WITH WHAT WE THINK IS THE BEST RESTORATION OF IT, EVER. ”

Jamie Anderson

of eight classic TV stories with special linking material by Ed Bishop (Captain Blue).

The audio-only stories are *Introducing Captain Scarlet* by Angus P Allan, *Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons* by Angus P Allan, *Captain Scarlet is Indestructible* by Richard O’Neill, *Captain Scarlet of Spectrum* by Angus P Allan and *Captain Scarlet vs Captain Black* by Richard O’Neill.

The adapted TV stories are *Big Ben Strikes Again*, *Manhunt*, *The Trap*, *Special Assignment*, *Heart of New York*, *Model Spy*, *Flight 104* and *The Launching*.

And for the second half of the celebrations there are **The Spectrum Files** – three brand new enhanced audiobooks of original 1960s



Francis Matthews reunited with Captain Scarlet

**Captain Scarlet Spectrum File** novels written by John Theydon. Originally released as TV tie-in novels in the late 1960s, they have now been adapted and feature David Graham (Parker in **Thunderbirds**), Liz Morgan – who was Destiny Angel in the original **Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons**, and Wayne Forester who took the title role in the 2005 CGI series **Gerry Anderson’s New Captain Scarlet**.

Overseeing all of these releases is Gerry Anderson’s son Jamie, a regular writer and director for Big Finish’s **Doctor Who** main

range, as well as writing, directing and producing **Terrahawks**.

Jamie says: “All of the stories that we’re putting in the **50th Anniversary Box Set** have been out in some guise before, but never all together in one place, and most crucially, they’ve never all been accessible to the general public. We wanted to have them presented in the best possible way, all packaged together, so that people can appreciate **13 Captain Scarlet** stories from the 60s – all on audio.

“We’ve thrown in a few ‘Easter Eggs’ throughout the set which are quite cute, and which fans will get a kick out of.

“The original master tapes from all of these were long gone but we’ve got copies of copies of copies of masters, some vinyl sources, some from digital, some mixed, some elements taken from TV episodes – they have really come from everywhere. Multiple vinyls have been used in many occasions to get the best possible version.”

Jamie was full of praise for the dedication of sound designer Benji Clifford for his diligence in preparing these releases.

He admits: “Benji Clifford has worked miracles, in particular on *Captain Scarlet vs Captain Black*, which is the fifth album story. It had a speed error on the original so from about 11 minutes in, everything started to slooooooow dooooooown, and fall in pitch. It just sounded awful.

“So we painstakingly went through it. Benji did an overall digital software correction to bring it up to speed, then we literally unpicked it, line by line, correcting and comparing to the TV series and the mini-albums before it. Now we’ve come up with what we think is the best restoration of it, ever, and it sounds great.

“Benji has put in a huge amount of work and has also been restoring audio interviews for

the documentary and somehow he managed not to lose his enthusiasm despite all the horrible things I kept throwing at him!"

"We wanted to top it off with a feature-length documentary so people can listen to it all the way through – that classic 60s **Scarlet** feel – and then enjoy the documentary, absorbing more about the show. It's not just the usual stuff of how they came up with the story, it covers a bit of everything

“ IT’S AN ALL-ENCOMPASSING CELEBRATION OF 1967 CAPTAIN SCARLET AND THE MYSTERONS. ”

Jamie Anderson

including the music and TV 21 comics. It's an all-encompassing celebration of 1967 **Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons**.

**B ENJI ADDS:** "It's been an absolute joy to work on **Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons**. I grew up loving the television show, despite not being around when it was originally broadcast. **Captain Scarlet** has a timeless quality which still appeals to people today!

"Restoring this material was great fun but also required careful precision to restore the material without losing that vintage feel. So I went through, carefully reducing any hums, clicks and pops, which are often a result of the age of the material we're working from.

"The biggest challenge for me was restoring the ending of *Captain Scarlet vs Captain Black*, which had been wound down due to the length



of vinyl records at that time. I used a very clever bit of software called Capstan (which naturally then became known as Capstan Scarlet!) to digitally wind the tape back up, resulting in a natural sounding ending to the episode. I'm so honoured to have been asked to be a part of this box set and feel it's a wonderful tribute to Captain Scarlet's 50th anniversary."

As Jamie mentioned, other content in this special set includes a brand new 60-minute audio documentary examining the history of the show featuring many previously unheard archival and unpublished interviews, music from the series, plus lavish full-colour packaging featuring a Spectrum Agents Briefing





## CAPTAIN SCARLET AND THE MYSTERONS

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booklet containing rare archive imagery, Spectrum Personnel Files, production information and more.

**T**HE NEW side of the celebration comes in the form of **The Spectrum Files**.

Jamie explains: "It's very important that we differentiate the old set from the new stuff.

"In 1967 John Theydon wrote TV tie-in novels for **Thunderbirds** and **Stingray**, plus three for **Captain Scarlet**: *Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons*, *Captain Scarlet and the Silent Saboteur* and *The Angels and the Creeping Enemy*. These were also known as **Spectrum Files One to Three**. We thought they would be great to adapt.

"They are very 60s in style – they are very **Scarlet**. The prose is incredibly retro with paragraph-long sentences and endless sub-clauses! But that just makes it feel more 'of the time'.

**T**HEY EXPAND on the **Captain Scarlet** universe, with elements from **Fireball XL5** in one story, so it does what **TV 21** was trying to do building that big Anderson universe."



Jamie's next task was finding people to bring these classic stories to life in the 21st century.

He explains: "With so many of the original **Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons** cast sadly no longer with us we couldn't rely on reuniting an old team. I was thrilled when Liz Morgan agreed to revive her original Angel voices and join us as

narrator for the three books. Having Liz on board was a major piece of the puzzle, and it's fantastic to have such a key member of the original series cast on board. Liz's years with the BBC Rep and amazing industry experience make her an ideal choice to narrate these 1960s stories."

The next major challenge was to find a male voice artist who had the versatility to produce tons of character voices, but also truly understood the *Century 21* and 1960s sensibilities and vocal qualities of the fantastic original cast. The natural choice for this role was Wayne Forester. As a long time collaborator with Gerry Anderson and as the actor who played the lead role in **New Captain Scarlet**, Wayne was a great fit for this project and he has worked tirelessly to capture the warmth and character of the male voices in these new enhanced audiobooks.

"Liz Morgan and Wayne Forester were immediately excited by the prospect, and the legendary David Graham is doing the narration. He was never in the original series so it's really nice to bring him into the **Scarlet** universe. We



## “ THE DARKEST ONE OF THE SUPERMARIONATION SERIES. ”

Jamie Anderson

have Liz resurrecting her Angels, and Wayne does all the male characters including the most incredible recreation of Cy Grant's voice – his Lt Green is stunning!

“We can't do brand new episodes, as it's something ITV don't want to do right now, so this is a great chance to take something that already existed and do something new with it.”

**A** S **Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons** celebrates its 50th anniversary, what is it about the series that Jamie thinks has led it to endure

for so long – not only with fans of his dad's work, but with the general public?

He pauses before replying, and says: “It's the darkest one of the Supermarionation series and a lot of people remember it for the technical improvements – though some people don't like that change in the puppet scale, but we get away from that in the audios.

“There's something really interesting about the fact the Mysterons were good before all this started and we created this trouble ourselves. There's a lot of themes in **Captain Scarlet** that are frighteningly reflective of today, in a slightly terrifying way, so there's relevance there.

“It's got all the Anderson tech and characters, and all the memorable elements that everyone really likes, but with the morally dubious aspect of us creating this problem and now having to deal with it.”

Jamie is particularly pleased to have created something new for fans of the series in this anniversary year, adding: “There's only so many times you can recycle the same stuff and re-releases. The fans deserve new material – and the show deserves it too. I hope, after this, we might get the chance to do maybe **Joe 90**, **Stingray**, **The Secret Service...** even **Thunderbirds**.

Vortex had to ask Jamie one final question – what did Gerry Anderson think of **Captain Scarlet** and the Mysterons in terms of his whole career? “I think Dad had a real appreciation of all the shows. He really came to appreciate **Thunderbirds** as it did the most for him, but I think he was always going for the live action feeling and took the puppets as far as they could go.

“Really, they hit their stride, he felt, on **Scarlet**, and I think he was really proud of it, particularly on the technical side.” **VORTEX**

# VORTEXMAIL

Email: [feedback@bigfinish.com](mailto:feedback@bigfinish.com) and remember to put 'Vortex Mail' as the subject...

## TRIBUTE TO TREVOR

I felt that I had to write to express my sadness at the loss of Trevor Baxter. Although I am with Big Finish because of **Doctor Who**, I have to secretly admit that nothing gave me more pleasure than a new box set of **Jago & Litefoot**. The pairing of these two characters and the wonderful performances by both actors made these stories great fun to listen to. By all accounts Trevor was a lovely man and I am sure he will be greatly missed by his family, friends and many fans.

**David Cox**

*Nick: Thanks so much, David. We shall all miss Trevor.*

## OUT OF THE SHADE?

I've recently read a couple of excellent books about the writer Nigel Kneale, which set me thinking. While a Big Finish **Quatermass** production would be something to really sink your teeth into, I understand that rights issues may very well prevent this. But have you given any consideration to reviving that other legendary 1950s science-fiction serial that gripped the nation? I'm referring, of course, to **Nightshade**, starring the late, much underrated Edmund Trewhick as Professor Nightshade. Although, alas, most, if not all, of the episodes were either lost or wiped some time in the 1970s, the scripts surely exist? I was recently listening to a Big Finish **Doctor Who** release

– one whose name escapes me though I believe it was adapted by Kyle Szikora from a book by someone called Mark Gatiss – and I heard just the man to play the Prof John Castle, not only a splendid actor whose appearances I've enjoyed over many years, but also an uncanny sound-alike for the great Trewhick.

**Dan McGachey**

*Nick: Hmm... Just imagine! I know that's a cop-out answer after such a fun email. No plans... lovely idea, though.*

## FANTASTIC FANTASY

It's Sunday afternoon and I have just finished listening to the last part of **Pathfinder Legends: Curse of the Crimson Throne**. The characters are very much like old friends and I love learning more about them and following their adventures. There is so little fantasy audio drama available of this high quality it is rarer than Valeros passing a tavern and not sampling the ale, or Ezren passing up the chance to study an ancient artefact or scroll! I have rolled my dice, drawn up a character sheet, consulted with the wisest mystics, and they all agree we need a fourth series.

**Paul Neve**

*Nick: No news on that yet, Paul, but we're very glad you've enjoyed them.*

## BENNY IS BRILLIANT

I have been a subscriber to your **Doctor Who** range for a very long time. In fact I distinctly

remember pre-ordering *The Sirens of Time*. Aside from the sporadic releases featuring both Benny and the Doctor, I had no prior experience of Professor Summerfield in her solo stories. I had always been intrigued, particularly by the stories featuring the wider **Who** universe monsters, but had never got around to ordering them. A few weeks ago during your Worlds of Big Finish sale I decided I had waited long enough and ordered all of the back catalogue. About a week later I saw a delivery driver struggling up the drive with a huge box and, having no idea when the CDs would arrive, was delighted to see the classic Big Finish dispatch note attached to the outside. I opened the package and was greeted with 50+ CDs all neatly packed and protected with mountains of bubble wrap. On Saturday I began redecorating my bedroom (a terrible mistake) and decided to begin my listening adventure with Benny. I have just finished *Walking to Babylon* and I am hooked! Completely. Totally. Entirely. I may be 20 years late to the party but I'm here now and I can't wait to hear what's in store next!

**Richard Jackson**

*Nick: It's never too late to get hooked to Benny, Richard! And she has always been an excellent accompaniment for decorating. Maybe that should be her new strap-line... Enjoy!*



Kenny Smith approaches the new Bernice Summerfield box set with...

# UNBOUND ENTHUSIASM

**T**HE LAST time we encountered the first lady of Big Finish – Professor Bernice Summerfield – she was travelling with the Doctor, but probably not the one we were expecting.

She had joined the Doctor from the Unbound universe – played by David Warner – and helped him

defeat his old enemy the Master. Oh, and the Doctor had a job too – he was the President of the Universe!

Producer James Goss was delighted to carry on the story in **The New Adventures of Bernice Summerfield – Volume 04: Ruler of the Universe**, saying he was:

“Utterly thrilled to be doing more. As soon as we handed in last year’s box set, David Richardson emailed

back to say ‘Can we have another one?’ We’d all enjoyed it so much, we leapt at it. Lisa Bowerman and David Warner and Mark Gatiss – is there more fun to be had? No!”

Benny has, to date, encountered the Seventh and Eighth Doctors in ‘our’ universe, and now she has this incarnation of the Time Lord to get used to. James continues: “Paul Cornell created the perfect



Left to right: Lisa Bowerman, David Warner and Annette Badland

“ I KNOW I ALWAYS SAY IT, BUT IT SHOWS YOU JUST HOW STRONG A CHARACTER PAUL CORNELL CREATED ALL THOSE YEARS AGO. ”

Lisa Bowerman



companion with Bernice – someone who could stand up to the Seventh Doctor. Over the years she's become so much more, but it's great to see her paired with the Warner Doctor.

“They adore each other, but he's quite happy for Bernice to appear to be the smartest person in the



room. An early phrase we used for him was 'Hungover Hartnell' and it's kind of stuck! Benny is the one who bounds out of the TARDIS first, meets aliens and takes a delight in adventure. He's the one following in her footsteps, scowling. And it's great fun.”

Lisa Bowerman, who returns as Bernice, agrees: “Having the various changes in the producers over the years has definitely kept things fresh as they've all brought their own ideas to the table, but at the same time have kept Benny very much true to her roots. She's had different ‘families’ around her as the years have gone by, but she's still very much recognisable as the same person.

“I know I always say it, but it shows you just how strong a character Paul Cornell created all those years ago, there's a reason Benny is still going today.

“Our Mr Goss is a very clever man, you can always expect the unexpected with him. Doing the last set of stories was great, and it's always good fun to work with Mr Warner again!”

James and Guy Adams have written the four stories in this set.

Guy says: “James and I sat down together one evening in his lovely lounge and just talked. He knew he wanted to do a story about the Doctor as President of the Universe (with all the fun and misery that contains) and he had a few touchstones he wanted us to riff off.

“Beyond that it was a case of the two of us feeling our way towards ideas. I typed up our chat whenever it seemed not entirely awful and between us we then turned those notes into a pitch document. From there it was a case of divvying up the stories and then working on those separately. And finally we script edited each other.”

This Doctor has a very different relationship with Bernice than any other incarnation has had with a companion.

Guy explains: “James and I were chatting about this recently for the special features and we hit on the fact that she's his responsible adult.

“She's the one that can steer him in the direction he needs to go in so that his mad bursts of genius



Left to right: Oliver Mason, Rhys Jennings, Lisa Bowerman, Jonathan Bailey, Hattie Hayridge, Catrin Stewart and Guy Adams

can actually achieve something beyond reprogramming the toaster to use as a weapon on filing clerks! It's a wonderful relationship and so different from any she's had with previous Doctors.

"James and I never forgot that these are Benny's stories just as much – if not more – than they are the Doctor's. You don't squander a gift like Lisa Bowerman, you whack it right in the middle of the mantelpiece where it can startle visitors."

**T**HE ADVENTURE begins in *The City and the Clock*, written by Guy. Bernice is on an archaeological dig for the mythical Apocalypse Clock.

James explains: "Episode One puts us somewhere we've never been before. The Doctor is ruler of the universe!

"The Unbound universe is dying, and he's decided that he's the man to fix it. The problem is, he's actually a terrible president, and is having a miserable time and doesn't get to do anything Doctorish or fun. And meanwhile on a remote planet, Bernice has made the archaeological



**“ I NEVER FORGOT THAT THESE ARE BENNY'S STORIES JUST AS MUCH – IF NOT MORE – THAN THEY ARE THE DOCTOR'S. ”**

Guy Adams

discovery to end all archaeological discoveries and, of course, you can guess what happens next..."

*Asking for a Friend* by James is the second tale in this set, where vast wars are raging across the stars, planets are dying, and the Doctor is sat on a psychiatrist's couch.

James reveals: "*Asking for a Friend* also puts us somewhere we've never been before. What's it like being the Doctor's therapist?

"Something happens between Bernice and the Doctor at the end of episode one, and, as a favour to her, he grudgingly takes time out from saving the universe to see a therapist (played by Annette Badland). It's still got lots of aliens and spaceships and explosions but it's the story of how neither the Doctor nor Benny ever quite play by the rules."

Episode Three, *Truant* by Guy, sees the President of the Universe run away. Bernice has to hunt him down, but he's too busy having fun encountering evil warlords, having impossible escapes and discovering sinister plans. James grins: "*Truant*



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**EXTRAS** Bonus behind-the-scenes disc

## THE NEW ADVENTURES OF BERNICE SUMMERFIELD VOLUME FOUR: RULER OF THE UNIVERSE

Written By: Guy Adams, James Goss

Directed By: Scott Handcock

Starring:

Lisa Bowerman, David Warner  
and Mark Gatiss

- THE CITY AND THE CLOCK
- ASKING FOR A FRIEND
- TRUANT
- THE TRUE SAVIOUR OF THE UNIVERSE



Top Row (left to right): Wilf Scolding, Ben Crystal, Stephen Crichtlow and David Warner  
Bottom Row (left to right): Rowena Cooper and Lisa Bowerman

puts us somewhere we've been many times before. The Doctor is off having an adventure.

"The problem is, he's still the President of the Universe, and it's cramping his style a bit. He desperately wants to have fun, but no-one is letting him – especially not Bernice Summerfield, who is in hot, angry pursuit."

The box set concludes with *The True Saviour of the Universe*, written by James, in which Bernice finds that time has run out for the Doctor and the universe. Is this really the end of everything? James reveals that help is on hand from an unlikely quarter: "Episode Four shows the Doctor at his darkest

hour. Desperate to save him, Benny turns to the only person offering help – the Master.

"It's a political thriller, it's the story of the end of the universe. It's *The West Wing* with time machines, it's *House of Cards* with robot assassins, it's *Apocalypse Now* with an actual apocalypse!"

Lisa says: "We had some great guest stars coming in and the scripts from James and Guy have been very clever. Nothing's quite what you would expect it to be, so it keeps you on your toes.

"In this set, Benny is very much taking the lead, while the Doctor is having to do his 'new daytime job'.

"I still love playing her – why wouldn't I? She's smart, she's fun, and she's good at her job. She enjoys being around the Doctor, although with this one, she's almost the one taking care of him.

"It's an interesting change and it's not one we've had before, so yes, I really enjoyed that. That's the great thing about Benny – after all these years, there's still plenty of new things for her to do."

**R**ETURNING AS the Master is Mark Gatiss – or Sam Kisgart. Talking to *Vortex*, Mark says that there's plenty of fun to be had in playing the Master: "Tons! Being a baddie is always nice and there are so many ways to play the Master. Michelle Gomez has taken it to a whole new level!"

pleasure to work with him again. And he brings a great deal of warmth and twinkle to his Doctor." James adds: "Writing Kisgart's Master is an enormous amount of fun, but nowhere near as much fun as Sam Kisgart has playing the part!" "It's a remarkable performance – there are so many little things he does that are delightful. 'Dear

world, with very different kinds of characters. Some are larger than life, others a lot more grounded. "In that respect, the biggest challenge was casting Guilana, the Doctor's therapist, for episode two. She carries so much of that episode alongside David, I wanted someone who could really find the emotion whilst enjoying the



Sam Kisgart

Mark first played the part in **Doctor Who Unbound: Sympathy for the Devil**, back in 2003. Did he ever think that all these years later, he'd still be playing him?

He admits: "You never know, do you? It was a great joy to do that one with David (Warner), David (Tennant) and the great Nick Courtney. It was very shortly before the show returned. It's been great fun to come back as the Master though I had to re-listen to remember what I did!"

Of course, the Master encounters Benny – she's a great opponent for the Master, as she's as witty as he is...

Mark interjects: "Almost as witty! Yes indeed. Lisa has such zest for life and for acting, it's infectious. I'm very glad we got to work together again."

Mark particularly enjoys facing off with David Warner's Doctor: "David is an old friend and such a brilliant actor. It's always a huge

boy, can we do my chuckle again? I've had an idea...' We're so lucky and thrilled to have him."

Director Scott Handcock adds: "Sam Kisgart – or Mark Gatiss (or whatever name he goes by today!) – is one of my favourite people. He's always such a gentleman, and in studio he's a dream. He really enjoys the medium and his interpretation of the Master is especially delicious. He relishes the role and working alongside David Warner, and I think he's just as thrilled as the rest of us that he still gets to do it all these years after *Sympathy for the Devil* made its debut."

**D**IRECTOR SCOTT was delighted to come onboard to bring the stories from script to recording booth.

He reveals: "As ever, James and Guy have done a fantastic job in constructing four very distinctive stories for this series. Each occupies a very different

verbal sparring. With that in mind, Annette Badland was always top of my list, and I couldn't have been more thrilled when she said yes. She's simply terrific."

How much fun were the studio sessions? "It's always great fun recording with Lisa, and throwing the Doctor in – especially David's **Unbound** Doctor – shakes the dynamic up even further. It's a really lovely atmosphere in studio, and all the guest cast we had coming in seemed to instantly get what the Bernice Summerfield universe is all about.

"Catrin Stewart and Jonathan Bailey form a wonderfully odd double-act in episode three, and Red Dwarf's Hattie Hayridge makes her Big Finish debut as the Doctor's publicist.

"On top of that, we've all manner of assassins, kings, robots, ghosts – and of course the return of the phenomenal Rowena Cooper as the Mother Superior!" **VORTEX**



# LISTEN AGAIN

## The Company of Friends



**B**ERNICE SUMMERFIELD – time travelling archaeologist – is one of the Doctor's best friends, ever! She formed a close bond with him in his seventh incarnation as featured in Big Finish's novel adaptations range, as well as **The New Adventures of Bernice Summerfield**.

Benny, played by Lisa Bowerman, is still accompanying the **Unbound Doctor** (David Warner) in this month's new release – but he isn't the only Doctor she's encountered, having come across Paul McGann's incarnation in the portmanteau release *The Company of Friends*.

Script editor Alan Barnes explains: "The Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Doctors have all had a release made up of four 25-minute mini-adventures linked by a common theme – for example *Forty Five or 100*. But I couldn't choose between Charley or Lucie as the companion this time so I thought, 'Hang on – why don't we give the Doctor a different companion for each story?'"

"It's not like the Eighth Doctor has had a shortage of companions over the years. So we took a companion

from each of the big Eighth Doctor canons: Bernice Summerfield – to follow on from the last of the New Adventures; Izzy from the *DWM* strip; for contrast, blokey Fitz from the BBC Eighth Doctor novels; and finally Mary Shelley to represent the audios."

The first part of the collection was *Benny's Story* written by Lance Parkin, who wrote her meeting with the newly-regenerated Eighth Doctor in *The Dying Days*.


Lance says: "I really didn't want it to be a flashback, and I don't think Big Finish did either. Part of the appeal of Benny by this point is that she's been in hundreds of stories of her own. So you need to find a 'big' reason for Benny to meet the Doctor and so 'she digs up a Time Lord artefact' was the obvious one. And then there are various plot mechanics and practical things that kick in – the story's a short one so it had to be something simple so that everyone listening gets straight away why the Doctor's involved and not some other random Time Lord! I didn't just want her to dig up the TARDIS because that's been done a few times now."

After taking an original companion from the *Virgin New Adventures* range, the second episode of the release turned its attention to the long-running BBC Books original creation Fitz Kreiner, in *Fitz's Story*. Having had a hand in the creation of Fitz, Steve Cole was asked to write the adventure, with *EastEnders* actor Matt Di Angelo playing him.

Steve says: "It was fun to bring Fitz to life on audio. One of the reasons Alan thought of me, I think, was that time was of the essence and I was one of Fitz's creators."

For the third tale, *Izzy's Story*, script editor Alan Barnes enjoyed his own time travel journey, dipping into his past to write for Izzy S from the Eighth Doctor comic strips featured in *Doctor Who Magazine*. Alan said: "To be honest, I nearly ducked out of it! But I'm really glad I did it – Izzy's so funny and lively. Writing a character like that really brightens your day – especially when you're a sour and miserable old Steptoe of a man..." Izzy was played by Jemima Rooper.

Completing the line-up was *Mary's Story*, with Jonathan Morris finally revealing what happened in an adventure hinted at back in January 2001. Jonny said the story was part of: "The Alan Barnes masterplan. Ever since *Storm Warning* he's been dropping hints in his Eighth Doctor stories that the Doctor may have had a past encounter with Mary Shelley. Nothing explicit, just the odd cryptic clue here or there. It was Alan's idea to finally tell the story of this encounter, but as he was already busy with Izzy, he passed the brief over to me: Mary Shelley, the Villa Diodati, and Frankenstein." **VORTEX**



Kenny Smith prepares himself to travel – without the TARDIS...

# Back in Time

**T**HE **TIME Machine** is undoubtedly one of the most important science fiction novels ever written. It was first published in 1895, and its echo has resonated ever since (especially with a certain wheezing, groaning sound!).

The Big Finish series of HG Wells's adaptations continues this month, with Ben Miles (star of *Coupling* and *The Crown*) taking on the role of the Time Traveller. The legendary tale has been adapted for audio by Marc Platt.

How familiar with **The Time Machine** was Marc before starting work on this project? He grins: "I first read and loved the book when I was quite young, maybe around

the time that **Doctor Who** started on TV – so I'd have been about 10. It's possible one time machine led to the other! HG Wells's book was probably the first transition I made from the fantasy books of CS Lewis, Tolkien and Alan Garner into hard science fiction.

"Although Garner has a firm rooting in reality too, **The Time Machine** has an enquiring, hard-edged scientific reality to it. It's also a quest story, but the prize is knowledge. The fear of the unknown is brilliantly set against the familiar self-satisfied home base of Victorian England."

Director Ken Bentley adds: "It's been exciting to be able to share these stories with listeners. There

have been a number of high profile adaptations over the years, but often adaptations of classic novels veer wildly from the original.

"**The Big Finish Classics** range has always been about creating faithful adaptations, and what's been enjoyable is to go back to the original novels and rediscover their purpose. The books are dark. Wells could see the potential for mankind to destroy itself and his novels were – and still are – a warning to us all.

"I'd hoovered up most classic science fiction as a very young reader. Too young probably. Young enough to be excited by the story but too young to appreciate the themes."

In preparation for adapting the tale for audio, Marc did his best



Left to right: Nicholas Rowe and Ben Miles

## “READING HIS STORIES IS TO TAKE AN OBJECT LESSON IN HOW TO WRITE SPECULATIVE SCIENCE FICTION.”

Marc Platt

to stick to the original text. He explained: “I’ve tried to be as faithful to Wells’s novel as I can, allowing for the fact that what works on the page doesn’t always translate perfectly into spoken drama. But the book was always right beside me, filling up with increasing numbers of notes, arrows and crossings out.

“I’ve known the 1960 Rod Taylor film for years. Initially, its images tended to govern how the text visualised in my head, rather in the way the look of animated Disney films can hijack the imagery of fairy stories. The Taylor film was fairly faithful to the book, rather more so than the loosely-based 2002 version with Guy Pearce. But there is also much more range to the original book and its ideas.”

**M**ARC HAD to create a new character to help bring the tale to life. He says: “The ‘travel’ sections of the book are written largely in the first person narrative with precious little dialogue, so I introduced a narrator

figure, Wells himself, to whom the Time Traveller relates his story. I’ve bulked up the Traveller’s companions slightly and, in faith with Wells, resisted the easy solution of having the Eloi speak intelligible English. I’ve also shortened some of Wells’s lengthy diatribes about communism.

“Reading the book again after 50 years, Wells’s descriptive writing is marvellous with its deep resonances about evolution and the transitory nature of so-called civilisation. The final astonishing section, understandably ignored by the films, where the Time Traveller heads deep into the future and sees Earth’s fate is chilling, bleak and magnificent. Basically, we’re all doomed!”

Director Ken Bentley has assembled another talented cast. In addition to Ben Miles, there’s Nicholas Rowe (Mr Wells), Anjella Mackintosh (Uweena), Nicholas Asbury (Mr Filby), James Joyce (Mr Pollock), Hywel Morgan (Morlock Leader) and Christopher Naylor

(Mr Naylor). Ken says: “The first thing I’m looking for when I cast a Victorian play is an authentic voice. People spoke very differently then. It’s all very well on film and TV to be relaxed about vocal authenticity when you have such rich visual authenticity. But on audio the voice carries the story, so it has to be true to the period.

“The only role that was potentially tricky to cast was Uweena. Only a confident and capable actress would have the level of concentration needed to invent a language. And to make my job even harder I had to double the role with Mrs Watchett. Anjella was my first choice. I knew she’d be brilliant and make it all sound effortlessly truthful. Anjella’s vocal dexterity is gobsmacking.

“For the most part **The Time Machine** has a really small cast, but that meant Ben had a mountain to climb in terms of text. With a large cast the green room can sometimes get quite rowdy, which is great fun but it can also be exhausting! This time the small cast made for what felt like a relaxing and enjoyable recording, which I’m grateful for, for Ben’s sake!”

Marc believes **The Time Machine** has a simple idea at its core, which has made it endure as a popular tale.

He explains: “It’s Wells’s imagination and his ability to be fantastical without being fanciful. He takes ideas and follows them through with a sturdy logic and truth. Reading his stories is to take an object lesson in how to write speculative science fiction. It paves the way for so much else. Not least **Doctor Who**. Above all, through its structure and pacing, it’s still a rollicking good story.” **VORTEX**

### OUT THIS MONTH

CD: £14.99, Download: £12.99

**EXTRAS** Interviews with the cast and crew



IT'S BACK TO THE SIXTIES FOR THE LATEST RUN OF THE EARLY ADVENTURES FEATURING THE SECOND DOCTOR, AND KENNY SMITH FINDS THEY ARE...

# TWO GOOD!

**D**OCTOR WHO fans who love the show's Fourth Season have been well-served this year with a couple of First Doctor tales with Polly and Ben in the most recent **The Companion Chronicles – The First Doctor: Volume 2** box set. The adventures continue this month with Polly and Ben and the Second Doctor in the first release of three tales and a fourth with Zoe in the Second Doctor's **The Early Adventures**.

Producer David Richardson says: "We've got two new writers on board for this season: Roland Moore and Timothy

X Atack share the same agent (who also represents Steven Moffat!), and she got in touch and asked if we might be interested in giving them a go.

"It took just a quick look at their CVs and samples of their previous scripts, and within minutes both of them got their first Big Finish commissions on the Second Doctor's **The Early Adventures**. Roland and Tim are both brilliant – I cannot enthuse about them enough, and they've since gone on to do amazing work on so many of our other ranges.

There's no going back now – they are part of the Big Finish family!"

This box set opens with *The Night Witches*, which has been written by Roland Moore. Roland says: "As a **Doctor Who** fan, I've wanted to write for Big Finish for a while and I'd been listening to lots of their stories and loved them. And happily they wanted me to write for them. So it was a dream job!

"I was asked to come up with a **The Early Adventures** story for the Second Doctor, Jamie, Polly and Ben. But there were no other factors I had to include – so a lot of freedom in

the brief. *The Night Witches* was one of four Second Doctor adventures that I pitched and the only historical story. It is set in 1942 in Stalingrad where the Doctor and his friends

Roland adds: "I'm really proud of the finished adventure. The Doctor is very wary about getting involved and there's a hint that the TARDIS has brought them

Chapman's performance that I wished I'd given him more to do. So I was thinking what I could do to correct that, and wanted a story set at least in part on a boat so Ben would be in his element.

"That led to me thinking through the best scenes that involved boats in movies. I was trying to work out how to, er, homage the *Star Trek* film *The Wrath of Khan* – which is basically submarines in space – and then remembered the end of *Jaws*, with the stake-out on the Orca. So I bought the DVD, and on watching it again was really taken by the stuff at the beginning, where the mayor and local community don't want to admit a shark is attacking the beach because it will be bad for tourism. I played around with variations of that set in space and with the feel of those early Second Doctor stories, and sent in an idea to David."

How satisfying is it bringing this period alive again? Simon adds: "I'm not sure satisfying is the right word, but it's a lot of fun. There's a particular thrill if Frazer or Anneke fix on anything in the script as something particularly 'Troughton', or that makes them laugh. It's a brilliant cast who all really got what I was trying to do, and director Lisa Bowerman told me off for laughing at my own jokes! But dammit, Alistair Petrie is perfect."

**T**HE DOCTOR, Polly, Jamie and Ben continue their travels in November's release *The Morton Legacy* by Justin Richards. Justin reveals: "I do remember that initially David asked me for an adventure set on Earth in the past, featuring the First Doctor, Susan, Ian and Barbara.

"One of the major changes was the shift from First to Second Doctor and the different TARDIS crews. The thing with all of the Doctor's companions is that they're not just narrative devices, they're fully formed and distinct

## “ I WAS TRYING TO WORK OUT HOW TO, ER, HOMAGE THE STAR TREK FILM THE WRATH OF KHAN – WHICH IS BASICALLY SUBMARINES IN SPACE. ”

Simon Guerrier

find themselves in the middle of a war between the German army and a group of Russian pilots.

"The Night Witches were an all-female regiment of flyers who were tasked with

here for a particular reason. Part of the story also deals with what happens when Polly and Ben think that the Doctor and Jamie are dead and they contemplate their own escape in the TARDIS. It



Left to right: Anneke Wills, Wanda Opalinska, Helen Goldwyn, Anjella Mackintosh and Kristina Buikaite

disrupting German advances. It was incredibly dangerous for them as they were flying old bi-planes with no weapons on them other than the bombs they planned to drop. I wanted to write about the Night Witches and then I realised that Polly could be the key to writing a **Doctor Who** story about them..."

was interesting to explore them planning their futures. And writing cliff-hangers is the best thing ever!"

The same TARDIS team feature in the second story, *The Outliers*, written by Simon Guerrier.

He says: "I'd written *The Yes Men* without knowing they were going to recast Ben Jackson, and been so impressed by Eliot



## DOCTOR WHO: THE EARLY ADVENTURES THE NIGHT WITCHES

Written By: Roland Moore  
Directed By: Helen Goldwyn

Starring:  
Anneke Wills, Frazer Hines  
and Elliot Chapman

OUT THIS MONTH CD: £14.99, Download: £10.99

EXTRAS Interviews with the cast and crew



characters so it wasn't a simple case of finding and replacing the names even at the synopsis level.

"Actions had to be reassigned, characters react in different ways, they have different initial points of reference. Before that difference, there were a few other things that were changed along the way: new characters were introduced alongside a fairly big shift in genre that I can't say much about without giving things away."

What's the greatest pleasure to be had in recapturing **Doctor Who's** early days? Justin replies: "I think it's just that, recapturing those early days of the programme. That era, particularly the Second Doctor's era, is one I remember very fondly from when I was growing up. And the change in TARDIS team actually played out in my

“ THE SECOND DOCTOR'S ERA, IS ONE I REMEMBER VERY FONDLY FROM WHEN I WAS GROWING UP. ” Justin Richards

favour; since the Second's always been my favourite Doctor."

There's also a change of line-up for the set's final release, *The Wreck of the World*, written by Timothy X Atack, as Wendy Padbury is back as Zoe, to join the Doctor and Jamie.

Tim laughs: "David Richardson claims that me having the same agent as Steven Moffat helped. But I like to think it was the fact that when he asked me what era of **Doctor Who** I'd like to write, I reeled off 'Hinchcliffe Gothic', 'Bidmead-era Cosmic Angst' and 'Cartmel Masterplan' without pausing for breath – like a proper fanboy!

"I sent Big Finish a **Doctor Who-ish** radio play I wrote called *The Morpeth Carol* that won a big award, but I'm not sure they even read it. I think the irredeemable geekiness did the trick."

**T**IM'S BRIEF for this tale was open: "Second Doctor, Zoe, Jamie, sometime after

Nicholas Briggs's *The ISOS Network*. I came up with about four ideas. I was thinking all the time in black-and-white, that was my rule. It had to sound good in monochrome. If you listen to the final script there's no mention of colour at all – that's the kind of writerly trick I'm proud of for no good reason.

"I decided to pursue a few character traits that weren't necessarily explored back in the day: so Zoe embarks on an augmented love affair of sorts; Jamie gets fed up with always being given manual work... that kind of thing."

Tim adds: "As a first effort at a Big Finish audio I'm very proud of the script. I haven't heard the completed version yet but I know there are some cracking performances in there, and it's definitely the blank-eyed monochrome horror I hoped for in places, a good old-fashioned base under siege yarn... but with a few twists I hope... a few moments that bridge the gaps between the **Doctor Who** I loved as a kid and the **Doctor Who** I love now." **VORTEX**

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DOCTOR WHO – MAIN RANGE: **THE SILURIAN CANDIDATE** (229, Seventh Doctor)

DOCTOR WHO – MAIN RANGE: **TIME IN OFFICE** (230, Fifth Doctor and Tegan)

DOCTOR WHO – FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: **THE THIEF WHO STOLE TIME** (6.9, Fourth Doctor and Romana II)

DOCTOR WHO – SHORT TRIPS: **A HEART ON BOTH SIDES** (7.09, Eighth Doctor and Nyssa)

DOCTOR WHO – THE EARLY ADVENTURES: **THE NIGHT WITCHES** (4.1, Second Doctor, Jamie, Ben and Polly)

DOCTOR WHO – THE NEW ADVENTURES OF BERNICE SUMMERFIELD: **RULER OF THE UNIVERSE** (Box Set)

BERNICE SUMMERFIELD: TRUE STORIES (Book, Ebook, Audiobook)

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CAPTAIN SCARLET AND THE MYSTERONS: **SPECTRUM FILE 1**

CAPTAIN SCARLET AND THE MYSTERONS: **SPECTRUM FILE 2**

CAPTAIN SCARLET AND THE MYSTERONS: **SPECTRUM FILE 3**

HG WELLS: **THE TIME MACHINE** (5)

## OCTOBER 2017

DOCTOR WHO – MAIN RANGE: **THE BEHEMOTH** (231, Sixth Doctor, Flip and Constance)

DOCTOR WHO – SHORT TRIPS: **ALL HANDS ON DECK** (7.10, Eighth Doctor and Susan)

DOCTOR WHO – THE EARLY ADVENTURES: **THE OUTLIERS** (4.2, Second Doctor, Jamie, Ben and Polly)

DOCTOR WHO – THE EIGHTH DOCTOR: **THE TIME WAR: VOLUME ONE** (Box Set)

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DOCTOR WHO – THE TENTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: **COLD VENGEANCE** (Tenth Doctor and Rose)

DOCTOR WHO – SHORT TRIPS: **THE GENIUS GENTLEMAN** **ADRIC OF ALZARIUS** (7.11, Fifth Doctor and Adric)

DOCTOR WHO – THE EARLY ADVENTURES: **THE MORTON LEGACY** (4.3, Second Doctor, Jamie, Ben and Polly)

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HG WELLS: **THE MARTIAN INVASION OF EARTH** (6)

## DECEMBER 2017

DOCTOR WHO – MAIN RANGE: **STATIC** (234, Sixth Doctor, Flip and Constance)

DOCTOR WHO – SHORT TRIPS: **O TANNENBAUM** (7.12, First Doctor and Steven)

DOCTOR WHO – THE EARLY ADVENTURES: **THE WRECK OF THE WORLD** (4.4, Second Doctor, Jamie and Zoe)

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DARK SHADOWS: **SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT**

## JANUARY 2018

DOCTOR WHO – MAIN RANGE: **KINGDOM OF LIES** (234, Fifth Doctor, Tegan, Nyssa and Adric)

DOCTOR WHO – FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: **SERIES 7A** (7A, Fourth Doctor, Leela and K9, Box Set)

DOCTOR WHO – FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: **THE SONS OF KALDOR** (7.1, Fourth Doctor, Leela and K9, Download Only)

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BLAKE'S 7: **CROSSFIRE** (Part Two)

## FEBRUARY 2018

DOCTOR WHO – MAIN RANGE: **GHOST WALK** (235, Fifth Doctor, Tegan, Nyssa and Adric)

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## MARCH 2018

DOCTOR WHO – MAIN RANGE: **SERPENT IN THE SILVER MASK** (236, Fifth Doctor, Tegan, Nyssa and Adric)

DOCTOR WHO – SHORT TRIPS: TBA (8.3)

DOCTOR WHO – TALES FROM NEW EARTH (Box Set)

TORCHWOOD: THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN JACK (19)

## APRIL 2018

DOCTOR WHO – MAIN RANGE: TBA (237, TBA)

DOCTOR WHO – SHORT TRIPS: TBA (8.4)

BLAKE'S 7: **CROSSFIRE** (Part Three)

TORCHWOOD: TBA (20)

## MAY 2018

DOCTOR WHO – MAIN RANGE: TBA (238, TBA)

DOCTOR WHO – FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: **SERIES 7B** (7B, Fourth Doctor and Leela, Box Set)

DOCTOR WHO – FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: **THE SHADOW OF LONDON** (7.5, Fourth Doctor and Leela, Download Only)

DOCTOR WHO – FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: **THE BAD PENNY** (7.6, Fourth Doctor and Leela, Download Only)

DOCTOR WHO – FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: **KILL THE DOCTOR!** (7.7, Fourth Doctor and Leela, Download Only)

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