

VORTEX

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

STAR COPS

"GET YER SPACESUIT ON,
YOU'RE NICKED!"

BERNICE SUMMERFIELD

IN TIME: BENNY CELEBRATES
20 YEARS AT BIG FINISH!

MASTERPIECE

HE IS THE MASTER AND THE OOD WILL
OBEY HIM... BUT TO WHAT END?

PLUS!

STAR TREK

THE STARSHIP PROMETHEUS
WARPS TO BIG FINISH!





COMING SOON

THE TENTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: VOLUME THREE

A DECADE AFTER recording their final scenes together on TV, David Tennant and Catherine Tate are back as the Doctor and Donna for three more audio adventures throughout time and space. **The Tenth Doctor Adventures Volume Three** will be released next May, and it's a family affair with Jacqueline King returning as Sylvia Noble – Donna's mum – and Bernard Cribbins reprises his role as Donna's beloved grandfather, Wilfred Mott, having last appeared in *The End of Time*.

In *No Place*, James Goss takes the Doctor, Donna, Wilf and Sylvia into the world of reality television on a show called *Haunted Makeovers*. In *One Mile Down*, the Doctor and Donna meet the Judoon in the beautiful

underwater city of Vallarasee in a thriller by Jenny T Colgan. And in *The Creeping Death* by Roy Gill, we find that menacing threats lurk in 1950s London's smog.

The tales will be available individually as CDs or downloads, and also as part of a limited edition CD set. This five-disc collector's edition – limited to 5,000 physical copies – will also feature **Doctor Who** June Hudson costume designs for the creatures and aliens, plus SFX specialist Mike Tucker has created storyboards for the three new episodes.

The limited edition CD will also feature exclusive behind-the-scenes recordings with some of the cast and crew detailing insights into the creative process with original emails and interviews.

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EDITORIAL



WRITING **VORTEX** every month is always a pleasure and never a chore. There are so many things which I enjoy about it. I get to find out a wee bit more on the latest stories in advance of their release, and get to read the scripts to give me some background on what I'm writing about. (Which if it's a box set I never read all of the fourth script – I do like surprises!)

Another thing is that I get to chat to so many fantastic people – and so many of them have become friends. For example, for this issue I had the pleasure of speaking to Andrew Smith. I first met Andrew through my old job at the *Rutherglen Reformer* newspaper, when he chatted to me about writing *Full Circle*, 35 years after it was first broadcast. We stayed in touch and are now great mates, seeing each other socially when we can.

There are people I speak to like Scott Handcock, who I've only met once, and despite being one of the busiest people I know, he always takes time to talk to *Vortex*. And that's without mentioning other regulars like Matt Fitton, John Dorney, Ken Bentley, David Richardson, Nicholas Briggs and Jason Haigh-Ellery who always, somehow, find time for my pestering!

As I write this it's not long till Big Finish Day – and I look forward to meeting friends, old and new. **KENNY**



CALLOUS BEHAVIOUR

Kenny Smith discovers that the Master's plans are as devious as ever...

THE TIME War continues to rage this November with the release of **The War Master 2**.

Sir Derek Jacobi's successful return to the role last year was met with unanimous appreciation leading to a second, third and fourth series being commissioned.

This time, the Time War takes us to the mining colony Callous, where Elliot King struggles to meet the demands of its governor, Teremon. A wild Ood stalks the forests, carrying an antiquated phone. The caller promises much – he claims he can

change the world – but he always speaks a devastating truth.

Producer Scott Handcock is delighted to be bringing the Master back for more. He said: "I'm really proud of the team on that first series. The scripts were great, Peter Duggart brought the worlds to life with his brilliant sound design, and Ioan Morris's incidentals were superb. And that theme!

"Plus, we had a dream cast led by Sir Derek, with Jonny Green as his companion and guest actors who brought their all to every character. When we were recording it

felt special, so it was great to see such a positive response to Derek and the storylines. As I've said elsewhere we thought it would be a one-off so we really wanted to make it feel like a self-contained exploration of the Master, his manner and motives.

"I don't think that first series has informed any changes on the next sets. We didn't walk away thinking, 'Well, we could have done that differently'. But it certainly fuelled my imagination, which was great as it was almost instantly recommissioned!"

The agreement for three more **War Master** series also



Above (l-r): Samantha Béart, Silas Carson, Maeve Bluebell Wells and Derek Jacobi

meant that Scott and his writing team of James Goss and Guy Adams could afford to try different types of story.

Scott explains: "Knowing we had three more box sets to play with meant we could shake things up a bit. Linking the stories in the first set seemed to work, though we decided to mix that format up too, so series 2 and 4, **The War Master – The Master of Callous** and **The War Master – Anti-Genesis**, are comprised of larger four-part epics, whilst series 3, **The War Master – Rage of the Time Lords** comprises four separate episodes that form a wider arc, as we did in the first series, **The War Master – Only the Good**. And it's been great to mix the format from set to set and give the listeners different things each time.

"*The Master of Callous* follows the fortunes of the mining colony Callous, and specifically

“THE WAY THE OOD ARE SO EASILY INFLUENCED MAKES THEM THE PERFECT CREATURE TO FEATURE ALONGSIDE THE MASTER.”

SCOTT HANDCOCK

the King family. It's a world on the verge of collapse, overseen by a ruthless governor, until the Master appears on the scene and turns their plight around.

"But obviously, being the Master, there's a bigger scheme ticking away behind the scenes, and that's part of the fun of the character. There's always a darkness and dread but we're not privy to the details of his plans until they become apparent to the characters around him.

It's a very human story in that sense, and the Master's presence allows it to become quite dark and psychological. He's a character who really gets under people's skin and I love that we get to explore that!"

As well as the War Master, another familiar face, or faces, in this series are those of the Ood.

Scott explains: "To be honest, the instant I knew we were doing more, I thought of a couple of things I really wanted to tackle,



Above (clockwise from left): Richard Earl, Silas Carson, Wilf Scolding, James Goss, David Menkin, Tom Forrister, Samantha Béart, Maeve Bluebell Wells and Derek Jacobi



Above (l-r): Samantha Béart, Angela Bruce, Silas Carson and Derek Jacobi

both of which I ran past Russell T Davies who gave his blessing. I've known Russell since 2006 and I'm very mindful about ensuring it all feels part of his era and doesn't compromise continuity, which applies more to *Rage of the Time Lords* than the Ood... but yes, I love the Ood.

"I think the TV episodes *The Impossible Planet* and *The Satan Pit* are genuinely terrifying stories, and the way the Ood are so easily influenced makes them the perfect creature to feature alongside the Master. Plus, it meant I got to work with the glorious Silas Carson,

who's just incredible and an absolute gentleman. Hearing him together with Derek just made for a dreamy week in studio."

THE FIRST two stories in this release, *Call for the Dead* and *The Glittering Prize*, have both been written by James Goss. No stranger to the **War Master** series having written for *Only the Good*, James says being asked to return was: "Absolutely flattering and I was delighted to be asked back as *The Sky Man* was such fun to work on."

What does James perceive to be the War Master's characteristics

in this incarnation that set him apart from the others?

"He's a properly avuncular Master. He's not a camp coot in a cape. He's very much your best friend, your trusted adviser, your warm hearthside companion... He's almost a friendly old lapcat, but the predator is always lying beneath that contented exterior, lining up its next kill.

"What's so great about him is that you like him, everyone likes him, he's an adorable man with many fine qualities – until you're alone with him in a room."

Looking over the box set, James says that he and fellow writer Guy got a comparatively simple brief.

He says: "Scott asked for a story to be spread across four episodes about colonisation. I'd just finished re-reading *Nostromo* by Joseph Conrad. It's a brilliant amazing book, and I recommended it to Guy Adams.

"It's a story about an isolated colony being invaded, there's a doomed mine, a cunning heist, and there's a mysterious central character (and a mercurial Doctor).

"Basically, I said to Guy, 'Can we do *Nostromo* but in space?'

“CAN WE DO NOSTROMO BUT IN SPACE?”

JAMES GOSS



THE WAR MASTER THE MASTER OF CALLOUS

CALL FOR THE DEAD
by James Goss

THE GLITTERING PRIZE
by James Goss

THE PERSISTENCE OF DREAMS
by Guy Adams

SINS OF THE FATHER
by Guy Adams

▶ RELEASED November 2018

▶ CD £23.00

▶ Download £20.00

▶ Extras Bonus disc

▶ Director **Scott Handcock**

▶ Cast **Derek Jacobi** (The Master), **Silas Carson** (The Ood), **Maeve Bluebell Wells** (Cassandra King), **Samantha Béart** (Martine King), **Simon Ludders** (Elliot King), **Pippa Haywood** (Teremon), **David Menkin** (Herschel), **Barnaby Edwards** (Jaques), **Richard Earl** (Sassanby), **Kai Owen** (Porrit), **Joe Shire** (Calia), **Angela Bruce** (Mother), **Wilf Scolding** (First Soldier) and **Tom Forrister** (Second Soldier)

And that’s pretty much what we’ve done. We talked about it for hours, about how well it would work and he went away and wrote up a treatment and we just went from there.

“Honestly, it’s a great, faithful adaptation of the original only set in space with the Master and a lot of Ood. It works really well

and come up with something suitably big that could be paced in a very epic way but had a novel structure, so we could spend time getting to know the characters, build a whole world, then flesh out a story over the space of the entire box set.

“The only slightly removed episode in the set is episode three, which has a separate location and



Above (l–r): Scott Handcock and Derek Jacobi

“HE’S AN ADORABLE MAN WITH MANY FINE QUALITIES – UNTIL YOU’RE ALONE WITH HIM IN A ROOM.”

JAMES GOSS

because Conrad writes such complicated, sad characters.

“And, there’s the Master, prising open their souls with a tin-opener.”

GUY ADAMS has written the third and fourth episodes in the set, *The Persistence of Dreams* and *Sins of the Father*.

He confirms: “This second **War Master** series... it’s like a novel. It’s the one story. It was a great pleasure to sit down with James

perhaps feels like a sidestep – it’s probably the closest I’ll ever get to writing David Lynch for the ears. It’s something truly unusual and disturbing. Listeners will understand it when they hear it, with a sudden change in rhythm.

“But, as a whole, it’s one big adventure, and if it weren’t for the fact there are two names down as writers, you will hopefully think it all came from the one writer.”

Guy in particular enjoyed writing for Sir Derek.

He explains: "The War Master is slightly less theatrical than his other incarnations – he's very practical and pragmatic, however, he will gleefully kill you, although it will be in a more functional manner!

"He doesn't fear anyone else in the universe, and I found it very easy to write for Derek – it's such a lovely performance and character.

"There's something about the charm of the War Master – there's nothing quite so interesting than writing someone terribly warm who then turns cold in the space of seconds. He could give you chilblains. That's fun to write."

Scott adds: "Episode three features Sir Derek as you've never heard him before and

“WITHOUT GIVING ANYTHING AWAY THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING STRANGE AFOOT.” ROB HARVEY

from the perspective of sound design. Without giving anything away there's definitely something strange afoot. As any **Who** universe story has challenges in the sound department, this story has them also."

Picking up on an established theme tune, it gave Rob something he could work in to his score, especially with the four beats of the Master's

created making it the perfect overarching characteristic to any score. It's like having a tool that fits every job... Without giving away too much, 'the world that once promised dreams now offers only despair' should give you a clue as to how our score will sound.

"I have themes written for elements of the story and characters, which are all coloured by our 1234 1234 1234 1234 rhythm in some way variance or meter. It adds a Holstian quality to the score which is great for me because I'm a big fan of Gustav Holst's work.

"Ioan Morris has done a wonderful job with our main title theme too. I've payed homage to his work in the trailer for **The War Master – The Master of Callous**, lifting the very first two notes from it to form the final four bars. Where he created such a dark variance on the main Doctor's theme, I'll be adding fragments from that work into the main body of the score."

S COTT HAS really enjoyed being able to guide the dark world of the Master in the Time War.

He says: "It's been lovely getting to world-build, and the colonists in this story feel like a proper community. Derek and Silas are fantastic as the Master and the Ood, but also Maeve Bluebell Wells and Samantha Béart shine as Cassie and Martine King. They're our identification figures in this, and are simply incredible.

"The entire story feels very honest and real – it's a very human story, as I say – and all credit to the cast for selling the world and the characters with such conviction." **VORTEX**



Above (l-r): Maeve Bluebell Wells, Pippa Haywood, Joe Shire and Derek Jacobi

probably never will again. Even he surprised himself in studio. Thank you, Guy Adams!"

HANDLING THE sound design and music on this second series is Rob Harvey. When *Vortex* asked him if this series posed any major issues, he revealed: "There are some moments in episode three that really had me scratching my head

drumming in his head.

Rob says: "I've been able to work the variance in the theme a little more. By this point we're all familiar with the musical identity of the Master, so being able to work it in and explore it a bit more is a real pleasure.

"It's a simple theme too but so perfect for the Master's maniacal tendencies. It can be transposed into any other theme that's

LISTEN AGAIN

DOCTOR WHO DAMAGED GOODS

RELEASED APRIL 2015



BIG FINISH'S own time travelling takes us to 1987 in this 2016-nominated Scribe Award for Best Audio release.

In *Damaged Goods*, we joined the Seventh Doctor, Roz Forrester and Chris Cwej, and it's hard to believe it's been three-and-a-half years since they made their Big Finish debut in this new box set, released in April 2015.

It's a story of note – the first Doctor Who work by Russell T Davies, adapted for audio by Jonathan Morris.

Producer David Richardson says: "I'd actually drifted completely away from **Doctor Who** after the TV show ended in 1989, and it was the novel of *Damaged Goods* that pulled me back into it. I read it because it was written by Russell, and I thought it was brilliant. Everything Russell does is brilliant. There was no going back...

"So when I joined Big Finish, doing an audio adaptation was top of my wish list of things to do. I emailed Russell and never dared imagine that he'd say yes, but he was so supportive and enthusiastic and we were underway, with Jonny writing a sublime adaptation. We got a fantastic cast because they all wanted to work on something that Russell had been involved in, and I'm so very proud of the finished production."

When *Damaged Goods* was confirmed for release, Russell told *Vortex*: "Oh I was excited! Simple as that. I know Big Finish very well so I knew immediately that they'd do it with love and respect. Great joy, the moment that email arrived!"

Set on a council estate, an alien drug has made its way to Earth and the Doctor and his friends have to investigate. Add two strong mothers, family ties, and... whisper it... the first Big Finish mentions of the Time War and Torchwood, and you've got an all-time great release.

Jonny adds: "I was delighted by the reaction *Damaged Goods* received because I flatter myself that it meant that people thought I had written a script that could have plausibly been the work of Russell T Davies. I feel like an art forger who has got away with selling a fake Van Gogh!"

And director Ken Bentley was delighted to work with a cast that included Denise Black, Michelle Collins and Daniel Brocklebank.

But he says: "David did much of the casting for *Damaged*

Goods. It turned out that some of the actors on our list had also worked with Russell in the past, so it was all a bit serendipitous. We cast the actors we did because

“ I FLATTER MYSELF THAT IT MEANT THAT PEOPLE THOUGHT I HAD WRITTEN A SCRIPT THAT COULD HAVE PLAUSIBLY BEEN THE WORK OF RUSSELL T DAVIES. JONATHAN MORRIS

they're good and they're appropriate for the role!

"And Howard Carter's sound design and score is just fantastic. The play is the perfect mix of intimate family drama and enormous action, and Howard effortlessly bounces between the two.

"I feel very privileged to have been involved with the project and proud of what we all achieved. Not only is it a fantastic piece in its own right, but the lateral links with Russell and the **Doctor Who** universe as a whole make it a particularly special production. I sincerely hope everyone (including the author) enjoys it." **VORTEX**

DAMAGED GOODS IS AVAILABLE NOW ON CD AND DOWNLOAD FROM WWW.BIGFINISH.COM



SUMMER READING

PROFESSOR BERNICE SUMMERFIELD HAS BEEN A CONTINUING PRESENCE AT BIG FINISH SINCE THE FIRST PRODUCTION WAS CREATED 20 YEARS AGO.

SHE'S FEATURED in her own series of audio adventures starring Lisa Bowerman, as well as encountering the Doctor; and led novels, novellas and short story collections.

As part of the 20th anniversary celebrations, Benny returns in the release **Bernice Summerfield: In Time**, a short-story collection edited by Xanna Eve Chown.

Like the recent audio releases, **Bernice Summerfield: The Story So Far Volumes One and Two**, each

of the brand-new stories in this short-story collection focuses on a different time in Benny's life.

Xanna explains: "Well, Benny's got a rather long history, so we thought it would be interesting to mark the anniversary with a story from each 'era' of her life. There's a story set on the planet Dellah, one on the Braxiatel Collection, one on Legion, two from the Unbound Universe – bonus! – and so on.

"There's even a story set in the future, where Benny is in her eighties but still brandishing a trowel! It's a lot of fun, but it doesn't rely on the reader knowing every detail of Benny's life. We wanted to make sure the stories were accessible to people who had

a little bit of knowledge, as well as for those who are her biggest fans."

The writing team for *In Time* certainly know their Bernice.

Xanna continues: "Each writer has a connection to the Benny era their story is set in. For example, Simon Guerrier is a former Bernice Summerfield producer, Mark Clapham and Dave Stone wrote for the *Virgin New Adventures*, and Victoria Simpson's first published story was in the Benny collection *True Stories*.

"I was so pleased that Dave Stone agreed to be involved as I've always enjoyed his take on the Benny universe, and his story is brilliant and bonkers in just the right way! Peter Anghelides's



“IT’S LOVELY TO SEE BENNY AS AN OAP STILL DOING WHAT SHE LOVES.”

XANNA EVE CHOWN

a character from one of his recent audio adventures as a starting point for his story, which works really well. James Goss is brilliant, obviously, and we get to meet the fabulous Mother Superior of the Sisters of St Beedlix again.”

Simon Guerrier, former producer and writer of audio play *Braxiatel in Love* in the recent *The Story So Far Volume One* box set, added: “Xanna very kindly asked me to write a new Benny story, set in the time when I was producer. I’d just written the audio play set in the same period, and I’d been thinking about Benny’s job as a professor, responsible for students – not just in their studies but in their lives while they’re at the Collection.

“I was thinking about the sort of crises students can face, the kind of thing that might be a bit different for Benny to have to deal with. And that led me to think about how the death of one of her students might affect not just her but the other students in her charge. And then I realised I could link it to *Braxiatel in Love*. Producer James Goss was concerned that you shouldn’t have to know the events of the audio to follow the prose story, but he liked the idea, so I wrote it with that note in mind.”

THERE IS also, of course, a newcomer to this collection, a writer who



Above (l-r): Lisa Bowerman, Neil Gardner and Victoria Simpson

Above (l-r): Lisa Bowerman and Xanna Eve Chown

story, which ends the collection is a very satisfying mystery, and it’s lovely to see Benny as an OAP still doing what she loves. Antonio Rastelli pitched his story as a kind of ‘Bernice Noir’ which is such a cool idea.

“I knew that Victoria Simpson was keen to explore the Unbound Universe further after her story *Fast Contact* – this one is a little less bleak though with a cute robot and a slightly rubbish museum! Simon Guerrier uses the death of

WHERE'S BENNY?

A SIMPLIFIED TIMELINE OF A RATHER COMPLICATED LIFE

BY XANNA EVE CHOWN



won a competition run in conjunction with the Time Ladies fan site.

Xanna confirms: "There's also the winning story from the recent Big Finish competition. *The Bunny's Curse* by Doris V Sutherland, is about Benny as a teenager trying to fit in at Military School.

Doris was a very deserving winner, her story really stood out – not least for the unforgettable image of Benny wearing a pink bunny suit!"

The competition had around 170 entries with a high standard from all those who took part. Winner, Doris, is an experienced writer whose work includes the vampire comic *Midnight Widows* as well as non-fiction articles on sci-fi, fantasy and horror.

Doris admitted: "I'll be honest, I'm actually very new to **Bernice Summerfield**. But I'm making up for that by giving

“THE UNFORGETTABLE IMAGE OF BENNY WEARING A PINK BUNNY SUIT!”

XANNA EVE CHOWN

myself a crash-course in her exploits. The whole idea of a far-future archaeologist appeals to me; there's plenty of room for irony in that concept. That she has such a dry, sardonic outlook on her adventures is the icing on the cake.

"I'm very excited to be writing for Big Finish. I like the atmosphere of Big Finish which works with big franchises but finds room to explore their smaller corners. I am an avid fan of **Doctor Who** in all of its various incarnations – although part of me feels that none of the Doctors will ever top

William Hartnell when he was still a bit evil!"

Doris's story *The Bunny's Curse* features telekinesis, mummies and an exoskeleton suit that is customised to resemble a giant pink bunny.

Xanna concludes: "It was fun trying to get a kind of chronological fix on Benny's story, and digging through the layers (like an archaeologist!) of her life, to find stories that bring out the flavour of each time period. We even tried to write a brief timeline at the start of the book – and that isn't an easy job for a character like Benny!" **VORTEX**

BETA CAPRISIS

Bernice "Benny" Surprise Summerfield is born on an Earth colony, Beta Caprisis, to Claire and Isaac Summerfield. Following an attack on the colony, eight-year-old Bernice, now an orphan, is evacuated.

MILITARY ACADEMY

By the age of thirteen, Bernice is somewhat reluctantly at a Spacefleet military academy. Three years later she has run away and is living in the nearby woods. At twenty-one, she leaves for good, faking archaeological qualifications in order to get work.

ALL OF TIME AND SPACE

Bernice meets the Doctor on the planet Heaven, and they travel together. During this time she meets her future husband, Jason Kane.

LEGION

Bernice finds Braxiatel living on the murky planet Legion now running a bar, the White Rabbit, but he is not the same man that she used to know. She stays on Legion with a grown-up Peter, her friend Ruth and Jack – a pointy-eared Kadeptan.

THE BRAXIATEL COLLECTION

When Dellah is destroyed, Braxiatel asks Bernice to work with him at the Collection as a staff archaeologist. When Bernice finds out that Braxiatel has been meddling in her life, she leaves the Collection with Peter, her half-Killoran son.

ST OSCAR'S UNIVERSITY

Bernice takes up the Edward Watkinson Chair of Archaeology at St Oscar's on the planet Dellah. She meets Irving Braxiatel, Head of the Theatre Department.



BERNICE SUMMERFIELD IN TIME: A SHORT-STORY ANTHOLOGY

▶ RELEASED December 2018

▶ Book £16.99

▶ eBook £12.99

▶ Audioook £9.99

THE STORIES IN THE COLLECTION AND WHEN THEY ARE SET

OH NO, NOT AGAIN
by Dave Stone

▶ THE PAST

THE BUNNY'S CURSE
by Doris V Sutherland

▶ SPACEFLEET ACADEMY

THE 7TH FANFIC
by Mark Clapham

▶ DELLAH

BENNY AND THE GRIEVING MAN
by Simon Guerrier

▶ THE BRAXIATEL COLLECTION

WURM NOIR
by Antonio Rastelli

▶ LEGION

LEGACY PRESENCE
by Victoria Simpson

▶ UNBOUND

THE DEATH OF HOPE
by James Goss

▶ UNBOUND

OLD RUINS
by Peter Anghelides

▶ THE FUTURE



KENNY SMITH DISCOVERS THAT WHEN THE
STAR COPS HAVE TO STOP MOTHER EARTH...

IT WON'T BE EASY

IN SPACE, no one can hear you scream if there's been a crime! Mankind has expanded into space, and maintaining law and order among this network of space stations, satellites and moon outposts is the responsibility of the International Space Police Force, known as the Star Cops.

In the first **Star Cops** box set, *Mother Earth 1*, there was a series of attacks by Mother Earth, an activist group opposed to mankind's expansion into space. Months have now passed and their activities are about to be stepped up – and only the Star Cops, led by Nathan Spring, can stop them.

The second **Star Cops** box set, *Mother Earth 2*, also features original TV stars David Calder

as Nathan Spring/Box, Trevor Cooper as Colin Devis and Linda Newton as Pal Kenzy, with returns for Big Finish cast members Rakhee Thakrar as Priya Basu and Philip Olivier as Paul Bailey.

Script editor Andrew Smith was delighted at the reception the first series received, telling *Vortex*: "I was actually surprised by how nervous I was before the first set came out because it was my first script editing gig. I felt we really lucked out – and I was helped by Guy Adams, who script edited me.

"I felt invested in every aspect of it – in every disc, in every story – and after it went out, the reaction was fantastic.

"It was really nice that people who knew **Star Cops** were saying

how true it was to the original series, and it was great to hear from people who hadn't seen it on TV and didn't know very much about it, as they said they had enjoyed it too. I got so many nice emails and direct messages from people."

The first box set only featured brief appearances from Linda as Kenzy. Having long since returned to her native Australia she recorded her scenes Down Under, but she fully returned to the **Star Cops** fray as she was in studio for series two.

Andrew explains: "A big difference for *Mother Earth 2* was having Linda with us in studio to play Pal Kenzy – and having Kenzy very much involved throughout all four stories.

"Linda was so pleased to be with us and to play Kenzy again,

“ALL I HAD TO DO WAS SET UP THE SKITTLES WHICH ANDREW WOULD LATER KNOCK DOWN.”

GUY ADAMS

breathing new life into a character she last played 30 years ago.”

Speaking to *Vortex* from Australia, Linda's first reaction when she heard the show was being revived on audio was: “How fabulous! I heard about it from Trevor – we'd been emailing, thanks to Paul Watts. Paul was writing a book about the series (that was the first surprise, that anyone would be writing a book about a series that had screened once, 30 years ago!). He'd contacted Gennie Nevison, who'd played Nathan Sprig's partner

in episode one, via Facebook.

“She told me that Paul was trying to get in touch with me. So I contacted Paul and he put me back in touch with Trevor, who told me about the audio series and gave me David Richardson's email. I emailed David – not particularly expecting anything to come out of it – and that was the start of the resurrection of Inspector Pal Kenzy! It's all due to Paul, and I'd like to say a huge thanks to him for all the fun I've had!

“Working with David and Trevor again has been an absolute joy.

We fell back into our characters as if no time had passed. That's partly due to the great writing – it feels like they've been written by the same team who created them. Also, we get on really well away from the mike – it's hard to believe more than 30 years has passed since we worked together. The on-set camaraderie was one of the lovely things about the TV series, and the same goes for the audio series. A fab cast and crew!”

Andrew agrees: “What was clear was the love the actors have for the original series. Trevor Cooper turned up every day for the recordings in different *Star Cops* t-shirts, which he had bought from a website. I got the details from him and bought a couple for myself!”

FOUR NEW cases await the *Star Cops*, and Andrew says: “I think the second box set is even better – and I'm not so nervous now. Anyone who enjoyed box set one will enjoy the second as we wrap up the *Mother Earth* arc. The writers have done such a good job on it.”

Things get underway in *Mother Earth 2* with *Dead and Buried* by Guy Adams, where at Lunar Interments – the moon's graveyard for the wealthy – the caretaker has noticed something odd in the burial records and Devis isn't happy at being assigned to what he thinks is a mundane case.

Andy reveals: “Guy has come up with a superb opener, where Devis has many scenes with a character who's almost another Devis! I was smiling so much when I first read it, as they spark off each other.”

Guy continues: “We are continuing the *Mother Earth* story – Andrew is a very organised chap, as he had his plan for their whole arc ready from the word go. When I was writing the third story of the first set, I had a good idea of where it would go for the second.

“I was delighted when Andrew asked me if I would write the first story to open the box set, as all I had to do was set up the skittles which Andrew would



Above: Rakhee Thakrar

later knock down. And that's all I'm going to say about it!"

The second story of the set, *The Killing Jar* by John Dorney, will have listeners on edge to the end, when Nathan receives reports of serious accidents and even a death on a second-hand space station.

Andrew says: "John Dorney has done us a lovely little whodunnit. He pulls it off brilliantly, as he always does, and even with the limited cast he had available he keeps you guessing to the very end. There's a very limited number of suspects, but the reveal is very, very clever.

"It's very John – it's a real treat. And I discovered a part of being script editor was it put me in the lovely position

“ I DON'T
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EXCEPT THAT
THE WHOLE
EXPERIENCE
IS MY
FAVOURITE
STORY. LINDA NEWTON

You need the sci-fi and the police research methodology, which makes Andrew the perfect fit."

KENZY IS to the forefront in the next story, *Moonshine* by Roland Moore, as Andrew says: "I said to the writers it's good to make use of the fact that the Star Cops can travel the world, and on audio it's easier to do that than it would be on television. Roland Moore ran with it and has written a great story for our third episode set partly in Australia. Kenzy goes home to follow up on some enquiries, assisted by Devis."

A friend of Kenzy's on the space station Coral Sea has been dismissed for possession of alcohol and sent back to Earth, and when she learns of his subsequent suicide she and Devis travel to Australia to investigate.

Roland says: "My proposed episode already had a serial strand that dealt with Kenzy's friend being discharged for having alcohol – so I proposed an episode idea that also centred on alcohol. Whereas Kenzy's friend had been framed for having alcohol, Barney Hillier is definitely, undeniably drunk. But where did he get alcohol on the moon? When Nathan realises that Barney becomes intoxicated even when he's locked up with no alcohol, the Star Cops have a real mystery on their hands. The story shines a spotlight on Priya too – and brings aspects of her background into play to solve the mystery.

"And in parallel you've got Kenzy and Devis forced to pretend to be a couple when they go to Australia to investigate what happened to Kenzy's friend. Those scenes were great fun to write – they're such brilliant characters and the interplay between the actors was perfect. I love Kenzy's deadpan humour and Devis is like Gene Hunt in space."

Mother Earth 2 comes to a close with *Hostage*, written by Andrew, where the Star Cops are under intense pressure in the face of continuing *Mother Earth* attacks.



Above (l-r): David Calder, Linda Newton and Trevor Cooper

of being the first person to read a John Dorney script!"

The writer continues: "I knew before I started that I was supposed to be doing a whodunnit, per se, with a guest cast of two. I was determined to try and write a whodunnit which would still manage to surprise the audience.

"I wanted to make it hard to figure out who the killer was, which I hope I've been able to do.

I've always loved mystery

stories as I enjoy the novels of John Dickson Carr, the master of the locked room mystery.

"Andrew was a tough script editor. He was very, very keen to get the police procedures right!

He's the perfect person to be doing a series like this – he does have the police background and understanding of that world, so that makes the Big Finish *Star Cops* probably the most accurate take on the series yet.



STAR COPS MOTHER EARTH 2

DEAD AND BURIED

by Guy Adams

THE KILLING JAR

by John Dorney

MOONSHINE

by Roland Moore

HOSTAGE

by Andrew Smith

▶ RELEASED November 2018

▶ CD £28.00

▶ Download £25.00

▶ Extras Interviews

▶ Director Helen Goldwyn

▶ Cast **David Calder** (Nathan Spring/Box), **Trevor Cooper** (Colin Devis), **Linda Newton** (Pal Kenzy), **Rakhee Thakrar** (Priya Basu), **Philip Olivier** (Paul Bailey), **Nimmy March** (Shayla Moss), **Andrew Fettes** (Mac Thirwell), **Vikash Bhai** (Ben Alexander), **Amy Downham** (Lyra Fox), **Will Chitty** (Martin Thane), **Tor Clark** (Rebecca Driscoll), **Timothy Hofmeier** (Phil Bovey/Vernon Hollis), **Craig Armstrong** (Barney Hillier/Theodore Gallow), **William Gaminara** (Godfrey Miller), **Sarah Sutton** (Mary Ward), **Emily Carewe** (Sally Newell).



Above (l-r): Philip Olivier and Trevor Cooper

I'M GLAD IT'S AUDIO, OR SOMEONE ELSE WOULD BE PLAYING KENZY!

LINDA NEWTON

Kenzy and Priya are responding to a murderous Mother Earth explosion at a moon outpost when one of the workers, Mary Ward, takes a hostage and makes demands, accusing others of trying to kill her. She appears to have snapped under pressure.

Andrew says: "I've written the closing episode, *Hostage*. I walked into the studio and Sarah Sutton was there. This is the first non-*Doctor Who* part she has done for Big Finish and she was brilliant as Mary. She's a really

major character in the story as she's the key to helping the Star Cops identify what has been going on with Mother Earth.

"It's an episode I really like. As I was plotting it, I went outside for a walk, as I often do, and I had an idea to have Devis involved in a car chase on the moon. I really look forward to hearing how the sound design goes on that!"

Linda concludes: "I don't think I have a favourite story, really. Except that the whole experience is my favourite story. There I was, living in Sydney, Australia, and never thinking about my former life as an inspector in the International Space Police Force, and then one day my life changes thanks to a contact via Facebook.

"I'm back in the ISPP fighting crime in space – in the same role I played in 1986 (I'm glad it's audio, or someone else would be playing Kenzy!). And the recording was the perfect excuse to return to London and catch up with old friends. Who could ask for anything better?" **VORTEX**



BOLDLY GOING FORWARD

BIG FINISH ENTERS FEDERATION SPACE FOR THE THIRD TIME WITH **STAR TREK: PROMETHEUS**

SINCE 1999, Big Finish has worked on many licensed science fiction and cult TV series from both sides of the Atlantic – **Doctor Who**, **The Tomorrow People**, **Stargate** and **Highlander** – to name but four. There is one obvious omission from the list, **Star Trek**, but that changed in the summer.

We boldly went where no one had gone before by joining

Captain Richard Adams onboard the *USS Prometheus*, with unabridged audiobook versions of the **Star Trek Prometheus** novels which were first published in Germany in 2015 to mark the 50th anniversary of the series.

In July, Big Finish released English readings of the first two novels, *Fire with Fire* and *The Root of All Rage*, narrated by Alec Newman who

appeared in the TV series **Star Trek: Enterprise** as Malik.

The third book in the *Prometheus* trilogy, which was also written by Bernd Perplies and Christian Humberg has been recorded and the final audiobook, *In the Heart of Chaos* will be released this December.

The Federation races to discover the culprits of several terrorist attacks sending their flagship,



the *USS Prometheus*, to stop war breaking out in the galaxy as the situation in the Lembatta Cluster deteriorates. Fleets from the Federation and Klingon Empire are heading for the borders on the trail of a secret weapons facility.

Fortunately for *Vortex* authors Bernd Perplies and Christian Humberg both speak perfect English and they explained how *Prometheus* came about.

Christian says: “When the *Star Trek: Into Darkness* film was approaching, Cross Cult was invited to a business meeting with other German franchise licensors. Since Cross Cult had been thinking about doing a trilogy of original *Trek* novels for the 50th birthday, they used this meeting to try and ask the licence owners for permission. And after almost 18 months of transatlantic deliberations Hollywood finally agreed to it – we were

“ [CAPTAIN ADAMS] JOINED STARFLEET TO SEE WHAT’S OUT THERE, TO LEARN, TO HELP, TO GROW. YET FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS HE WAS FORCED TO FIGHT.

CHRISTIAN HUMBERG

officially given the green light and started writing.”

For those who know their *Star Trek*, Bernd explains where *Prometheus* sits in the series time

line: “The time is 2385, so it’s six years after the movie *Star Trek: Nemesis*. The Federation has been through rough years. It has seen the Dominion War as depicted in the TV show *DS9* (2373–2375), it has fought against the Borg multiple times (during the movie *First Contact* and afterwards leading up to David Mack’s Borg invasion in his bestselling trilogy of novels, *Destiny*), then the Typhon Pact – an alliance of the enemies of the Federation – was formed in the attempt to undermine the Federation.

“All this forced the Federation and Starfleet to become more militant and abandon great endeavours like the deep space exploration missions. Now it seems as if things could be getting better. A new president of the UFP has been elected and ships like the *Enterprise-E* are resuming their mission of peaceful exploration. This is where our story sits.”

Christian adds: "Our captain is Richard Adams. Adams is tired of war. He joined Starfleet to see what's out there, to learn, to help, to grow. Yet for the past couple of years he was forced to fight. Against the Dominion, the Borg, the Typhon Pact... that's not what he signed up for. Instead of helping others, he kept losing himself – and his wife, who fell victim to one of the conflicts. When we meet him in *Fire with Fire* he is a tired old man who just wants to get back to his old ideals. And then the Renao attack!"

Bernd continues: "The rest of the *Prometheus* crew is a mix of new characters and supporting characters. We tried to come up with some new ideas like a Caitian first officer and an Andorian chief of security. Since it was an anniversary trilogy we wanted to incorporate personnel from various TV shows: Sarita Carson (*DS9*), Chell (*Voyager*) and T'Shanik (*The Next Generation*). There is also a Kirk on board: Jenna Winona Kirk! She is not a direct descendant of James T Kirk, of course. We all know

Kirk's only son David was killed by the Klingons in *Star Trek III*. Yet she is part of the Kirk family tree. In fact she is a descendant of Kirk's brother George Samuel Kirk. Even a hundred years after James T Kirk she suffers from the enormous shadow this hero of the Federation casts on anyone bearing the name Kirk."

THE CHOICE of reader was a suggestion from Big Finish senior producer David Richardson, who says: "To me, Alec was the obvious choice to read these. I'd worked with him several times on various things, including the early *Dark Shadows* releases, and know he's a really focused and engaging story teller. And I had no doubt he had the stamina to hurtle through three books! I was delighted to hear how much he loved doing it. He does, of course, have great *Star Trek* credentials having played the genetically enhanced Malik in the much-loved *Star Trek: Enterprise* trilogy."

The writers were delighted when they learned that Big

“THERE IS ALSO A KIRK ON BOARD: JENNA WINONA KIRK... SHE IS PART OF THE KIRK FAMILY TREE.”

CHRISTIAN HUMBERG

Finish had the audiobook rights in English, and even happier when they heard Alec reading it.

Bernd says: "It is great to listen to someone who is a talented storyteller and knows how to use his voice to interpret a text that was written by me. I always like it when other artists take my stories and do something new with it, may it be a theatrical stage production, a comic or an audiobook."

Christian agrees: "I love the English audiobooks, plain and simple. Kudos to



FIRE WITH FIRE

Written By: Bernd Perplies
and Christian Humberg

Read by Alec Newman

OUT NOW



IN THE HEART OF CHAOS

Written By: Bernd Perplies
and Christian Humberg

Read by Alec Newman

OUT NOW



THE ROOT OF ALL RAGE

Written By: Bernd Perplies
and Christian Humberg

Read by Alec Newman

OUT IN DECEMBER

everyone involved in their production. You have made two German wordslingers very happy... and very proud.

"Alec's performance is flawless and his enthusiasm for the material shows. Say, do you know if he'd be interested in reading even more of our work – besides **Trek**, I mean? There are more novels. Quite a lot more, actually!"

THE RECORDINGS were overseen by Richard Fox and Lauren Yason – Lauren actually recorded the sessions becoming the first woman to engineer for Big Finish in the process.

Lauren says: "We've been recording audiobooks for a number of publishers for many years now and I think David Richardson became aware of this and asked us

there was so much material to work though: "For audiobooks of this length you would normally record over three days per book so for *Prometheus* Alec spent the best part of two working weeks with us. There was a lot of material so to get through it you get a little bit 'structured' with your day making sure you have recorded the required amount by lunch or the end of the day. This gives enough time to record but not normally much leeway if you have a delay so you always have one eye on the page count."

Lauren adds: "The recording takes around nine days then you're looking at several more days to edit and master so you've heard a lot of audio by the end! We recorded all three titles pretty much back-to-back so for a month at the beginning of



to work on a few audiobook titles for Big Finish. We started with the **Blake's 7 Heroes** audiobook with Michael Keating, and a couple of the Bennys with Lisa Bowerman including the recently released *Treasury*, so we got involved with this audiobook project after that."

Richard explains that recording the novels took longer than the average Big Finish session, as

2018 or so it was full on **Star Trek** for most of the winter!"

These are straight audiobook readings without effects, and of volume three, the pair add: "It is a great conclusion to the trilogy and if you've enjoyed the first two then make sure you listen to *Prometheus – The Root of All Rage*." **VORTEX**

VORTEX MAIL

HAVE YOUR SAY!

EMAIL: feedback@bigfinish.com

REMEMBER TO PUT 'VORTEX MAIL' AS THE SUBJECT

CHARLEY IS HIS DARLING

I've been on board with you since the very beginning and built up a hefty collection of your adventures, and like the series we all love, Big Finish have become a phenomenon in their own right. Like yourselves I'd need 20 years to express what my journey has been like listening to all those fantastic moments of escapism and how my life has changed throughout that time. The journey really has been phenomenal and I would like to say a very big thank you to all who have been involved past and present. I was wondering what is next for the original lady of her own series, Charlotte Pollard – can we please have more? She is much missed.

DEAN FLETCHER

Nick: Thanks, Dean. I feel as though we've been on a journey together. And on it goes... As for

Charley Pollard... yes! There is a third and final series planned for her. The scripts are in and I'm currently working on them.

TIME FOR MORE GALLIFREY

I have just completed the complete set of **Gallifrey**, including the new *Time War* box set. The whole series was a pleasure to listen to. Can I assume that a **Gallifrey Time War** series two is currently in development? Is it likely that Paul McGann will appear in **Gallifrey** as the Doctor? Finally, thank you for introducing **Star Trek: Prometheus** to Big Finish. I look forward to future releases.

ANDREW BARRETT

Nick: No firm announcements or details available yet, Andrew. But there will definitely be more Gallifrey.

COMPANION CHRONICLED?

Are there any plans to bring out another Big Finish Companion? Your back catalogue is very rich and deserves another volume. In fact, with your **Doctor Who** 20th anniversary celebrations next year, it would be the right time to release it. After all, it is a continuing history of your products.

MICHAEL PARSONS

Nick: There are certainly plans, Michael.

BRING BACK MISS BROWN

Can somebody tell me what's happening with Peri? It's been quite a long time since

we last heard from her. She's my favourite companion.

SIMON TAYLOR

Nick: Somebody? I can tell you, Simon! I have said this on the podcast several times, so I heartily recommend it to you as a source of up-to-the-minute Big Finish information... yes, of course, Peri will be back. Stories are being written as we speak.



THREE IS THE MAGIC NUMBER?

Jordan Renzo, on the **Class** extras, mentioned a third in a triangle for his character and Charlie. Now, maybe that could be Tommy Knight's character from the **Sarah Jane Adventures**? Russell T Davies said in interviews that he planned on having Luke come out as gay and maybe having a romance with his college room mate. Ever consider, if **Class** continues, having this happen with Luke and having Tommy Knight return?

CHARLES MENTO

Nick: If Class continues, Charles, you can certainly expect announcements of characters and their relationships. But it's too early to comment on specifics at this very early stage. Is that a cryptic enough reply for you?! VORTEX



COMING SOON

THE BIG FINISH RELEASE SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 2018

- DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES:
WARLOCK'S CROSS (244, SEVENTH DOCTOR AND KLEIN)
- DW • THE EARLY ADVENTURES: ENTANGLEMENT
(5.3, FIRST DOCTOR, VICKI AND STEVEN)
- DW • SHORT TRIPS:
THE MISTPUDDLE MURDERS **DLO**
(8.11, FIFTH DOCTOR, NYSSA AND TEGAN)
- DW • THE SEVENTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES
(BOX SET, SEVENTH DOCTOR, ROZ AND CHRIS)
- UNIT – THE NEW SERIES: REVISITATIONS
(SERIES 7)
- DARK SHADOWS:
THE TONY & CASSANDRA MYSTERIES: SERIES 2
- STAR COPS: MOTHER EARTH PART 2 (BOX SET)

DECEMBER 2018

- DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES:
MUSE OF FIRE (245, SEVENTH DOCTOR, HEX, ACE AND IRIS)
- DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES:
THE HUNTING GROUND (246, SIXTH DOCTOR)
- DW • THE EARLY ADVENTURES:
THE CRASH OF THE UK-201
(5.4, FIRST DOCTOR, VICKI AND STEVEN)
- DW • SHORT TRIPS: THE DEVIL'S FOOTPRINTS **DLO**
(8.12, SEVENTH DOCTOR AND MEL)
- DW • THE WAR MASTER:
THE MASTER OF CALLOUS (BOX SET)
- BERNICE SUMMERFIELD: IN TIME
(NOVEL, EBOOK AND AUDIOBOOK)
- STAR TREK PROMETHEUS 3: IN THE HEART OF CHAOS
(AUDIOBOOK)
- SURVIVORS: SERIES 8 (BOX SET)

JANUARY 2019

- DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: DEVIL IN THE MIST
(247, FIFTH DOCTOR, TEGAN AND TURLOUGH)
- DW • THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:
SERIES 8A (8.A, FOURTH DOCTOR, ANN KELSO AND K9)
- DW • THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:
THE SINISTRAN KILL **DLO**
(8.1, FOURTH DOCTOR AND ANN KELSO)
- DW • THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:
THE ENCHANTRESS OF NUMBERS **DLO**
(8.2, FOURTH DOCTOR AND ANN KELSO)
- DW • THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:
PLANET OF THE DRASHIGS **DLO**
(8.3, FOURTH DOCTOR, ANN KELSO AND K9)
- DW • THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:
THE FALSE GUARDIAN **DLO**
(8.4, FOURTH DOCTOR, ANN KELSO AND K9)

- DW • THE FIRST DOCTOR ADVENTURES: VOLUME 3
(3, FIRST DOCTOR, IAN, BARBARA AND SUSAN)
- DW • SHORT TRIPS: THE REVISIONISTS (9.01)
- THE DIARY OF RIVER SONG: SERIES 5 (BOX SET)
- BLAKE'S 7: RESTORATION PART 1 (BOX SET)
- BLAKE'S 7: UPRISING (NOVEL, EBOOK AND AUDIOBOOK)
- THE NEW COUNTER-MEASURES: THE HOLLOW KING

FEBRUARY 2019

- DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES:
BLACK THURSDAY/POWER GAME
(248, FIFTH DOCTOR, TEGAN AND TURLOUGH)
- DW • THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:
SERIES 8B (8.B, FOURTH DOCTOR, ANN KELSO AND K9)
- DW • THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:
TIME'S ASSASSIN **DLO** (8.5, FOURTH DOCTOR, ANN KELSO AND K9)
- DW • THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:
FEVER ISLAND **DLO** (8.6, FOURTH DOCTOR, ANN KELSO AND K9)
- DW • THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:
THE PERFECT PRISONERS PARTS 1-2 **DLO**
(8.7, FOURTH DOCTOR, ANN KELSO AND K9)
- DW • THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:
THE PERFECT PRISONERS PARTS 3-4 **DLO**
(8.8, FOURTH DOCTOR, ANN KELSO AND K9)
- DW • SHORT TRIPS: THE ASTREA CONSPIRACY (9.02)
- DW • MISSY: SERIES 1 (BOX SET)
- TORCHWOOD: GOD AMONG US PART 2 (BOX SET)
- CALLAN: SERIES 2 (BOX SET)

MARCH 2019

- DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES:
EMPIRE (249, FIFTH DOCTOR, TEGAN AND TURLOUGH)
- DW • THE COMIC STRIP ADAPTATIONS:
VOLUME 1 (1, FOURTH DOCTOR)
- DW • SHORT TRIPS: DOCTORS AND DRAGONS (9.03)
- TORCHWOOD: TBC (25)

APRIL 2019

- DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: TBC (249)
- DW • RAVENOUS 3 (BOX SET)
- DW • SHORT TRIPS: YEAR OF THE DREX OLYMPICS (9.04)
- TORCHWOOD: TBC (26)
- DARK SHADOWS: BLOODLINE EPISODES 1-13

DLO = DOWNLOAD ONLY
DW = DOCTOR WHO

VORTEX

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

THE WAR MASTER

YOU REALLY SHOULD BE OBEYING HIM!

BERNICE SUMMERFIELD

IN TIME: BENNY CELEBRATES 20 YEARS AT BIG FINISH!

“GET YER SPACESUIT ON, YOU’RE NICKED!”

STAR COPS

MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER IN SPACE ISN'T EASY

PLUS!

STAR TREK

THE STARSHIP PROMETHEUS WARPS TO BIG FINISH!

