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DOCTOR WHO

THE FIFTH DOCTOR

THE PATERNOSTER GANG

HERITAGE 2

DOCTOR WHO RAVENOUS 4

THE LAST COURSE OF THE EIGHTH DOCTOR
ADVENTURE IS SERVED...

PLUS BREAKAWAY WITH
SPACE: 1999!





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COMING SOON



DONNA NOBLE KIDNAPPED!

DONNA NOBLE is back at Big Finish – but probably not in the way you'd expect! Having starred in two box sets of adventures with David Tennant as the Doctor, she now has her own series set during her travels.

Donna Noble: Kidnapped!, to be released in May 2020, sees Donna take on monsters – and her mother Sylvia – in four new escapades: *Out of this World* by Jacqueline Rayner; *Spirvasion* by John Dorney; *The Sorcerer of Albion* by James Goss; and *The Chiswick Cuckoos* by Matt Fitton.

Script editor and writer Matt says: "There were a few directions we could take for a solo Donna Noble set – from before her travels to during them – but I thought an interesting angle would be

the fallout from the Library (where she experiences life with a perfect family, then has it ripped away from her). After that she just wants the comfort of home for a bit."

Producer David Richardson adds: "I've been lucky enough to produce something starring Catherine Tate twice before. I'd call her a national treasure but I think that undersells her – she's an *international* treasure who has populated our entertainment industry with so many beloved characters.

"Donna Noble is the stardust which was sprinkled over **Doctor Who** TV series four; she and the Tenth Doctor deservedly became a hugely popular pairing. And here she is at Big Finish, with her own spin-off series. We are so fortunate to have her." **VORTEX**

EDITORIAL



IT'S BEEN quite a year with Big Finish so far, hasn't it?! We've had many joyous adventures as part of the 20 years of **Doctor Who** on audio celebration with the return of Lucie Miller to the Eighth Doctor's side; River Song on the fringes of classic **Doctor Who** tales; the arrival of the Paternoster Gang; more from the lives of Captain Jack; the secret plans of the War Master; the ongoing **The Monthly Adventures**; **Torchwood** meeting old **Doctor Who** monsters... it's been a non-stop party, people!

It was all crowned by *The Legacy of Time* (limited edition) – and what a release it is. Oh, the little surprises and Easter eggs – some I knew of, others I didn't – and that made it all the more joyous. As I write, I've just received my physical copy and it's a creature of beauty. I love it: it looks and feels special. If you've not got one, a standard edition will be available for pre-order soon.

And there's more and more quality drama still coming! We've got a new Fifth Doctor trilogy which shakes up **The Monthly Adventures** format; there's more from the Paternoster Gang; and there's the conclusion of the **Ravenous** series for the Eighth Doctor. Will they all get out alive? I honestly have no idea!

Away from **Doctor Who**, there's **Space: 1999**, which is blasting off. Or is it blasting out? Either way I can't wait to hear it! **VORTEX**



THE LAST COURSE

THE DOCTOR, LIV, HELEN AND THE ELEVEN MEET THE MASTER, THE MASTER, THE MASTER AND MISSY!

! PLEASE NOTE – THIS PREVIEW CONTAINS SPOILERS FROM RAVENOUS 3

THE EIGHTH Doctor and his friends haven't had it easy in recent times. With Liv Chenka the Doctor fought the Daleks and watched their friend Molly O'Sullivan die in **Dark Eyes**. They were joined by Helen Sinclair on their adventures in **Doom Coalition** – thought they'd lost her, found her again, and encountered the renegade Time Lord the Eleven (who exists with all 11 personalities from his different incarnations present at the same time!) – who then teamed up with his previous incarnation the Nine.

And now things are about to get even worse for Paul McGann's Doctor, as he, Liv (Nicola Walker) and Helen (Hattie Morahan), are about to meet four different incarnations of the Master – what will the Eleven

(Mark Bonnar) think of them?!

Producer David Richardson says: "It was always my intention to bring different incarnations of the Master into the climax of **Ravenous** but of course I wrote the series pitch for this a long time ago, and never dreamed we'd have access to so many wonderful actors back then!

"The plan with **Ravenous** has always been to slowly reveal where we were heading – to start off with a number of standalone stories before getting into the series arc proper.

And **Ravenous 4** is a full-on story arc – it's a battle for survival for the Doctor, his friends AND his enemies, and it's a battle someone might lose... I can promise that it all ties up beautifully and that something that didn't seem significant a few box sets

ago now steps into centre stage."

Matt Fitton has written the first two stories of the box set, *Whisper* and *Planet of Dust*, while the concluding adventure, *Day of the Master Parts One and Two*, was written by John Dorney. Michelle Gomez, Derek Jacobi, Geoffrey Beevers and Eric Roberts all reprise their roles of the Master/Missy for this final box set in the **Ravenous** series.

Speaking of the opener, Matt says: "*Whisper* is a standalone story following on after the traumatic ending of **Ravenous 3** when they think the threat of the Ravenous has gone. The Doctor and his friends are trying to decide what to do with the Eleven, and whether they can trust him. It's a little claustrophobic.



Above (l-r): Mark Bonnar, Nicola Walker and Derek Jacobi

I thought it would be interesting to do something like the film *The Quiet Place* – but on audio!

“We know that certain crew members of the TARDIS are more suspicious than others of the Eleven – Liv won’t trust him a bit!”

The crew of the TARDIS then find themselves on *Planet of Dust*.

David continues: “It was a real thrill bringing Geoffrey Beever’s into our **Eighth Doctor Adventures**, doing what he does best in *Planet of Dust*: subjugating an alien world and then setting about a chain of events that will drive our **Ravenous** story forward.”

Matt adds: “*Planet of Dust* is about the Beever’s Master heading towards the end of his life – and he knows his time is finally running out. Of all the Masters he is the one who’s the great survivor, having extended his life again and again – but he needs to keep on living.”

“I have to admit I had a lovely time writing *Planet of Dust*, with the Master meeting the Eleven. Both of them are saying, ‘What

are you doing here?’, and are very suspicious of each other.

“I see listeners are asking questions about the Eric Roberts’ Master but it will be clear soon enough, when we reach *Day of the Master*, just what’s going on.

“This is the Master at the end of the first set of his regenerations. We know he has used many means to extend his lifespan – including stealing the body of a human paramedic – but his body will always return to its decayed state.”

Geoffrey Beever’s, playing the role of the emaciated Master, adds: “I was only needed for one day in studio. I enjoyed the conversation and everybody’s company (with some actors I hadn’t met before), had fun working

with everyone, had a great lunch (as always), and went home!

“I remember from the script how shocked I was to discover there were rather more evil things in this universe than I thought to rival the Master. I don’t like this competition,’ thinks the Master, ‘especially not if it masters me!”

KEN BENTLEY is the director of the **Ravenous** series, and admits: “We’re very lucky at Big Finish. All these fantastic actors were cast in these wonderful roles and they’re perfectly happy bringing them back to life on audio.

“I must admit we did have a few larks along the way. Many of the cast members had worked with each

“ I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THE FILM **THE QUIET PLACE** – BUT ON AUDIO! MATT FITTON



Above (l-r): Natalie Simpson, Nicola Walker and Clifford Samuel



Above (l-r): Mark Bonnar, Paul McGann and Hattie Morahan

other before and seemed to enjoy the chance to catch up. It's a real treat to be given the opportunity to direct them. And they're just brilliant, which makes my job really easy!"

T

HE EVENTS of *Ravenous* come to a conclusion in *Day of the Master* by John Dorney. John tells *Vortex*:

"It was a simultaneously exciting

and terrifying brief. We had a planning meeting at the Big Finish office for *Ravenous 3* and *4*, and we were talking about would happen following the events of *Ravenous 3*. We decided we would have four TV Masters in the final set. It was then a case of where they would all fit in.

"David wanted the final adventure to be called *Day of the Master* written as a two-parter, and the only question was whether Geoffrey could be in there too. Eric Roberts was always in the mix, and we knew we would have the four Masters across the set.

"This was by far the single most

“ YOU CAN SEE WHY IT MIGHT BE INTIMIDATING! BUT HONESTLY IT WAS ONE OF THE BEST TIMES I’VE EVER HAD WRITING A **DOCTOR WHO** STORY.

JOHN DORNEY

scary brief I've ever had! When we were in that meeting, trying to figure out what the plot was for the final story, myself and Matt thought it was quite an incredibly electrifying brief. It was good but so intimidating! Sorting out the plot was one of the toughest things I've done for Big Finish.

"We were working with something that's very technically challenging, fitting recording around the limitations of which actors were available, and when and where, whilst there's also a certain degree of continuity that you need to have. For example, you can't have the Jacobi Master knowing the Doctor because the Doctor doesn't recognise him in *Utopia*! You don't want that kind of complication to be obvious and have listeners aware of what you're having to do. That was one of the challenging aspects, making it flow naturally to tell a good story, and make it a worthwhile finale



Above (l-r): Mark Bonnar and Derek Jacobi



to a 16-disc set. I do remember it being genuinely exhilarating.”

As listeners, we’re used to having moments when different Doctors have a personality clash, so a meeting of Masters posed an interesting conundrum for John, given that only two Masters have ever met on TV.

John agrees: “It’s an interesting combination, bringing the Masters together. They all have their individual egos and you can anticipate that they won’t get on. Missy is a force of nature and chaos; Eric Roberts’ Master is a psychopath and very, very dangerous. In a weird way the Derek Jacobi Master is the most pragmatic of the lot, very forward and his own man.

“Finishing off the **Ravenous** arc was a big enough responsibility on its own, but throw in wanting to give great material to Sir Derek Jacobi... and Michelle Gomez... and that’s before we even get to the heart-stoppingly fantastic prospect of bringing Eric Roberts’ Master back

face to face with the Doctor again for the first time in over 20 years... well, you can see why it might be intimidating! But honestly it was one of the best times I’ve ever had writing a **Doctor Who** story. I really hope the audience enjoy it as much as I did!”

D **AVID ADDS:** “We’ve tried to do something a bit different with **Ravenous**. After **Doom Coalition**, we wanted to go a bit darker, a bit scarier – to mark the saga with a shift in tone. With all four box sets now recorded, I feel a sense of relief – it’s been such a huge logistical challenge!

“It was a massive undertaking and I can’t wait to hear it all come together as Benji Clifford delivers the edits and Jamie Robertson adds the music. I think it’s a thrilling and fitting end to this latest run of the Eighth Doctor – and it will lead neatly into what follows.

“**Ravenous 4** alone required six studio days in cities as far apart as Los Angeles, New York and London! But we did it. We told that whole, big story and we’ve brought back three Masters and

Missy in a breathtaking finale.

“I’m really proud of it – and yet I don’t really have much time to stop and think about it because we’re already onto the next chapter for the Eighth Doctor! And life is going to be very different for him and his companions...”

Matt adds: “We’ve already had a meeting about the series to come after **Ravenous**, so we know where the Eighth Doctor is going next.”

And David concludes: “At the minute we have a plan, and storylines are being written for something that has a working title – and that title has eight letters in it. That feels kind of fitting!” **VORTEX**

DOCTOR WHO: RAVENOUS 4

- Released: October 2019
- Format: CD/Download



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PARTY LIKE IT'S 1999

A GERRY ANDERSON CLASSIC IS GIVEN A NEW TWIST BY BIG FINISH

BIG FINISH has been broadening the scope and scale of its ranges in recent years. Whilst **Doctor Who** is a core part of the output, there are plenty of new additions such as **Terrahawks**, **The Avengers** and **The Prisoner** – to name but a few.

And now arriving on platform 1999 is a classic Gerry Anderson series as **Space: 1999** is given a Big Finish reimagining, taking the core

concepts of the original series and putting them back together again with a 21st century sensibility.

Director and writer Nicholas Briggs explains: “When we started licensing **The Prisoner** from ITV, I mentioned that I was keen on possibly licensing any or all of the Gerry Anderson series, so they were already aware of my interest. Then in one of our regular catch-ups they mentioned that **Space: 1999** might be available.

I immediately started working on a pitch, which they ultimately accepted.

“We have most of the characters – all the main ones – and the central concept of the Moon heading off on its own odyssey is the same. We’ve tweaked the science behind the cause of it, very slightly, and I suppose I’ve aimed to give it a bit more emotional literacy and explore exactly what the conflicts and frustrations between the characters are in this high risk scenario. It’s a story of things going wrong, beyond human control, and how some good and some not so good people struggle to understand and cope as events escalate.

“There’s a lot that’s the same and the feel is similar, but it’s all been reimagined from the ground up by someone who loves and



Above (l-r): Jamie Anderson, Glen McCready, Susan Hingley, Clive Hayward, Nicholas Briggs, James Winch (costumes), Timothy Bentinck, Mark Bonnar, Maria Teresa Creasey, Amaka Okafor and David Richardson

respects the TV version. There's enough that's new in it to make it interesting and engaging for those who love the original, but it'll also work for anyone who knows nothing about **Space: 1999**."

What can Nick reveal about the lead characters? He teases: "I

course through this but ultimately has to pick a side, and along the way he gets very strung out and exhausted. He's the kind of man who thinks he can do without sleep and just keep going. His exhaustion and how he copes with the stress are all at the centre of the story."

Jules de Jongh (Petra Nordstrom).

Clive Hayward tells *Vortex*: "I never really knew much about the original **Space: 1999**, but I had heard of it by name. I grew up overseas and when I wasn't there I was incarcerated in boarding school so never saw huge amounts of telly. It wasn't until researching this project that I realised it was one of the biggest and most expensive television series made in Britain.

"I watched the opening episode to get a feel for it, and I've since realised how accurately and faithfully the Big Finish scripts are to the original. I might have come late to **Space: 1999**, but I'm pleased to have come across it now!"

Clive plays Victor Bergman, brought to life by the late Barry Morse in the TV show.

Clive explains: "What I like about Victor as a person is that you often have scientific characters who can be quite generic, but he's far from that. He's very broad and is passionate about what he does, which is quite a fun combination.

"Scientists may not automatically be considered heroes or heroines

“THERE'S A LOT THAT'S THE SAME, AND THE FEEL IS SIMILAR, BUT IT'S ALL BEEN REIMAGINED FROM THE GROUND UP ... NICHOLAS BRIGGS

"As for Commander John Koenig, I think I portray him in the audio as being far more conflicted. He's committed to the Meta mission, but he can see something is going wrong. He wants to solve both problems, but has the two sides pulling him either way. Space Commissioner Simmons wants the mission to planet Meta to go ahead at all costs. Dr Russell wants everything stopped to save lives. Koenig tries to steer a

PLAYING THE leads are Mark Bonnar as Commander Koenig and Maria Teresa Creasey as Dr Russell, with additional cast members Glen McCready (Commander Gorsky/Paul Morrow/Alan Carter), Clive Hayward (Professor Victor Bergman), Susan Hingley (Sandra Benes/Alpha Computer/Sian Springer), Timothy Bentinck (Commissioner Simmons), Amaka Okafor (Dashka Kano) and

but they are at the frontier of space, as another programme once said! You need scientists with a wealth of knowledge. Look at astronauts today – they don't just have to be physically fit but need to know their stuff as well."

NICK CONTINUES: "We had an incredibly crazy time with our **Space: 1999** recording days – but in a

“ MARK BONNAR DID THE MOST AMAZING KOENIG AUDITION IN WHICH HE PLAYED ALL THE OTHER CHARACTERS IN THE SCENE TOO!

NICHOLAS BRIGGS

very good way. There's been a big sense of anticipation building up, not least because we'd been trying to keep it all secret!

"We got exactly the cast we'd been looking for. Mark Bonnar did the most amazing Koenig audition in which he played all the other characters in the scene too!

"During recording the cast were presented with the original **Space: 1999** costumes, as curated by collector James Wynch. He was a very brave man letting our actors get their hands on those lovely costumes, but they were all very respectful and careful."

Nick was also pleased with the response from the cast in studio. He explains: "Mark's interpretation of Koenig hit the nail right on the head. He took his cues from what I'd written in the script, and immediately spotted all the tension and ultimately weariness in the character. The moment Koenig gets to Alpha the proverbial stuff hits the fan and he's firefighting the whole time, with events running out of control.

"His disintegrating relationship with Simmons is a key part of it all,

and Tim Bentinck rose manfully to the challenge of portraying that very complex part. Simmons is not a bad guy, he's just very determined that all the work he's put in will pay off.

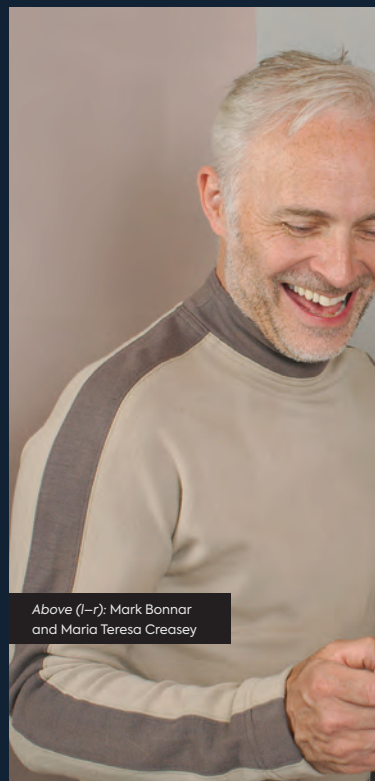
"Maria is superb as Dr Russell. Again, it was so gratifying that she picked up on what I'd put in the script – that Dr Russell is at the end of her tether. She's been lied to, kept in the dark and prevented from saving people's lives. For anyone, particularly for a medical doctor, that's going to be intolerable. So she's ready to blow her top right from the start."

SPACE: 1999 was formulated by Gerry Anderson, and his son Jamie is involved in this audio series. Nick says:

"Jamie and I talked this through right from the start. He's credited as script editor but his involvement has been far greater. He accessed expert advice to help me with the scientific aspects, and his encouragement as a friend and colleague was vital to the project. He's been very good at supporting my enthusiasm for it all. And, naturally, he's talked about his dad's work on the production."



Above: Mark Bonnar, as Commander John Koenig



Above (l-r): Mark Bonnar and Maria Teresa Creasey

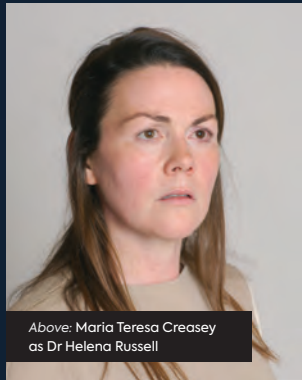
Jamie continues: "Having worked with Nick on his excellent reimagining of **The Prisoner**, I knew he'd do a fantastic job – and I wasn't wrong. From reading the first storyline I could see the authenticity to the original, while reimagining the show enough to make it something fresh – there's no point just rereading old ground after all. It's a fantastic cast and about an hour into recording I remember leaning

forward and saying, 'Great job Nick, they sound brilliant together!'. And they really do – an amazing new set of Alphans! Nick asked me to script edit on this series. From the outset he wanted to make it more human and begin exploration of some of the show's themes early on. I think he's done that beautifully. The whole thing has been a great pleasure, and I just know Dad would have been thrilled with this reimagining."

producer David Richardson's idea, and I think it's great.

"David was, I think, more of a fan of the series than I was back in the day. And his enthusiasm has been key to this new range. He's watching me right at this moment with a comm-lock in his hand – so you can realistically expect a four-story follow-up box set by next March!"

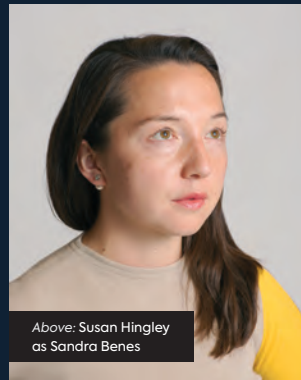
Clive adds: "I'm very excited! I've spent my career playing one-off parts



Above: Maria Teresa Creasey as Dr Helena Russell



Above: Amaka Okafor as Dashka Kano



Above: Susan Hingley as Sandra Benes



“THE WHOLE THING HAS BEEN A GREAT PLEASURE, AND I JUST KNOW **DAD WOULD HAVE BEEN THRILLED WITH THIS REIMAGINING.**” JAMIE ANDERSON

LOOKING AHEAD to 2020, what can we expect from the next set of stories? Nick explains: "There was a flurry of activity after I circulated the very detailed storyline for *Breakaway*. The writers all read it and immediately delivered their storylines, then probably got very frustrated that I didn't get back to them very quickly – you see, I had this little problem of having to write the *Breakaway* script first!

"But I can certainly confirm that we want to go with more of a serial format rather than individual episodes which press the reset button at the end. And we have a more expanded role for Simmons too which was

with no reappearances, so it's great to know I'll be back for the first series.

"That said, I did some research into the character and saw he wasn't back for series two – I hope Big Finish will take a different direction and not kill me off!" **VORTEX**

SPACE: 1999 – BREAKAWAY

- Released: September 2019
- Format: CD/Download



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THE NEXT **DOCTOR WHO** – THE **MONTHLY ADVENTURES** TRILOGY IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT.



TWO THE BETTER

THE FIFTH DOCTOR RETURNS FOR THREE NEW MONTHLY ADVENTURES IN SPACE AND TIME – AND IT'S A TRILOGY WITH A DIFFERENCE.

We've become accustomed to stories being three four-parters but there's a big change in store for this run of adventures for the Doctor, Tegan and Nyssa. There's also a crossing over of Big Finish releases as **Doctor Who** meets the **Originals** range...

THISTRIO is being produced by Scott Handcock, and script edited by Guy Adams. Scott says: "We read many storylines, but not all of them fitted into the same format so it felt wrong to force them into a structure that

doesn't make the best of them. The first story is a *Resurrection of the Daleks*-style bumper-length two parter, whilst the others are the more traditional 25-minute double-bills. The joy of the double-bill adventures is that they allow us to tell twice as

many stories in the same slot, so we get even more variety in the year.

Scott continues: "Obviously, I love **Cicero**. The **Originals** series we made is one of my favourite things: a historical drama exploring the life of a significant (though strangely not that well-known) public figure, delving into the lifestyle and politics that comes with it. As a time-travel series, I wanted to tackle more historicals so the Doctor encountering Cicero was high on my list as soon as I took over as producer of the Fifth Doctor stories. It helps that Peter Davison happens to be a big fan of Samuel Barnett and **Dirk Gently**, as the Doctor's whole purpose for visiting is because he's a massive fan of Cicero's work!"



Above (l-r): Samuel Barnett and Peter Davison

T **ARTARUS BY** David Llewellyn begins the trilogy this month as Samuel Barnett, the star of Big Finish Original, *Cicero*, reprises his role to meet Peter Davison's Fifth Doctor.

When asked to bring the Doctor into Cicero's life, David admitted: "I worried that if we had Cicero meeting aliens people might go back to the *Cicero* series and see it through a sci-fi lens. Then I remembered that Simon Callow still performs as Charles Dickens, and that he played Dickens before reprising him in the Doctor Who TV episode, *The Unquiet Dead* – so I got over myself!

"One thing we did discuss early on was that Cicero is one of the first Romans to leave much of a personal trace, in regards to letters, etc. If he'd had this amazing adventure with the Doctor he'd have almost certainly written about it, so why didn't he? We have a lot of fun exploring that question within the story."

If you've seen the covers for this trilogy, you'll see the name of George Watkins is there playing a new character, Marc, who joins the TARDIS team on their travels.

David continues: "You have to establish the character without writing the last word on them. There has to be room for them to develop and for other writers to leave their mark (no pun intended), but at the same time you can't make the character too sketchy and vague."

T **HE FORMAT** changes for the second and third releases in the trilogy as they consist of two two-part adventures. Beginning with *Interstitial* by Carl Rowens, discussions of his initial brief led to the idea of, 'Some kind of time eddy and could we make a story from that'. Carl confirms: "I took that and ran, splitting the TARDIS team into two sets, an hour apart but in the same place, unable to communicate.

"I think what I wanted to do was give something special for Tegan and Nyssa to do, to show off their unique skills without the Doctor overshadowing them (Nyssa the scientist working it out, Tegan the pragmatist facing up to the bad guys)."

The change of format initially gave Carl some worries, as he admits: "I was dubious at first, finding things

for our leads to do in just 50 minutes without being rushed. But as I settled into it I found this structure proved to be a good way to tell a character-led story rather than an incident-led one. It's kind of like the difference between a novel and a short story –

“ IF [CICERO] HAD THIS AMAZING ADVENTURE WITH THE DOCTOR HE'D HAVE ALMOST CERTAINLY WRITTEN ABOUT IT, SO WHY DIDN'T HE? DAVID LLEWELLYN

they require different disciplines."

Feast of Fear by Martyn Waites is the second story in October's release.

His brief was: "Nothing too specific, just that it would be for the Fifth Doctor. The only other stipulation was that it was probably going to be the October/Halloween release so if I could come up with some kind of eerie horror story so much the better. Since my crime novels all veer towards that anyway it seemed like a good fit. I'm a massive fan of horror movies and novels so it wasn't too difficult. I came up with four ideas, and the one Guy and Scott went for was the last one I suggested – it was tacked on almost as an afterthought! It wasn't really so much a proposal as a number of questions. They thought it read like the back of a Target book and were intrigued by it, wanting answers. Me too!"

A Target book? That's fun!

Martyn grins: "I'll try and answer with my original Target books-type synopsis: Why is the Doctor blindfolded and chained up in a travelling carnival crossing a famine-hit nineteenth century Ireland? Why are the clowns crying? Why is Nyssa acting so strangely? What is the secret

of the village of the dead which Tegan and Marc discover? And what sinister presence is really in control of the carnival?

"Listen to *Feast of Fear* and all will be revealed..."

NOVEMBER TAKES us into *Warzone* by Chris Chapman. He explains: "This is the first time that Big Finish has come to me with a pretty fleshed out idea for a story and asked me to work it up – and I think I know why. As well as being a massive **Who** geek, I'm also a big running nerd – park runs, marathons, all that stuff – and I think Scott and Guy had noticed that online. The story idea was to be

“ THE CAST WOULD SPEND MOST OF THE RECORDING DAY JOGGING UP AND DOWN IN THEIR SOUND BOOTHS!

CHRIS CHAPMAN

about a Tough Mudder-style event – **OF DEATH** – so they wanted someone who knew their running culture to come up with a classic **Doctor Who** satire on the subject. I was delighted to oblige.

"I got to have a lot of fun putting the TARDIS crew in a completely mad situation – arriving right in the middle of a lethal marathon and being forced to join in. I was also aware that this meant the cast would spend most of the recording day jogging up and down in their sound booths!"

THE MONTHLY *Adventures* trilogy concludes with *Conversion* by Guy Adams featuring the return of the



Cybermen and David Banks reprising his role as the Cyber Leader. Guy concludes: "Scott and I have worked very closely on this trilogy – although I say trilogy it's really a longer two-parter and four two-parters. I really like a two-part story as we can do a lot with 50 minutes.

"We've also introduced a new character and we thought it would be good to give them as much variety and scope as possible, so by having an extended two-part story we get to introduce them, and then we have four more stories to get to know them, so that way we can fit in a historical, sci-fi and a returning villain.

"I think the title is a huge clue about who we feature, and we

look at how the Doctor reacts to it. What we have is the Fifth Doctor haunted by the loss of a friend. What would happen if he met the reason he lost his friend again, and how would he react, especially with a new friend he needs to protect." **VORTEX**

DOCTOR WHO: TARTARUS

- Released: September 2019
- Format: CD/Download



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LET'S GO SOUND AGAIN

It was interesting to read in the latest DWM that Nick Briggs thought that the sound design was a bit sparse in *The Sirens of Time*. Would Big Finish consider doing 20th anniversary remasters on a few classics (possibly digital only)? Colditz is certainly one I'd like to hear redone.

Duncan Wilson

Nick: *The idea of re-editing, re-sound designing and re-scoring The Sirens of Time has been put to me before, Duncan. I am tempted, but then we're quite busy doing new things, know what I mean? Perhaps one day when things become a little quieter, I might revisit the idea. Not sure when that might happen, though!*

SOUNDS INTERESTING

What's the most inventive use of a sound effect you've used in any of your productions?

Vince Stadon

Nick: *I'd love to throw that question out to all the sound designers who've ever worked for Big Finish. It's an interesting question, Vince, sound designers do often end up using the noise made by something quite mundane to represent something*

really fantastical. On the mundane side, I once used the sound of a vending machine to represent the movement of some escalators. Not particularly fantastical, though!

BIG START

How long from idea to final release does it typically take for a Big Finish production? And I'd love to hear more about the whole behind-the-scenes process.

@Kimalysong

Nick: *Typically it takes a year from idea to finished product. If we go like crazy and work ourselves to death, it's possible to fast track something so that it takes about six months. But that's something we do very rarely, as we start to see smoke coming out of the ears of our writers, directors, sound designers, composers, cover artists and producers!*

THE WRITE STUFF

If there was a young author who wanted to someday get into writing audio theatre like Big Finish produces, and perhaps has secret dreams of someday writing for Big Finish itself, what would be the best advice for them?

@ElvenPadawan

Nick: *My advice to all would-be writers is to keep writing. Get involved with as many projects as you can. Start things up with friends. Practise and learn for yourself. Watch films, TV and theatre and listen to radio drama. And in terms of Big Finish specifically, always enter The Paul Spragg Memorial Short Trips Opportunity - every entry gets read.*

THE GIFT OF GIVING

Aside from purchasing and pre-ordering, what are the best

ways for fans to show support for our favourite series? Is gifting of physical and digital plays something on the horizon?

@MASolko

Nick: *Gifting is something we're always looking into. However there is a list as long as the arms of several Cybermen of things we have prioritised to introduce to our website. So apologies for the delay, people are working very hard to improve things. As for supporting us, yes, buying directly from us is the best way. Also talking to people about what we do, being enthusiastic and letting us know what you think are all important ways of supporting us. Every heartfelt piece of praise we receive boosts our confidence and creativity. It all counts.*

TOMORROW'S RETURN?

The *Tomorrow People* series was cancelled due to relicensing issues. This meant all existing work, which was substantial, could no longer be sold. Are the current licence holders willing to work with you? And, if so, are we likely to see the back catalogue on sale in the future?

@imipak

Nick: *This is something that our chairman, Jason Haigh-Ellery, often looks into. We have hopes for the future, but there's no sign of change yet.*

UNEXPECTED TALES

I would love to know if you have ever considered making a range of stories a little like an anthology collection. A bit like *The Twilight Zone*, or *Tales of the Unexpected*? I could see so many writers creating great tales.

Jenny Shirt

Nick: *We certainly have thought about this, Jenny, and plans came very close to fruition at one point. We'll let you know if we get warm on this one again!* **VORTEX**



FIRST CLASS

IT'S TIME TO CREATE NEW SOUNDS OF THE SIXTIES...

FOUR NEW stories from the early years of **Doctor Who** are on their way, with the release of the latest box set of **The Companion Chronicles**. Originally released monthly, from 2015 the series has continued with a collection of four stories each year, alternating between the First and Second Doctors.

The next set, to be released in September, features the companions of William Hartnell. *The First Doctor: Volume Three* has been produced by Ian Atkins, who says: "This set comprises four strong scripts all focusing on aspects of heroes and heroism. It's brought out wonderful moments from some very talented actors who are as brilliant now – if not more so – than they were over (can you believe it?) 50 years ago, and it's been a thrill sitting in the control room watching them work."

WE BEGIN with *E is For...* by Julian Richards, where Susan finds herself isolated on a colony planet where those in the populace developing superpowers are hunted down by a military villain, Colonel Maria Rage (Lisa Bowerman) – think of a 1964 take on **X-Men!**

Julian says: "I'd say the story is basically a love letter to the two greatest things the sixties gave us: **Doctor Who** and the Silver Age of Comic Books. The superhero genre is something **Doctor Who's** only played with a couple of times before on TV (*The Return of Doctor Mystero*, and the Karkus in *The Mind Robber* are the ones that spring immediately to mind) and this story is basically an excuse to let all the great superhero tropes and themes and ideas mix

with the great tropes, themes and ideas of **Doctor Who**. There's a lot of overlap between them, obviously, but they also tackle a lot of things in very different ways which I wanted to explore. And while the story is very much rooted in the 1960s it does acknowledge the vast history that both comic book superheroes and **Doctor Who** have, and the many points of overlap between them.

"Writing for any classic companion is an utter joy, but Susan in particular is exciting to write for because she has pretty much the most growth of almost any of them, certainly of the 1960s companions."

Director Lisa Bowerman, who also plays the villain, adds: "It's a really good one. There's a lovely relationship between Carole Ann Ford and our guest actor, Mark Edel-Hunt.

"I had a lot of fun with Rage. She's very well written and a good old fashioned baddie. It's about time I got to play a villain! It's always great to have the opportunity to act. Before you think I was being greedy and cast myself, Ian Atkins, the producer, asked me to play her – and I wasn't going to turn down the opportunity! When someone asks you to play a good part, you'd be a fool to say no!"

D **AYBREAK BY** John Pritchard sees Vicki finding herself meeting legendary rebel heroes from history. But the incident for which they died

conflicts, and also by films portraying those events, sometimes with different interpretations of them."

T **HERE'S A** change of tone for the third story in this set, with *The Vardan Invasion of Mirth* by producer Ian and Paul Morris. Steven finds himself stranded in 1950s London once again, this time being sent by the Doctor to team up with a comedian, Teddy Baxter (Stephen Critchlow). But there's more to Baxter's past than they realise, and something in his future that could end the human race...

Plague of Dreams for Anneke and Elliot previously and it had gone down very well – and I'd enjoyed writing the story.

"I used the phrase 'the crumbling magician' during the special features for *The Plague of Dreams*, as I referred to the Doctor as that. I can't remember if it appears or not but Ian said at the time, 'That's the title of the next one.'

"The TARDIS has crashed and there's little doubt that the Doctor and his friends are going to die, but will continuity allow it?"

Lisa grins: "*The Crumbling Magician* is just great. It's a fantastic tour de force from Anneke, and the interaction between Elliot and David is absolutely fantastic. It's really good stuff. Elliot plays it so beautifully – he's such a good actor."

Elliot adds: "When I was recording my first **Early Adventure**, Frazer Hines and I were having a chat in the green room and he was giving me a rundown on some of the folk who'd been involved with Big Finish. He listed some incredible names, including David Warner.

"Something must have registered on my face when he said David's name, and Frazer asked if I was a fan. I explained that I was, as I had seen him on stage and watched many of his films.

"Recently, the producer, Ian Atkins, said, 'I'm going to surprise you. Remember how you once said that you like David Warner's work...?', and then he explained they were going to get him in for one of the next stories!

"It was wonderful to meet him. Of course I tried to play it cool: we ended up talking about cricket! I reminded myself that, at the end of the day, he's another actor and he's come in to do a job just like me." **VORTEX**



Above (l-r): Guy Adams, Anneke Wills and Elliot Chapman

hasn't happened yet. John says: "The brief from Ian was a 'future historical' war story where an event which Vicki has always thought of as a heroic 'last stand' turns out to be something very different in reality.

"The story takes the form of an interrogation. The Doctor and his companions have been captured by a resistance group and now Vicki has fallen into the hands of the security service which is seeking them. As she spars with her interrogator, she discovers that history's heroes and villains are not always as clear-cut as they might seem.

"I'm interested in history generally, so am familiar with people who are thought of as heroes having complicated back-stories. The story was inspired by real events during World War 2 and more recent

Lisa says: "I worked with Paul Morris on *Jago & Litefoot*, so I knew what to expect from him! It's really funny, and Stephen Critchlow is very good. The whole story is an homage to old variety turns and double acts, and while it is fun, there are also some very touching moments. I love the nostalgia of it all."

T **HE SET** concludes with *The Crumbling Magician* by Guy Adams, where Ben becomes a hero to the patient he finds in a hospital tending exclusively to the victims of time travel accidents. Meanwhile Polly is having to deal with the hospital's deadly AI, and a dying Doctor who's being tempted by what the hospital can offer him – but at what price...? Anneke Wills and Elliot Chapman are joined by David Warner. Guy says: "I'd written *The*

**DOCTOR WHO
THE COMPANION
CHRONICLES: THE FIRST
DOCTOR – VOLUME 3**

■ Released: **September 2019**
■ Format: **CD/Download**



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THE VICTORIAN INVESTIGATORS
ARE BACK FOR ANOTHER
THREE CASES...



GANG SHOW

MYSTERIOUS DEATHS in the Victorian age return to Big Finish – but there are three people we can rely upon to save the day. Madame Vastra (Neve McIntosh), Jenny (Catrin Stewart) and Strax (Dan Starkey) – also known as the Paternoster Gang – are back to investigate and solve their latest cases in **The Paternoster Gang: Heritage 2**.

Producer David Richardson says: “We recorded series two just after the edits of series one had been delivered, so I was actually buzzing about **The Paternoster Gang!** I thought we’d had a very confident and strong start, and this second set felt like we were coming back, really knowing what we were doing and working on solid foundations.

“I’ve mentioned before that we started the production by meeting with the cast, and many ideas from that meeting surface

here. Dan’s written his own script to kick off the set, and Neve had suggested it would be fun to do an episode about Spring-Heeled Jack. I love the fact that the cast are so invested in what we’re making. Everyone is having such a good time and I think that comes through in the recordings.”

Script editor Matt Fitton adds: “We already had a very established world for the Paternoster Gang from Steven Moffat, as their characters are so strong. The first time we had them in action on audio, in *The Eighth of March*, it just felt so right, and the writing team on *Heritage 1* and *2* have really got a grasp on them.

“Dan knows Strax inside out, and was very keen to write for him. What struck me about the season two scripts is how witty they are and how true they are to the sense of fun the Paternosters have.”

DINING WITH *Death* opens the set as Paternoster Row hosts a diplomatic meeting – but someone is trying to kill the delegates.

Strax himself, actor and writer Dan says: “It was a very painless process writing it – I know the voices of the characters in my head quite well!

“At the preliminary chat we had with Matt and David about how we saw the series going, we talked about different adventures and they were very keen to have a kind of **Upstairs, Downstairs** story with Paternoster Row as a functioning Victorian household. That tied in with a couple of ideas I had, so there’s lots of things going into it. For example, you have a staff of something like 15 people serving three. And something that would put the house under pressure would be social occasions.

“I had a browse through a couple of Victorian cookbooks which are



Above (l-r): Dan Starkey, Neve McIntosh and Catrin Stewart

“ I REALLY LIKE THE PATERNOSTER GANG, AND I HAVE ALSO WRITTEN FOR CARNACKI BEFORE, SO I SUGGESTED WE BRING THEM TOGETHER. GUY ADAMS

back at my mum and dad's, and they included a menu for a hunt ball from the 19th century – it's amazing, it's 10 courses. The amount of food they made for those big formal dinners was astonishing! That was quite a fun thing to hang something on and to ask, what does Vastra eat? We know she mentions in one episode she's just come from eating Jack the Ripper, so it's that whole process... if that's true, what else is true – and build a whole idea from there.

“I hope the result is fast moving, fun and frothy. I think it's a case of working out how much plot you need for an hour of drama. There's a lot of story you can cram in there. I hope it snaps along and isn't too confusing.”

As Dan knew he would be appearing in his own script, was

there a temptation to put Strax front and centre, with all the best lines?

Dan says: “I've tried to make sure everyone gets a good crack! Jenny has her own mission and Vastra has to bite her lip throughout quite a lot of the tale as she's effectively the only adult in the room surrounded by all these ridiculous characters, so there's quite a lot of restraint. I've given her some fun speeches to do. And at the end, she gets to kick arse! As should always be the case, she's the one in charge – hopefully it's got something for everyone.”

THE GANG meets a young Carnacki, as the ghost finder investigates a haunted Scottish castle in *The Screaming Ceiling* by Guy Adams. Guy says: “It's something I've

wanted to do for a long time. I really like the Paternoster Gang, and I have also written for Carnacki before, so I suggested we bring them together. Carnacki is in a **Iris Wildthyme**, which was one of the first things I wrote for Big Finish, and I wrote for him in a Sherlock Holmes novel, *The Breath of God*.

“He's a slightly different version of the character from the one William Hope Hodgson wrote, as he was more of a cipher to tell the stories Hodgson wanted to do. He has a different personality – Hodgson wasn't particularly interested in the character of Carnacki himself. So from my point of view, I can play with the character and the world of that, and bring something new to it – which is either terribly arrogant of me, or just what a writer needs to do!

“Because this is a young Carnacki, much earlier than I've written him before, there was an opportunity to find this youthful, fresh, somewhat wet behind the ears Carnacki and see how this experience might have helped shape him.”



Above (l-r): Ken Bentley, Catrin Stewart, Neve McIntosh, Dan Starkey, and David Richardson

“ **SPRING-HEELED JACK** HAS FASCINATED ME SINCE I VISITED AN EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM OF LONDON YEARS AGO... GEMMA ARROWSMITH

IN THE final story in this set, *Spring-Heeled Jack* by Gemma Arrowsmith, a young woman calls for help when a monster of urban myth returns, snatching people from the streets of London and escaping to the rooftops in giant leaps.

Gemma reveals: “Matt sent the writers a document full of potential areas for rich storylines involving Victorian London. *Spring-Heeled Jack* has fascinated me since I visited an exhibition at the Museum of London years ago which featured copies of the *Police Illustrated News* and original Victorian penny dreadfuls describing this strange being who could jump from the ground to the rooftops. That image really stayed with me so I thought it would be fun to play with that when writing this episode.

“People have been going missing on the streets of London and there are whispers that the mythical Spring-Heeled

Jack is up to his old tricks. It is said he has jaws of metal, red burning eyes and can breathe blue flames. To learn the truth, one of the Paternoster Gang must venture onto the streets at night to be captured by the Terror of London himself.”

She adds: “I’m a comedy writer so Strax is particularly fun to write. Vastra and Jenny get some zingers as well, though. I also enjoyed inventing some new characters for our trio to meet. It’s great to see characters I’ve created sparring with our beloved Paternoster Gang.”

THE STORIES have been directed by Ken Bentley, who adds: “Neve McIntosh, Catrin Stewart and Dan Starkey have a genuine fondness for the roles they play and really enjoy working together, which makes my job much much easier! Actors

do their best work when they’re having fun, and the three of them are a hoot to work with.

“One of the joys of directing plays for Big Finish is casting the more unusual roles. Actors are amazing and I live in awe of seeing them bring to life the sometimes bizarre creations the writers have come up with.

“The standout work of this series has to be Polly Kemp playing an aristocratic fox, and Joe Sims as the devilish Victorian troublemaker Spring-Heeled Jack. They each bring the roles to life with perfectly judged performances that are a joy to listen to.” **VORTEX**

**THE PATERNOSTER GANG:
HERITAGE 2**

- Released: October 2019
- Format: CD/Download

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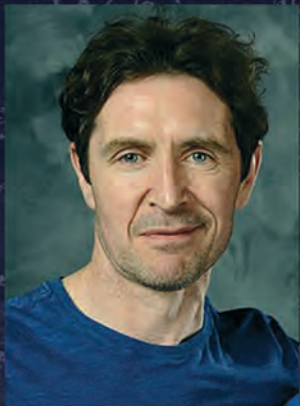
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DOCTOR WHO ALL-CONSUMING FIRE

“YOU’RE TURNING A BOOK INTO AN AUDIO PLAY, WHICH IS LIKE TURNING A ROAST DINNER INTO A SANDWICH.”

GUY ADAMS

BIG FINISH’S short run of *Doctor Who* novel adaptations, based on the books from Virgin Publishing in the 1990s, covered a variety of tones and styles. The eighth release in the run was *All-Consuming Fire*, adapted by Guy Adams from Andy Lane’s original *New Adventures* novel where the Doctor, Ace and Bernice Summerfield met

“GUY’S BRILLIANT, AND HE KNOWS HIS HOLMES. REALLY KNOWS IT.”

CAVAN SCOTT

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson. Producer Cavan Scott explains: “With *All-Consuming Fire*, well, fans were asking for Andy’s brilliant book since we started adapting the *New Adventures*. And we have our own resident Great Detective in the form of Nicholas Briggs! Plus, I love Sherlock Holmes as much as I love the Doctor. At the time of recording I was writing my first

Sherlock Holmes novel for Titan Books – *The Patchwork Devil* – and it was a strange meeting of worlds.

“Guy’s brilliant. And he knows his Holmes. Really knows it. He’s even played Holmes on stage. Adapting these novels is a tough gig – they were never constructed to be performed. But I knew that Guy was creative and insane enough to attempt it!”

Andy adds: “I deliberately chose not to adapt the book into a script myself, although I was asked, because I knew I would be too precious about it – I would want to keep everything, including those little bits of research I’d put in and all the business that’s fun and atmospheric and humorous but has little to do with the story.”

Guy says: “I read it when it first came out (as I did all the *New Adventures*) and I had a copy on my shelf. My memory of it was vague, but then that’s normal! I read it straight through first, just for fun and to get a sense of the whole. Then I went back and started to reshape it a little, making all the difficult decisions.

“You’re turning a book into an audio play, which is like turning a roast dinner into a sandwich. Both are lovely, both fill you up, but one is allowed to sprawl on the plate being all self-indulgent with

peas and parsnips, while the other needs to be more economical. You want to keep a lot of the flavour, maybe even a drizzle of gravy, but they are not the same thing.”

He adds: “One of the great pleasures of Big Finish is the collaboration. I write the script and then I get to work with the producer (Cavan Scott) and the script editor (Joe Lidster) to make the script better. They were both lovely, restrictive and indulgent in all the right places.”

“Then you get to hear those words brought to life. Working with Sylvester McCoy and Sophie Aldred, and the masterful Lisa Bowerman who I’ve been fortunate enough to work with before and adore. And then Nick Briggs. He actually solved a couple of murders on the way to the studio, that’s how natural he is as Holmes.” **VORTEX**

DOCTOR WHO: ALL-CONSUMING FIRE

■ Released: December 2015

■ Available to download now for the special price of £2.99



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SEPTEMBER 2019

- **DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES:** *Harry Houdini's War* (255, SIXTH DOCTOR AND PERI)
- **DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES:** *Tartarus* (256, FIFTH DOCTOR, NYSSA AND TEGAN)
- **DW • ROSE TYLER:** *The Dimension Cannon* (BOX SET)
- **DW • THE COMPANION CHRONICLES:** *The First Doctor: Volume 3* (BOX SET)
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- **DW • SHORT TRIPS:** *Dead Media* (9.09) **DLO**
- **TORCHWOOD ONE:** *Latter Days* (BOX SET)
- **TORCHWOOD:** *The Vigil* (31)
- **SPACE: 1999:** *Breakaway* (BOX SET)

OCTOBER 2019

- **DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES:** *Interstitial/Feast of Fear* (257, FIFTH DOCTOR, TEGAN, NYSSA AND MARC)
- **DW • THE EIGHTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:** *Ravenous 4* (BOX SET)
- **DW • THE PATERNOSTER GANG:** *Heritage 2* (BOX SET)
- **DW • SHORT TRIPS:** *The Second Oldest Question* (9.10) **DLO**
- **TORCHWOOD:** *Smashed* (32)
- **BERNICE SUMMERFIELD:** *The Squire's Crystal* (AUDIOBOOK) **DLO**
- **DARK SHADOWS:** *The Tony & Cassandra Mysteries* (VOLUME 3, BOX SET)

NOVEMBER 2019

- **DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES:** *Warzone/Conversion* (258, FIFTH DOCTOR, TEGAN, NYSSA AND MARC)
- **DW • THE LOST STORIES:** *Nightmare Country* (5.1 FIFTH DOCTOR, TEGAN AND TURLOUGH)
- **DW • THE LOST STORIES:** *The Ultimate Evil* (5.2 SIXTH DOCTOR AND PERI)
- **DW • THE EARLY ADVENTURES:** *The Home Guard* (6.1, SECOND DOCTOR)
- **DW • THE EARLY ADVENTURES:** *Daughter of the Gods* (6.2, FIRST DOCTOR AND SECOND DOCTOR)
- **DW • SHORT TRIPS:** *Hall of the Ten Thousand* (9.11) **DLO**
- **TORCHWOOD:** TBA (33)

- **BLAKE'S 7:** *Restoration Part 2* (BOX SET)
- **THE PRISONER:** *Volume 3* (BOX SET)

DECEMBER 2019

- **DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES:** *Blood on Santa's Claw* (259, TBA)
- **DW • THE WAR MASTER 4:** *Anti-Genesis* (BOX SET)
- **DW • THE ROBOTS:** *Volume 1* (BOX SET)
- **DW • SHORT TRIPS:** *Peace in our Time* (9.12) **DLO**
- **TORCHWOOD:** TBA (34)

JANUARY 2020

- **DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES:** *Dark Universe* (260, TBA)
- **DW • THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:** *Series 9: Volume 1* (BOX SET)
- **DW • THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:** *Purgatory 12* (9.1) **DLO**
- **DW • THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:** *Chase the Night* (9.2) **DLO**
- **DW • SHORT TRIPS:** *The Infinite Today* (10.1) **DLO**
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- **TORCHWOOD:** TBA (35)
- **TORCHWOOD:** *The Sins of Captain John* (BOX SET)
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FEBRUARY 2019

- **DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES:** *The Psychic Circus* (261, SEVENTH DOCTOR)
- **DW • THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:** *Series 9: Volume 2* (BOX SET)
- **DW • THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:** *The Planet of Witches* (9.3) **DLO**
- **DW • THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES:** *The Quest of the Engineer* (9.4) **DLO**
- **DW • GALLIFREY:** *Time War 3* (BOX SET)
- **DW • SHORT TRIPS:** *Deleted Scenes* (10.2) **DLO**
- **BLAKE'S 7:** *Restoration Part 3* (BOX SET)
- **TORCHWOOD:** TBA (36)

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VORTEX

DOCTOR WHO

THE **FIFTH DOCTOR**

DOCTOR WHO

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THE PATERNOSTER GANG **HERITAGE 2**

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FOR ANOTHER THREE CASES...

PLUS BREAKAWAY WITH
SPACE: 1999!

