

THE **BIG FINISH** MAGAZINE

# VORTEX



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**BIG FINISH**  
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# DO WINK

THE **OUT OF TIME** SERIES  
CONCLUDES AS THE SIXTH  
AND TENTH DOCTORS MEET...

ALSO INSIDE

**DOCTOR WHO:**  
THE SEVENTH DOCTOR AND MEL ARE BACK  
TO FACE SOME FAMILIAR CYBER FOES...





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## DOCTOR WHO

# EMANCIPATION OF THE DALEKS

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR AND BILL POTTS ARE MAKING THEIR BIG FINISH DEBUTS THIS SUMMER IN A NEW FULL-LENGTH AUDIO NOVEL.

**DAN STARKEY** narrates *Emancipation of the Daleks*, a seven-hour enhanced audiobook written by Jonathan Morris featuring specially composed music, immersive sound effects and a guest appearance from Nicholas Briggs voicing the Daleks.

*Bill Potts has an unexpected visitor: Bill Potts from 20 years in the future. Bill summons the Doctor who confirms that the other Bill is the genuine article. She has come to see her younger self for a reason... but she can't say what it is without creating a paradox!*

Producer David Richardson said: "Welcome to a timey-wimey journey through a disastrous future for Bill Potts in which she meets herself and discovers a world changed by the Daleks.

"Jonny's script is a real page turner and Dan's reading is glorious – accompanied by Dalek maestro Nicholas Briggs. With full FX and score this is going to be a thrilling treat for the ears."

**Doctor Who – The Audio Novels:** *Emancipation of the Daleks* is now available to pre-order as a digital download. **VORTEX**

## DOCTOR WHO: THE AUDIO NOVELS EMANCIPATION OF THE DALEKS

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# EDITORIAL

**THERE'S ALWAYS** something really exciting about the Doctors meeting themselves! Very early on at Big Finish the Sixth Doctor came across his Fifth and Seventh incarnations in *The Sirens of Time*. He (kind of) encountered his seventh self in *Project: Lazarus*, and the Fifth, Seventh and Eighth Doctors were together in *Zagreus*.

*The Light at the End*, Big Finish's 50th anniversary release, features Doctors four to eight and *The Legacy of Time*, released to mark the 20th anniversary of Big Finish, features no less than nine different Doctors!

Recorded at the height of the first lockdown the *Out of Time* series has so far featured David Tennant as the Tenth Doctor meeting the Fourth Doctor (plus Daleks) and Fifth Doctor (with Cybermen).

And now, new release *Wink* is on the way with David, Colin Baker and the Weeping Angels. The Sixth and Tenth Doctors are both verbally dexterous, a pair who enjoy word play. And they love to let you know that they're the cleverest person in the room, facing off against this silent but ruthless foe. It's a combination I can't wait to hear.

For more of Colin and David together, why not pick up the Big Finish bargain release *Medicinal Purposes*, a story from 2004 featuring a young David in a pre-Tenth Doctor role. It's only £2.99! **VORTEX**

"IF YOU THINK I WINK, I DID..."

*Kenny*





# THINK BEFORE YOU WINK

## THE OUT OF TIME SERIES CONCLUDES AS THE SIXTH AND TENTH DOCTORS MEET...

**SINCE 2020**, Big Finish has released an adventure each year with the Tenth Doctor encountering his past incarnations. We've had him teaming up with his fourth self in *Out of Time* as Tom Baker's Time

Lord met the 21st century incarnation. And 2021 brought us *Out of Time 2 – The Gates of Hell* in which David Tennant kept it in the family as he worked with his father-in-law, Peter Davison.

In 2022, it's the turn of Sixth Doctor Colin Baker to meet the man in the pinstripe suit in *Out of Time 3 – Wink*. The actors have previously worked together in the 2004 release, *Medicinal Purposes*, when up-and-coming actor David played Daft Jamie meeting the Sixth Doctor and his

companion Evelyn Smythe (Maggie Stables) in a story set in Scotland.

Producer David Richardson says: "2020 was a terrible year for many but for those of us working on **The Tenth Doctor Adventures** the lockdowns were punctuated by happiness when David became available to work for us for 20 days. Twenty days! That's essentially a whole working month.

"We had to move fast – scripts were written very quickly, particularly in the case of *Dalek*

## THEY HAD PUT DAVID TENNANT IN A CUPBOARD SO WE HAD THE CHANCE TO GET LOTS RECORDED!

LISA McMULLIN

with Colin – and told him so during the session. And while it was a day fraught with lost connections, by 6pm on 8th July 2020 *Wink* was in the can. A multi-Doctor story starring David Tennant and Colin Baker. What a piece of utter joy.

“I first talked to Lisa about it nearly two years ago – and she came up with the brilliant premise of setting it on an alien world where no-one is able to see the enemy – or indeed anything else! What happens if the Doctors



Above:  
David Tennant  
in a cupboard.

*Universe* (I think the record was three weeks between first idea and recording day!). Yet the adrenaline was wonderful, the quality of the scripts is fantastic and we were able to play in some glorious arenas.

“Pairing the Tenth Doctor with past incarnations to battle the most loved monsters, what could be better than that? Because of lockdown, Sylvester was stuck in France and couldn’t record but fortunately Tom, Peter and Colin were set up with home studios and so the three *Out of Time* releases were born.

“They are all truly special and David made it clear he was particularly pleased to be recording

“With *Wink*, it’s the turn of the adorable Ol’ Sixie taking on the Weeping Angels – and this time the stone terrors are on an alien world in the future. *Wink* is, in every way, a story made out of love for **Doctor Who**.”

Script editor Matt Fitton reveals that part of the idea for the story came from a comment which Colin made, and which Matt passed on to writer Lisa McMullin.

Matt explains: “In this third *Out of Time* adventure, *Wink*, we have the Tenth and Sixth Doctors crossing paths and joining forces to save a whole civilisation from the Weeping Angels.

have to do without the one sense that acts as a defence? The planet they are on is enveloped by white light much of the time and so the inhabitants never evolved the sense of sight – which makes the Angels even more powerful...

“The dynamic between the Doctors is lovely – mutual respect with a little bit of ribbing – but they very quickly have to work together to work out what’s going on and they bring out the best in one another.

“I’ve heard Colin mention in interviews his strategy of closing one eye at a time to keep an Angel locked so I suggested to Lisa that she could use that in



the script somewhere – and she seized on the idea for the title!”

**LISA WAS** delighted to write an encounter between two Doctors. *When the Sixth Doctor goes sight-seeing on Lucidus Silvara he finds himself in a place where nothing is visible at all... only all-encompassing light. The Tenth Doctor is drawn in by a temporal anomaly and the two Doctors meet a species with no sense of sight, living in a city surrounded by Weeping Angels. To save a civilisation, the Doctors must keep their eyes on the Angels. Don't blink. Don't even wink...*

Lisa tells *Vortex*: “It was a bit of a surprise when I got the first email through from Matt. I remember there was a turnaround of about a week

but they are few and far between! It all made for good bickering fun.”

**LISA WAS** given a fairly open outline by the script editor but she found the Angels difficult to write for as she explains: “Matt gave me the Weeping Angels in the brief. I was told it was the Tenth Doctor, the Sixth Doctor and the Weeping Angels. It's really hard to write for the Angels on audio because they are all about sight and you can't see them move. They don't speak unless they hijack someone they have hideously murdered – they can be a nightmare for audio as they are so visual – so I decided to compound the problem by making the Doctors the only characters in the story with any sight.

## THE PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET DON'T HAVE ANY SIGHT... WHICH OF COURSE MAKES THINGS TRICKY WHEN THE WEEPING ANGELS COME TO TOWN!

LISA MCMULLIN

because it was during lockdown one in 2020 and they had put David Tennant in a cupboard so we had the chance to get lots recorded!

“It's always thrilling to be asked to write something for a Doctor I haven't written for before, and to get two at once was a super exciting whammy! All of the Doctors' voices are permanently jabbering away somewhere in the back of my head, and these two have very distinctive tones which is wonderful. I had to rein it in a bit because I could easily have had an hour of them just bantering but then there would be no story or Weeping Angel terror!

“I've wanted to hear these two together for ages because I just knew the way one would react to the other. Both of them have clearly defined attitudes, mannerisms and verbal tics. And they are both confident and cocky – thinking they should be the main man, the cleverest person in the room – and they don't want to give ground. There are a few moments of grudging respect when they admit the other isn't so bad

“It takes place on Lucidus Silvara, a planet where there's nothing to see for most of the year because of the way the light is. It's so bright that you can't actually see anything – it's like a white-out. The people on this planet don't have any sight as they've not evolved it – they have no use for it – which of course makes things tricky when the Weeping Angels come to town! If you can't look at them then how do you stop them? The Silvarans might not have sight but they have heightened senses of sound, touch, taste, smell and intuition.

“There are three guest characters: Estra, who's an art enthusiast; Padilla, who's inquisitive but anxious; and Dax, who's an overbearing city planner. They are moving statues to make way for a new river route and are just going about their very boring town council business transporting relics which have been cluttering up the place. But what they don't realise is



that these sculptures are actually ancient, hideous, alien killers.

"I really enjoyed creating an art gallery in the city where these people live. You often think of art as being something very visual so to make a gallery for artists who have no concept of vision was good fun. On the page it looks like chaos and mayhem and I can't wait to hear what they have done with it – I know it will be something ingenious as ever."

**DIRECTOR KEN** Bentley enjoyed working with the two Doctors. He says: "It's always fun to direct different combinations of Doctors. Being the lead in the series means they rarely get to work with

such a striking visual and I knew immediately that I wanted to create a cover around one of them looking as dramatic as possible. It took about five or six different Angel images composited together to get the pose I wanted.

"Since the story takes place on a planet where the light is so bright no one can see anything, the germ of the idea for the tone of the cover was what happens when we stare at a bright light for too long then when you look away you get these dancing lights and colours in your vision. So I knew I wanted something that looked a bit like distorted light, rippling with colour."

Lisa adds: "It's just blind terror when you get a commission like

**I DON'T HAVE FAVOURITES BUT FOR SOME REASON THESE DAYS I RARELY GET TO WORK WITH COLIN SO IT WAS A TREAT TO BE ABLE TO DIRECT HIM AGAIN.** KEN BENTLEY

each other and you can tell they get a kick out of doing a multiple-Doctor story.

"I don't have favourites but for some reason these days I rarely get to work with Colin so it was a treat to be able to direct him again. In many ways Colin and David are similar actors in their approach and they're both equally brilliant which makes my job very easy!

"We spend most of our time creating soundscapes and it's been fun to work on a story where sound plays even more of a key role."

Cover artist Simon Holub was delighted to be given the assignment of creating the release's cover. He tells *Vortex*: "You can't get much more exciting than two Doctors but throw in the Weeping Angels as well and you're getting pretty close!

"I was thrilled to design something with the Weeping Angels for the first time. They're

this, then panic, then agony, and then at some point half way through the writing it becomes fun. And then when you've finished it the panic starts again as you worry it's terrible! It's a rollercoaster of emotion and I really enjoy doing it!" **VORTEX**

DOCTOR WHO  
OUT OF TIME 3: WINK



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# LOTS ON HIS PLATE

**TORCHWOOD'S NEMESIS IS BACK.**  
AND THIS TIME HE'S THE ONE IN TROUBLE...

**BILIS MANGER**, Murray Melvin's mysterious foe, has been a thorn in the side of the Torchwood team on several occasions causing mayhem in Cardiff and beyond. We've encountered him in the **Torchwood**

monthly range tales, *Deadbeat Escape*, *Dead Man's Switch* and *Curios*, and he's come up against the Torchwood team in *A Kill to a View* released as part of the *Aliens Among Us* series. And this June we'll meet him again in *Dead Plates* by David Llewellyn.

*Bilis Manger has been murdered. And he's determined to find out who did it. Four people at dinner are the suspects, and they've each got murky secrets and at least one skeleton in the closet. What is really on the menu at one of Soho's finest restaurants? And will any of the suspects make it out alive?*

Writer David tells Vortex: "There wasn't a big brief for this one. We knew we wanted to do a third Bilis



story following *Deadbeat Escape* and *Dead Man's Switch*, and of course it had to have "Dead" in the title but that was it! At first I pitched it as a dinner party, a bit *Abigail's Party* meets *An*

characters came next and I pretty much started with the names as it's a great way of bringing people to life from the get-go."

For David, how exciting is it to work with a character like Bilis

creating this. Some scripts take a lot of time to get just right, *Cadoc Point* being a good example, but if you're making yourself laugh or cackle while you're writing something it goes a lot quicker!" **VORTEX**

Below (l-r): Cleo Sylvestre, Rosa Escoda, Murray Melvin, Tony Turner and Hugh Ross



## BILIS IS ALWAYS DIABOLICAL FUN TO WRITE FOR AND MURRAY IS A BONA FIDE SCREEN LEGEND...

DAVID LLEWELLYN

*Inspector Calls*, but that clashed with something else. So I kept the 1970s setting but switched it to a seedy Soho restaurant. Coming up with the supporting

given he's an anti-hero? He explains:

"Bilis is always diabolical fun to write for and Murray is a bona fide screen legend, so this is one of those pinch yourself gigs.


"Putting Bilis through the wringer is lots of fun. He's almost omniscient and almost omnipotent but he's annoyed a lot of people and some of them could harm him. There's something of the cornered dangerous animal about him in this story. He's in a twist but of course he's got a plan to get out of it."

Summing up the story, David describes it as: "A night of metaphysical murder, mayhem and malice. My highlight was producer James Goss and I having a blast

### TORCHWOOD DEAD PLATES



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# DEFENSIVE PLAY

**FIFTEEN YEARS** ago we were first introduced to the War Master in the **Doctor Who** television episode *Utopia* when the lovable Professor Yana opened his fob watch and the Doctor's arch-enemy was restored to his body.

Facing him was David Tennant's Tenth Doctor and the duo are reunited once again on audio in **The War Master: Self-Defence**. Sir Derek Jacobi reprises his role of the Master for four thrilling new stories featuring an explosive showdown with the Doctor in the final episode.

Producer/director Scott Handcock says: "*Self-Defence* opens with a bit of a mystery. The Master wakes to find himself in a peculiar forest

with no memory of how he came to be there and he's surrounded by a handful of others in a similar state. Together, they learn the truth of their location forcing the Master to confront past demons until eventually he has no choice but to call upon his oldest enemy for help."

When did the addition of the Tenth Doctor come into Scott's thinking?

Scott replies: "It's always been at the back of my mind. Why wouldn't you want to reunite David Tennant with Derek Jacobi – they were electric together! Then chance just sort of made it happen. We were developing the next run of **The War Master** box sets when the pandemic struck and I quickly realised we might be able to record with David and Derek

remotely. It was a little bit mad as it meant bringing the final episode of the box set forward in the schedule but we were really lucky to have Lizzie Hopley writing that story. Absolutely nothing fazes her!

"As you can imagine, Derek and David were an absolute joy. Both were really excited to be working together again, facing off properly as the Master and Doctor. You sort of forget in *Utopia*, because they share so many wonderful scenes together, that they only exchange a look as arch-enemies before the Master regenerates. So it was great to have them connect as those characters and Lizzie's script affords them plenty of significant moments. You really get a sense of their history





Above (l-r):  
Derek Jacobi  
and Jonny Green

## HE'S A TRICKY VOICE TO HAVE IN YOUR HEAD...

LOU MORGAN

and their friendship as well as the predicament they're both facing – testament to how fantastic both actors are. They can sell lifetimes of shared history, 15 years after they did a single episode on screen!”

Unlike previous **The War Master** box sets which have featured two writers across the four adventures, this time we have a quartet of scribes.

Scott explains: “Oddly even before the COVID-19 pandemic I'd made the decision to revert to individual writers for each of these four stories. It just allowed us to cast the net wider and see what pitches we received rather than trying to match different writers together and work up a longer-form story.

“So going forward we have arcs – there's usually a connecting thread between tales – but it gives us a few different styles and voices across each box set. And we get different casts which actually has been quite an advantage throughout lockdown as it's enabled us to record stories out of sequence depending on when Derek was free and what's

been delivered without having to worry about having all the scripts being ready and waiting.”

**THE SET** opens with *The Forest of Penitence* by Lou Morgan writing for the War Master once again. She says: “It's no secret that I'm very fond of the War Master, and after Scott brought me on board to write *Killing Time* for the last **The War Master** box set, I was thrilled to do it again. He's a tricky voice to have in your head but he's always worthwhile!

“The thing about the War Master that appeals to me most is that he's always in motion. If he's not actively carrying out a plan, he's plotting his next course of attack.

He's unpredictable and he's always dangerous. That's what makes him such a fascinating character.

“Because the Master is usually several steps ahead of the people around him I was really interested to see how he'd cope with being dropped into a situation where he knew exactly the same as everyone else. If you take away any advantage he might have engineered and leave him disorientated and surrounded by complete strangers – with nothing but his wits and his own powers of observation – how does he do? *What* does he do? I'd been reading a lot of fairy tales and folk stories around the time Scott got in touch and many of them feature forests – particularly forests at night – so what better place for the War Master to get lost?”

The story features a mother and daughter, giving the story a very human aspect.

Lou explains: “Family relationships are always fun to write because there's so much going on under the surface. There's shared history

and a way of short-handing things – particularly when it's a parent and child. You can see their connection in the way they talk to one another... but, of course, that means the War Master can too.” Lou concludes: “Any time the War

the stakes are even higher.

“As I remember, the call for stories was fairly open-ended. I had two main ideas in mind: to use a scenario like a Jon Pertwee ‘galactic federation’ but then to undercut it with a very dark story about

“I still can't believe I got to write for Derek Jacobi. I'm typing that and I'm still very much ‘really, that actually happened?!’

“I think his Master is so beloved because the performance is so insanely brilliant. It's Derek



Above (l-r):  
Adetomiwa Edun, Phil  
Dunster, Delirdre Mullins  
and Cecilia Appiah

I HAVE IT  
SAVED  
AS AN  
INDIVIDUAL  
AUDIO CLIP  
TO PLAY AT  
MOMENTS  
OF SEVERE  
STRESS!

UNA McCORMACK

Master starts really talking is my favourite. I love that he not only knows he's the smartest person in the room but that he wants you and everyone around him to know he knows it! The fact he's usually right makes it almost charming. Almost!”

**THE PLAYERS** marks the debut for Una McCormack in **The War Master** range and she admitted that she was over the moon to be involved. Una confirms: “It's incredibly exciting! Would I ever have imagined I would get to write for Sir Derek Jacobi? Absolutely not!

“As ever with the Master, there's a surface-level of sophistication and charm with undercurrents of violence and amorality – but the war setting means that

the Master finding that to retain his cover story, he finds himself in a truly frightening place.”

When *Vortex* asks Una for her highlight, she says: “There's a line that Sir Derek delivers so marvellously that I have it saved as an individual audio clip to play at moments of severe stress!”

Another writer delighted to get the opportunity to write for this Master is Lizbeth Myles, who has crafted *Boundaries*. Lizbeth says:

Jacobi! And the writing has given us this fresh new perspective on the character where we actually get to see him win. And there are some truly vicious wins but he's always so affable you really want to like him. And so you do... and then you remember that he'd cheerfully kill you!

“The brief was an adventure set sometime within the timeline of *The Sky Man*, a story from the first **The War Master** box set where the Master indulges his companion's request to save a planet. They're on the planet for months so there was plenty of space for unseen adventures.

“The world is in danger and the Master's the only one who can save it. I think the absolute highlight was Scott's email giving





Above:  
Jonny Green

me the opportunity to pitch; I was quite overwhelmed with joy.”

### THE CONCLUDING

adventure is *The Last Line* by Lizzie Hopley which brings us a reunion between the Master and the Doctor. Lizzie was delighted to write for this most vicious and calculating of Time Lords. She says: “The Master appeals because he is beyond evil. Scott likens his incarnation to Mads Mikkelsen’s Hannibal which is a gorgeous and terrifying thought in equal measure. You think you’ve reached his record for evil and then he sets a new one! Derek’s performances on audio are masterful. He has such a gentle voice at times and, even though you know better, he still manages to convince you that his Master has mellowed or just won’t go there. And of course, when he does, it’s truly terrifying all over again. I think it’s the same reaction the Doctor must have, you’re constantly hoping for change and the hint of it is so thrilling. And then you are almost doubly betrayed!”

*Vortex* asks Lizzie for a spoiler-free teaser for this adventure: “This particular story already had a tight framework in place with lots of scenes between the Master and the Doctor. I did worry about how I was going to sustain the scenes between them both – could I do both actors and characters enough justice? But as I started to create the world around them, their interactions got clearer and better and it really took off. The main challenges were: can the Doctor believably think the Master can change – again – and is it possible to convince the listener that he might? Also, can I create a really horrible set of things for him to do? (I enjoyed that bit in particular!)”

“It took me a while to get the proper *War Master* vibe for this. My first draft was very much a *Doctor Who* story and of course there are subtle (and not so subtle) differences. We know what this Doctor knows but the Master has no idea of his future crimes or of this relationship. Delicious. My actual email to Scott when I heard David

had agreed to be involved was ‘I have officially stopped breathing!’”

**SCOTT CONCLUDES:** “The edits are sounding wonderful. Joe Meiners is always such an impeccable sound designer – he did fantastic work on series five, *Hearts of Darkness* – and he’s been great at taking our recordings (some actors recorded a year apart) and making them sound like they were in the same environment. I usually tackle the dialogue assemblies on this series, often because people record separately but matching different studios and

YOU THINK YOU’VE REACHED HIS RECORD FOR EVIL AND THEN HE SETS A NEW ONE! LIZZIE HOPLEY

recording spaces is a skill in itself. Plus each of the four stories has its own specific requirements.

“Then there’s Ioan Morris back on music and he’s been playing with the Master’s sound a little bit more. There’s a lot of unease that comes from the music as the Master’s plans take hold and Ioan’s great at building dread. Not to mention the fact that Ioan composed the *War Master*’s memorable theme all those years ago, and it is still as powerful and chilling as ever.” **VORTEX**

### THE WAR MASTER SELF-DEFENCE



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THE SEVENTH DOCTOR AND MEL ARE BACK TO FACE SOME FAMILIAR CYBER FOES . . .

# COOL CUSTOMERS

**IT'S BEEN** a while since we heard from the Seventh Doctor though we can always blame turbulence in the space-time vortex rather than the real world pandemic situation and the practicalities of recording in a studio again!

But here he is, reunited with Mel played by Bonnie Langford in **The Seventh Doctor Adventures: Silver and Ice**. It's a fascinating title which makes perfect sense when you know why.

The opening episode, *Bad Day in Tinseltown* sees the king of all things Sontar, Dan Starkey, turn his hand to writing for another of the Doctor's most deadly foes – the Cybermen. This is followed by *The Ribos Inheritance* which features a

return to the ice planet created by Robert Holmes in the *Key to Time* television season for Tom Baker.

Producer Emma Haigh says: "It's been a joy to work on this new Seventh Doctor box set and great to have Dan Starkey as a writer – what a sparkling world he takes us to. You may recognise one of the voices in this production too... (Dan himself playing Mungo, the mayor of Tinseltown)."

"It's also been wonderful working on a reimagining of the Ribos world. Big Finish's senior producer David Richardson realised this would be a great place to return to and Jonathan Barnes has created an amazing mythical world we can explore with the rumbunctious Garron."

Script editor Matt Fitton adds: "As we start these new adventures

with a classic Doctor, it's great to dive back into the start of the Seventh Doctor era with Mel. In *Silver and Ice* we have two stories which slot---- into those colourful adventures while beginning to point towards darker times to come..."

**BAD DAY** in *Tinseltown* is a Cyberman story with a twist as different eras of Cybermen collide. It's full of ideas that 1980s TV producer John Nathan-Turner would have approved of. Matt confirms: "There's a couple of different 'flavours' of Cybermen here, which is interesting. I liked the idea of putting the 1980s versions alongside the 1960s versions to see how they would bounce off each other."





Above (l-r): Issy van Randwyck, Vivienne Rochester, David Rintoul, Bonnie Langford and Homer Todiwala

## WE'VE GOT A SALOON BAR BRAWL BETWEEN THE CYBERMEN WHICH WAS GREAT FUN TO DO.

DAN STARKEY

"I think Dan approached David Richardson with this idea for a Cyberman story and actually it fits really well in the era we're dipping back into, in the early days of the Seventh Doctor and Mel.

"Dan approached the setting as a rundown frontier town which has an entertainment venue and some colourful guest characters who would have been played by Nathan-Turner stunt casting!"

Dan says: "It was a pretty straightforward brief – the Seventh Doctor and Mel, and spacefaring Cybermen. From there, I thought, 'What's interesting?' And a couple of images sprang out at me. I thought a town after the goldrush, like the Yukon, would be a great place to go to.

"Years ago, the first script I wrote (with John Dorney) was *Terror of the Sontarans* set in TV season 24. It has a very particular style too it and I thought, 'Who would John Nathan-Turner cast?' and I came up with Max Wall! It helps me when I write

to have a strong cast in my head and I can improvise the dialogue.

"For this, I was thinking of Barry Humphries as Sir Les Paterson doing the circuit, so there's a populist corrupt mayor of a local town. Political populism is a thing that hasn't quite gone away...

"For the character of Mitzi Cinque I thought of Suzi Quatro, someone Nathan-Turner might have talked into doing a Doctor Who in 1987!"

The story has influences from Westerns which is quite clear as you listen to the adventure.

Dan agrees: "We've got a saloon bar brawl between the Cybermen which was great fun to do. There's a film *Bad Day at Black Rock* with Spencer Tracey as a one-armed man who comes into town on a revenge mission, so there's a one-armed Cyberman in there!

"When Matt asked me about sound design I thought, because it's on the fringes of the galaxy, maybe it's all dust like Australia. But I remembered a trip to Iceland as a student and the sun never really rises there and everything is made of corrugated iron so that was my inspiration. Clanking corrugated iron is a strong soundscape for the sound designer to evoke."

**THE 'ICE'** from the box set's title comes from the location of the set's second adventure, *The Ribos Inheritance* written by Jonathan Barnes.

Matt says: "I think returning to Ribos was David's idea. He wanted to revisit the planet and build on what we saw on TV. Only a small corner of the planet is presented on-screen in *The Ribos Operation* but

of course there's much more to it.

"As is often the case with Robert Holmes's writing, a lot is implied and there's worldbuilding going on in just a few throwaway lines – he constructs a whole society through a few individuals. This was a chance to expand on that and go a bit **Game of Thrones** with it, with the Doctor and Mel caught up in a power struggle across Ribos.

"We also have the opportunity for an old acquaintance of the Doctor to turn up again as we meet Garron, still on Ribos. Jonathan's writing is very suited to the character – he's conjured that mix of medieval and estuary and captured Garron's individual style, his conman's

## THE PITCH THEN WAS **GAME OF THRONES** ON RIBOS WITH DRAGONS, THE SEVENTH DOCTOR AND MEL!

JONATHAN BARNES

command of language that gets him into and out of all kinds of trouble."

Jonathan continues: "There's a lot of untapped promise in the world that Robert Holmes created for TV. He wanted to go back there but perhaps also to do so through the lens of some more modern stories. The pitch then was **Game of Thrones** on Ribos with dragons, the Seventh Doctor and Mel!"

Jonathan was delighted to watch *The Ribos Operation* as research.

He confirms: "It's such a great story. So much to enjoy about it – Tom Baker and Mary Tamm on top form, a sparkling sense of fun, the introduction of a larger story strand... it's this, I think, which has led to it being slightly underrated in the past. Not all of the stories in the **Key to Time** series are as good! In fact, arguably, none are..."

"This is where the genius of Holmes really becomes apparent. Like the very best writers, his creations often seem to have possibilities for future stories. Just look at **Jago & Litefoot!** It feels

like we're seeing only a glimpse of the planet's history and that there is a great deal which has happened, and will happen, off-screen. For writers like me, Holmes has done all the heavy lifting!"

Jonathan adds: "My main hope is that it feels authentic – both to the original story and to the kind of thing that might have been commissioned by Andrew Cartmel in 1987. I hope it's got a kind of TV-season-24-and-a-half feel to it! Lots of season 24 goofiness but hints of the darker elements that were to come too. I'm particularly proud of the story's coda which hopefully acts as a bridge between the two different approaches in the Seventh Doctor era.

"I've not heard any of the recording yet so I'm very much looking forward to hearing how Sylvester and Bonnie tackle the material. Also David Rintoul as Garron revisiting the part created

so brilliantly by Iain Cuthbertson. I hope people will enjoy it as it's meant to be – a fantastic romp with a glittering heart of darkness..." **VORTEX**

### DOCTOR WHO: THE SEVENTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES SILVER AND ICE



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Above (l-r):  
Sylvester McCoy  
and Bonnie Langford



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# BOOK CLUB



## SHERLOCK HOLMES THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

**IT'S UNDOUBTEDLY** the most famous Sherlock Holmes story of all and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was given the Big Finish treatment in 2011.

Starring Nicholas Briggs and Richard Earl, and adapted by Richard Dinnick, Watson makes his way to find out more about the grisly legend of the hound of the Baskervilles, as it seems that dark forces are at work.

Nick tells *Vortex*: "As much as we possibly could we left Conan Doyle untouched. I found that when you go back to the original texts you think, why have people ever felt the need to mess about with this? It's probably because Watson's narration is removed for the sake of dramatic variety but on audio the audience welcomes narration and you can keep Watson's story telling intact!"

Richard says: "When Nick took me on as script editor and assistant producer on the season he also

asked me to adapt *Hound of the Baskervilles*. As a Holmesian I was massively excited and when Nick and I discussed what he wanted we were absolutely on the same page.

"So many adaptations in the past had scenes – seances and the like – that were totally unnecessary in our joint opinion. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is fantastic! Why over-egg that pudding?"

"One of the things Nick was keen to do – and I totally agreed (do you sense a theme here?!) – was to keep things as close to the actual novel as possible. So I set off to write the most complete and true adaptation I could. And Nick was very supportive of this.

"As mentioned above – no extraneous scenes of a supernatural, ghostly nature. It was already incredibly atmospheric and I think sound designer Martin Montague did a fab job of conveying that eeriness of the moors without resorting to gimmicks.

"The thing I had to keep in mind is that we only had a certain amount of time to play with so some things do have to go. It was difficult because I am a completist but I had to lose the scenes at the start of the story in which the villain sends Holmes on a wild goose chase, tracking down the driver of a Hansom Cab. It was fun and it told us about the evil genius Holmes is facing but in terms of running time it had to be cut in favour of almost everything else."

There was one other noticeable change, however.

Richard adds: "The only other tiny tweak we made was in a speech Holmes gives about the supernatural. He was 100 percent dismissive of it but we gave him a slightly more open mind given we were rounding off the season with David Stuart Davies's *The Tangled Skein* in which (spoilers!) Holmes comes up against Count Dracula. So it seemed a continuity error really to have our Holmes be quite so certain that things that go bump in the night always have a rational explanation!" **VORTEX**

### SHERLOCK HOLMES THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES



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# FOUR PLUS NINE

## THREE STORIES. ONE NINE. TEN PARTS.

**A FEW** months ago we joined the Fourth Doctor on his travels after the events of the television episode *The Deadly Assassin*. During the course of **The Fourth Doctor Adventures: Solo**, he defeated his old enemy the Master on a moon of Gallifrey in *Blood of the Time Lords* and made a new friend on Earth in the form of sculptor Margaret Hopwood in *The Ravencliff Witch*. Before meeting Leela in the TV episode *The Face of Evil*, the Fourth

Doctor continues his adventures in this new audio box set *The Nine* which features three new stories in 10 parts.

For the uninitiated, the Nine played by John Heffernan is a renegade Time Lord – an earlier version of Mark Bonnar’s the Eleven whose previous incarnations exist in his head all at once. [If you’d like to hear more from the Nine you’ll find him in *Doom Coalition* and *Ravenous* where he faces off against the Eighth Doctor. Yes, it is all rather wibbly-wobbly, timey-wimey – but hey, that’s **Doctor Who!**]

Producer David Richardson reveals: “It was tempting to call this set *Still Solo* seeing as we’re still in the gap between *The Deadly Assassin* and *The Face of Evil*. The Doctor is

travelling alone but making a new friend for each story along the way.

“But *The Nine* won out as the title because he dominates everything! What a glorious character – so full of himself and driven to steal whatever he can, often without limits. This set of three stories takes us from alien worlds to the trenches of World War One and an adventure with author Mervyn Peake. What a contrasting trio they are!”

Script editor John Dorney adds: “I’ve got a lot of fondness for the Nine as I wrote the first story for him and I’ve since written a few other episodes for him in *Ravenous*. The Nine is my baby and it’s delightful to see him having an adventure with the Fourth Doctor!”





Above (l-r):  
Tom Baker and  
Ronni Ancona

## SHELLSHOCK IS A BIT LIKE ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT...

JOHN DORNEY

**THE FIRST** story of the set is the four-part *The Dreams of Avarice* by Guy Adams. *The Nine isn't your average robber. A ferociously intelligent and murderous kleptomaniac Time Lord with regenerative dissonance, he's a far more dangerous adversary than most security details are used to. So it's useful that the Doctor is on hand to stop him – this time more than ever as the Nine is about to pull off the greatest heist of his criminal career. Though could the consequences be far worse than the crime?*

John says of the adventure: "Guy's story includes a companion character played by Ronni Ancona. Because it's the Nine, it involves an attempted theft as that is his gig, he's always interested in stealing things. His previous self had very few possessions so the Nine's determined this time to have 'things'. He loves 'things'! And because he's a Time Lord he's going to attempt the biggest heist in history.

"But the Doctor is, of course, going out of his way to stop him."

**THE SECOND** story of the set is another four-parter – *Shellshock* by Simon Barnard and Paul Morris. *When the TARDIS lands behind German lines at the height of the First World War the Doctor finds himself inadvertently transported to a hospital full of traumatised soldiers. They're suffering from shellshock but also something else. Something causing vivid nightmares that chill the blood. Something not of this place.*

John says: "*Shellshock* is a bit like **All Quiet on the Western Front** which was a novel and later a film set between the World Wars from the point of view of the Germans. It's not often that a thing gets done

with a moderately sympathetic portrayal of soldiers caught up in the power games of other people. It involves odd activities – are they aliens? Are they not?"

Paul continues: "Having been asked for a four-part story with the Fourth Doctor travelling solo (intriguing!) we duly supplied several ideas of which *Shellshock* was chosen. The original pitch had a kind of 'celebrity historical' angle and featured a name from history that we were very swiftly told we couldn't go near! Luckily the story, of mysterious alien tanks in the No Man's Land of World War One, was strong enough to survive on its own.

"Of all the historical stories we've written this probably involved the most research. Not just upfront in ensuring the whole basis of the story was plausible (which required a crash course in tank history) but throughout the writing.

"There are so many minor details that could throw the listener out of the story if we got them

wrong and everyone involved was keen to be right – from ensuring the German army ranks were accurate to thinking through why certain German characters could understand English, replacing anachronistic radio transmissions with telephone wires... By the end of the whole process we'd all learned a lot!"

Paul hints at what lies ahead: "Shellshock takes the titular psychological phenomenon newly observed in World World One and gives it a dark, supernatural basis. Field nurse Hanna Schumann is disturbed by the vivid nightmares suffered by her patients – particularly among the 'clay kickers', the soldiers charged with digging the network of secret tunnels under No Man's Land.

"Between Doctor Sturm's treatment, which sends the affected men back into the trenches with a new zeal for bloodshed, and General Reinhardt's new

## BY THE END OF THE WHOLE PROCESS WE'D ALL LEARNED A LOT!

PAUL MORRIS

fleet of unusually advanced tanks, something sinister is afoot in the German ranks..."

**WE CONCLUDE** with a two-part 'celebrity historical' from Lizbeth Myles in *Peake Season*. After an embarrassing encounter, the Doctor tries to make amends to Mervyn Peake by offering him a trip in the TARDIS. It's a trip the famous author should never have accepted. Soon he and the Doctor find themselves trapped in a nameless city and working as newspaper cartoonists. Where are they? More importantly, where is the TARDIS? And more importantly than that – can they escape with their lives?

John reveals that inspiration for this story came about as a result of



Above (l-r): Finlay Robertson, Nicholas Asbury, Tom Baker, Nicholas Briggs, Richard Hope, Alicia Ambrose-Bayly, Joe Meiners and Christopher Naylor  
Below (l-r): John Heffernan and Richard Dixon







## OCCASIONALLY, YOU WANT TO LET A GENIUS BE A GENIUS AND NOT TAKE ANYTHING AWAY FROM THEIR CREATIVITY...

JOHN DORNEY

green room conversations during recording sessions at Audio Sorcery Studios. He says: "Mervyn Peake has often come up in conversations with Tom Baker as he was someone Tom likes the work of. So it struck me that we should get the Doctor to meet Mervyn Peake as I knew it was something Tom would enjoy and have fun with.

"When we were looking for a writer for this release I emailed Liz Myles to ask if she liked Mervyn Peake, and as she replied enthusiastically we realised we'd found our writer for this one.

"There were a couple of things we were in agreement about – neither of us wanted to follow the trope of having the adventure

with the Doctor inspire Peake's stories. Occasionally, you want to let a genius be a genius and not take anything away from their creativity by just writing down something they have seen. But it does very much have a Peake-ish feel to it!"

Liz adds: "The brief was a Fourth Doctor story with Mervyn Peake as the companion. It was prefaced with something like 'you seem the sort of person who likes Mervyn Peake'. Which I very much do.

"Actually I love Mervyn Peake! His most well-known work, *Gormenghast*, is a gorgeous masterpiece of fantasy. It's gothic and enamoured of the written word, and with so much humour and beauty. It's not nearly as widely known and appreciated as it should be.

"I knew very little about Peake the man before writing this story so there was plenty to discover about him. I loved his art already as he did the most evocative drawing for *Gormenghast* but I didn't know that he was best known for his painting and illustrations in his own time. He spent two years living on the island of Sark where he would paint in the headlands, naked!

"The first scene that came into my head after hearing the brief is still my favourite: the Doctor mistakes Mervyn for JRR Tolkien, a contemporary of his, and Mervyn is outraged!" **VORTEX**

### DOCTOR WHO: THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES THE NINE



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# VORTEX MAIL



## CLASSIC MAGAZINES

Back in the day you used to release the Big Finish audio magazine which was lovely and had great behind-the-scenes clips from some of the earlier Big Finish stories. I think there's only one of these available on your website – could the others be added? I'm asking selfishly as I'm missing a few! They are a lovely little look back in time.

### GRANT DICKIE

*Nick: I shall look into that for you, you, Grant. There are two currently available and please do bear in mind that the Big Finish Podcast, released every Sunday, features loads of behind-the-scenes interviews every week of the year.*



## SPACED OUT

I've really enjoyed listening to the first few **Space: 1999** releases as the love and care that goes into them is just wonderful. It's clear in the writing just how much you all love the series, and the cast are so convincing and dedicated while the sound design and music are perfect too. I'm really hoping you've got more planned – and perhaps, could there be more Gerry Anderson series up for a reimagining? I love **Space: 1999** but **UFO** is my absolute favourite.

### ALAN MUIR

*Nick: Cheers, Alan and we certainly do have more planned. I love **UFO** too and we've just announced the first of two box sets will be released in August.*

## MANY HAPPY RETURNS?

Are there any plans to celebrate the 60th anniversary of **Doctor Who**? I loved everything you did for the 50th and well, who doesn't like a birthday?

### DAVID LEVER

*Nick: There certainly are some really exciting plans, David. But guess what? They're top secret!*

## SUPER SUMMERFIELD

I'm a massive fan and have been listening to your output for years (decades now). And I just wanted to say how impressed I am that you keep giving such quality to your productions – a magnificent achievement and long may it continue. I'm moved to congratulate now though particularly because I've recently been bingeing on the David Warner Doctor/Bernice Summerfield box sets. Literally kicking myself for not discovering them sooner. The chemistry between Lisa Bowerman and David Warner really is a pleasure to listen to. Please keep doing more!

### NICK LAWTON

*Nick: Lisa and David are perfect together, aren't they? We absolutely plan to do more, Nick. **VORTEX***





## CREDITS

Managing Editor:  
**Jason Haigh-Ellery**

Executive Producer:  
**Nicholas Briggs**

Senior Producer:  
**David Richardson**

Editor: **Kenny Smith**

The Big Finish Team:

**Chris Allen**

**Cheryl Bryant**

**Sue Cowley**

**Emily Davis**

**Jackie Emery**

**Sufyan Javaid**

**Dominic G Martin**

**Karen Parks**

**Hannah Peel**

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Copy Editor:

**Stephanie Hornett**

Marketing & Publicity:

**Steve Berry**

**Chrissie Wood**

BFP Administration:

**Reanne Hawkins**

**Brenda Smith**

**Alison Taylor**

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DW | THE NINTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES  
*Back To Earth* (LIMITED VINYL EDITION)

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DW | THE WAR DOCTOR  
THE WAR DOCTOR BEGINS  
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DW | THE ROBOTS  
*Volume 5* (BOX SET)

SHERLOCK HOLMES  
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TORCHWOOD *War Chest* (61)

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*The Dreams of Avarice* **DLO**

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THE **BIG FINISH** MAGAZINE

# VORTEX

ISSUE 159  
MAY 2022  
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# SELF DEFENCE

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**ALSO INSIDE**

**DOCTOR WHO:**

**THE OUT OF TIME SERIES CONCLUDES AS THE SIXTH AND TENTH DOCTORS MEET...**