

THE **BIG FINISH** MAGAZINE

VORTEX

ROSE TYLER

TRAPPED!

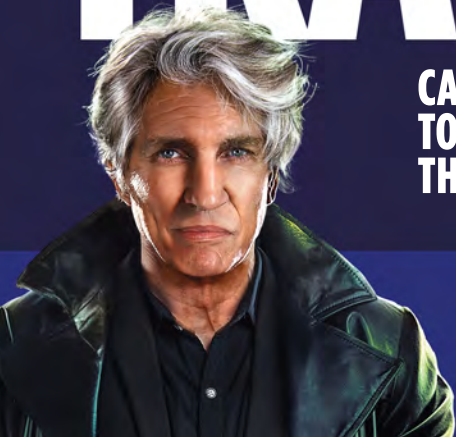
CAN ROSE MAKE HER WAY BACK
TO HER OWN UNIVERSE OR IS
THERE REALLY **NO WAY HOME?**

ALSO INSIDE

MASTER!

**NEMESIS EXPRESS: HE'S BACK... AND
STILL DRESSED FOR THE OCCASION...**

ISSUE 163
SEPTEMBER 2022
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DOCTOR WHO

CLASSIC DOCTORS, NEW MONSTERS

VOLUME FOUR

CLASSIC DOCTORS, New Monsters returns for a fourth box set next year with *Broken Memories* which pits the Fourth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Doctors against monsters from the post-2005 era.

The first adventure, *Invasion of the Body Stealers* by Jonathan Morris, features the body-snatching Harmony Shoal from the television episode *The Husbands of River Song*. The second adventure, *The Queen of Clocks* by Jacqueline Rayner, sees the Sixth Doctor encounter the Clockwork Droids first seen in TV episode *The Girl in the Fireplace*, while the Seventh and Eighth Doctors encounter the Silence in the third and final adventure, *The Silent Priest* and *The Silent City* both by David K. Barnes.

Script editor Matt Fitton tells *Vortex*: "With creatures from the Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Doctor eras, we find out what Harmony Shoal gets up to in the far future on a colony world reminiscent of 1970s *Who*. What happens when the Clockwork Droids run amok as the colourful Sixth Doctor and Mel race to the rescue, and how are the Silence interwoven across the lives of two very different Doctors? *Broken Memories* is another thrilling ride!" **VORTEX**

DOCTOR WHO

CLASSIC DOCTORS, NEW MONSTERS
VOLUME FOUR

- RELEASED: OCTOBER 2023
- FORMAT: CD/DOWNLOAD



EDITORIAL

EVERY NOW and then, *Vortex* throws a real curveball at me – what do you do when you've got a month with so many releases to feature?

We've got **Rose Tyler: The Dimension Cannon 2, Master!**

Nemesis Express, the latest releases from **The Third Doctor Adventures** and **The Eleventh Doctor Chronicles** plus the new **Torchwood: Soho** release. And on top of that, there's also a celebratory release for Big Finish's very own original series, **The Confessions of Dorian Gray**.

So what do I do? The answer, dear friends, is simple. I do my best to feature them all! Yes, it means I make more work for myself but given the amount of love, attention to detail, passion, diligence, care and hours of devotion that goes into each one, not to feature them would just be rude.

There's so much to look forward to for lovers of 21st century **Doctor Who** with the return of Billie Piper as Rose Tyler in her own series set before the events of **The Stolen Earth** on television.

If you're a TV Movie fan like me, then there's more with Eric Roberts's Master, while classic era listeners have the latest adventure from the Pertwee years. Plus there's **Torchwood** too in Big Finish's amazing expansion of the series set in 1950s Soho.

I'm especially excited for the **Dorian Gray** release – I've been a fan since producer Scott Handcock first outlined the series to me; I was hooked from the beginning. It's a range that's suitable for adults only but I hugely recommend you give the series a go. It's dark, it's funny, it's sexy and it's scary. What more could you want? **VORTEX**

Kenny

"THEY'RE FUNNY, THEY'RE SPIKY, THEY'RE SILLY!"



CAN ROSE MAKE HER WAY BACK TO HER UNIVERSE OR IS THERE NO WAY HOME?

TRAPPED!

ROSE AND *her friends and family are trapped in another dimension on a parallel Earth. With her world doomed and a universe at stake, Rose must continue her frantic search for the only person who can help... the Doctor.*

This October, Billie Piper returns to the part of Rose alongside Mark Benton as Clive Finch and Camille Coduri as Jackie Tyler in the second Big Finish box set to feature the Ninth and Tenth's Doctor's best friend.

Emily Cook, producer of this second set, says: "Big Finish was keen to make more Rose Tyler box sets with Billie, and when discussion of **The Dimension Cannon** came up I expressed interest in producing

it – I absolutely loved the first box set. Rose is such a special character for me because she was my gateway companion into **Doctor Who**.

"The Dimension Cannon: *Other Worlds* is very much a continuation of volume one and the brilliant work producer David Richardson did on that. It's the same episodic structure of Rose visiting different parallel universes and encountering different iterations of her family.

The reason we continued with this is because it's such a brilliant premise and we felt there was scope to have fun with it further."

Other Worlds features adventures written by Alison Winter, AK Benedict and Emily herself.

Director Helen Goldwyn says: "It's always wonderful to come back together with a familiar cast – and of course Billie and Camille are a joyous combination. There was a unique tone created with the first series and under Emily's vision that originality expands even further into volume two. There's so much to explore within **The Dimension Cannon** concept, and I don't think there's anything else quite like it out there."

Emily tells *Vortex*: "The recording sessions went really well. Billie is a one-take wonder – we just flew through the scripts! And it was a wonderful experience to watch Billie and Camille (as Rose and Jackie) in studio. We had a brilliant



Above (l-r): Camille Coduri and Billie Piper

I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE QUITE LIKE IT OUT THERE.

HELEN GOLDWYN

group of guest actors too, who were all a delight. And I always adore working with Helen! They were just great recording days.

“The highlight has to be listening to Billie and Camille bringing something that I’d written to life. It was really thrilling to watch them say the lines I’d heard in my head so many times throughout the writing process, and to hear them to say it exactly as I’d imagined it. There’s one Jackie and Rose scene in particular – the first scene I wrote, actually and it barely changed from the first draft – which moved me when I wrote it and made me tear up when Camille and Billie performed it. That was a really special moment.”

Script editor Matt Fitton was delighted with the response to the range. He tells *Vortex*: “There’s been great feedback on this series. I wrote one of the adventures for the first box set myself and everyone created scripts that really suited Billie and Rose. The whole process was lovely from the start with Russell T Davies having input on the storylines, and we went a couple of different ways with it, working out what the series would initially be.

“I think that the reaction was great

and Billie evidently loved working on it. It probably helped that we had some familiar faces around her as well! It’s great having the family back – along with Clive – that’s something that the listeners seem to really like.

“It’s so good giving Clive another outing after his single TV appearance in *Rose*. And everyone loves Camille. It’s just great to have her and Billie together. The family dynamic just feels really truthful.”



Above: Indigo Griffiths

THE FIRST adventure in the set is *Saltwater* by Alison Winter. *Rose finds an Earth under threat as something steals the salt from the oceans. As global tensions escalate, Rose wants to make those in charge listen, and finds an ally in the shape of another Clive...*

Matt says: “I think this might be the first time I worked with Alison but I’ve asked them back to do lots of other things subsequently, and Ali has two or three other scripts in the works now. I was impressed at how fully formed this script felt, both in terms of how the storyline worked and then in the first draft: everything about the established characters, the new ones and the world, all worked.

“Rose arrives on another alternate

Earth, where something seems to be sucking salt from the oceans and bringing on disaster. It reintroduces the format of the series so you know what's happening – the multiverse is doomed and Rose is hopping between dimensions to try and find the Doctor. Each Earth is in trouble and *Saltwater* is about how she copes with that, running into other versions of her family and friends. She's homing in on the places the Doctor might be, which brings her into contact with versions of certain people again and again."

A delighted Alison tells *Vortex*:

"Rose Tyler is epic! Writing for Billie was a real pleasure and getting to play with Jackie and Rose was a lot of fun.

"It was a really open brief to pitch a story about another parallel Earth but the emphasis was on family and finding lighter moments. I created quite a dark story but there are some very warm characters and hopeful moments. I took the opportunity to give Clive the experience of running up to himself and having a good argument!

"I see it as a parable on finding your inner light when times are dark. We're in no doubt of Rose's determination but at this point she's been without the Doctor for a long time, seeing many worlds end. She needs more than just her faith in the Doctor to survive, no matter how immense that is. There's a point where she's completely alone, no one can help her, and I wanted her to confront that sadness and loneliness, finding a new strength unique to the Rose Tyler now striding across worlds and inspiring people she meets. She's very much becoming Doctor-like, and closer to the Rose we meet in the television episode *Turn Left*."

NOW IS *the New Dark* by AK Benedict is the second story. *Rose and Clive arrive on an Earth where science never advanced from the Dark Ages and find themselves under suspicion.*

Someone is killing the Melancholics, but apparently, there's a Doctor here who can help...

Matt says: "Now is the *New Dark* pushes the alternate Earth thing quite a long way. To begin with, Rose isn't even sure she's in the right



Above (l-r): Sarah Priddy and Malcolm Jeffries

EVERYTHING MEDICAL OR SCIENTIFIC IS STILL BASED ON KEEPING THE 'HUMOURS' IN BALANCE...

MATT FITTON

year as it all looks kind of medieval and like the Dark Ages – it's a world where science has never progressed.

"Everything medical or scientific is still based on keeping the 'humours' in balance within the body so it's a very dark way of looking at the world, and it's great! Alexandra has included many elements which give it quite a Gothic horror feel! You've

got a killer stalking the streets, which are medieval... smelly and dank.

"Rose hears a rumour that there's a Doctor who's helping people and that sparks her interest. It's another really good showcase for Rose and Clive as they work out what's going on."

THE ROGUE *Planet* by Emily

Cook is the concluding adventure. *Rose finds herself closer to home than ever – but she's in for a shock. Meanwhile, Jackie is a hit on daytime TV and Clive is a professor, but nobody seems to realise how much danger the world is in.*

Matt explains: "When we started talking about this series, I was quite keen to see if Emily would want to write one – and happily she did! It's been lovely work with Emily



Above: Billie Piper

Cannon episode!). Rose has to fight to save the world (again) while simultaneously dealing with some interesting domestics. Meanwhile Jackie is the host of a talk show, which adds plenty of fun alongside impending doom. There are also some great Easter eggs for listeners...”

A FURTHER series has already been recorded, and Emily says: “We knew we wanted to do something different with volume three, to thrust Rose into a more extreme situation and push her to the limit. (As always, we were guided and encouraged by Russell T Davies).

“Tonally, I think volume three ramps the stakes up a bit. We wanted to move Rose’s quest to find the Doctor forward, to show that she’s making some progress and getting closer to reaching the point of the events in the TV episode *The Stolen Earth*. It’s been really exciting

EMOTION IS MIXED WITH EXHILARATING DANGER AND AN APOCALYPSE...

EMILY COOK

on this set because she brings such a great energy to everything.

“The threat in this instance isn’t clear to begin with. People don’t realise it’s imminent, but there’s something heading for Earth. Something is affecting the planet, but it’s just another item on the TV show. Nobody is taking things seriously.

“It was really interesting to see how that gets dealt with – and everything does kick off! It’s pretty catastrophic and actually has consequences beyond this story, taking us into the third series.”

Emily adds: “I wasn’t planning on writing one of the scripts initially, but when I was brainstorming ideas for the series with Matt I threw out a suggestion for an episode. I was going to pass the idea on to another

writer but Matt encouraged me to have a go at writing it myself.

“As a producer, you have to have your brain constantly across so many different things. But when you’re writing, you have to switch off from all of that noise and just focus in on whatever it is you’re writing. It’s a totally different discipline. Matt was brilliantly supportive and helpful all the way through, and I was extremely grateful for his script-editing guidance. I’m very proud of the end product.

“At its emotional heart, I’d say *The Rogue Planet* is a story about mothers and daughters. But, of course, this is **Doctor Who**, so the emotion is mixed with exhilarating danger and an apocalypse (as is the case in every **The Dimension**

mapping this out and exploring the next part of her journey.” **VORTEX**

ROSE TYLER THE DIMENSION CANNON OTHER WORLDS



- RELEASED: OCTOBER 2022
- FORMAT: CD/DOWNLOAD

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HE'S BACK... AND STILL
DRESSED FOR THE OCCASION...

MASTER!

AT ONE time we **Doctor Who** fans thought that the Master played by Eric Roberts in the TV Movie was a one-off appearance.

But how wrong we were, as he's been back to face off against River Song and the Eighth Doctor, as well as having his own spin-off series for Big Finish.

It's been ten years since the impossibly glamorous bounty hunter Vienna Salvatori was introduced, and now Chase Masterson one again reprises the role she first played with the Seventh Doctor in *The Shadow Heart*.

Last time we met Vienna she had just encountered the Master, and in the first adventure of **Master! Nemesis Express** she's onboard *Kairos*, a recreational cruiser which traverses the time vortex itself.

She must make her way through the serpentine vehicle, from the crime-ridden rear segments through the enclosed compartments of the mega-rich, all the way to front of the ship to face the man who controls it all... the Master!

PRODUCER DAVID

Richardson says: "As with everything we work on that comes back for more, we took time to appraise the strengths of the **Master!** range as an ongoing series – what worked, what could be changed.

"The pairing of Eric and Chase was a bit of serendipity and it really works – such contrasting characters who we throw into clearly defined worlds and let them battle it out! There's a significant new character joining the

line-up in this story too but I won't say who it is. I will let time, and the twists and turns of the story, reveal that.

"Working on so many ranges where the titular character is the good guy, it's a refreshing change to have a series where the lead character is bad! Worse than bad – he has no redeeming qualities whatsoever. I'm hoping that this incarnation of the Master wreaks havoc on the universe for many box sets to come."

Eric Roberts says: "I love playing bad guys because they're just so unforgiving and the Master is the most unforgiving guy I've ever played! He's pretty evil – he can't help himself. Being a (pretend!) villain is the most fun."

Chase Masterson adds: "I've enjoyed being back as Vienna so much and listeners are in store for



Above (l-r): Chase Masterson and Eric Roberts

a super fun rollicking ride. Vienna has been a villain in many ways but now she's reformed which is a very cool turn in her character – but she has just enough villain left in her to keep up with the Master.”

THE STORY opens with *Nemesis Express* by Robert Whitelock, as Vienna Salvatori boards *Kairos* in search of a stolen gem. For Robert, how exciting was it to write the first story of a box set like this?

He tells *Vortex*: “I was so excited to be back writing for **Master!** and also delighted to be given the job of creating the introduction to the new world of *Kairos* and its workings. The first episode of a new box set really gets to kick off the world building and sets the tone, so it's a huge responsibility and privilege to set the ball rolling.

“David had told us that he wanted a **Snowpiercer** type of adventure on a vehicle that travelled through the vortex. The Master would be on it, but the rest would pretty much be up to us to fathom out. Rob Valentine, Lizbeth Myles and myself came up with the idea of making it a holiday liner with

YOU BETTER HOPE THAT THOSE MICE ARE FULLY TOOLED UP OR THEY'RE GOING TO BE SOMEBODY'S DINNER.

ROBERT WHITELOCK

strict class demarcation in place and plenty of hazards around every corner. *Kairos* is a big ship but even a vessel this large has limited places to run to if you're facing imminent danger. It's high jeopardy from start to finish! The third class where my story takes place is basically a tech version of Woodstock meets Glastonbury in a confined space. That's probably either your version of heaven or hell, depending on your sensibilities.”

Summing up the adventure, Rob says: “It's very much a game of cat and mouse with the Master always three steps ahead. It's what happens

when you put mice into a maze with a scorpion. You better hope that those mice are fully tooled up or they're going to be somebody's dinner. We're hoping that the listeners will believe that they've worked out what the Master's wanting fairly early on, only to be completely confounded by what he really wants at the denouement!

“With the Master, you know the potential outcome is going to be catastrophic if he gets to fulfil his desires, so Vienna and her new friend Passion have to not only survive, but also stop him if they can.

“The reveal at the end of *Nemesis Express* is easily my highlight for this one (I'm saying nothing obviously – spoilers!), although writing the sea brawls was also great fun. Who doesn't enjoy smashing the place up with a hundred or so furious ravers...?”

THE SECOND

adventure is *Capture the Chronovore!* by Lizbeth Myles. *Vienna and Passion pursue the Master, but to find out what he's up to they must find a way through the ship's classier compartments. They're invited to join an exclusive shooting party*



Above: Teri Ann Bobb-Baxter

HE'S DEFINITELY SOMEONE YOU DON'T WANT ANYWHERE NEAR THE INSIDE OF YOUR HEAD!

ROBERT WHITELOCK

hunting the Vortex's great game – Chronovores! – and the Master is most definitely dressed for the occasion.

Liz says: "I never imagined Eric Roberts would come back to the role and after listening to the first **Master!** box set I was tremendously excited to write for him. Those stories really show off this incarnation of the Master, and how great Eric is.

"Vienna is also a lot of fun. I love the energy that Chase Masterson brings to the part. The brief was the Master on a train in the time vortex being pursued by Vienna."

The story features the Chronovores making their Big Finish debut.

Lizbeth adds: "I pitched an off-the-cuff idea to Rob Valentine (my script editor) in a meeting and to my shock he thought it was a great idea. *The Time Monster* is my favourite **Doctor Who** TV story, and getting to expand the oeuvre of its eponymous monster was an unexpected delight."

PASSION BY Robert Valentine concludes this set. *Finally reaching the head of the ship, Vienna and Passion find themselves exactly where the Master wants them.*



Above: Esmonde Cole

Rob says: "It was great fun writing the final segment of this three-hour adventure. Knowing that my story was about the big confrontation at the bow of this vortex-traversing ship, I was really excited for the Master and Vienna to have some great scenes together.

"As script editor, I inherited the concept of **Snowpiercer** in space from Matt Fitton for this set which meant that the whole thing had a very clear structure to it. Rob Whitelock's story would begin at the stern of this huge vortex-ship in third

class, Lizbeth's would take place in the middle section where the upper crust gather, and I got to set mine in the mysterious front section where the Master's in the driving seat.

"The Master has found himself plucked from the vortex once more and he has several scores to settle. Vienna, on the other hand, is on a shaky path to redemption. She hopes that by saving the life of a young thief called Passion, it might work in her favour – or at least help salve her conscience – and the Master is well aware of that and is able to use it against her."

Rob has a particular highlight in this tale. He explains: "I wrote a scene where the Master has Vienna more or less at his mercy and attempts to dissect her desire for redemption. It's not a huge moment but it's great when you can have two characters like these attempt to get under each other's skin.

"This Master is a particularly devilish incarnation, and he's definitely someone you don't want anywhere near the inside of your head!" **VORTEX**

MASTER! NEMESIS EXPRESS



- RELEASED: OCTOBER 2022
- FORMAT: CD/DOWNLOAD

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BOOK CLUB



THE NEW ADVENTURES OF **BERNICE SUMMERFIELD** VOLUME ONE

BERNICE SUMMERFIELD

returns this month in *Volume Seven: Blood & Steel* of **The New Adventures of Bernice Summerfield** with the late, great David Warner as the Doctor.

But before Benny began travelling with this **Unbound** universe incarnation, she enjoyed some adventures with Sylvester McCoy's Seventh Doctor incarnation plus Sophie Aldred playing Ace.

Their adventures get underway in *The Revolution* by Nev Fountain.

On the planet of Arviem 2, Bernice Summerfield has a lot of problems. Pursued by robots, maniacs and miracles, she has another issue to contend with. The Doctor's come looking for her – and he's not feeling himself.

Producer James Goss says: "Nev's brief was to write everyone's idea of the archetypal Bernice Summerfield adventure – a frantic race across a bizarre planet with fanatics and

robots in pursuit. The Doctor's come looking for Benny and ends up dragged along for the ride."

Nev recalls: "I remember that James wanted a 'romp', something light-hearted like an **Indiana Jones** adventure. He also fancied the notion that Benny was to have the 'Doctor' role and the Doctor was to be the companion."

Una McCormack has written the second adventure, *Good Night, Sweet Ladies*. *Bernice has come to the Moon of Adolin on a desperate mission. Instead, she finds an abandoned labyrinth, two confused survivors, and*

something ancient that needs her help.

Una says: "James supplied me with a general overview of how the season was going to play out, and also a brief for my story – how it should fit in, the setting of Adolin, etc. So I knew this was a story about Benny's relationship with her mother, and the setting, and that there should be a Dalek."

Random Ghosts by Guy Adams is the third adventure.

Welcome to the Forbidden World. This world has a secret. The problem is that no-one can remember what it is. Time is broken here. Those trapped here must live the same day over and over – forming alliances, lying to each other, trying to escape. Welcome to the Forbidden World.

James says: "*Random Ghosts* is about a planet stuck living the same day over and over again. Everyone wakes up, glances at their notes, and then makes the best of it. There are two problems – firstly, a lethal

force is wiping out everything on the planet. Secondly, everyone is lying."

The Lights of Skaro by James concludes the set.

Bernice Summerfield is on Skaro, and she's very much on her own. The Doctor can't get to her, not this time. All Benny can do is stay alive for as long as possible. And, in a city full of Daleks, that's not going to be very long.

James says: "I found *The Lights of Skaro* in a second-hand bookshop. It's an old Penguin classic written by David Dodge, a famous thriller writer of the 1950s.

The Lights of Skaro. I mean, clearly, it could... just could be the most exciting book ever, couldn't it? Ever since finding it, I've wondered what story it would be. And thanks to Benny, I've finally had the chance to tell it. There's a lot of childhood enthusiasm in there. There's a huge chunk of that amazing comic strip from the 1960s Dalek Book where a plucky space pilot lands on Skaro and explores – at first with wide-eyed fascination and then with growing horror." **VORTEX**

THE NEW ADVENTURES OF **BERNICE SUMMERFIELD** VOLUME ONE



■ RELEASED: JUNE 2014
■ FORMAT: CD/DOWNLOAD

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Above (l-r), Alexander Vlahos and Hugh Skinner

DORIAN GETS TO SAY AND DO THE THINGS THAT WE ALL PROBABLY SECRETLY WOULD LOVE TO BE ABLE TO DO...

ALEXANDER VLAHOS

property, all based on an idea from Oscar Wilde's work."

SCOTT CONTINUES: *"The Anniversary* is a story that tackles exactly that. It's divided into two distinct confessions – one told by Dorian, the other by Toby – because, let's be honest, it's easiest to examine anniversaries through a relationship and the Dorian/Toby romance is the one that listeners instantly seemed to latch onto from when they met in *The Heart That Lives Alone*. It's been fun to revisit them and tell a story within that initial time period. *The Heart That Lives Alone* covers a lot of time from beginning to end meaning it's not too intrusive to fill in some gaps. There are a few Easter eggs in *The Anniversary* for those who know the wider context as well.

"In terms of writing, I knew the **Doctor Who** LPs allowed around half an hour on each side, so writing these new stories wasn't too difficult. They are a bit more **Talking Heads** – dramatic monologues rather than full-cast drama – but still with brilliant music and atmosphere

from Rob Harvey. Though when you have actors as sublime as Alex and Hugh Skinner to listen to, you want nothing more than to spend every second with them. It's a simple format but one that feels really rewarding for listeners of the series."

Alex adds: "The relationship between myself as Dorian and Hugh as Toby is always fascinating to play, so what we effectively have is one side of the vinyl with Dorian writing a love letter to Toby, and the other is a letter from Toby to Dorian. We get to hear the two sides of the story, and it doesn't matter in what order you listen to them – the A or the B side first – you just get to hear more from these wonderful characters. We're looking into the

psyche of two fascinating people.

"Myself and Scott have worked really hard on Dorian over the years, especially with series one to four. And then we did a few specials, and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, and it was so much in such a short space of time we decided season five should be the last.

"Dorian gets to say and do the things that we all probably secretly would love to be able to do, and it's wonderful to play someone so complex and dark."

MUSICIAN AND sound designer Rob was delighted to work on the release, saying: "These two stories really hammered home to me why I love working on **The**

Confessions of Dorian Gray. This universe really gives us the chance to mess with the usual format and release some really quite special things. I adore narrated audio drama: it's one of my favourite things to score. There's nothing quite like hearing a brilliant reader and I really think Alex does this story total justice.

"It's an amazing feeling knowing that your work's coming to vinyl. This is my first ever record release and I can't wait to hold it and show everyone. There's something really magical about putting the stylus on a minted record, hearing the faint whispers of sound come from the needle itself before you realise that you forgot to turn the volume up!" **VORTEX**

THE CONFESSIONS OF DORIAN GRAY
THE ANNIVERSARY



■ RELEASED: OCTOBER 2022
■ FORMAT: VINYL/DOWNLOAD

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A TRIBUTE TO DAVID WARNER

BIG FINISH was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of David Warner on 24 July 2022. Over the course of 19 years, David appeared in virtually every range Big Finish has released becoming a much-loved cast member adored by fellow actors and the production team alike.

David was born David Hattersley Warner in Manchester on 29 July

1941 and attended Feldon School in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. He trained for the stage at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) and made his professional stage debut in 1962 in the Royal Court Theatre's **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. David later became a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

His career saw him appear in a host of huge movies and television

shows including **Titanic**, **Mary Poppins Returns**, **The Alienist**, **Star Trek**, **The Omen**, **Twin Peaks**, **TRON** and in TV **Doctor Who** with Matt Smith in 2013.

David began his work at Big Finish in 2003 playing an alternative version of the Doctor in **Doctor Who Unbound: Sympathy for the Devil**, while his first regular performance was for a range of

Sapphire & Steel audio adventures. Since then, he has featured and guest starred in **Doctor Who** audios and spin-offs: **Torchwood**, **Blake's 7**, **The Box of Delights**, **The Confessions of Dorian Gray**, **Iris Wildthyme**, **Dark Shadows**, **Graceless** and **Bernice Summerfield**.

Returning to the part of the Unbound Doctor in **The New Adventures of Bernice Summerfield** saw David work with his partner of many years, Lisa Bowerman, bringing a real relish to the part of the Time Lord from another universe.

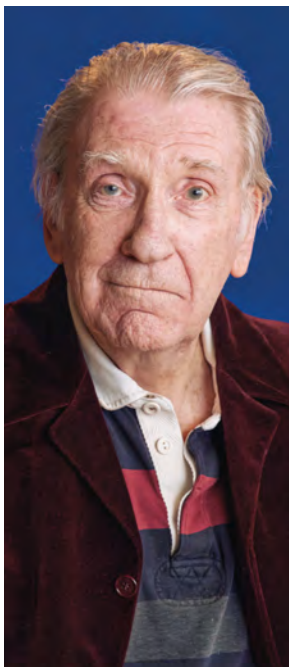
David also starred in 2018's **Big Finish Original, Shilling & Sixpence Investigate** opposite Celia Imrie, a second series of which is due for release in November 2022.

Big Finish chairman Jason Haigh-Ellery tells *Vortex*: "David was a great friend to all of us at Big Finish. He was a sweet, shy and caring gentleman. I was lucky enough to occasionally direct him and he was a joy to work with as all he wanted was the best. The best for the production, the best for the director and the best for the other actors he was working with."

"Not that David needed directing much, he was such a wonderful actor that his first instinct was always spot on. I remember apologising to David during a recording of **Sapphire & Steel** because it was 2pm and I hadn't had to say anything to him all day since his performance was so good – and I didn't want him to think I was ignoring him! He smiled bashfully and made a funny quip.

"Out of recording David was always a joy. He would chat about Hollywood and tell stories covering everything from the RSC to the filming of *Titanic*. One particular story about putting James Cameron in his place will always make me smile. I tried endlessly to talk David into doing a proper retrospective interview about his life and work but he didn't think he was important enough. David, you were wrong – you were very important and we will all miss you greatly."

FORMER BIG Finish producer Gary Russell was David's first director on *Sympathy for the Devil*. Gary recalls: "I was standing at the food preparation area at the original Moat Studios



I DON'T
NEED
TO TELL
YOU, HE
WAS ONE
OF THE
GREATS.

NICHOLAS BRIGGS

early one morning in 2002 when a voice loomed up from behind me and sent a shiver of pleasure down my spine. 'Hullo', the voice said. 'My name is David and I'm an actor and I'm looking for someone called Gary.'

"Casting David as the Doctor in *Sympathy for the Devil* hadn't been anything to do with me. That was completely down to John Ainsworth who was producing the **Unbound** series. I was just lucky enough that

John said one Saturday afternoon a few months earlier, 'You love David Warner, right? I just got him to be the Doctor. Would you like to direct it?' **Time Bandits**, **Time After Time**, **From Beyond the Grave**. And most beloved of all, the voice of the definitive Ra's al Ghul in **Batman**. Would I like to direct him? What a daft question!

"David's first ever Big Finish recording went, I thought, rather well. 'Can I do more?' he asked both myself and Jason Haigh-Ellery at the end of the day. Not long afterwards he became Steel in Nigel Fairs's **Sapphire & Steel** series. I bumped into him at one of the recordings. 'Dear soul,' he said to me, 'rest assured there is nothing I wouldn't do for this company. This is the best fun possible.'

"When you were with David, you always laughed a lot. Goodnight you beautiful human being. You will be missed."

BIG FINISH creative director

Nicholas Briggs tells *Vortex*: "I feel proud and honoured to have had the privilege of working with David, not just on the many Big Finish productions he's performed in over the years but also when I directed him in the Radio 4 comedy series **Nebulous**, in which he played the dastardly villain Dr Klensch.

"I've always been delighted not just to work with him but also to see him and chat. His sly comments, his very particular way of conveying his meaning with so few words that he'd often just resort to patting me on the arm, nodding and saying, 'Well, you know. I don't have to tell you', and his dogged assertion that, 'I don't do accents' which once meant I had to constantly, at his request, give him the note 'Ee bah gum' before every take of him performing the part of Cuthbert, the intergalactic profiteer with a Northern accent!

"I don't need to tell you, he was one of the greats. So many of us will miss him deeply, and my heart goes out to those closest to him." **VORTEX**



THE THIRD DOCTOR'S ADVENTURES ARE GETTING BIGGER IN...

'SCOPE & SCALE

IT'S TIME to head back to the era of the Third Doctor as Tim Treloar reprises his audio role alongside Sadie Miller as Sarah Jane Smith and Jon Culshaw as Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart.

The latest story in the range, *Kaleidoscope*, is a six-part tale written by Alan Barnes in which the friends encounter an alien space messiah known as Kaleidoscope, played by classically-trained actor Gerran Howell (**Suspicion**, **Young Dracula**, **Catch-22**).

Producer Heather Challands tells *Vortex*: "It's great coming back to **The Third Doctor Adventures**, it always is. It only took until my third release to make it down to the studio and see the cast in person! I'd met some of the actors briefly at Big Finish Day but to work with Tim and Jon and share that physical space was very lovely for me. I felt a lot more familiarity with all of it: the actors and the range itself. "It is brilliant to be interacting with 'real' people again. And it was

fun to work for four days straight, getting to know each other. We had some wonderful guest stars who made it even more joyful.

"One of the highlights was the singing, though not by me thank goodness! But by Helen Goldwyn and Jasmin Hinds who both sing professionally. The script calls for female protesters to sing songs, like tailored nursery rhymes against nuclear warfare. And so to get all of that, they had to sing it for quite a while because it was meant to go under a scene. In studio we played it back and then they sang it again accompanying the recorded version of themselves – they did that multiple times in various different pitches, voices and so on. It is absolutely brilliant and sounds great.

"Sean Longmore has done an absolutely astonishing job on the cover. It feels really fresh but totally of the period – you can absolutely imagine Jon Pertwee loving the idea of riding a snowmobile!

"Alan's a very clever writer and he worked with myself and director Nicholas Briggs on **The Third Doctor Adventures: The Annihilators**, so he understood the format of one great big long adventure. It's such a mammoth script so a lot of the plot points were worked out at storyline stage. By the time I got an actual draft of the script, I was delighted! Alan just gets the era; I was shocked when doing his interviews that he'd never written for the Brigadier before!

Writer Alan says: "*Kaleidoscope* came off the back of *Conspiracy in Space* which I wrote last year for the Third Doctor and Jo. *Kaleidoscope* is slightly different because I knew I had the Brigadier, Sarah and the Third Doctor but everything else was a blank page and so very exciting.

"I started thinking in terms of writing the Bob Baker and Dave Martin story of the season because I really like them. What's great is that they came in as two young guys in the early 1970s – and they're just full of



Above: Tim Treloar

the 1970s – unlike the old guard who were basically more 1950s or 1960s.

“I thought, if I can write something in the spirit of Bob and Dave it'd be really interesting because people don't do that – they want to write something that's Robert Holmes-y or Malcolm Hulke-y! Malcolm was a wizard and I tried to do something like him for *Conspiracy in Space*. But no-one ever wants to create a story like Bob and Dave!

“One of my first ideas was to honour their serials for HTV but as if they collided with the **Doctor Who** universe like *Sky* or *King of the Castle*, full of young 1970s characters.

“And I also considered setting the adventure in a tower block but realised it needed to be bigger than that – that's a four-part idea! So I started to think in terms of **The Day the Earth Stood Still** with someone like David Bowie appearing and just saying 'Hi!' – a bit of a space messiah

coming to Earth in silver trousers like **The Man Who Fell to Earth**.”

VORTEX ASKED director Nick for his thoughts on this latest script from Alan. Nick says: “Alan is one of my favourite writers and he's perfect for this era. The Third Doctor stories are where all our big assumptions about the nature of **Doctor Who** come from. Barry Letts and Terrance Dicks were the first producers who stepped back, took stock, and worked out what the essence of the programme was. And Alan and I lived through all that first-hand, well I certainly did! So Alan and I had a conversation.

“I said I wanted a six-parter with Sarah in it, and he immediately had the idea of doing something akin to what one might expect the great Bob Baker and Dave Martin to do. A couple of years later, on ITV, they made a series called *Sky* about a boy from 'beyond'.

And that was kind of our starting point, with Cold War overtones.”

Has Nick been pleased with the reaction to the range? He tells *Vortex*: “Yes, it's lovely that people get what we're doing with the Third Doctor range. John Dorney and David Richardson built up so much good stuff as script editor and producer, and since Heather Challands has taken over producing with me script editing, I think we've really pursued the 'nostalgia with a twist' philosophy of making it feel 100 percent authentic while adding some more modern storytelling sensibilities. We've got some great plans for the future which I'm just aching to tell you about!”

Heather adds: “It's always a pleasure to return to the 1970s with

WE'VE REALLY PURSUED THE 'NOSTALGIA WITH A TWIST' PHILOSOPHY...

NICHOLAS BRIGGS

the Third Doctor and UNIT. It was wonderful to hear the response to *The Annihilators* and we're following it up with an adventure that promises to be no less majestic in scale or location with a strong supporting cast and a wonderful script. I wish I could tell you more but that's a secret for now...” **VORTEX**

DOCTOR WHO THE THIRD DOCTOR ADVENTURES KALEIDOSCOPE



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THE ELEVENTH DOCTOR CHRONICLES RETURNS WITH A NEW COMPANION...

BIG FINISH'S *Chronicles* range tells full-cast stories set in the era of 21st century Doctors.

Taking the lead in the Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Doctor ranges is actor Jacob Dudman, who first came to prominence at Big Finish through his uncanny impressions of Matt Smith. Ever since then he's shown what a fine actor he is in his own right – and now he's back for more.

Producer Alfie Shaw is delighted, telling *Vortex*: "It's incredibly exciting. It's been a privilege working with Jake but in particular on these next four stories as we've carved out our own little era of the

Eleventh Doctor. The whole pitch for the run is the gap between the television episodes, *The Snowmen* and *The Bells of St John*, where the Doctor is searching for Clara. And along the way he discovers a new mystery and a new friend...

"One of the things I knew I wanted to do when I took over the *Chronicles* range was to introduce a new companion, to help give the range more of an identity as well as develop a through-line for the series – and we've now been able to make that happen.

"The casting of Valarie came about fairly quickly. Jake recorded a *Torchwood* with Safiyya Ingar and texted me on that day saying, 'I've found Valarie!' In his defence, he really had!

"Safiyya is an incredible actor who brings so much to the role, nailing both the humour and the

emotional beats. The chemistry between them and Jake is amazing, we could feel in the studio that we'd hit upon something truly special."

WE MEET the Doctor's new friend, cybernetics engineer Valarie Lockwood, in *The Inheritance*, written by Alfie himself. He explains: "We kick off in the future, Earth in the 54th Century, where the planet has been bought out by the Fulcrum Corporation. That's Valarie's home time period, so we get to meet her mother Patricia and see what pushes her to join the Doctor travelling around all of space and time.

"*The Inheritance* is heavily inspired by the cyberpunk genre in which people are quite happily augmenting their bodies with machinery. It's a post-Cybermen

society where humanity has learnt from the mistakes that led to, and are a core part of, the Cybermen.”

ALFIE CONTINUES: “The second adventure is *The House of Masks*, a great historical from Georgia Cook. I knew we needed a historical in the set to give Valarie the full time travel experience. Georgia suggested a few time periods, and when she suggested Venice I leapt on it. Not only is it a brilliant city with lots of opportunities for the wonderful Lee Adams in terms of sound design, but also it is somewhere the Eleventh Doctor has been before with the Ponds. Having him go back there is a nice touch to show how he’s actually moving forward with his life, which is important given the gap where this run of stories takes place.”

Georgia says: “I was contacted by Alfie after being given the amazing opportunity by Matt Fitton and the BBC to write my interlude *The Haunting of Bryck Place*. It’s such an honour to be invited to write an audio script for Big Finish, and for one of my favorite Doctors no less!

“I was asked to pitch an Earth-based historical in which we could really expand upon the Doctor and Valarie’s dynamic. We tossed around a few locations and time periods before settling on something appropriately mysterious — a ball at the height of the last Venetian Carnivale. We find out that a plea for help at a masked ball is more than it seems...”

“The highlight was definitely getting to sit in on the recording and watch the amazing actors at work. This is my first experience of writing a full-cast audio drama, and hearing them bring my words to life was an absolute joy. The cast all brought their A-game to this box set and I’m so excited for everyone to hear it!”

THE END by Rochana Patel concludes the set. Alfie says: “*The End* is our first properly trippy story. When you’re playing in the Steven Moffat era like we are, you want to do these kinds of stories as they were such a key part of his tenure as showrunner. Rochana has pulled together a blinder of a script, but if you’re a



Above (l-r): Jacob Dudman and Safiyya Ingar

Short Trips prose range, so we’d already worked together once.

“After pitching, developing and writing the script, there was really no guarantee that the final product would sound anything like what was originally requested! However, this was the original brief: ‘Something character-driven, ideally with psychological horror sensibilities, or doing something interesting structurally.’ And that’s really exactly what was delivered... I’m actually quite surprised!

“This is how I pitched it: **Alien** meets **Sliding Doors**. I was just keen to do a ‘monster on a spaceship’ story! Sci-fi is chock full of redeemable villains at the moment, and I wanted to get back to basics with something utterly evil and relentless...”

I WANTED TO GET BACK TO BASICS WITH SOMETHING UTTERLY EVIL AND RELENTLESS...

ROCHANA PATEL



Above (l-r): Mandi Symonds and Safiyya Ingar

“This is a COVID-19 script. I was in lockdown. Unemployed. Alone. Which, if nothing else, gave me plenty of time to work on the script! Writing it kept me sane. Mostly... Really, just writing for **Doctor Who** is such a privilege, it’s a lifelong dream come true!” **VORTEX**

arachnophobe, I apologise in advance...

“The emphasis of it – as it has to be really – is the relationship between the Doctor and Valarie. What brings them together and what leads to her travelling with him. The focus of every series opener when introducing a new companion is, quite rightly, on that relationship and this follows suit.”

Rochana says: “Alfie gave me my first commission writing *Messages from the Dead* for the

DOCTOR WHO THE ELEVENTH DOCTOR CHRONICLES GERONIMO!



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SOHO

WE'RE HEADING BACK TO THE PAST FOR MORE ADVENTURES IN SOHO WITH TORCHWOOD...

ONE OF the great things about Big Finish's **Torchwood** range is that it has revealed there is far more to the organisation than the Torchwood Three team based at the Hub underneath Roald Dahl Plass in Cardiff Bay. We've found out about Torchwood One and Yvonne Hartman in the years before it fell during the Battle of Canary Wharf; we've seen Torchwood in the future

with Zachary Cross Flane; we've had more adventures with Queen Victoria; and we've explored the lives of the team in Wales.

One of the real joys, however, has been the introduction of Norton Folgate, a Torchwood member from the 1950s based at the organisation's Soho operation. Since his arrival when he first met PC Andy Davidson, we've learned that he's a man with a plan – and is never to be trusted.

In the first two **Soho** box sets we've encountered Norton, played by Samuel Barnett, in his natural environment and met the team around him with Dervla Kirwan playing Lizbeth Hayhoe, Joe Shire as Norton's erstwhile boyfriend

Gideon Lyme, and Tom Price portraying Andy Davidson. And now we're returning to **Torchwood Soho** for the new box set *The Unbegotten* written by James Goss.

The group begin an investigation into 'Crater Demons' as they investigate a post-war bombsite in Mandeville Walk, London. During the course of their enquiries, they come across Armitage – an educated gentleman and politician – but is he all that he appears to be?

Sam tells *Vortex*: "Armitage is everything Norton wants to be and wants to be with. He has power, he's probably built like a tank, he's probably good at rugby and he could probably throw

Norton over his shoulder and carry him off into the sunset!

"But also, Norton thinks he can be quite easily manipulated, and Norton loves a bit of powerplay."

Greg Austin – best known to fans of the expanded **Doctor Who** universe as Charlie Smith in **Class** – plays the newcomer, aided by Goringe played by Homer Todiwala.

Greg says: "How would I describe Armitage? He's working behind-the-scenes pulling all the strings, thinking he's in control and trying

for wear after having been possessed, and we wondered if he would ever make it back to being 'normal'.

"I would describe the Norton and Gideon relationship as two people who have travelled the universe, to different worlds and experienced incredible things together, but through all of this major, epic journey there is a true love that has them bickering quite a lot. There's that mixture of the fun parts of the relationship in the midst of these huge situations

and life or death threats which bring them closer together.

"It's always great to come back to this part: Sam makes it really easy to act alongside him. The journeys that we go on in each episode and the arcs that these characters go through are so big. It's a lot of fun and we want to keep their relationship fresh and exciting for the listeners. At some point I can imagine everyone rooting for Norton – although he can be hard work – and at other times, people are rooting for Gideon, and then both together.

"I don't know if Gideon deserves better but what he's got is a dynamic three-dimensional person. He was swept off his feet at the beginning and that's why he lets Norton back in all the time. He was won over by this mysterious man who travels the world – the universe – and for some reason likes him and wants him to come along. He's very much grown since they first met – he has teeth now and bites back!"

Sam adds: "It does help that we know each other well and are fond of each other as human beings!"

WITH ASHENDEN having been recorded remotely by the actors, the group were delighted to meet up in the studio again to record *The Unbegotten* adding to the fun dynamic that comes across in the recording sessions.

Sam confirms: "It's always a pleasure to record more of these. When we were recording during the COVID-19 pandemic we weren't able to be in the same room and it felt quite sad, so it's lovely to be back in the studio all together."

Tom adds: "I think that comes across in the recording, and I think that makes it to the final edit too. It's a joy recording these episodes – they're funny, they're spiky, they're silly!" **VORTEX**



Above (l-r): Tom Price, Scott Handcock and Samuel Barnett

to manipulate our heroes into doing his political bidding. And he has a penchant for a little bit of rough and tumble through torturing which Goringe does so well."

Homer adds: "Goringe is an underling who essentially gets everything done for Armitage including having to torture people – there are all sorts of things you can do with corkscrews and body parts!"

IN THE previous series, **Torchwood Soho: Ashenden**, Gideon's relationship with Norton was pushed to the limit as the journalist found himself possessed by aliens. Joe

explains: "We last saw Gideon left on a beach feeling a little bit the worse



Above (l-r): Samuel Barnett and Joe Shire

TORCHWOOD: SOHO THE UNBEGOTTEN

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A TRIBUTE TO DAVID

I'd like to join the condolences you must have received on the passing of David Warner. From all I've read in *Vortex* and heard in behind-the-scenes extras he sounds like a lovely person as well as being a magnificent actor. While I've listened to many of your audios more than once, there is only one group which I have at least one of downloaded onto the Big Finish app at all times – **The New Adventures of Bernice Summerfield** volumes 3 to 6. The Unbound Doctor and "Summerfield" (I'm hearing the Unbound Doctor's exasperated tone as I type the name!) are amongst my favourite pairing of Doctor and companion. Over these past two-and-a-half years shielding alone, a regular listen to these adventures in particular have helped me through some dark times. I wish I had written about this sooner so that my thanks could be sent to all involved.

Ingrid Warren

Nick: Thanks so much, Ingrid. David was a lovely fella and we shall miss him very much indeed.

SHORT AND SWEET

I was overwhelmingly impressed with the entirety of **Short Trips Volume 11**. Like a delicious selection of chocolate biscuits, it varies between first and third person narratives and full-cast performances. As a staunch fan of the range, are there any plans for a twelfth volume featuring the First, Second, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth and Twelfth incarnations?

Andrew Hsieh

Nick: There's a new range producer coming in and we shall soon find out what wonders they have up their sleeve, Andrew.

HARD COPIES

I was just wondering if there's a way to get a paper copy of *Vortex*



magazine sent to me monthly without having to make a purchase every month? I know there are online copies but I prefer having a paper copy to keep.

Scott McColm

Nick: Scott, I realise this might sound a bit mean but the sneaky purpose of Vortex, apart from being entertaining and informative, is to encourage people to buy products from us. So to offer it on its own without a product being necessary kind of undermines that, sorry.

UNIT-ED WE STAND

What I love about Big Finish is that you love delving deeper into the **Whoniverse** and enriching all of our lives for the better. **UNIT: Brave New World** is literally filling in the sad and bleak 'twilight years' of **Who** when it was ripped away from us. It may have taken since 1989 for **Bamberra** to get a spin-off but I can assure you it has been

worth the wait. The stories in this box set really embrace the late 1980s feel and the scientific and political fears of the 1990s so well. I was upset when it came to the end of the third episode – what a cliffhanger! I literally cannot wait for the next box set to be released.

Michael Walker

*Nick: So glad you enjoyed it, Michael. Great work from the **Bamberra** team, wasn't it? And rest assured there's more in store...*

NEW NEW ADVENTURES

I'm just re-listening to all the **Chris** and **Roz** New Adventures stories, and wondered if there are plans for any more adventures starring the excellent **Yasmin Bannerman** and **Travis Oliver** (and of course the excellent **Sylvester McCoy**)?

Andrew Harrison

*Nick: No plans currently, Andrew, but I'd never rule that out! **Yasmin** and **Travis** are excellent, aren't they?* **VORTEX**

BIG FINISH

RELEASE SCHEDULE

Please note that due to factors beyond our control, Big Finish is currently operating a digital-first release schedule. Our warehouse remains open but the mail-out of collector's edition CDs and vinyls may be delayed. However, all physical purchases of new releases will unlock a digital version that can be immediately downloaded, or played on the Big Finish app, from the release date.

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(AUDIOBOOK) **DLO**

TV CENTURY 21: AUDIO ANNUAL 2022
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TORCHWOOD *Death in Venice* (65)

OCTOBER 2022

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Volume 2: Kaleidoscope (BOX SET)

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TORCHWOOD *The Empire Man* (68)

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"We'll go jumble sailing.
Out when the weather is fine."

VORTEX

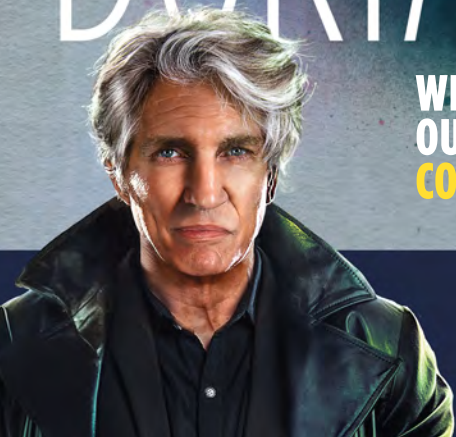


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