

THE BIG FINISH MAGAZINE

# VORTEX

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## SPACE SECURITY SERVICE

**ANYA KINGDOM AND MARK SEVEN ARE BACK TO FACE A UNIVERSE OF TERRORS...**

### **PAST FORWARD**

**THE SEVENTH DOCTOR BIDS FAREWELL TO TWO OLD FRIENDS...**





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## THE NINTH DOCTOR

**MARCH THIS** year marked 20 years since the Ninth Doctor and Rose first met, and actors Christopher Eccleston and Billie Piper became the king and queen of Saturday night television. And soon their adventures will continue in 12 new audio stories set between the events of the TV episodes *Father's Day* and *The Empty Child*.

Rose's trip of a lifetime begins again this August in **The Ninth Doctor Adventures: Snare** by Tim Foley.

*Kevin left the Powell Estate a long time ago. He wasn't going to be trapped there. But all these years later, he's back and clearing out his dad's old flat. At least his neighbours, the Tylers, are still here.*

*Snare* guest stars Camille Coduri as Jackie Tyler – Rose's mother, with Alex Austin as Kevin and Hannah Brown as Marlene – his posh artist friend.

Writer Tim says: "I was a kid of the wilderness years, with a knapsack full of books, audios and videos, but 2005 saw actual **Doctor Who** actually broadcast on the actual telly! It was incredibly special for me then, and the Ninth Doctor and Rose continue to be incredibly special for me now. Wherever you are on the globe, you will surely have heard my whoops of joy when I was asked to write for this new series. "It's great to kick things off with *Snare*, a character-driven opener back on the Powell Estate. We're picking up right after *Father's Day*, where the family drama from that story still continues to make ripples. You'll meet Kevin – one of Rose's old friends – and learn what secrets are being hidden in his dad's home. You'll also encounter Jackie's cooking, so stay strong!" **VORTEX**

### THE NINTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES SNARE

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## EDITORIAL

**I'M REALLY** excited about the launch of the next Big Finish original series from **The Worlds of Doctor Who**.

Five years ago, when the world was a very different place during COVID-19 times, people were struggling to find little moments of joy. So many of my happy lockdown moments came courtesy of Big Finish, especially the fantastic **Dalek Universe** series starring David Tennant, with Jane Slavin as Anya Kingdom and Joe Sims as Mark Seven. What more could you want? Exciting adventures across space, with a mystery to be solved as to why the Doctor had been pulled back in time, and a host of Terry Nation creations in pursuit of him and his friends.

But I've always hoped for more of Anya and Mark, to find out how they deal with threats from other outer space nasties – and now, that series is here! Anya and Mark's adventures will continue in **Space Security Service**.

Actors Jane and Joe both love their roles, and I'm delighted that they are back, front and centre, ready to take on the universe. I'm going to pop into my Spar-740 now, fly around ultraspace, watch channel 403 and wait for the release of the first **Space Security Service** – you know where to find me... **VORTEX**

*Kenny*



**ANYA KINGDOM AND  
MARK SEVEN ARE BACK  
TO FACE A UNIVERSE  
OF TERRORS...**

# THEY KINGDOM COME!

**WHEN THE** world was a very different place as the COVID-19 pandemic had shut things down, Big Finish was able to remain creative.

Actors were confined to their homes which meant a host of stars, such as David Tennant, were available thanks to the power of remote recording. One of the fantastic ranges

from that time was **Dalek Universe**, a series in which the Tenth Doctor found himself allied with Anya Kingdom and android Mark Seven from the Space Security Service.

And now, we can find out more about the agents before their encounter with the Doctor in the first volume of **Space Security Service – Voord in London**. Jane

Slavin and Joe Sims reprise their roles as Anya and Mark.

Producer Simon Guerrier says: “This series has long been in the works – arguably since Terry Nation tried to launch his Daleks television show back in the 1960s. We’ve taken that as our cue and come up with a fast-moving, fun series of adventures for the two Space Security



Above: Jane Slavin

Service agents who were such a hit in the **Dalek Universe** range.

"We start with Anya back in London in the 20th century, working undercover as a cop on the trail of one group of aliens and then getting caught up with another. Soon the action moves to... well, just wait until you hear it!"

Script editor John Dorney tells *Vortex*: "Simon and I had a very interesting back and forth as we tried to figure out what this series should be, and I suggested it could in effect be *The Man from UNCLE* in space. Anya would be a kind of Napoleon Solo figure in a slightly more emotional way, while Mark would be like Illya Kuriakin. We felt that could work well.

"There's something about Terry Nation's stories where they feel like they all come from the same place. You can put the Space Security Service up against the Voord, and the result is a pretty natural combination, not at all mismatched. We felt the same with **Dalek Universe** which is a fully realised, almost *TV Comic*-style world, bringing in characters like



Above: David Holt

Mark from the Dalek pilot which helped it all come together."

**THE FIRST** three episodes of **Space Security Service** are *The Voord in London* by Big Finish newcomer LR Hay, *The Thal* from *G.R.A.C.E.* by Felicia Barker and *Allegiance* by Angus Dunican. Lynn [LR] says: "As a writer, the Whoniverse seemed an unrealistic

dream but then I met a few of the Big Finish team at a writing event. They were super-nice and it didn't hurt that Rob Shearman appeared out of nowhere and recommended me to them. Gobsmackin'! I had no idea he even knew who I was, but I'd had contact with his wife, Janie. When she'd watched the TV episodes I'd acted in [*Unforgotten*], Rob had been there too. His *Dalek* and *The Chimes of Midnight* adventures are among the absolute top **Doctor Who** scripts in my opinion, so I had a real Harriet Jones moment when he said, 'Lynn! I'm Rob Shearman,' and all I could think was, 'Yes, I know who you are!'"

Speaking of her brief, Lynn says: "'Bond / *The Man From UNCLE* in space.' What's not to love? I was in! As more detail came out, I was

## ROB SHEARMAN APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE AND RECOMMENDED ME TO THEM.

LR HAY

thrilled at the concept of giving the **Space Security Service** its own spin-off – particularly as we were building it around Anya and Mark. I love the way they play off each other, as they did in **Dalek Universe** with the Tenth Doctor, so it seemed a natural progression.

"It's so satisfying the way Mark links back to the early days, a Terry Nation character that Big Finish has run with. And Anya is fabulously complex; Jane does such a lot with her. I loved her journey when we first met her in **The Fourth Doctor Adventures: The Syndicate Master Plan** as PC Ann Kelso – the gradual awakening to her true special agent identity. And I wanted to hear more of Ann! Putting her back on 20th century Earth, undercover, was an absolute joy, with the time-travel-meets-police *Life on Mars / Ashes to Ashes* vibe as a bonus.

"Getting the go-ahead to use the Voord was amazing. Their appearance is pure evil, the ultimate in sinister – and they fitted my story perfectly as an alien species



Above: Joe Sims

who could be mistaken for drug smugglers by the Metropolitan police. And there is another species from early **Who** that I reckoned would fit right in to 1980s London. I was over the moon to be able to write for them both."

**THE THAL** from *G.R.A.C.E.* by Felicia Barker continues the adventures. Felicia says: "At the very start, my brief was really wide open. John gave a few references for tone and style, and what existing elements of canon were on the table, but other than that I was free to throw out anything. I don't remember if I latched on to the idea of exploring the Thals immediately, but it was pretty early on, and the final story is pretty substantively the same one I first drafted. There are some characters, themes and macguffins that weave into the wider picture,



Above: Lara Lemon

but they all fit very nicely with the plot I pitched to begin with.

"There are lots of Thals. They're a huge part of Terry Nation's stories, but they've never really been explored as a focus in their own right so much as they are an adjunct

to the Daleks. The biggest spotlight they get is when they're still on Skaro – by now a spacefaring race. They've settled multiple planets, but they've lost their homeworld, and they're still, still, fighting an existential war with the Daleks. What does their society look like? And how does it get along with Earth and the Space Security Service? In the process of this adventure, we get to ask some probing questions about the attitudes of the Service itself.

**THIS WAS SOME OF THE MOST FUN I'VE HAD WRITING. IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN IN ON SOMETHING BRAND-NEW RIGHT FROM THE INCEPTION...**

FELICIA BARKER

"This was some of the most fun I've had writing. It's the first time I've been in on something brand-new right from the inception, which was a fantastic experience, and it felt like we all shared a really vivid idea of what the project is. It remains one of my favourite scripts I've ever written."

**STORY THREE** is *Allegiance* by Angus Dunican. Angus says the commission was: "Mega exciting! I've written a couple of well-received **Short Trips** and have been hammering away at the coalface of **The Eleventh Doctor Chronicles** with Alfie Shaw for a while so the opportunity to step away from the Doctor and tell a different kind of story was very tantalising. I was in the cast of the immersive theatrical adventure *Time Fracture* at the time (which shared plot elements with the **Dalek Universe** line, featuring Anya and Mark) so I was feeling comfortably steeped in the expanded Whoniverse.

"I was given a lot of latitude. I knew Simon and John were interested in having the antagonist

be a certain type of character (more I shan't say), that they had a plan of what the following story would be and that they wanted something that had a spy adventure feel to it. So I looked to those kinds of things for the structure and pace of reveals then layered over it with a lot of fun space opera vibes. Besides that though, I was left to dream away.

a brand-new series. There is often some aural and visual precedence, as in the case of **Space Security Service**, but there is a certain amount of freedom to create the world and the sound. And that's the best bit!

"Jane and Joe are fantastic to work with. They are full of ideas and solutions, and there is always the sense of a twinkle in the eye.

has been active for four thousand years, so we dispensed with the need for an introduction. Expect intrigue, wild rides, threat, loss, laughs and Daleks!"

Mark himself, actor Joe Sims, says: "We started recording **Dalek Universe** with David Tennant during lockdown which was absolutely magical. David's a mate of mine from our *Broadchurch* days so the idea of swashbuckling our way through time and space together was absolutely delightful, alongside the wonderful Jane. We had so much fun.

"I know lockdown was tough for many people. As a professional actor, we all wanted to scratch our creative itches when we weren't able to work. So the fact that we were all doing **Dalek Universe**, a bunch of creative people brought together online, was an amazing privilege.

"Big Finish is incredible because so many people are involved – actors, writers, musicians, producers, sound designers and so on – to create these wonderful worlds. I'm so proud of **Dalek Universe**. It was a brilliant thing to be able to come out of lockdown and say, 'Yeah, that's what I did.' I've got all the covers on my wall at home!

"My mates always say that to me, 'Whenever you go on TV, or podcasts or you do interviews, you always sound like a competition winner.' And I genuinely feel like I am! I can't wait for people to hear what we've got in these **Space Security Service** adventures – they are just as epic as **Dalek Universe!**" **VORTEX**



Above: Peter Bankole

"It is (I hope) an exciting trail of intrigue encompassing space battles, gun/sword play, interplanetary diplomacy and questions on the difference between a cult and a culture. A shade more adult than an adventure with the Doctor but still more like *Dan Dare* than something like **Torchwood**."

Angus adds that: "A big highlight was getting to tell a story about these worlds and a particular character that I've been thinking about for 20 years. Over that time, I've been beaten to the punch by other IPs (elements of the TV series' *Saga*, *Raised by Wolves* etc) but the character of Cybele is very dear to my heart and I'm grateful that I finally got to write her. I wasn't able to sit in on the recording so I'm beyond excited to hear her brought to life by the wonderful Camille Burnett."

Director Barnaby Kay tells **Vortex**: "It's always thrilling to be part of

## A SHADE MORE ADULT THAN AN ADVENTURE WITH THE DOCTOR BUT STILL MORE LIKE DAN DARE THAN SOMETHING LIKE TORCHWOOD.

ANGUS DUNICAN

Can you have a twinkle in the ear? There was definitely that too. The guest stars were fantastic and it is always a great pleasure to work with Jon Culshaw and Nicholas Briggs.

"We get straight into the action! We may not have been aware of it, but the **Space Security Service**

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THE EIGHTH DOCTOR IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE...

# FRIEND OR FOE

**THE EIGHTH** Doctor was in a bit of a pickle when we last saw him during the Time War. He was trapped on a spacecraft after his great-grandson Alex had become possessed by an unknown entity and taken the TARDIS. And Alex wasn't alone as friend Cass was at his side.

But the Doctor wasn't by himself either as he was accompanied by Hieronyma Friend using a face played by Conrad Westmaas...

**Time War Uncharted 2 – Pursuit** resolves some of these situations, but asks more questions too.

Producer and script editor Matt Fitton says: "David Richardson fully handed me the reins for the **Uncharted** series at the end of the last box set. I'd been looking to produce for a while – and I'm now working on **The Ninth Doctor Adventures** as well which is great.

"I'm the producer and script editor for this release, but I have to credit

writer Tim Foley with coming up with some of the great concepts. And bringing in James Moran to write an episode was an easy decision to make as he's been handling Cass's story really well – there are particular ideas around her that we want to explore.

"**Uncharted** has taken the Doctor and friends into a different universe where things are not what they are in our normal universe – that gave us a lot of free rein within this Time War era. You can play





Above: Paul McGann

around a bit, change things up and make unexpected switches.

"The thing I really wanted to do was look at the conflict between the Doctor and Alex. At the end of the first set, Alex has stolen the TARDIS to explore the universe and do good. It's kind of taking after the Doctor, but he believes he can do it better.

"He's become disillusioned by what he's seen of the Doctor within the Time War – people are dying and the Doctor says he can't save everyone. Alex has Cass along with him, as a kind of conscience and trying to be that moderating voice of reason when he's off trying to do his own thing.

"Meanwhile, the Doctor is stuck on the disintegrating Kalanos, the timeship belonging to Hieronyma Friend, and he wants to set off in pursuit of the TARDIS, tracking its wake. The Doctor and Friend are thrown



Above: Sonny McGann

together by circumstances which neither of them are happy about.

"Friend continues to be a mystery with a couple more faces in this set – Niky Wardley and Lizzie Hopley are both playing the devious diplomat..."

Lizzie, who played the Doctor's companion Gemma Griffin, says: "It was lovely hearing Paul down the line at the recording. It was a pity it wasn't in person but that's the way it goes these days. It was funny revisiting Gemma again! I'd love to do a proper story with her – I'd have to come back to life first though..."

### **SPOIL OF** War by Mark Wright

picks up the adventure. Mark says his brief was: "To open the set, pick up the cliffhanger from the previous volume and get

Alex and Cass off on their own adventure, to really let Alex try to do things his own way. And to play in this uncharted universe a little bit to see what it can throw back at them.

"It's *Downton Abbey* meets *Remains of the Day* crossed with **Doctor Who!** Alex and Cass lock on to a strong signal that pulls the TARDIS towards it, arriving at a weird country house where the dimensions shift and change around them. Mrs Dennison, the butler, is expecting them as guests at a special gathering – but who are the other guests? Meanwhile, the Doctor and Friend are lost somewhere in the uncharted universe, knowing that somewhere ahead are Alex and Cass."

How difficult is it to write in the Time War era, when so much is in flux?

Mark explains: "If anything, it makes it easier. You can almost make up your own rules, and that's what I enjoy, tinkering around with things, having licence to create a strange backdrop that doesn't quite adhere to the laws of time and physics. You've got to be consistent and avoid just pressing a reset button, but there's a flexibility that gives you a lot of plot freedom."

Mark had a particular highlight: "Writing for Paul as the Eighth Doctor, so adding another Doctor to my list of those I've written for! I love the interplay between the Doctor and Friend, and also taking the partnership between Alex and Cass in a new direction. There's a big sister element to the relationship from Cass's point of view despite Alex trying to take control and move things away from 'the old man'. Cass is incredibly fond of him, incredibly annoyed with him and incredibly concerned about him."

**THE TALE** of Alex by Katharine Armitage continues the adventures. Katharine says: "It is so much fun to write for these characters, although I feel a little bad for saying that as the characters themselves are not having

dive into the real heart of these wonderful characters and find out what they'll do when they're pushed that far.

"The brief was all about picking up from where the last box set let off: the Doctor and Alex are divided and

for him, spinning tales of the great hero Alex. When the Doctor arrives on a planet that views Alex as their hero, he is instantly cast as the villain but the planet itself is trapped between shifting realities and right and wrong are up for grabs."

Alex is a tortured soul, which Katharine believes makes him interesting to write for. She explains: "Perhaps this is a little telling of my own soul's state, but inner turmoil can actually be easier to write. It might be because I feel that, at our core, all of us are quite similar in the things we actually want and the ways we torment

**CHARACTERS IN PAIN  
MAKE BAD DECISIONS  
WHICH, IN TURN,  
CREATES GOOD STORY –  
AND WRITERS TEND TO  
BE RATHER SADISTIC.**

KATHARINE ARMITAGE

ourselves; there's a universality in suffering which you don't get nearer the surface of a character.

"Characters in pain make bad decisions which, in turn, creates good story – and writers tend to be rather sadistic. We like putting our beloved characters through hardship and heartbreak because it is much more interesting than an adventure in which everything goes well!"

**SEE-SAW** by James Moran is the third adventure in the set. James tells *Vortex*: "They will have to drag me kicking and screaming away from this series! I absolutely adore this team and the weird, splintered time zone they occupy. Right from the first one, it felt so right and fun and warm, and we've been able to play with some wild elements. I'll probably run out of ideas soon, but even then, I'll insist on coming back anyway. They'll just be stories where the Doctor and friends argue about TV for an hour..."

"My brief was really just a reminder where everyone is, that they've

a fun time at all! The Doctor, Alex, Cass and even Friend are being pushed to their limits, forced to confront things they'd much rather run far away from (the Doctor especially), and no one's getting along. But it is really great writing this because you get to

at odds with Cass and Friend thrown into the maelstrom this split creates. Plus we've got Sontaran Time Lords on their tails and the mysteries around Friend just keep getting weirder!  
"Alex is stepping out of the Doctor's shadow and the universe is ready



Above (l-r): Wanda Opatinska, Dan Starkey and Louise Faulkner



Above (l-r): Indra Ové, Sam Stafford, Niky Wardley, Paul McGann, Emma Campbell-Jones, Sonny McGann and Vineeta Rishi



Above (l-r): Sonny McGann and Paul McGann

split into two teams – one chasing the other – each one trying to prove that they're in the right and each one *sort of* in the right but possibly in the wrong way.

"I generally try to write standalone stories, so that I don't mess up actual continuity by accident. On this one I had a firm idea of what I wanted to do. Matt liked it, but then I hated it when I'd outlined it and realised it didn't quite work. So the whole team got a surprise when I sent them a completely different idea and told them all that I didn't know what I was doing! I'm very, very fun to be around. But weirdly, when I got to script stage, it absolutely fell out of me, I could barely keep up with the words as they flowed out. Almost like someone else was speaking through me..."

"I wanted to write a scary one this time, which is where the original outline went wrong – it was scary in my head and then not at all when it was down on paper. So I just sat back, threw everything away, and thought: 'What makes me scared?"

## THE CONCEPT OF A TIME WAR VERGES ON INCOMPREHENSIBILITY...

TIM FOLEY

Nursery rhymes, kids saying creepy things and abandoned places.' Along with everything else, I'm an anxiety-ridden writer so *everything* scares me. But I thought those things could work together quite well, particularly when I started wondering, 'How does *everyone* know nursery rhymes? Who passes them down through the generations? And what if they got weaponised?"

**THE FIRST** Forest by Tim Foley concludes the action. Tim says of writing in the Time War era: "It's completely different. The concept of a Time War verges on incomprehensibility, so you've got to work harder for the stakes. For example, if anything can happen, why should we care? So it's

about finding a narrative path through the storm. And we find that path with the characters. The universe might be fracturing and going a little wild, but we are following the Doctor and friends and we see this madness through their eyes. I find it a little intimidating at times, but as long as we stick with them, we should be okay!

"It's been such a departure for the range – no TARDIS, a fractured crew, a different timeline – but this is the story which points to where we're going with this series, and **Uncharted** as a whole. We're heading into a place that shouldn't exist and everything's coming to a head. There's going to be a sticky reunion, the meeting of a hero and an impossible death.

"It's great fun to push the regulars into uncharted territory (pun intended). The more I write for them, the more familiar I become with them and the more I want to take them to new places. They're all on interesting journeys. I've had some good conversations with Matt about the future of **Uncharted**, and it's great to see he's really considered what each of their arcs are."

Tim adds: "I love Hieronyma Friend and her growth through these stories. It's such an odd feeling, having originated a character and thinking they were a one-shot... before watching other writers get their hands on them and have lots of fun! And how's this for a tease – there's a line in this story that is the key to her 'solution'. Just wait to hear what Friend gets up to next..." **VORTEX**

### TIME WAR UNCHARTED PURSUIT



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# FRACTURED REALITY

**BRIGADIER BAMBERA IS BACK AS UNIT: BRAVE NEW WORLD RETURNS**

**BRIGADIER WINIFRED**

Bambera, UNIT's commanding officer in the UK in the 1990s, returns for a new series.

*It's the dawn of the new millennium, and Winifred*

*Bambera and her loyal team of Sergeant Jean-Paul Savarin and Dr Louise Rix are about to face gigantic new threats.*

*As the danger levels increase, will our heroes rise to meet them – or will they crack under the pressure?*

Angela Bruce is back as Bambera in **UNIT: Brave New World** – *Fractures* which features three adventures: *Kaiju* by series script editor Robert Valentine, *Debrief* by Alfie Shaw and *Shatterpoint* by Mark Wright.

Alfie, who wrote for the first series, has also taken on the mantle of producer for this third set succeeding Emily Cook in the hot seat. Alfie says: "I really enjoyed working with Rob and Emily on the first run and loved

the team that they pulled together for **UNIT: Brave New World**. I knew Emily was definitely moving on after the first two volumes and after Rob and I had been chatting about something else, we started spitballing about what we'd like to do next, big picture wise.

"Fortunately we basically said the same thing, so we were off. This was early 2022, something like that. Definitely before the



Above (l-r): Yemisi Oyinloye, Alex Jordan and Angela Bruce

first set was released. It's been a long road getting to where we are now, but it's great to work on."

Alfie admits to being a fan of the **Doctor Who** television episode *Battlefield*, from which this series spun-off. He explains: "Oh, I adore it. Being a 1990s child, I watched classic **Who** out of order, based entirely on what DVDs and VHSs I could get my hands on. *Battlefield* was my first UNIT story and Bambera was technically my first Brigadier. I'm pretty sure the next one I saw was *Spearhead from Space*, so I've done UNIT in entirely the wrong order!"

This box set, and the next, features the return of another UNIT officer from *Battlefield* with Lieutenant Zbrigniev played by Robert Jezek (known to Big Finish fans as the Sixth Doctor's penguin pal Frobisher).

Alfie says: "Yes, we treated *Battlefield* as the parent show instead of **Doctor Who**. I appreciate they are

technically one and the same, but if it was in *Battlefield*, we could bring it back – anything else was off-limits. So, I'm afraid there are no secret Daleks or Doctors (or shape-shifting penguins) hidden in volumes three and four.

"You have to pepper in the returning elements every now and again. Not only to anchor the series in the **Doctor Who** universe, but I think it's part of the appeal of these series in general. You have to do both the new and the established.

"It was a delight to have Robert in studio. It was a joy to watch him and Angela be reunited as those characters."

#### **KAIJU OPENS** the set.

Following an accident at High Skelton Research Centre, **UNIT** is called in. The dimension-crossing experiments of Dr Hazel Wayward have created a catastrophic chain reaction within the

lab, but even as Bambera, Savarin and Rix get the meltdown under control, the energy levels rise. Something is coming through...

*Vortex* points out that **UNIT: Brave New World** got great reviews first time around. How did Rob find coming into this next run on the back of that?

## **BATTLEFIELD WAS MY FIRST UNIT STORY AND BAMBERA WAS TECHNICALLY MY FIRST BRIGADIER.**

**ALFIE SHAW**

Rob tells *Vortex*: "The reception to the first two sets gave us a great boost of confidence, and we basically went into volumes three and four knowing exactly where to take the series next. We already had our core **UNIT** team all set up. And because this **UNIT** iteration is very millennial, we knew it was going to be set in the year 2000 and not really be able to go much further than that, because you start to encroach on the new series and lose that 1990s flavour. We really wanted Zbrigniev to return in volume three too."

Rob continues: "My story, *Kaiju*, reintroduces Bambera's team and brings in the running theme of dimensions starting to crack and lots of dangerous things breaking through. Part of the fun established by *Battlefield* is to crib 1970s **UNIT** stories with a year 2000 twist so where *Robot* riffs on *King Kong*, I wanted Bambera to have an adventure that riffed on *Godzilla*. None of the other writers were particularly keen to take up that suggestion, however, so in the end I wrote that one myself!"

Rob also enjoyed working with the new producer, adding: "It's been brilliant working with Alfie on **UNIT: Brave New World**. He wrote the final story of the first volume and when he took over from Emily as producer, we were very much of one mind about where to take the series and the overall story we wanted to tell."

**DEBRIEF BY** Alfie is the second tale in this set. *Summoned to Geneva HQ, Brigadier Bambera is reunited with her old sergeant, Tomasz Zbrigniev. A UNIT operation has gone horribly wrong and it's up to*



Above (l-r): Lorne MacFadyen, Yemisi Oyinloye, Rakhee Sharma, Angela Bruce and Alex Jordan

*Bambera to determine what happened. If she doesn't... it will kill them all.*

Alfie explains: "Debrief is a three-hander set in UNIT HQ in Geneva, Switzerland. Bambera's been sent to uncover what went wrong with Zbrigniev's operation. It's a little less action heavy than the opening and closing episodes.

"Bambera is always a delight to write for as she's got such a distinctive voice. What was really fun was pitting her against Zbrigniev. Last time they were on the same side, so it was interesting to change that dynamic and see what happens when you put them head-to-head."

*Shatterpoint* by Mark Wright is the concluding story where Bambera and Savarin are under arrest – for murder!

Mark explains: "I was given the box set finale, which also needed to set up the lead in to the next volume, while paying off all the beats from Rob and Alfie's brilliant

stories. I really like pulling all those plot strands together, and I also had the fun of being able to go full on with the alternative universe counterparts of our regulars."

Mark says that *Shatterpoint* is: "*Die Hard* in a large hadron collider – kind

How are these events linked?

"There's so much fun to be had with Bambera, and with this one there was double the fun as I was able to go full on with evil doubles, although I won't say who or how. Bambera, Rix and Savarin are a brilliant team, and writing their interplay gives you a lovely rhythm that gives the script its energy. And that all comes from the characters and the actor's brilliant performances. If you're stuck, Savarin will always have a dry comeback to push things along."

Mark also had a particular highlight of note. He explains: "Rob and Alfie's note to 'go Bond'. There's a lot of action here, lots of heroics from the team. I wrote with a lot of John Barry and David Arnold soundtracks in the background. I originally went for the title *Death is Not the End* to capture that feel, but Rob came up with *Shatterpoint* which is so much better!"

**KNIGHTFALL, THE** fourth box set of adventures with the **UNIT: Brave New World** team has also been recorded.

However, some long-standing fans of **Doctor Who** may remember that *Knightfall* was a working title for *Battlefield*...

Alfie tells *Vortex*: "The two box sets are interlinked, each containing a discrete set of stories. *Fractures* kicks off with UNIT going up against a kaiju before events take a more personal turn, and in *Knightfall*, Bambera's team crosses over to the Albion teased in *Battlefield*. It's a post-Merlin Camelot and there's something rotten in the heart of Albion." **VORTEX**

## DIE HARD IN A LARGE HADRON COLLIDER – KIND OF! THAT WAS MY ELEVATOR PITCH WHEN WE FIRST STARTED...

MARK WRIGHT

of! That was my elevator pitch when we first started throwing ideas around and it stuck in my head. The story starts with Bambera and Savarin under arrest and brought to UNIT HQ Geneva, accused of acts of terrorism and murder. Elsewhere, the Cross-Borders Institute of Cosmology beneath Lake Geneva is taken over by a hostile force that might be familiar...

### UNIT: BRAVE NEW WORLD FRACTURES



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## DOCTOR WHO: CRISS-CROSS



**ALTHOUGH THE** Sixth Doctor's adventures were too short on television with just two on-screen companions, he's flourished with Big Finish, and Peri and Mel have been bolstered by friends including Frobisher, Evelyn Smythe, Flip Jackson and Mrs Constance Clarke.

Miranda Raison – who featured on TV in *Daleks in Manhattan* and *Evolution of the Daleks* – was introduced in 2015 playing Mrs Constance Clarke, a Leading Wren in the Women's Royal Naval Service.

Producer David Richardson recalls: "I suggested to Nicholas Briggs and script editor Alan Barnes that we should create a companion role for Miranda. By that point, Miranda had done a number of guest roles for us, and made it clear how much she adores working for Big Finish. She's just lovely to have around, besides being so brilliant and endlessly castable.

"Nick and Alan were both very excited by the idea, and Alan went away and worked up the character of Constance."

Mrs Clarke first appeared in **The Sixth Doctor Adventures: The Last Adventure**, before her debut proper

in *Criss-Cross* written by Matt Fitton.

Matt says: "The thing about historical, even pseudo-historical, stories such as this is that research comes with the territory. And on a subject like Bletchley Park, I was very keen to respect the legacy of all the men and women who worked tirelessly in those draughty huts in the Buckinghamshire countryside.

And of course I knew Colin would always do his homework and challenge any historical inaccuracy.

"With all the high-profile films and documentaries, everyone now seems to know something of the Enigma machine and those who cracked it, but there are so many unsung heroes who worked through the sodden Bletchley day.

"The research made fascinating reading: the women's accounts of day-to-day life at Bletchley Park, the matter-of-fact way in which they dealt with the secrecy, working all hours, taking tea in the canteen, organising dances and shows. Simply 'getting on with it' as they helped win a war, never knowing the full picture themselves until much later.

"Of course, in *Criss-Cross* we take a fictional member of this select band on board the TARDIS. Leading Wren

Mrs Constance Clarke comes fully formed from the fertile imagination of Alan Barnes. It was just my job to place her in context and invent the circumstances in which the Doctor invites her aboard. Or rather in which Constance invites herself, with rather urgent reasons."

Miranda says: "The idea of coming in as a companion had been gently floated, and Big Finish asked if it was something I would be interested in doing. I replied, 'Absolutely.' I'd recorded one with Colin a few years previously, *The Wreck of the Titan*, and he was absolutely lovely.

"They told me my character would be a Wren, very much a strong feminist, living in a male world and working at the Bletchley Park site. This is a world where women aren't taken seriously, but they still have a lot to say.

"There's something about the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s which I find so exciting. These decades, as eras of emerging female emancipation, provide vivid characters which is why they're such wonderful periods to play – rather than the regency women who walk arm in arm around lakes with Darcy types and gossip behind fluttering fans at a ball!" **VORTEX**

### DOCTOR WHO CRISS-CROSS



■ RELEASED: SEPTEMBER 2015  
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THE SEVENTH DOCTOR'S ABOUT TO BID FAREWELL TO TWO OLD FRIENDS – AND SAY HELLO TO ANOTHER...

# RAY OF LIGHT

**THINGS HAVE** been complicated for Harry Sullivan and Naomi Cross. Having travelled with the Fourth Doctor then worked with UNIT in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, they continued their adventures with the Seventh Doctor. But now Harry (Christopher Naylor) and Naomi (Eleanor Crooks) are set to leave Sylvester McCoy's side.

In **The Seventh Doctor Adventures: Past Forward**, the Doctor will be joined by another familiar face from his past in Ray (Sara Griffiths) – the chirpy Welsh motorbike enthusiast first seen in the 1987 television story *Delta and the Bannermen*.

Script editor Matt Fitton tells Vortex: "We've got Harry and Naomi finally reaching the end of their

higgledy-piggledy journey with the Doctor and we're finally going to see where they end up. And, at the same time, the Doctor will pick up his new travelling companion who people will have already heard something of in the latest **Classic Doctors, New Monsters** set.

"There's an awful lot of love for Ray because Sara made her so adorable and lovable from the word go. I've





Above (l-r), Christopher Naylor, Eleanor Crooks, Sylvester McCoy and Sara Griffiths

spoken to Sara a few times about the character, picking up Ray again and seeing where she's been and what she's been doing. Sara's done a great job and it sounds brilliant.

"Ray has always been 'the companion that never was' as during the making of *Delta and the Bannermen* and the TV episode *Dragonfire*, she and Ace were considered as potential new companions – until they eventually decided to use Ace. We play with that a little bit, setting these stories late in the Seventh Doctor's era when he's tidying up loose ends and dealing with unfinished business."

**THERE ARE** three stories in this set: *With the Angels Part One* by John Dorney, *Catastrophix* by Lizzie Hopley and *With the Angels Part Two*, also by John.

Matt continues: "We've got two two-parter stories here in John's

## THE DOCTOR IS BASICALLY COLUMBO IN A PANAMA HAT SO HAVING HIM FLITTING BETWEEN STORYLINES FIXING STUFF SUITS HIM PERFECTIV.

LIZZIE HOPLEY

episodes, with Lizzie's two-parter adventure inside it. But you can listen to the *Angels* entire story then Lizzie's separately and it will still all make sense. I like the concept of trying to do something a little bit different."

*When the Doctor's latest attempt to return Harry and Naomi home*

goes awry, they find themselves recruited by UNIT for a special mission. A mission involving a new and terrifying breed of Weeping Angel.

Amid betrayal and manipulation, the Doctor and friends are trapped by a destiny they cannot escape. The future is calling... and so is the past.

John says: "I plotted the story with the Weeping Angels first, so I knew the circumstances of where they were coming from. I'd been listening to Roy Gill's beautiful Eighth Doctor story *Albie's Angels* in the audio anthology, *Connections*, and I was driving home when a thought popped into my head about an unusual, unique way of using the Weeping Angels. The moment I got in, I emailed Matt asking, 'Is there a space for me to do a Weeping Angels story somewhere as I've had a really good idea?'"

"Matt had this slot available and for various reasons the angle on the Weeping Angels worked out perfectly with what we wanted to do with Naomi and Harry.

"The twist I've got on the Angels is revealed very early on, about 10 minutes into part one. I'm not saying what it is, but I mentioned it at Gallifrey One and it got an 'ohh' from the room, which made me realise, 'Yeah, that is a good idea, isn't it?'"

**CATASTROPHIX BY** Lizzie is sandwiched between the two Weeping Angel stories.

*Harry Sullivan and Naomi*

*Cross are on Earth at two different points in a timeline that has gone badly wrong. Back in his own time with UNIT, Harry is in the Lake District, unaware of the horrors to come. Four decades on, Naomi is adrift on an ocean in an apocalyptic nightmare.*

*What is causing the Earth's unnatural end? As the Doctor scours the years, he meets someone from his past with the tools to help – a mechanic called Ray.*

Lizzie says: "We needed the Doctor to pick up a new companion whilst dropping Harry and Naomi back to their respective timelines. Great things all start off with problem solving. Matt's concept was for the Seventh Doctor to be picking up loose threads and tidying up as he comes to the end of his life.

"John had a brilliant idea with the Weeping Angels which allowed us to shift around time-wise – and



Above (l-r): Josh Cowdrey and Sylvester McCoy

corrupted timelines always means a fun plot. The Doctor is basically Columbo in a Panama hat so having him flitting between storylines fixing stuff suits him perfectly.

"Ray is a companion that never was and it is an honour to put her where she belongs. She is utterly right for the job – any job actually. I wish she was in my life with her toolbox. Writing the scene where the Doctor explains why he left her was like therapy.

"I'd only ever encountered Ray in the fabulously crazy *Delta and the Bannermen*. I rewatched it and was quite cross at how her story was left. I immediately found her voice and she kind of wrote herself on the page – I must have been a bit Ray in my younger life. I'm certainly great with an Allen key (although I did think it was an Alan key!)"

**THE FINAL** adventure is *With the Angels Part Two*.

*A billionaire's birthday party on a super-yacht is the setting for the final battle with the Angels. And the Doctor is on the guest list.*



Above (l-r): Sara Griffiths and Cavin Cornwall

*The Bladukas family have no idea how dangerous these creatures are. But they're about to find out. Can an old friend help the Doctor prevent a tragedy?*

John concludes: "It will become pretty obvious that this is me effectively doing a parody of the TV series *Succession*. When I wrote *Didn't You Kill My Mother?* for **The Eleventh Doctor Chronicles: Victory of the Doctor**, it sounded a bit like

the TV series *Severance* but it wasn't intended to be! Every now and then, you write something that seems a bit like something on TV. *With the Angels* is absolutely intended to be a riff on *Succession* which I had been

## IT WILL BECOME PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT THIS IS ME EFFECTIVELY DOING A PARODY OF THE TV SERIES **SUCCESSION**.

JOHN DORNEY

watching at the time. It had started off with a completely different plot before I realised this would be fun to do.

"Writing for Ray is an absolute hoot. Her positive energy is just a real delight to dive into. One thing that was slightly tricky was a point where I really needed to lean into Ray being an engineer and having to source technical details of some things that are completely outside my area. Thankfully, other people were able to provide me with some interesting details about shipping!

"There are a couple of other things on web pages and web channels that I'm a fan of, so I decided to reference those too just for fun. If you know they're there and recognise them, you will spot them immediately. And if you don't know they're there, well, I'm not going to draw attention to them – they might be fun to discover!"

VORTEX

### THE SEVENTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES PAST FORWARD



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## NOVEL EXPERIENCES

I'd just like to write a few words in praise of the Big Finish **Audio Novels** – I've very much enjoyed all of them so far. They all have great plus points but for me, the highlights have been *Emancipation of the Daleks*, *Prisoners of London*, *The Chaos Cascade* and, most recently, *The Lord of Misrule* in which Jon Culshaw's fantastic performance vocalising the Fourth Doctor AND Jago & Litefoot brought the already excellent material to life. I really hope this range continues long into the future.

**Steve Maginn**

*Nick: So glad you've enjoyed the Audio Novels, Steve. I must admit, I love listening to them too.*

## GRAY DAYS

As a huge fan of *The Confessions of Dorian Gray* I can't believe it's been over two years since the last Dorian Gray release! Is there any chance he's coming back soon? From minisode to full box set, any chance to hear Alexander Vlahos play the character to perfection would be instant preorder-inducing!

**Sebastian Duchesne**

*Nick: No news on more Dorian at the moment, Sebastian, but we're all immensely proud of these trailblazing releases.*

## LET ZYGONS BE ZYGONS

I just finished **Zygon Century: Infiltration** and wanted to let you all know how much I really enjoyed this one. I don't think I've ever been completely disappointed with anything I've gotten from Big Finish. This one is another good premise and holds lots of potential. The three narratives offered here are all wonderful and very diverse. I'm really looking forward to more. What I'm really saying is: More, please!

**Rick Russell**



*Nick: We hope not to let you down, Rick. The Zygons should be around for a while yet!*

## TUNNEL VISION

I listened to the first two stories on the first **Irwin Allen's The Time Tunnel** box set and must say I am pleasantly surprised; the characters are engaging and different, all four have a good rapport with each other and the story builds over time. I think it was a smart idea to do it this

way. Loving the new characters, the premise and the links to the classic **Time Tunnel**, but is there a way to get the sound effects and musical soundtracks including the theme and other music used in the TV series? That would make it even better.

**Charles Mento**

*Nick: The producers made the choice to use an entirely new theme and sound effects for this one, Charles, as it's a continuation of the original series not a reimaging. **VORTEX***



# BRIG FINISH!

At long last, the Fourth Doctor and Leela are meeting a certain Lethbridge-Stewart...

**ONE OF** the joys of *Doctor Who* over the years has been seeing how Brigadier Alistair Lethbridge-Stewart reacts to a new incarnation of the Doctor and his travelling companions.

This June, the commander of UNIT will encounter Leela, warrior of the Sevateem, as two of the Doctor's best friends meet for the

first time in *The Fourth Doctor Adventures: The Ruins of Kaerula*.

Jon Culshaw features as the Brigadier in three brand-new adventures starring characters from the Fourth Doctor's era circa 1977, with the Doctor (played by Tom Baker), Leela (Louise Jameson) and K9 (John Leeson).

Producer David Richardson says: "I'm a big fan of the *Doctor Who* Peladon stories and the way they explore an alien world by visiting different times in its history. Our *Kaerula* episodes follow a similar path – it's a different world and a very

different story, but a chance to see the consequences of big events.

"The moment that Jon Culshaw started playing the Brigadier in *The Third Doctor Adventures* I knew I wanted to bring him into the Fourth Doctor range. As we record so far ahead, this was our first opportunity – released six years later! It's fair to say this won't be the last you'll hear of the Brig with the Fourth Doctor. Far from it. Tom and Jon just ignited together!"

*The Remains of Kaerula* and *The Ruins of Kaerula* have both been written by Phil Mulryne.

Time travel can always bring complications. *The Doctor, Leela and K9* find themselves at different ends of strange temporal effects – from two time zones on the same planet to two locations that couldn't be more different. But the peril they find in all of these places is the same.

different feels and stakes. But they then fuse to make up a bigger story.

"The adventure as a whole has ended up pleasingly timey-wimey. The first story, *The Remains of Kaerula*, takes place generations after a planet has been ravaged by environmental instability, societal

"The second story reframes the first one in some ways. And both, of course, show how the Doctor gets his fingerprints all over events...!"

Phil continues: "The fun (and challenging) thing about this process was in writing two different adventures – with stories and worlds and plots that are quite distinct and discrete – but that are absolutely linked as part of one bigger story.

"There is some crossover with the characters (one in particular). But of course the Doctor and Leela and K9 are the primary crossovers. They come into the second story with a knowledge of 'the future' and how things will work out... or how they

## THE THRILL OF WRITING FOR THE FOURTH DOCTOR DOESN'T EVER DIMINISH. IT'S JUST SUCH A JOY...

PHIL MULRYNE



Above (l-r): Louise Jameson, Tom Baker and John Leeson

Script editor John Dorney says: "The Kaerula stories were locked down and developed with Phil, very much with the idea that they were going to be two linked adventures."

Phil, a veteran writer for **The Fourth Doctor Adventures**, tells *Vortex*: "The thrill of writing for the Fourth Doctor doesn't ever diminish. It's just such a joy the way this Doctor's adventures can combine action, high stakes and humour. Plus knowing that Tom's iconic voice will end up delivering the script – bringing his own sense of fun and the richness of that performance to the end story.

"The initial idea was that we didn't want to do a conventional four-part with one story across four episodes. But we decided it might be fun to have some kind of link between two shorter stories, interweaving them together.

"Both halves to the story work as distinct, cracking adventures in their own right. And we got the chance to do two very different stories in different environments with



Above (l-r): Tom Baker and Jonathon Carley

disorder and population collapse. The world has recovered – but the people living there are now at odds with an influx of refugees and have corralled them together into a camp.

"In the second story, *The Ruins of Kaerula*, we go back in time, into the midst of the planet's crisis, with the population struggling for a way to survive and perhaps escape the situation they're facing.

think things will or should work out.

"Writing the second story after the first one, I wanted to fill in gaps and expand on our understanding of events while trying to avoid creating too many paradoxes. The real challenge was making sure it all could make sense if you straightened everything out into a linear chronology."

**IN THE** box set's third story, *Cry of the Banshee*, the TARDIS crew answer a space-time telegraph summons from the Brigadier. With the Doctor's old comrade in tow, the time travellers set off on an adventure which takes them from a World Peace Conference in Geneva to a space station in the 30th century. They have a fearsome Banshee to contend with – but first, Leela and the Brigadier will need to learn to put up with each other!

David says: "We recorded *Cry of the Banshee* back in 2019. It was, in fact, one of Tim Foley's very first scripts for Big Finish."

John adds: “Tim is a mainstay at Big Finish these days. This is technically the second **Doctor Who** script he’s written, but his first after ‘breaking away’ from the **Torchwood** gang. I’d been listening to a lot of the **Torchwood**

right – I was coming at them from a **Torchwood** perspective and they were a bit gritty and political. John was great at helping me get the new tone. I was then asked if the story could be set off-world, and the question became how to

remember thinking to myself, ‘If this is my only shot, what would I want my story to have?’ So it’s packed to the rafters with spooky moments, deadpan humour and plot surprises. Everything I like my adventures to be!



Above (l-r): Tom Baker and Jon Culshaw

audios and messaged David to say, ‘What about asking Tim?’, as he is clearly such a good writer.

“The Brigadier and Leela are a great couple of people to sling together. I think that was David’s idea. We wanted to balance things around what stories we were doing either side of it, and this all fed into what we what we wanted to do with this story specifically.”

Writer Tim says: “I’ve written for the **Torchwood** gang for a number of years and honed my skills, and I’ve briefly dabbled with the likes of **Class** and **Gallifrey** – but this was the first time I was working with a new producer and script editor on the **Doctor Who** range.

“I was asked to pitch for the Fourth Doctor with a story in which Leela and K9 meet the Brigadier for the first time. What a wildly exciting opportunity for a relatively new writer! My first pitches weren’t



Above: John Leeson

get the Brig involved – which then gave the Brig the unwitting passenger.

“I thought this would be my one chance to write for Tom, and I

## THE BRIGADIER AND LEELA ARE A GREAT COUPLE OF PEOPLE TO SLING TOGETHER.

JOHN DORNEY

“There’s an urgent peace conference, something dodgy out by Jupiter, the Adjudicators from the *Virgin New Adventures*... oh, and banshees of course. We’ll have to stay very, very quiet...”

Tim was delighted to write for Tom and Louise especially.

He explains: “Not only are they living legends, they’re fantastic actors. I was present for the studio recording and they’d annotated their scripts and really prepared for the story. It’s always humbling when a world that’s lived inside your head gets shared with other creatives and they’re having so much fun in it.

“Also in the studio was actor Jonathon Carley – it was his first Big Finish role! We’re from a similar area so we bonded over that and have since become good friends.” **VORTEX**

### THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES THE RUINS OF KAERULA



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# BRAVE NEW WORLD

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BACK TO FACE A UNIVERSE OF TERRORS...



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