

ISSUE 40 • JUNE 2012  
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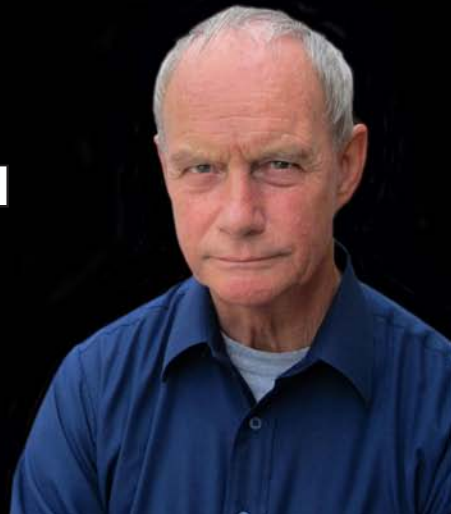
**MARK STRICKSON & SARAH SUTTON**

*Nyssa and Turlough Interviewed!*

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# DIMENSIONS

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# EDITORIAL

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**W**e love stories. You'll be hearing those words from us a lot more over the coming months. We're only saying it because it's the truth. And in a way, you've been hearing it from us since we started all this, right back in 1998, with **Bernice Summerfield!**

Every now and then, I think it's a good idea to stop and consider why we do what we do; especially when, as has happened recently, we've been getting such a pounding by a vociferous minority in online forums. As you may know, there have been some teething problems with the changeover to our new website. There was a problem with the data from the old site, relating to the downloads in customers' accounts. It seems that the information was not complete and had some anomalous links in it, which meant that some downloads didn't appear and others were allocated incorrectly. Yes, we accidentally gave a lot of stuff away! And, in these cash-strapped times, that was particularly painful for us. Thanks to all of you who contacted us to say you wouldn't take advantage of these – shall we say 'over-generous' – errors. For those of you who did snaffle them up... well, it's the old 'twenty pound note on the pavement' dilemma, isn't it? And I fully admit that I have availed myself of a similar 'offer' to that in the past. So who am I to judge?

But back to the stories... which is what we've had to say to ourselves. That's the core of what we do. As I'm sure some of you will be tired of hearing, no one at Big Finish is on the big money. If you look around, you will see no other company making full cast audio drama to be sold on CD or as downloads. The reason for this is that as a business model, it's madness! All other audio drama is paid for by production budgets not generated by sales income – basically on BBC Radio. It's much cheaper to produce an audiobook, with one or (in very few cases) two readers. A full cast drama with full sound design and a specially composed music score is very nearly prohibitively expensive. And with piracy still on the increase, things become tighter and tighter.

So, what makes it worth carrying on? Two things: firstly, our unique relationship with you, our loyal listeners. Your enthusiasm and dedicated support for our stories is something we're grateful for every day of the week. It's uplifting and inspiring for us. It's one of the driving reasons why David Richardson, Paul Spragg, Richard Dinnick and our huge army of freelance writers, directors, sound designers, designers and composers work way beyond normal working hours to bring our stories to you.

Secondly, our love of the stories we tell. Our need to tell these stories and the entertainment they provide is at the centre of what we do. It is our reason for being. It's why we get up in the morning, it's why we work late into the night. We've got so many stories to tell and as long as you continue to love them too, we'll be here!

Right, back to the stories...

**Nick Briggs**

# SNEAK PREVIEWS AND WHISPERS

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## THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES SERIES 3



2014 might seem a long way away, but it'll be here before you know it – and so we're already in the studio recording the third series of

**Fourth Doctor Adventures**, once again featuring the Doctor and Leela.

What can we reveal at this stage? Well, there will be eight stories, all of which will be recorded before the end of July. There will be some returning monsters (though no plans for Daleks this time around), plus some brand new enemies and fantastic guest stars. Already confirmed are Neil Stuke (**Silk**), Gareth Thomas (**Blake's 7**) and Jessica Martin (**Doctor Who: The Greatest Show in the Galaxy**).

"We've gone a bit darker this time around," says series producer David Richardson. "It's slightly more Gothic and unsettling."

Meanwhile, series one ends this month with *The Oseidon Adventure*, in which the travellers take on the Master and an army of invading Kraals!

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## CREDITS

Managing Editor: **Jason Haigh-Ellery**

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BFP Administration: **Catrin Hubbard, Alison Taylor,**

**Chris Turner, Frances Welsh**

Publisher: **Big Finish Productions Ltd.**



**Mark Strickson and Sarah Sutton sit down with Paul Spragg to discuss Turlough and Nyssa's roles in the latest trilogy of Fifth Doctor adventures**

# Two for five

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**Hello, both of you. Now, you recorded *The Emerald Tiger* a little while back; what are your memories of it?**

**Sarah Sutton:** I loved the title for a start because I love tigers! It was a great story for me because I did so much. I was in a hot air balloon, climbed to the top of a hot air balloon, fell out of a hot air balloon, I became a were-tiger... It's tricky being a tiger; it was quite a demanding one for Nyssa! I find some stories easier to see in my head than others. With *Emerald Tiger*, it was so visual. It was Rudyard Kipling, a bit Harrison Ford. Very clever. I like the historical ones. I find the historical ones easier to picture, because you have something you can hook on to. The future ones that are based somewhere out there I find very difficult to visualise.

**You've been travelling the world once again, Mark; are you happy to be back?**

**Mark Strickson:** I'm always happy to be back. I miss England hugely. I miss my family and other things, but your life takes you different places in the world. People come to where I live in New Zealand and they say, 'Why don't you live on the peninsula by the

sea and look at the sea lions on the beach and the albatross colony and the penguins? Why do you live here?' I live in a 19th century house in the middle of town, and it's like walking into England 1860. And I say to people, 'Well, the reason for that is, I don't want to be reminded how far away I am from my family or my home.' I can live here and it's like living in Bristol or something. I go down to my studios or down to my edit suites and it doesn't remind me every day that I'm so far away from Mum and Dad and things.

**SS:** Aww. It's a long way to come for the joys of Big Finish.

**MS:** It's forty hours minimum.

**SS:** I moan about coming up the A3!

**MS:** I was back just before Christmas for three or four days because I was in the Middle East working, so I popped over to see Mum and Dad. Mum and Dad are 82 and 83; I try to see them as much as I can. Next week is Dad's birthday.

## "I quite like the stories when the Doctor and the other assistants think Nyssa's dead!"

**Second up in this trilogy was *The Jupiter Conjunction*.**

**SS:** There was a lot of helmet acting! It's funny how when you're doing these stories lumped together, as soon as you've finished a story it kind of gets jettisoned to the back of my brain, so although it was only yesterday I'm struggling to remember what it was about! That's a story I find a little bit more difficult to visualise but I quite like the stories when the Doctor and the other assistants think Nyssa's dead! All that sad acting, and then I just appear. It's nice to think everyone might miss me.

**MS:** *The Jupiter Conjunction* was Peter [Davison] and I; Peter was there going, 'Who's the Doctor here?' It's quite interesting because Turlough's telling him off and telling him what to do half the time. That was quite nice.

**And now you're working on *The Butcher of Brisbane*.**

**MS:** I'm Sir Humphrey from **Yes Minister** in this one. I become a butler cum advisor cum personal assistant. One of the things about Turlough is he will adjust, he will bend, he will creep to people, so you can see it working for him as a character, wearing his little black suits, saying, 'Yes, ma'am'.

**SS:** I've never done a story before where the idea is that we've been separated for three years – other than when we first came back and joined back together again.

**MS:** It's really interesting because if you take that into your head, you think, 'Okay, they've been separated for three years, surely fundamentally their relationship is changed?' They don't know if they're going to see the Doctor or Tegan [Janet Fielding] again, so surely they must have drawn very close to one another. That sort of is in the script, but we felt we should play that even more.

**SS:** It will be interesting to see if when we do subsequent stories – and I hope we will – the relationship between Turlough and Nyssa will be different. Hmmmm...

**MS:** If there was a perceived problem with [TV] **Doctor Who**, it was that it was too science fiction and not character driven. It was too two-dimensional. And when

John [Nathan-Turner] took it over he was attempting to do something about that, and so



# THE BUTCHER OF BRISBANE

therefore, as characters, it wasn't in the script, but we endlessly tried to play emotional undercurrents between us in the series. Hopefully you can believe that these people are travelling around together. That's what we hope it brings to it. We tried to make it more human – while knowing we're all not human – we tried to make it that we had relationships, a closeness that wasn't in the script, but we tried to do it.

## Do you think Turlough's actually a nasty character or is it a front?

**MS:** I think he's not nasty at all.

**SS:** Misunderstood.

**MS:** He's insecure and needs attention. He's a small child. He likes to be the boss but unfortunately that's not going to happen as long as he stays in the TARDIS. No, he's nice, Turlough!

## The thing is, he's fighting to be noticed a lot of the time. For instance, Nyssa is the smart one...

**MS:** What???

**SS:** Nyssa is *the* most intelligent of all of them.

**MS:** But not practical. You need a bit of help, darling, when I'm around. [grins] This is what happens, you see. This is why he's a lot nicer than people think. He has to fight for attention!

## How have your acting comrades been?

**SS:** We've got some nice guest artists again this time. Big Finish always pulls out the stops and gives us some lovely people. In fact, because I drive up to these, it's the opportunity for me to listen to the ones we've recorded before, so I put them in the machine in the car. I'm not sure if that's a good idea or a bad idea because I listen to everyone else and think, 'Oh, everyone's so good. The way they said that line is really good,' and I hear myself and I go, 'Why the hell did I say it like that? Oh God, I'm rubbish! What am I doing here?' It's probably not a good idea on the way to the studio...

**MS:** *Every* actor thinks like that!

**SS:** It's lovely to listen to some of the great guest artists. Daisy [Ashford]'s in today, who's Carrie [Caroline John]'s daughter, who's lovely.

## As of *The Emerald Tiger*, you've also been returned to being the young TV-era Nyssa, Sarah.

**SS:** Now, this is even more confusing! I've been youthed! I've had the cosmetic surgery. When I do stories with just Peter, or Peter and Janet, I'm Nyssa as I was in the TV show. When we do them all together, I'm an older Nyssa. I'm the Nyssa who's had the past, the husband and children, which is why on the cover I used to get miffed because everyone else used to look young and my photos were looking like me! So what happens at the end of *The Emerald Tiger*, one of the side effects of being werewolfed, I go back to looking as I did when we were all younger. But I'm still the older Nyssa, so it's even more confusing now!



## Does it still feel fresh each time you're reunited?

**SS:** It doesn't seem like thirteen months since you were last in.

**MS:** And it's been thirty years since we've been working together. So maybe it's that as well. We've known each other so long and have enjoyed each other's company so long.

## What would you like to see in your next batch of stories?

**SS:** I'm always surprised when I open a script: 'Oh look, that's what Nyssa's doing! Oh look, now I'm young again, now I'm old again, now I'm old again but with a younger face!' I wait eagerly to see.

**MS:** It's fifty years of **Doctor Who** next year.

**SS:** Is it?

**MS:** That'll be interesting. What are they gonna do? **The Nyssa and Turlough Show?** That's what I've been told, anyway...

**The Butcher of Brisbane is out this month  
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# MASTER PIECE

**He is the Master...  
and you will obey him!**

**Geoffrey Beevers is back at his malevolent best in this month's *The Oseidon Adventure*, so Paul Spragg asked if he still loves being bad**

You're part of an illustrious line up of Masters that includes Roger Delgado, Peter Pratt and Anthony Ainley in the classic series. Did you study the other performances for your version?

■ I used to watch Roger Delgado. When I did the Master in between incarnations in *The Keeper of Traken*, I don't remember trying to copy it in any way; it was just a vocal thing that they wanted me for. I find I've developed an idea of it from what I originally did. I'm the only one left from the original series. Strange feeling, but there you are.



## What was it like when you first played the Master on audio?

■ I loved it from the start; I really enjoyed the idea. It was *Dust Breeding*, and then *Master*. I really enjoy the chance to be completely evil! I don't get cast as evil characters on television or in the theatre very often; in fact, I tend to get cast as bishops and monks or doctors or solicitors, things like that. Respectable people, nice people. So it makes a change for me. I like the contrasts between the fact that he can be very charming and fool people into thinking he's quite nice, and then he can turn on them and hypnotise them. I enjoy that. As long as you'll have me I shall return, because I do enjoy it.

## “I really enjoy the chance to be completely evil!”

### Plus as everyone knows, the villains are always the best roles.

■ Of course they are. Everybody says that. I think it's because most people like to think that they're nice really, so most actors, they're released to their true evil when they're given the chance!

### How do the Tom Baker stories compare to those you've done in the past?

■ They're more action-packed. They're quite manic really, great fun. In radio you can rush all over the countryside and go to different galaxies at the drop of a hat. I think it's the first time I've worked with Tom since doing the original one in 1981, thirty years. Amazing. He's wonderful. He's the sort of person who just talks so entertainingly that you have to listen. He's just very funny. Wonderful, the way his mind works. It's great to listen to him. And I think I worked with Louise before once or twice on different things.

### Have you seen any of the more recent Masters?

■ Yes, I saw John Simm. And the American one

with the strange eyes I remember from the film. And Derek Jacobi. Great actor, very great actor. Yes, he's wonderful.

### Last year, we released your play, *Unintelligent Design*, as part of the Drama Showcase line.

■ I saw some wonderful reviews on the internet; I looked it up once just to see how it was doing, and it was lovely that it's been well-received. I'd love to know how it spreads and whether word of mouth will carry it further because I think it might be of interest in some ways to the sort of people who follow **Doctor Who** because it's set in other worlds and plays with time and all those sort of things. It was nice to have an original play done by Big Finish so I was very pleased.

### Do you have any more story ideas awaiting us?

■ I haven't yet! I'm quite busy as an actor most of the time. I do write but I've got other things that I'm writing at the moment, which take precedence. But when I can get back to writing another play for audio, I will. I'd love to have another go at it. I'm just very slow at writing because I have to write between acting.

### Do you find yourself sitting in a dressing room between scenes hurriedly writing sections?

■ No. I can't do that, you see. I have to wait until I'm out of work and can concentrate on writing and can do a few days at least in a row, and then I can get started. And then suddenly you have to drop it. I've just done a season at the RSC and you have to drop the writing for six months and then pick up all the threads again when you get back. I do keep writing, but it's just a slow process to get things finished.

### So what's coming up next for you?

■ I don't know, actually! I have got a project I'm writing so I shall get back to it...

*The Oseidon Adventure* featuring the return of the Kraals is out this month  
[CLICK FOR DETAILS](#)



## PLAY FOR TODAY

### DEBORAH WATLING TALKS TO DAN TOSTEVIN ABOUT RETURNING TO PLAY VICTORIA WATERFIELD IN LOST STORY *POWER PLAY*

Hello Deborah. In *Power Play*, Victoria meets the Sixth Doctor. Were you aware at the time that there were plans to bring you back to the TV series?

■ I had no idea until David [Richardson], the producer at Big Finish, said, 'We've found this script! It's been discovered!' I said, 'What?!' He said, 'Well, Victoria was meant to come back in the Eighties, with Colin Baker as the Doctor'. And I'd never heard of this before. He said, 'We're going to do it at Big Finish Productions, are you interested?' and I said, 'Yeah!' What a pity they didn't do it back in the Eighties.

**Do you think you'd have said yes at the time?**

■ Oh yes. Of course I would. Victoria as a character is a large part of my life and a large part of my career. And I adore her still, so of course I'd have said yes!

**What was it like to find out you'd missed out on that opportunity?**

■ I was a bit gutted actually, because I thought, 'Oh, I could've come back!' [laughs] My time was '67 to '68, and to come back that much older would've been quite good. They missed out on that, didn't they?

**Is it nice to fill in that gap in Victoria's history, even if it's getting filled twenty-five years later than it was supposed to be?**

■ It is rather, actually. And they've created Victoria as now, as me, as my age group, so there are a lot of gags about things like, "Oh, you have the binoculars, my eyes aren't as good as they used to be..." I think it's easier to play as you are now. It's not [does Victoria voice] a high voice like that any more, it's [reverts to normal] down there like that, because it's now Victoria in her sixties.

**Are there any changes to her character other than the voice?**

■ Oh no, goodness me, no, no, no. She's still, underneath it all, the same character. She hates the dark, she hates monsters, she screams a bit as well – so no, she's the same! Maybe wiser, you never know.

**How does Victoria's life in this story compare to how you envisaged it?**

■ It's a bit of a surprise actually, if I'm honest. I didn't see her going this way – protesting, worried about the Earth. I think when she left the TARDIS and the Doctor and Jamie all those years ago, she'd had quite enough of the adventures, of course. And latterly in her life, I can see her – this is silly, but this is my theory – in a cottage in Cornwall, and she's a writer. And all the ideas that come to her, it's all her adventures in the TARDIS.

**The Lost Stories: *Power Play* is out this month  
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## NEIL STUKE



### WHAT ARE HIS BIG FINISH CREDITS?

Neil will be appearing in the third season of **The Fourth Doctor Adventures**, as a brand new nightmarish **Doctor Who** villain.

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HIM FROM?

Neil can currently be seen in the BBC1 drama **Silk**, alongside Maxine Peake and Rupert Penry-Jones. His other credits include Chris in the revival of **Reggie Perrin** and **Sliding Doors**, but he may best be remembered by men of a certain age for playing the unapologetic Matthew in Nineties sitcom **Game On**.

## MIRANDA RAISON



### WHAT ARE HER BIG FINISH CREDITS?

Miranda played Tess and Myra in *The Wreck of the Titan* and Laren in *The Davros Mission*.

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HER FROM?

Miranda played the ill-fated (as so many of the characters were) Jo Portman in **Spooks**, and has appeared more recently in **Merlin**, **Dirk Gently**, **Death in Paradise** and movie **My Week with Marilyn**. She also appeared in a show you might have heard of called **Doctor Who**, in which she played Talulah in *Evolution of the Daleks/Daleks in Manhattan*.



## GEORGIA MOFFETT



### WHAT ARE HER BIG FINISH CREDITS?

Georgia appeared in *City of Spires* as Alice, although quite some time earlier she was Tanya Webster in the eighth Big Finish release *Red Dawn*.

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HER FROM?

Georgia is currently on the London stage in **What the Butler Saw**. Her other credits include **Merlin**, **White Van Man**, **Spooks: Code 9**, voicing Cassie Rice in animation **Doctor Who: Dreamland**, and **Doctor Who's The Doctor's Daughter**, in which she played the titular Jenny. Plus, of course, she actually is the Doctor's daughter (she's Peter Davison's progeny) and the Doctor's wife (she's married to David Tennant).

## HAYLEY ATWELL



### WHAT ARE HER BIG FINISH CREDITS?

Hayley has appeared in many Big Finish productions, including *Blood of the Daleks*, *The Doomwood Curse*, *The Whispering Forest* and the upcoming **Fourth Doctor Adventures** *The Sands of Life* and *War Against the Laan*.

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HER FROM?

Hayley was in **The Ruby in the Smoke** and **The Shadow in the North**, the remake of **The Prisoner** and the films **Brideshead Revisited**, **The Duchess** and **Captain America: The First Avenger**. She currently has three more films in the pipeline.

## TIM BENTINCK



### WHAT ARE HIS BIG FINISH CREDITS?

Tim has appeared in *Destination: Nerva and Wirrn Isle* recently, and there's more to come...

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HIM FROM?

For thirty years, Tim has been the voice of David Archer in Radio 4's incredibly long-running soap opera **The Archers**. Alongside plenty of other voice work for radio, TV and video games (plus he recorded the 'mind the gap' announcement for London Underground's Piccadilly line!), Tim had a stint in **Grange Hill**, and has recently popped up in **Kingdom** and **Lead Balloon**. Of which more in a moment.

## RAQUEL CASSIDY



### WHAT ARE HER BIG FINISH CREDITS?

Raquel has become quite the Big Finish stalwart, appearing in *Recorded Time* and *Other Stories*, *Destination: Nerva* and *The Judgement of Isskar*.

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HER FROM?

Aside from appearing as one of the Gangers in **Doctor Who's The Almost People/The Rebel Flesh**, Raquel's credits include **Hustle**, **Party Animals**, **Land Girls**, **Moving Wallpaper** and Mel, long-suffering wife of Jack Dee's Rick Spleen throughout all four series of **Lead Balloon**.



# THE GUEST LIST

## DAVID WARNER



### WHAT ARE HIS BIG FINISH CREDITS?

Mr Warner has been back and forth to Big Finish's studios many a time. His credits include *Steel* in the entire run of *Sapphire & Steel* audios, plus roles in *I.D.*, *The Children of Seth*, *Deimos*, *The Resurrection of Mars*, *Benny's The Adventure of the Diogenes Damsel*,

*Doctor Who Unbound: Masters of War* and many more!

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HIM FROM?

Pretty much everything! Every era has its David Warner touchstone moment: *The Omen*, *Time Bandits*, *Time After Time*, *Tron*, *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*, *Freakazoid!*, *Titanic*, *Avatar*, the UK remake of *Wallander*... the list goes on.

## MILES JUPP



### WHAT ARE HIS BIG FINISH CREDITS?

Miles can be heard playing Dominic this very month in *Power Play!*

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HIM FROM?

Miles's first radio show as host, the panel quiz *It's Not What You Know*, recently went out on Radio 4. He's turned up in *The Thick of It* but received a cult following firstly for children's TV hit *Balamory*, in which he played Archie the Inventor, and now as the slightly strange lay minister Nigel in BBC2 *Rev*.

## BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH



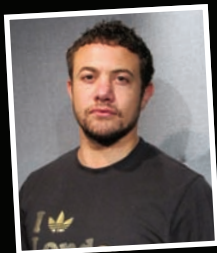
### WHAT ARE HIS BIG FINISH CREDITS?

In *Forty-Five's False Gods* instalment, Benedict played archaeologist Howard Carter (not to be confused with our erstwhile sound designer) and followed it up by playing Thing 2 in *Order of Simplicity*.

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HIM FROM?

Have you heard of *Sherlock*, perhaps? Mr Cumberbatch is playing the modern day Holmes in the smash BBC1 hit. He could also recently be spotted in the movie version of *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* and charging into battle in the film *War Horse*. He's currently playing the main villain role in the now-filming *Star Trek 2* and will also voice Smaug the dragon in *The Hobbit*.

## WARREN BROWN



### WHAT ARE HIS BIG FINISH CREDITS?

Warren can be found in *Industrial Evolution*, fighting off an attack from the local machinery.

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HIM FROM?

After dropping by the Horror genre for Charlie Brooker's zombie-fest *Dead Set*, Warren moved to comedy for *Grown Ups*, then switched to heavy drama via *Occupation*, *Criminal Justice* and the recent *Inside Men*. He'll be back as DS Ripley for the third and possibly last run of *Luther*, and has just finished making *Good Cop* for the BBC.





## RORY KINNEAR



### WHAT ARE HIS BIG FINISH CREDITS?

Rory can also be heard in *Industrial Evolution*, fighting alongside Warren Brown!

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HIM FROM?

Another man with a Charlie Brooker connection, Rory played a British Prime Minister with a memorably horrific choice to make in the writer/presenter's **Black Mirror** instalment *The National Anthem*. He can also be seen alongside Bond in **Quantum of Solace** and will be back for the upcoming **Skyfall**. Rory appeared in **Cranford** and **The Mystery of Edwin Drood**, and will be playing Henry Bolingbroke in a TV telling of Shakespeare's **Richard II**.

## KATHERINE PARKINSON



### WHAT ARE HER BIG FINISH CREDITS?

Katherine plays the splendidly named Danika Meanwhile in *The Death Collectors*, alongside Sylvester McCoy.

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HER FROM?

Katherine played Jen for four series of nerd-tastic sitcom **The IT Crowd**, and can also be found in **The Boat That Rocked**, **Whites**, **The Bleak Old Shop of Stuff** and the shocking finale of the latest run of **Sherlock**, *The Reichenbach Fall*. Fresh from a run in the West End in Alan Ayckbourn's **Absent Friends**, Katherine's just recorded a pilot for a new Radio 2 series called **The Resistance**, written by none other than our very own Eddie Robson!

## LENORA CRICHLAW



### WHAT ARE HER BIG FINISH CREDITS?

Lenora found herself in the middle of a Klein-controlled future (which is like climate-controlled but much, much harsher) in *The Architects of History*.

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HER FROM?

Lenora became a cult favourite as the ghostly Annie in vampire/werewolf/ghost flatshare comedy-drama **Being Human**. Before that she played Sugar in **Sugar Rush**, and since then has also featured as Cheen in **Doctor Who**'s *Gridlock*, and starred in **Collision** and **Material Girl**.

## JAMES WILBY



### WHAT ARE HIS BIG FINISH CREDITS?

James Wilby will be appearing in this year's October main range release, *The Acheron Pulse*.

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HIM FROM?

Amongst James' many credits are the TV version of Lady Chatterley, films **An Ideal Husband**, **Gosford Park**, **De-Lovely** and **Lady Godiva**, and he recently played J Bruce Ismay in the four-part ITV drama **Titanic**.



# THE GUEST LIST

## DAVID HAREWOOD



### WHAT ARE HIS BIG FINISH CREDITS?

As he played Tuck in **Robin Hood**, David performed one of our audiobooks for us based around his character. It's called *Friendly Fire*. He's also more recently joined the Eighth Doctor and Mary Shelley against an *Army of Death*.

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HIM FROM?

Aside from the aforementioned **Robin Hood**, David has appeared in **The Palace**, **The Last Enemy**, in David Tennant's **Doctor Who** swansong as Joshua Naismith, and in **Hustle**. His time is currently being filled playing FBI director David Estes in the superb critically acclaimed conspiracy thriller **Homeland**.

## REBECCA FRONT



### WHAT ARE HER BIG FINISH CREDITS?

Rebecca appeared as Major Takol in *The Mind's Eye* and could be heard last month in *The Jupiter Conjunction*.

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HER FROM?

A stalwart of comedy series for a while now, Rebecca has portrayed an impressively wide range of memorable characters on **The Day Today**, **Knowing Me, Knowing You**, **I'm Alan Partridge**, **Big Train** and **Nighty Night** (amongst others), and led the Department of Social Affairs and Citizenship in **The Thick of It**. Her recent credits have included **Grandma's House** and keeping an eye on the title character in **Inspector Morse** spin-off **Lewis** as Chief Superintendent Innocent.

## HUGH BONNEVILLE



### WHAT ARE HIS BIG FINISH CREDITS?

You can hear Hugh in *The Angel of Scutari*, fighting in the Crimea.

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HIM FROM?

Almost everything! Hugh has become the go-to actor for drama and comedy alike. Most recently, he's been playing the Earl of Grantham in **Downton Abbey**, was Mr Bennet in **Lost in Austen**, played the nemesis of the title character in two episodes of **Rev**, and was the constantly bemused Ian Fletcher in Olympics comedy **Twenty Twelve**. And let's not forget him playing Captain Avery in the latest season of TV **Doctor Who**! Next up, he'll be playing another captain, Nemo, in a TV version of the great sailor's story.

## GRAEME GARDEN



### WHAT ARE HIS BIG FINISH CREDITS?

Graeme first appeared as Prof Ivor Fassbinder in *Bang-Bang-A-Boom*, before returning in **Eighth Doctor Adventure Max Warp**. He has since appeared as Brother Thelonus, aka the Meddling Monk, in *The Book of Kells*, Thelonus Monk! Geddit? Okay, so you might need

to have some knowledge of classic jazz music. The Monk then returned to cause trouble in *The Resurrection of Mars*, *Lucie Miller* and *To the Death*.

### WHAT WILL I RECOGNISE HIM FROM?

Graeme was, of course, one of the much-loved Seventies comedy troupe **The Goodies**, alongside Bill Oddie (who's in *Doctor Who and the Pirates*) and Tim Brooke-Taylor (who you can hear in *The Zygon Who Fell to Earth*). These days, he is just as famous for appearing on Radio 4 panel show **I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue**, which everyone should listen to at least once in their life. He also regularly appears on Radio 4's **The Unbelievable Truth**, which he co-created.



# TRASK MASTER

WRITER **JOE LIDSTER** REVEALS A LITTLE OF WHAT TO EXPECT FROM **THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF TRASK** AND THE FUTURE OF THE **DARK SHADOWS** RANGE...



**The Fall of the House of Trask sounds like a whopper of a story. What's led up to this, and will it have ramifications for what's to come?**

■ It's a huge series finale that follows on from the events of

the TV series, *The Wicked and the*

*Dead*, *The Carrion Queen*, *The Poisoned Soul* and at least one other story. You'll get more out of it if you've heard all those, but new listeners shouldn't worry – the Dark Lord is there at the beginning to give a handy 'story so far' in his own particular style.

**Which are the moments you're most proud of in the story?**

■ The moment where the Dark Lord utters a particular name should be a lovely surprise. The Dark Lord and Trask have a fascinating relationship, as both need something from the other. And then there's the Pansy and Charity relationship, which I've tried to develop after the events of *The Poisoned Soul*. The story is about how these different relationships combine to cause... well... what happens!

**You've got three big Dark Shadows names in this one; what was it like writing for them?**

■ All three are genuinely such fantastic actors that you know you can give them anything to do. Gregory (Jerry

Lacy) and Charity (Nancy Barrett) are such beautifully developed characters with such distinctive voices that you instantly know whether something you've written is in character. And I adore Marie Wallace, so it was great to find a way to bring her in as a new character. This being *Dark Shadows*, though, Audrey may possibly be related to one of Marie's previous characters...

**What did you make of the new film?**

■ I haven't seen it yet! I know, I'm a bad fan! I've been incredibly snowed under with work recently so I've just not had the time. I'm looking forward to it, though. Like many fans, I was certainly surprised by the trailer, but I think it's great that *Dark Shadows* continues to develop and offer us something new. It's certainly what we've tried to do – this year alone we've had a Seventies zombie romp in New Orleans, a spooky *Blair Witch*-style horror story, a 19th century gothic romance and a darkly comic tale set in the strange world of Hollywood.

**You're also a producer on the Dark Shadows audiobooks range; can you give any hints of what's planned in the future?**

■ Coming up next is *Operation Victor*. It's a 1950s Hammer Horror crossed with a WWII action movie. And after that, we've horror, romance, a psychological two-hander – and a Christmas ghost story...

*The Fall of the House of Trask* is out this month  
[CLICK FOR DETAILS](#)

## GREATER LICENCE

I was wondering if y'all had given any thought to looking into getting licences for the following: **The X-Files**, **Merlin**, **Kyle XY**, **Torchwood**, **Buffy**, **The Vampire Slayer**, **Angel** and maybe even Spike as well (he was one of the most popular characters from both shows, he deserves his own series).

Also, the last three Doctors. Each and every one of those would, I'm sure, have a great many listeners. Another thing, and I'm sure I'm not alone in this: I would love to see Captain Jack Harkness come into contact with some of the past Doctors.

### Joshua Durham

**Nick:** We would love to have licences for all those things. But in practise, it's very difficult to be certain that audio drama based on certain formats would actually be popular. Audio drama is an expensive business, so you have to be sure that fans who like watching something will want to listen to it as well. In the case of **Torchwood** and the Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Doctors, the licences for their audio appearances is held by AudioGo.

## STOPLIGHT SLAUGHTER

Excellent job on the new site. I think the functionality around filtering the ranges by Doctor and companion is an excellent idea. It is really helpful to put things in order if you are following a given character's timeline. I'm hopeful that you are getting a positive response to your upgrade!

By the way, I'm really enjoying **The Fourth Doctor Adventures**. A second dream come true (the first was the 2005 return of the show itself).

I'm a fan of classic radio (**The Shadow**, **The Lone Ranger**, **Jack Benny**) and it's great to know you are producing such excellent material. I know others who listen to audiobooks in the car. I tell them that's nothing compared to sitting at a stoplight with a Dalek exterminating everything in its path. Full cast audio drama is the best!

### Rich Wagener

**Nick:** Thanks, Rich. Keep spreading the word. Glad you like the site. Teething problems aside, we're really pleased with the job Richard Dinnick and his team have done with this. As you may have heard, **The Fourth Doctor Adventures** were something I'd had in mind for years, so it was particularly rewarding for me that we finally coaxed Tom in front of the microphone.

## ELEVEN FOR TEN

My greatest congratulations to you all on the new website! It is truly excellent, user-friendly, snappy and snazzy. It has provided a great deal of clarification on many things that were ambiguous and confusing on the old one. I've just explored the FAQ page and I just thought I'd point out that David Tennant has been in more than eight Big Finish productions! **The Adventures of Luther Arkwright**, all six releases of **Dalek Empire III, UNIT: The Wasting**, **Doctor Who Unbound: Sympathy for the Devil**, **Doctor Who: Colditz** and **Doctor Who: Medicinal Purposes**: that's eleven! He is certainly a great actor and was always destined for greatness, so good on you for realising it and good on you for using him so much!

Finally, I'd like to offer my reverence of Barnaby Edwards. *The Emerald Tiger* was absolutely fantastic; within the first five minutes I could already tell that it was going to be one of the Big Finish triumphs. The story is gripping, the direction flawless and the acting pitch-perfect. The picture in the CD booklet was also very impressive. It makes me want to offer funding for the story to be adapted into the movie extravaganza Barney fantasises about in his notes! Please pass on my congratulations to him, and everyone else that contributed, for a truly excellent masterpiece. I demand you milk Mr Edwards for all the masterpieces he has in him!

### Christopher Forbes

**Nick:** We look forward to your funding arriving! Ho ho... Yes, Barnaby has created something rather special there – as he always does. Barney will be bringing his particular brand of magic to several other productions this year. He's also just finished a script for something rather special, which we've yet to announce. As you may know, David Tennant was a huge fan of **Doctor Who**, so he was very keen to be in our productions. A lovely man, great to work with.

## TIME FOR A CHANGE?

A significant part of a product's success is its packaging. I agree with Richard Smith's suggestion (from *Vortex 38*) that you should consider packaging your CDs in card wallets or digipacks. As well as being more environmentally friendly, they look and feel classier than the jewel cases. You say that many of your buyers are 'fiercely interested in their CD spines lining up'. Well, the spines would line up anyway since digipacks are not that different in size. And is

difference such a bad thing? The lead actor and logo of our favourite programme change every few years, so why not the packaging?

One element of the **Doctor Who** range packaging that could do with a refresh, I feel, is the CD booklet. The format is tired: some thumbnail-size snaps of actors grinning at the camera, and a hit-and-miss, cut-and-paste centrespread image. There must be so much more interesting information and visually strong material that could be included: full-page photographs of the cast in conversation (avoiding stilted stares to camera) – possibly in black and white for extra artiness; script excerpts; script development email conversations; screenshots of the sound-editing process – and how about some pictures of these fantastic lunches we keep hearing about? I also enjoy the writers' and directors' comments and would like to read more. A substantial booklet that offered greater insights into the production process – could it run to twelve pages? – would surely help to make purchase of the CDs more desirable, and would be another snook to the pirates. Download subscribers could be sent a collection of the booklets at the end of their subscription.

Your work combines two of my passions – **Who** and audio drama – in one form, and continues to be much-loved and admired.

### Clive Cazeaux

**Nick:** Thanks, Clive. Very interesting points on the booklet. We'll look at making changes. Our problem is that actors are often ill-at-ease with having their photographs taken. They are, generally, happier with shots for which they can make sure they are presented in a favourable light. Impromptu snaps of them chatting may show their features in a slightly distorted, unflattering light. And no one likes an unflattering photo. Also, time is short in the studio – really short! – so arranging for more creative photos would be too time-consuming. And perhaps getting a skilled photographer on board would be prohibitively expensive. Your suggestions about changing the packaging are very interesting. We'll start asking people about this. You're right, change isn't a bad thing – but many people would disagree with you.

## BIG FINISH FOR A FIVER?

Are you considering selling **Doctor Who** 51 to 100 and maybe 101 to 150 for £5 each?

### Steve Small

**Nick:** We're not actively considering that.

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# FORTHCOMING RELEASES

## JUNE 2012

Doctor Who: *The Butcher of Brisbane*

(16.1, Fifth Doctor, Tegan, Turlough and Nyssa)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures:

*The Oseidon Adventure* (1.6, Fourth Doctor and Leela)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: *The Rings of Ilkiria*

(6.12, Second Doctor)

Doctor Who - The Lost Stories: *Power Play*

(3.5, Sixth Doctor and Peri)

Dark Shadows 26: *The Fall of the House of Trask*

## JULY 2012

Doctor Who: *Protect and Survive* (162, Seventh Doctor, Ace and Hex)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: *The Time Museum*

(7.01, First Doctor)

Doctor Who - The Lost Stories: *The First Sontarans*

(3.6, Sixth Doctor and Peri)

Counter-Measures: *Series 1 Box Set* (Four full cast adventures)

Dark Shadows 27: *Operation Victor*

## AUGUST 2012

Doctor Who: *Black and White* (163, Seventh Doctor, Ace and Hex)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: *The Uncertainty Principle*

(7.02, Second Doctor)

Doctor Who - The Lost Stories: *The Masters of Luxor*

(3.7, First Doctor, Ian, Susan and Barbara)

Iris Wildthyme Series 3 Box Set (Three full cast adventures)

Blake's 7: *The Liberator Chronicles – Box Set 2*

Dark Shadows 28: *Speak No Evil*

Stargate SG-1: *Series 3 Box Set 2* (Three full cast adventures)

## SEPTEMBER 2012

Doctor Who: *Gods and Monsters* (164, Seventh Doctor, Ace and Hex)

Doctor Who: *The Burning Prince* (165, Fifth Doctor)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: *Project: Nirvana*

(7.03, Seventh Doctor)

Doctor Who - The Lost Stories: *The Rosemariners*

(3.8, Second Doctor, Jamie and Zoe)

Bernice Summerfield Box Set 3: *Legion*

Bernice Summerfield: *The Slender-Fingered Cats of Bubastis*

Bernice Summerfield: *Many Happy Returns* (download only)

Dark Shadows 29: *The Last Stop*

## OCTOBER 2012

Doctor Who: *The Acheron Pulse* (166, Sixth Doctor)

Doctor Who – *U.N.I.T.: Dominion* (Seventh Doctor, Raine and Klein)

Doctor Who Special: *Love and War* (Seventh Doctor, Ace and Benny)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: *The Last Post*

(7.04, Third Doctor)

Dark Shadows 30: *Dreaming of the Water*

## NOVEMBER 2012

Doctor Who: *The Shadow Heart* (167, TBA)

Doctor Who: *The Eighth Doctor Box Set – Dark Eyes*

Doctor Who: *The Sixth Doctor Specials 1 –*

*The Voyages of Jago & Litefoot – Voyage to Venus*

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: *Return of the Rocket Men*

(7.05, First Doctor)

Blake's 7: *Archangel* by Scott Harrison

Dark Shadows 31: *The Haunted Refrain*

## DECEMBER 2012

Doctor Who: *1001 Nights* (168, TBA)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: *The Child*

(7.06, Fourth Doctor)

Doctor Who: *The Sixth Doctor Specials 2 –*

*The Voyages of Jago & Litefoot – Voyage to the New World*

Dark Shadows 32: TBA

## JANUARY 2013

Doctor Who: *The Wrong Doctors* (169, Sixth Doctor and Mel)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures: *The Auntie Matter*

(2.1, Fourth Doctor and Romana)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: *The Flames of Cadiz*

(7.07, First Doctor)

## FEBRUARY 2013

Doctor Who: TBA (170, Sixth Doctor and Mel)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures: *The Sands of Life*

(2.2, Fourth Doctor and Romana)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: TBA

(7.08, Second Doctor)

Gallifrey V (Three full cast adventures)

Blake's 7: *The Liberator Chronicles – Box Set 3*

## MARCH 2013

Doctor Who: TBA (171, Sixth Doctor and Mel)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures: *War Against the Laan*

(2.3, Fourth Doctor and Romana)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: TBA

(7.09, Third Doctor)

Jago & Litefoot: *Series Five Box Set*



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