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ISSUE 51 • MAY 2013

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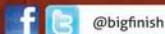
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SNEAK PREVIEWS AND WHISPERS

THE CONFESSIONS OF DORIAN GRAY SERIES TWO

Alexander Vlahos returns as **Dorian Gray** in a brand new series of horror and adventure, available to download from August! As in series one, Dorian's exploits take him across the world: from modern-day Florida to the swinging Sixties; 1930s New York to the Brighton of 1913... and there's even a glimpse of Dorian's childhood life, before his portrait was ever painted, featuring **Doctor Who's** Lalla Ward as a brand new character.

Writers Scott Handcock, Gary Russell and David Llewellyn return to the **Dorian** fold, with newcomers Simon Barnard and Nev Fountain also contributing episodes. And that's not to mention an hour-long Halloween special written by Roy Gill due – highly unpredictably – in October.

"If series one focused on establishing the character of Dorian," says producer Scott Handcock, "series two takes that character and runs with it. There are shocks and scares, highs and lows, and even a bit of singing...!"

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This month *Vortex* has been designed while listening to **Dark Shadows**. You should give them a try as they're really rather splendid!

EDITORIAL



Hello there! Nick's away on holiday/doing a convention tour of Australia and New Zealand right now and, after racking his brains for 90 minutes, David's stumped on what to write in this space. So for the first time ever, the *Vortex* editorial is all mine! Bwah-ha-ha-ha! Ahem. Got a bit over-excited there.

For those who don't know, I'm 'the other one'.

Nick's the executive producer, David's the line producer and I'm the chap who sits in the office (or at home on this particular occasion, which is fine until I remember I have access to quite a lot more food here than I do in the office), doing all manner of bits and bobs to help them keep things ticking over smoothly. I update the website, I create the downloads each month (so stop changing my beautiful track labelling on iTunes, naughty people!), I send out scripts and contracts, I answer anything that comes to the Enquiries e-mail address, I get release information together for shops, wholesalers and magazines, and I put together *Vortex*. Amongst other things.

There's a lot to love in that little lot. I get a lot of satisfaction from helping listeners solve a knotty download problem or get a release which has gone walkabout (usually, appropriately, in Australia). I like doing all the mailouts as I get to feel part of the process of making our audios. I love updating the website because I know what we've got coming up and I know all of you out there will be as excited as I am when I get a new cover, a new podcast or a new synopsis to put up. I really enjoy creating the downloads, as making sure everything is labelled correctly with all the bells, whistles and embedded covers is very satisfying for my OCD (I can see you about to change that iTunes information again; stop it!).

And I love *Vortex*. I wanted to do journalism as long as I can remember, and thanks to a spot of luck and a spot of, I hope, talent, I got to work on magazines for thirteen years. So this little magazine here has a special place in my heart as it enables me to keep doing the thing I was most sad about losing when I first came to Big Finish. And it means I get to meet and chat to so many fascinating people. The trouble is, I always want to talk to them forever about their lives and careers – and I have to transcribe it all. But it's worth it.

Now, where's that delicious apple scone I made last night...? Time for elevenses...

PAUL SPRAGG

peter span

It's been thirty-two years since Peter Davison took on the mantle of the Fifth Doctor. But which of his other smashes is he best remembered for? Paul Spragg undertook some research...

Hi Peter. You know you say you can never think of anything to say about the latest stories you've recorded? Well, this time I've got a new conversational gambit: **Button Moon**.

■ **Button Moon!** Yes! One of the great TV themes of all time.

It was the thirtieth anniversary of Children's ITV (on which it was shown) the other week and they repeated an episode. It's perhaps not the best kids' show ever, but it was fun to see it again.

■ It was saved by the theme tune.

The weird thing is, I thought you narrated it.

■ No. My name appears, of course, for writing the tune. For singing it, in fact. So no, it was Robin Parkinson.

Which leads me to my big question: how did you end up getting that job in the first place? It seems a bit of a weird thing for a jobbing actor to do.

■ Yes, it was a really weird thing to do. The story was, my first television was **The Tomorrow People** and that was directed by a man named Stan Woodward and I think during that it must have come up that I wrote songs, because I always had done. And then about a year later or so, I got a phone call from Stan who said, 'I'm doing this series, [he had something



to do with it, I don't know if he directed it or not] – **Button Moon**. He said, 'Would you like to write the theme tune for it?' I said, 'Yeah!'

Well, who wouldn't?

■ Yes, exactly. I just wrote it and he said, 'Well, would you like to come and sing it as well?' So we did.

It's in quite a high register for you.

■ Well, Sandra [Dickinson], my wife at that time, was singing it as well. I suppose it is actually, yeah.

Do you still know it?

■ I could play it, yeah. See if I can annoy them [in the green room].

Maybe at the end of the interview.

■ I did have a publisher, Valentine Music, but I was distracted all the time by working. I always thought if I'm ever out of work for any length of time, I'll get back into this and send things off, but I never got round to it.

Do you still compose, then?

■ Yes, I still do it sometimes. In fact, I've just updated my music stuff just before Christmas, and Toby [Hrycek-Robinson, studio engineer] very kindly gave me a bunch of stuff out of one of his old sheds about a year ago, so I'm well equipped now! I'm trying to teach my children to become my backing band. I'll be fired from the group very soon afterwards...

When I did **Legally Blonde**, the younger members of the cast in their mid-twenties really hadn't seen anything I'd done, because they're theatre people really. And in the programme, of course, as a little gag, they'd put, 'He played the theme tune to **Button Moon**' in this musical I'm doing. And one of them saw



Janet Fielding, Peter Davison and Sarah Sutton

“I’m going to be travelling around the world and going to do as many Doctor Who conventions as possible, I think!”

it and of course suddenly went, 'Ah! You wrote the theme tune to **Button Moon**! Oh, Peter! I can't believe it!' So I achieved notoriety and fame through that, which was quite fun.

So, leaving **Doctor Who** aside, what do you find you're best known for?

■ Well, it absolutely depends on the age of the people, really. If they're old enough it's **All Creatures Great and Small** still. If not, it's **At Home With the Braithwaites**. People in their thirties, it's usually **At Home With the Braithwaites** or, if you went to university at a certain time, it's **A Very Peculiar Practice**. So it's lots of different things. But probably the second to **Doctor Who**, if not first actually, will be **All Creatures** still, after all these years. It's actually quite young





Peter Davison and a DWM award

“I quite like it when other people have got to speak quite a lot. Less chance of me screwing it up!”

people who've seen that on one of the cable channels, and because it's a period piece it doesn't actually date, really. You're watching it almost as if it's period television.

What's fascinating is that you've had memorable roles in shows in every decade; you're like the Bee Gees of television.

■ I've been around for a long time, yeah! I've gone through various phases, you're right. Yes, I suppose it's very nice. I can't help feeling slight embarrassment when they recognize me from Tristan [his **All Creatures** character] because I don't really look an awful lot like I did when I was playing Tristan. Or, indeed, the Doctor. I quite like it when people know me from things which I don't anticipate they'll have seen. About three or four months ago – I think it was actually in America weirdly – someone came up to me and said, 'We saw that series **Sink or Swim**'. Now that was a BBC comedy series I did at the same time as I was doing **Doctor Who**, which I didn't

think anyone had seen at all, many years ago! But it turned up somewhere on some cable channel. And sometimes **The Last Detective**; again in America, that was quite popular. So there's lots of different things. In a way it's more gratifying when they've seen things which are less known.

Returning to **Doctor Who** then; it's the fiftieth anniversary. How will you be celebrating?

■ I've got no idea! I'm going to be travelling around the world and going to do as many **Doctor Who** conventions as possible, I think! I'm sure we'll be kept busy in some shape or form but I don't think anything's being done on television that would involve us in terms of the programme itself. I'm sure we'll be asked to do lots of reminiscence programmes. 'What do you remember about your time as the Doctor?' and all that sort of stuff. Which I'm a bit reluctant to do really because it gets so tiresome. You start churning out the same old things.

Maybe you could just be edited in from one of the DVDs.

You could virtually be, yeah, because you've said everything there is to be said. Today I was talking to my agent about two things that I've just been asked to do. 'We've been commissioned to do a programme about **Doctor Who**'s fiftieth anniversary' and you think, 'Oh God'.

I'll be celebrating quietly. Is there anything to celebrate? Do you realize how old that makes me???

Ah, but you were so young when you started.

■ That's true. Very nice of you to say so.

At the time of this chat, you've not recorded our anniversary release *The Light at the End* yet; are you looking forward to it?

■ It's nice to do something. I am looking forward to it, and I hope people will buy it and not just nick it! I think the answer is to make a rather nice package with lots of pictures.

Which is what we're doing.

■ I said make them paper; people like those paper things. I don't like plastic boxes. I know they're more expensive to produce, the paper things, but in a way they're somehow nicer. So I am looking forward to it. I'll do my best to remember it so I can answer questions about it afterwards!

This is the last day recording another trilogy; how's it been?

■ We've had a lot of fun doing it. We've had Janet [Fielding, Tegan], who's nearly burst my eardrums. Oh lord. We were talking about how, when we did the programme back in the Eighties, she didn't have an Australian accent because she was





DOCTOR WHO: MAIN RANGE THE LADY OF MERCIA

STARRING:
PETER DAVISON, JANET FIELDING,
MARK STRICKSON AND SARAH SUTTON

SYNOPSIS

The TARDIS brings the Doctor, Tegan, Turlough and Nyssa to the University of Frodsham, close to where the warrior queen Æthelfrid fought a desperate and bloody rearguard action against the savage Danes. Over a thousand years later, in 1983, battle is still being raged, with student activists taking on savage funding cuts... and disrupting a conference about Æthelfrid convened by history professor John Bleak.

Meanwhile, over in the Physics Department, Dr Philippa Stone is working night and day on a top secret project – but can her theoretical time machine really be the solution to the university's problems?

Present and past are about to collide – and the results, as the TARDIS crew is about to discover, will be far from academic!

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with some guy who didn't like people speaking with an Australian accent. But she sure as hell is making up for it now, that's all I'm saying!

How were you with understanding the tricky script for *Prisoners of Fate*?

■ I didn't even try! Poor Janet and Sarah [Sutton, Nyssa] were struggling and I just thought, 'I'm going to say lines with conviction,' and that, I think, is the answer.

They're quite a companion-centric set of stories; you're not clamouring for more action, are you?

■ When's it going to be about me???? No, I'm very happy. I quite like it when other people have got to speak quite a lot. Less chance of me screwing it up! It doesn't really matter to me, it doesn't occur to me. It's just nice sometimes if you don't have an enormously long speech. If you haven't quite got your head around it, it's quite good to have manageable-sized speeches. What I do like about these things is that it is almost impromptu. Sometimes if you just dive into something, the ideas just fly at you and it works much better. And I know [Toby] secretly records every take, even the rehearsal, and I'm sure that sometimes he uses the rehearsal because sometimes they're better, I think. Less encumbered by a conscious need to act!



Catherine Grose, Rachel Atkins, Sarah Sutton, Stephen Critchlow, Abigail Thaw, Anthony Howell, Janet, Fielding, Kieran Bew and Peter Davison

So you're still enjoying audio work?

■ I think you just treat every job differently. I think there's a terrible danger sometimes of 'radio acting'. I hear it on Radio 4 quite a lot and you just think it's a shame when people do that – and I know I fall into the trap. It's a very easy trap to fall into, which is where your performance becomes more about voice modulation and less about actual emotion or what you're actually saying. But it's a nice thing to do. I couldn't hope to learn this many words, so it's very nice to do it in an audio format.

That's it. I've got nothing else to say! You've run me dry!

It must be time for a rendition of the **Button Moon** theme tune then.

Goodbye, readers. **VORTEX**



NEW HORIZONS

JACKIE EMERY PROVIDES A BRIEF HISTORY OF HORIZON, THE OFFICIAL **BLAKE'S 7** APPRECIATION SOCIETY

The Dirty Dozen in space. Nearly forty years have passed since Terry Nation scrawled those words as a pitch to the BBC for a new science fiction TV series. It's been thirty-five years since **Blake's 7** started broadcasting, and over thirty since its memorably bleak end. Despite rarely being repeated on television and unfairly derided by the popular press for its 'wobbly sets

and cheap FX', **Blake's 7** never lost its popularity and remains one of the best-loved British SF series of all time. With only a limited budget for visual effects, the emphasis was placed on the characters and storylines, and that has been the secret of the series' success. Terry Nation's dystopian vision of the future and the compelling characters he created continue to fire the imaginations of fans, providing food for thought and topics for debate down through the decades.

Horizon, the official **Blake's 7** Appreciation Society, was founded in 1980. Taking its name both from the title of a Season B episode and the club's objective – to 'broaden the horizons of **Blake's 7** fandom' – it was originally set up to provide an opportunity for like-minded

fans to get together to discuss the show, watch episodes on video and to share their views via the newsletters and magazines. Fan fiction and art were published in Horizon's fiction zines, and fan activities ranging from theatre trips to see 'our' actors on stage to fundraising events, conventions and location visits were organised through the club. Merchandise, both official and fan-produced, was sold at meetings, conventions and by mail order, with the fan fiction anthologies proving the most popular.

"BLAKE'S 7 NEVER LOST ITS POPULARITY AND REMAINS ONE OF THE BEST-LOVED BRITISH SF SERIES OF ALL TIME."

Changing times and technology saw the club move from printed publications to a website, and Horizon is now a burgeoning online community. The website hosts lively debates, articles, reviews and interviews and the sharing of photos, fiction and artwork. On the many discussion forums, fans' views and responses now take only moments to appear, whereas in the past it would have taken weeks, especially for submissions from overseas members. Horizon provides up to date news of the actors, and still organises theatre trips to see them on stage, while groups of fans use the forums to coordinate location visits and other social events.

Some of the oldest fan activities have taken on a modern spin – instead of gathering at someone's home to watch episodes on video, members now hold regular 'rewatches'

on the website; viewing, chatting and commenting on their chosen episode in real-time. Currently, a special thirty-fifth anniversary rewatch has been arranged by fans; each episode being viewed on the exact date and time of its original broadcast.

Still helmed by one of the club's original founders, Diane Gies, Horizon is recognised by the BBC, the B7 copyright holders and the actors as the official **Blake's 7** Fan Club, and attracts B7 enthusiasts from around the world.

Over the years, pleas and petitions to the BBC to Bring Back **Blake's 7** have largely gone unanswered. In 1998, BBC Radio 4 produced two full-cast audio plays, set during Season D, but these weren't terribly successful because, frankly, they weren't very good. B7 Media focused on creating reboots and spin-offs and they certainly impressed many listeners with their high quality scripts and high profile casting.

However, thanks to Big Finish, fans' long-held wishes have now been granted. Big Finish has got it spot on; its

Blake's 7 range is just what fans have craved all these years. With the original actors returning to the roles created by Terry Nation, excellent scripts and high production values, the *Liberator Chronicles* series of enhanced audio books, the full-cast 'missing episode' *Warship* and the epic three-parter *The Armageddon Storm* herald a marvellous renaissance in **Blake's 7** productions.

This is a very exciting time for **Blake's 7** fans, and there's a flurry of new activity on our website. Horizon is pleased to have recently had the opportunity to interview Big Finish producer David Richardson, and writers Simon Guerrier and Peter Anghelides. If you'd like to read these, and catch up with all the latest exciting news in the world of **Blakes 7**, head over to www.blakes7online.com. You can also follow us on Twitter @HorizonBlakes7. **VORTEX**



PAUL OF SOUND

THE MAN WHO WAS AND EVER SHALL BE AVON FROM **BLAKE'S 7**, PAUL DARROW, CHATS TO PAUL SPRAGG ABOUT HIS INCREASING INVOLVEMENT IN BIG FINISH'S RANGE

Hello Paul. This month sees the release of the latest **Blake's 7** book, *Lucifer*, and it's written by you. How did it come about?

■ Jason [Haigh-Ellery, Big Finish executive producer] approached me because I have written books [before]. One a long time ago about the Avon character and then I wrote a memoir for Big Finish. So he asked me and I said I would like to set it after the series, twenty years on, and he said, 'Oh, that would be interesting. Do that'. So I did and it would seem that the Powers That Be at Big Finish liked it; we were having lunch and I said, 'Actually, I've got an idea for

carrying it a little further,' and Jason and David [Richardson, producer] seemed to think that was a good idea so it's going to be a trilogy. The next one is called *Lucifer: Revelation*, which they have, and I'm currently writing the third, which is called *Lucifer: Genesis*, which goes back [in time]. It's rather like *Star Wars*, starting in the middle and going off in different directions.

Do you find writing comes easily to you and do you enjoy it?

■ I quite like doing the research. Of course, if you're writing about a character that you've created, it gets a little easier. And I've very much enjoyed writing; always did since I was at school. So yes, I very much enjoy doing that.

It's not easy, but nothing really easy is worthwhile. But if you

work hard and enjoy what you're doing, that's the main thing. So I hope people will enjoy them.



“SOCIOPATHIC CHARACTERS DON'T THINK THEY'RE SOCIOPATHIC. BAD PEOPLE DON'T THINK THEY'RE BAD, SO [AVON'S] THE GOOD GUY!”



What's *Lucifer* about?

■ It starts twenty years after the end of the series and the powers that be come across a group of dissidents which they'd forgotten about – and one of them is Avon, and so they go after him. Of course. Then it flashes back to how he actually survived at the end of the series. If you recall, he was left standing and you wondered, 'Is he dead or what?' So I go into how he survived. He's fairly ruthless; in fact, he's very ruthless!

Do you find it worryingly easy to get into the mindset of these characters?

■ Sociopathic characters don't think they're sociopathic. [Avon]'s a nice guy really. People get on the wrong side of him and he doesn't like being messed around with. Bad people don't think they're bad, so he's the good guy!

You've also read the book for audio. How was that experience?

■ That was fun to do, and I think it's a very good thing. I have quite a lot of followers, as you know, and there's one lady in particular who has difficulty reading – it's a form of dyslexia. She said, 'Are you going to do an audio version of your book?' and I said, 'I've done it,' and she said, 'Oh good, I shall buy that, because I can't actually read, but I can sit in the car and hear it.' And people like doing that, because you can stop it and pick it up. I prefer that actually. Jacqueline [Pearce], who plays Servalan, wrote an autobiography, and she gave me a copy of it on audio, so I had that in the car.



Jan Chappell and Paul Darrow

Lucifer runs to five discs; did you find it a struggle at any point?

■ No. Perhaps you shouldn't add this because they'll get big-headed, but with Ken [Bentley, director] and David, it's very straightforward. Ken is very good; Lisa [Bowerman] usually directs us but Ken actually did this one. It was fun to do. It was quite interesting, really, because it reminded me of what I'd written. There were one or two points where I thought, 'I don't remember writing that!' and they looked back to the book and it was phrased slightly differently. Things like Orac, Avon always called the machine 'it', he never called it 'he'. Whereas sometimes in the script it would come up 'Ask him', so I said, 'Avon wouldn't say that'. Little things like that.

BLAKE'S 7: PAUL DARROW

Were you able to find some additional nuances in Avon when creating *Lucifer*?

■ Yes, that was really good, because I can say what he's thinking. It's up to your imagination if you're watching him or listening to him, but when you write it down, you know what he's thinking. There's a lot of questions I've been asked from people who've watched the series, or rewatched it,

“ANYTHING THAT STILL HAS A FOLLOWING AND A DEGREE OF ENTHUSIASM FOR IT AFTER NEARLY THIRTY-FIVE YEARS HAS TO HAVE SOMETHING GOING FOR IT.”

or younger people who watch it on DVD or whatever, and they say, 'Well, what was he thinking there?' and I say, 'It's up to you. You draw your own conclusions'. But in the book, of course, I can say what he was thinking.

You're also in the *Liberator Chronicles* box set out this month, in the story *Kerr* with Jacqueline Pearce. How was that?

■ Jacqueline had recorded hers already so I was alone in the studio and there was no interaction. But I know her very well and she knows me, so we balance out. My wife died last year around that time, so I recorded mine completely separately from the rest. But apparently it works, so that's all right.

We've had a lot of positive comments about the recent full cast story you did, *Warship*.

■ Yes, I've had a number of comments. They like that because it's like an episode, isn't it, whereas the others are narrated. I quite like those, actually. A lot of people have said how much they love [*The Armageddon Storm*, the latest *Liberator Chronicles* release].

What would you say to encourage people to try *Blake's 7* even if they've never watched the show on TV?

■ Ooh, that's a tough call. I think anything that still has a following and a degree of enthusiasm for it after nearly thirty-five years has to have something going for it. It's worth a look. I remember years ago posters for Elvis Presley's first film, and all it said was, '55 million fans can't be wrong'. If you know nothing about *Blake's 7*, try it anyway! Play it in the car or somewhere like that. And of course, the book is a sensation! An absolute must-have! You can keep it in pristine condition and then, when I'm dead, make a few bob on eBay!

I've heard it's better than *Harry Potter*.

■ It's a bit different from *Harry Potter*!

Thanks for making time to talk to me, Paul. I'll let you get on.

■ That's very kind. Talking about the book, I need to crack on with the other one! **VORTEX**



BLAKE'S 7: LUCIFER BY PAUL DARROW

SYNOPSIS

Many legends surround the aftermath of the collapse of The Federation, including the fate of Kerr Avon...

What happened to Avon after the death of Blake and the crew of the *Scorpio*? Paul Darrow's vivid reimagining picks up Avon's story at the final moments of the final episode of *Blake's 7* and follows him on his fight for survival, this time with no crew and no ship to help him.

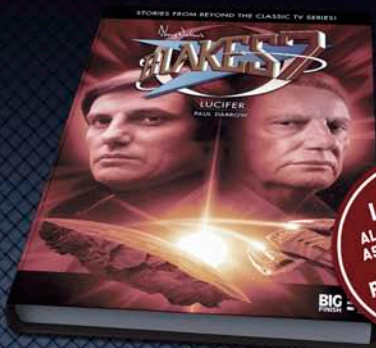
The adventure continues years later as Avon, now an old man, finds himself a key player in the game of power politics being played out on a grand scale by The Quartet - four ruthless leaders in an uneasy alliance, who govern the world in place of the Federation. Old enemies resurface and dangerous new ones appear as the time comes for old scores to finally be settled...

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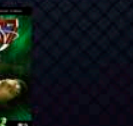
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THE PRIVATE EYE AND THE WITCH

WRITER MARK THOMAS PASSMORE INTRODUCES DARK SHADOWS' UNLIKELY DETECTIVE DUO: TONY AND CASSANDRA

He's a lawyer turned private detective. She's a gorgeous but bored witch. Together, Tony Peterson (Jerry Lacy) and Cassandra Collins (Lara Parker) solve mysteries with a supernatural twist – but when they meet, it's always murder! "There have been a few fatalities, but try not to dwell on the downside. The voyage is still young," Cassandra encourages Tony as the unlikely duo begin a new adventure in this month's *Dark Shadows* release, *The Phantom Bride*.

What begins with the apparition of a woman in a wedding dress leads to a series of gruesome deaths on board a transatlantic luxury liner. And if Tony and Cassandra don't act quickly, there may be no one left alive when the ship docks in England...

UNUSUAL PAIRING

But how did this unusual pairing get together? Surprisingly, they started out as enemies. In the original television series, blonde witch Angelique dyed her hair black and changed her name to Cassandra as part of one of her many schemes of

revenge against vampire Barnabas Collins. Using the flame of a cigarette lighter, she then 'enslaved' lawyer Tony Peterson to help carry out her nefarious deeds. After Cassandra was vanquished, Tony was written out of the series, never to be mentioned again.

A GOOD TEAM

Cut to several years later in audio tale *Dark Shadows: The Death Mask*. After rebuilding his life, Tony has found himself at a weekend dinner party, trapped on an eccentric millionaire's island with the woman who nearly destroyed him. When a series of bizarre Agatha Christie-style murders begins, Tony and Cassandra must make peace with one another to survive and solve the mystery. Along the way, they find that his detective skills and her supernatural abilities mean they make for a good team.

The two meet again in *The Voodoo Amulet*. "We're surrounded by the living dead and you're really worried about breaking the law?!" Cassandra exclaims when she summons Tony to New Orleans to help her recover a mystic talisman – all the while avoiding black magicians, zombies and, naturally, the police.

In *The Last Stop*, while awaiting execution after an adventure has gone sour, Tony tells Cassandra the tale of the

COMING SOON!

THE WRITERS INTRODUCE US TO THEIR STORIES...

BENEATH THE VEIL

"Alfie Chapman and Emma Finney's arrival in Collinsport marks the beginning of a killing spree. With the bodies piling up, just who is to blame? And who will survive?"

KYMBERLY ASHMAN

THE ENEMY WITHIN

"Handyman Cyrus and teacher Sabrina are not a natural couple – but when someone starts killing their neighbours, they discover they have more in common than they realised." **WILL HOWELLS**

THE LUCIFER GAMBIT

"Who killed billionaire Isobel Randall? To uncover the truth, a young woman enters a dark world of sorcery and murder. But to escape, is she willing to make the ultimate sacrifice?" **ERIC WALLACE**

THE FLIP SIDE

"Carolyn Stoddard goes to the Blue Whale to escape the darkness in her life. But tonight, alone and at the mercy of a madman with the face of a friend, she's reminded that nowhere is safe in Collinsport."

CODY QUIJANO-SHELL

BEYOND THE GRAVE

"Halloween in Collinsport, and a TV show is broadcasting live from the town's cemetery. What could possibly go wrong...?" **AARON LAMONT**

night he spent trapped on a train with no final destination and only the Devil for company.

CHEMISTRY

The horror is played straight, with the humour lying in the witty interaction between the detective and the witch. The chemistry of actors Jerry Lacy and Lara Parker is marvellous – their timing and delivery evoking memories of classic movie couples such as Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, or Cary Grant and Katherine Hepburn.



Michael Salami as Mr Jericho in *The Voodoo Amulet*



Adenya Knight as Sybilla in *The Voodoo Amulet*

Tony and Cassandra respect one another, but hide it behind their competitiveness and good-natured bickering. Tony is learning to put the demons of his past behind him while

Angelique, in her guise as Cassandra, is starting to enjoy living as a human being. They started out as enemies but now they're friends. Could their relationship develop even further?

This is the world of **Dark Shadows**. Such things don't come without a price. But wherever Tony & Cassandra's storyline is heading, you can bet both they and the listeners will be having fun until the very end. **VORTEX**



Jerry Lacy recording



WELCOME TO
COLLINSPOORT
YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE!

PRODUCERS DAVID DARLINGTON AND JOSEPH LIDSTER PREVIEW WHAT ELSE IS COMING UP IN THE DARK SHADOWS RANGE

Brigid Lohrey and Simon Kent



It's the 1970s and Alfie Chapman (Simon Kent) and Emma Finney (Brigid Lohrey), two British students travelling across America, are forced to stay overnight in the town of Collinsport when their car breaks down. But their problems are only just beginning as they're about to discover that Collinsport isn't any ordinary town...

"We want this series to be accessible to new listeners," says co-producer David Darlington, "so we arrive in Collinsport alongside Alfie and Emma and meet the residents – both natural and supernatural – through them."

And they're not the only visitors – British TV presenter Tom Lacey (Stephen Kelly) and his crew are also there to film a special Halloween episode of the supernatural investigation show **Beyond the Grave**.

Small towns might be infamous for their mistrust of strangers, but it's the residents Alfie, Emma and Tom should be worried about. There's the mysterious veiled woman, obsessed

with death, staying at the Collinsport Inn. Local spoilt rich girl Carolyn Stoddard (Nancy Barrett), who spends her days drinking in the Blue Whale and dancing with strangers. The pub has a new barman, Jonah Rooney (Christopher Ragland), who could be hiding secrets of his own. A young woman has returned to the town wearing a mysterious pendant. And can Deputy Sheriff Jim Hardy (Jonathon Marx) really be as wholesome as he seems? Elsewhere, Cyrus Longworth (Christopher Pennock) is embarking on a relationship with schoolteacher Sabrina Jennings (Lisa Richards), but also having

"WE WANT THIS SERIES TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO NEW LISTENERS."

to deal with the son of the Devil (James Unsworth) who lives inside his soul. And for some reason, Maggie Evans (Kathryn Leigh Scott) – the owner of the Collinsport Inn – has a nursery rhyme stuck in her head...

"The story of **Dark Shadows** spans centuries," says co-producer Joseph Lidster, "but this year we've decided to focus on a specific period in the mid-1970s. Each disc in this six-part run features a standalone story, but by setting the entire series within a span of a few weeks, we're able to increase the 'serial' nature of it. It's a story about a seemingly normal community and the people who live there but it's a town with secrets stranger than **Twin Peaks** and a body count higher than **The League of Gentlemen's** Royston Vasey. This is the story of Collinsport." **VORTEX**

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AS TEGAN PLAYS PRINCESS IN THIS MONTH'S MAIN RANGE RELEASE, KENNY SMITH LOOKS BACK TO HER ARRIVAL ON AUDIO IN **THE GATHERING**

Newcomers to Big Finish might find it hard to believe that once upon a time, Tom Baker and Janet Fielding weren't interested in recreating their roles from *Doctor Who*, even though they're now regulars in Big Finish plays.

Back in 2006, producer/director Gary Russell finally persuaded Janet, after years of trying, to have one final outing as Tegan Jovanka. "I had worked very hard to convince Janet to do one for Big Finish," says Gary. "She would say, 'No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, okay.' I thought I'd come up with a story that would appeal to her – it would be a story featuring Tegan now, years after leaving the Doctor, so she wouldn't be recreating the part as it was then, as she had been very vocal in her views about female companions.

"As a character Tegan had gone through so much, and I wanted to show that even after you finish travelling with the Doctor it still has an effect on your life – and this was before [TV episode] *School Reunion!* We wanted her to have picked up something on her travels, so this maybe was her last story. I wanted to show it wasn't happiness and roses all the way."

The writing assignment was handed to Joseph Lidster, who was given the chance to add Cybermen into the mix – as well as tying the play into *The Reaping*, a Sixth Doctor

and Peri story also with Cybermen which would be the previous release.

Joe remembers, "What was fun was working out how the two stories were linked and how each worked as both a prequel and a sequel to the other. I also enjoyed developing them as complementary adventures – the structures are similar, both feature newsreaders commenting on the action, similar opening sequences of news reports from throughout time, repeated phrases, and both are very explicitly set in a specific timeframe."

Bringing back the feisty Australian caused Joe some trouble. "Writing for Tegan was a real challenge. I didn't want her to be a parody who wandered around saying 'Rabbits' and 'It's an entry coder', but I also couldn't ignore the fact that whereas Peri was bolshy and argumentative, Tegan was often just plain miserable. She could have a laugh but you rarely saw it in the TARDIS.

"Also, the big problem I had was that Janet wanted Tegan to be killed off. Anyone who's listened to my stuff knows I like to put characters through the wringer, but it just felt wrong. It was too depressing and it was one of those things that wouldn't really have repercussions – there'd be no reason for it."

Instead, a compromise was reached, where Tegan would be suffering from a brain tumour but the ending was left open.

Of course, things would change in the future – Janet had fun at the recording. She was tempted back into the Big Finish world for more adventures as the younger Tegan, with Turlough, Nyssa and the Doctor, the latest of which, *The Lady of Mercia*, is released this month. **VORTEX**

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BBC

FORTHCOMING RELEASES

MAY 2013

- Doctor Who: **The Lady of Merca** (1.73, Fifth Doctor, Tegan, Turlough and Nyssa)
- Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures: **Phantoms of the Deep** (2.5, Fourth Doctor and Romana)
- Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: **The Apocalypse Mirror** (7.11, Second Doctor)
- Blake's 7: **The Liberator Chronicles – Box Set 4**
- Blake's 7: **Lucifer** by Paul Darrow
- Blake's 7: **Lucifer audiobook** (Read by Paul Darrow)
- Dark Shadows 33: **The Phantom Bride**

JUNE 2013

- Doctor Who: **Prisoners of Fate** (1.74, Fifth Doctor, Tegan, Turlough and Nyssa)
- Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures: **The Dalek Contract** (2.6, Fourth Doctor and Romana)
- Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: **Council of War** (7.12, Third Doctor)
- Graceless 3 – **Box Set**
- The Mervyn Stone Mysteries: **The Axeman Cometh**
- Dark Shadows 34: **Beneath the Veil**

JULY 2013

- Doctor Who: **Persuasion** (1.75, Seventh Doctor and Klein)
- Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures: **The Final Phase** (2.7, Fourth Doctor and Romana)
- Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: **Mastermind** (8.01, The Master)
- Counter-Measures: **Series Two Box Set**
- Dark Shadows 35: **The Enemy Within**
- Big Finish Classics: **The Picture of Dorian Gray**

AUGUST 2013

- Doctor Who: **Starlight Robbery** (1.76, Seventh Doctor and Klein)

- Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: **The Alchemists** (8.02, First Doctor)
- Blake's 7: **The Liberator Chronicles – Box Set 5**
- Iris Wildthyme: **Series Four Box Set**
- Dark Shadows 36: **The Lucifer Gambit**
- **Benjamin & Baxter** (Interview)
- The Confessions of Dorian Gray: **Series Two**

SEPTEMBER 2013

- Doctor Who: **Daleks Among Us** (1.77, Seventh Doctor and Klein)
- Doctor Who: **1963: Fanfare for the Common Men** (1.78, Fifth Doctor)
- Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: **Upstairs** (8.03, First Doctor)
- Doctor Who - The Lost Stories: **The Dark Planet** (4.01, First Doctor)
- Bernice Summerfield: **Missing Persons Box Set**
- Bernice Summerfield: **Missing Persons tie-in book** (title TBA)
- Dark Shadows 37: **The Flip Side**

OCTOBER 2013

- Doctor Who: **1963: The Space Race** (1.79, Sixth Doctor)
- Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: **Ghost in the Machine** (8.04, Third Doctor)
- Doctor Who - The Lost Stories: **The Queen of Time** (4.02, Second Doctor)
- **Gallifrey VI** (Three full cast adventures)
- Blake's 7: **The Liberator Chronicles – Box Set 6**
- Blake's 7: **Novel** (Anthology)
- Dark Shadows 38: **Beyond the Grave**

NOVEMBER 2013

- Doctor Who: **1963: The Assassination Games** (1.79, Seventh Doctor, Ace, Counter-Measures)

- Doctor Who: **The Light at the End** (Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Doctors)
- Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: **The Beginning** (8.05, First Doctor)
- Doctor Who - The Lost Stories: **Lords of the Red Planet** (4.03, Second Doctor)
- Jago & Litefoot: **Series Six Box Set**

DECEMBER 2013

- Doctor Who: **TBA** (181, TBA)
- Doctor Who: **Night of the Stormcrow** (Fourth Doctor and Leela)
- Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: **The Dying Light** (8.06, Doctor TBA)
- Doctor Who - The Lost Stories: **The Mega** (4.04, Third Doctor)
- Doctor Who: **Dark Eyes II** (Eighth Doctor)
- Doctor Who: **Subscriber Special** (TBA)
- The Ordeals of Sherlock Holmes: **Box Set**

JANUARY 2014

- Doctor Who: **TBA** (182, TBA)
- Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures: **The King of Sontar** (3.1, Fourth Doctor and Leela)
- Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: **Luna Romana** (8.07, Fourth Doctor)

FEBRUARY 2014

- Doctor Who: **TBA** (183, TBA)
- Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures: **White Ghosts** (3.2, Fourth Doctor and Leela)
- Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles: **TBA** (8.08, Doctor TBA)
- Blake's 7: **The Liberator Chronicles – Box Set 7**



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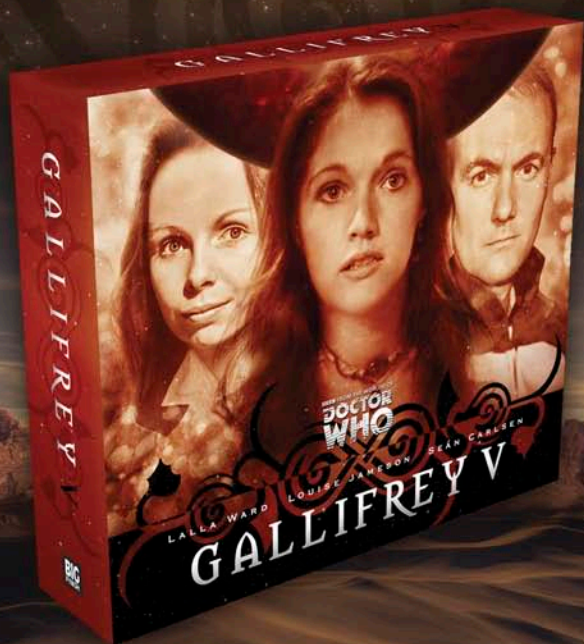
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