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# THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES

LOUISE JAMESON ON WRITING AND STARRING IN THE THIRD SERIES

PLUS! **BLAKE'S 7**: MICHAEL KEATING  
**DOCTOR WHO**: ANJLI MOHINDRA  
SPOOKY GOINGS-ON IN **DARK SHADOWS**!

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STORIES

ISSUE 61 • MARCH 2014

# DIMENSIONS 2014

24TH, 25TH  
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COPTHORNE HOTEL  
NEWCASTLE

FIRST GUESTS  
ANNOUNCED



PAUL MCGANN



KAI OWEN



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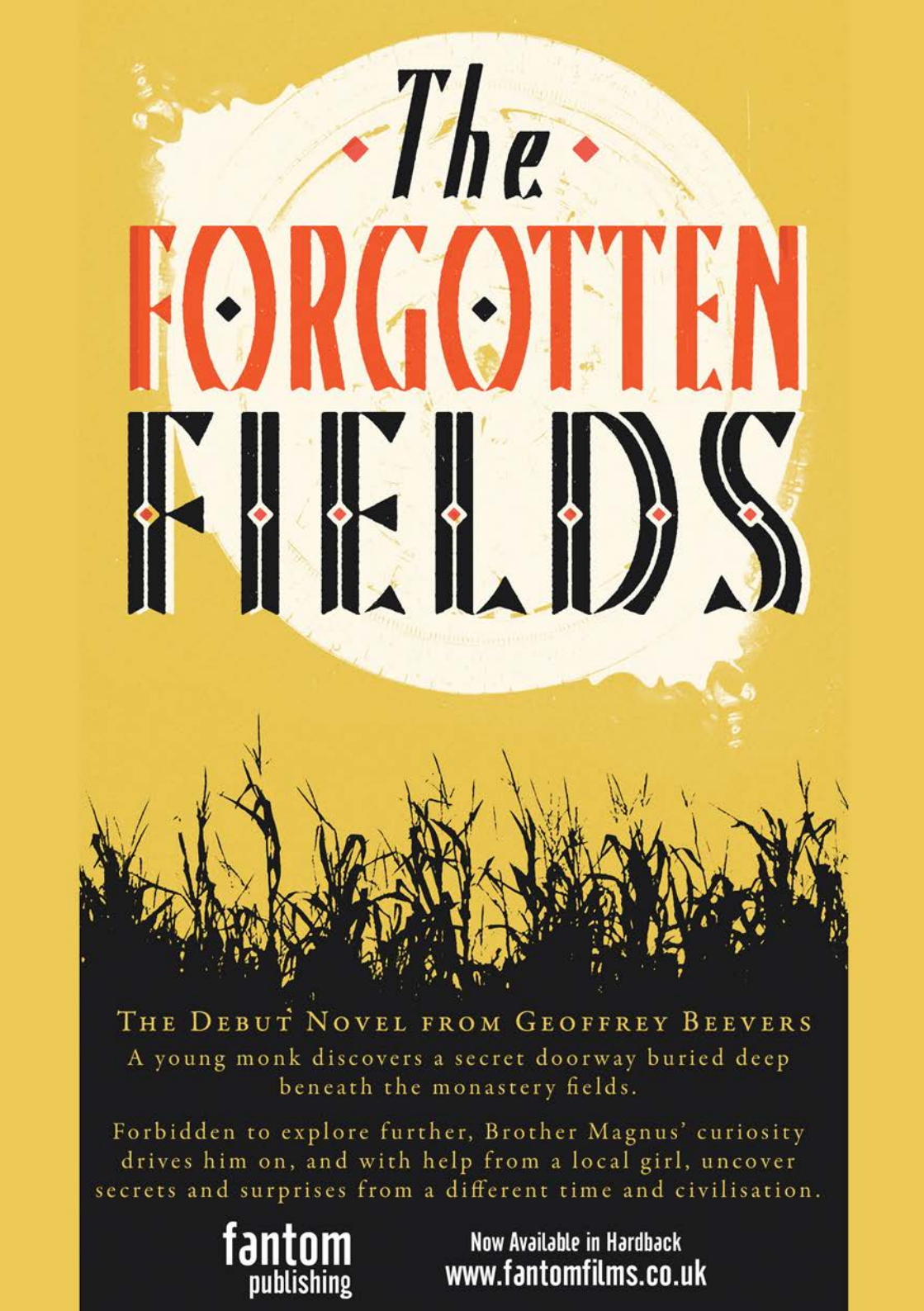
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# SNEAK PREVIEWS AND WHISPERS

## CONTACT HAS BEEN MADE!

**T**he catchphrase from the 1977 **Doctor Who** story *The Invisible Enemy* is back, along with the fearsome Nucleus, in Jonny Morris's sequel *Revenge of the Swarm* – out in July!

It finds the Seventh Doctor and Ace facing brand new troubles when young Hector is infected by the Virus, which has lain dormant inside the TARDIS itself. And so begins a voyage that will take them to many locales familiar from the original story – including the Bi-Al Foundation – and on to a fantastic voyage of a kind they haven't experienced before.

John Leeson is back playing the Nucleus (although there is no K9 to help out this time), and among the guest stars is none other than the brilliant Siobhan Redmond (**Between the Lines**, **The High Life**) – one of those actors we've been hoping to get in to Big Finish for ages!

This story is the start of a whole new trilogy for the TARDIS trio – and it might just be Hector's final tour in the TARDIS...

.....  
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Half a point and a feeling of smug self-satisfaction to anyone who spots the Blur reference this issue.

# EDITORIAL

**S**ometimes, little things just strike you. I've always loved being a bit of an insider, ever since my previous job, as editor of *Cult Times* magazine, gave me opportunities to meet the stars of my favourite series. And they *were* my favourite series; I went into every interview totally familiar with my subject because I was chatting to the stars of shows of which I'd watched every single episode. **Stargate SG-1**. **24**. **Heroes**. **Farscape**. **Red Dwarf**. **Due South**. **Hercules: The Legendary Journeys**. **Alias**. The list goes on. I liked the fact that I could talk to these people about their work and their lives, and in some cases start to build up a relationship with them over each interview encounter. Some of them got to know me; I could greet Amanda Tapping with a hug. Ben Browder offered to buy me a pint. I had (and to the best of my knowledge still have) the e-mail address of JJ Abrams. I wasn't constantly getting in touch with them; I never felt I had the right, being just some journalist among many with no special call on any of their time. But it was nice if they remembered me when I saw them. Sadly, it's rare to get the chance to meet all the people you admire.

Today, Harold Ramis died, aged a mere sixty-nine. Now, whenever anyone asks me what my favourite film is, I always say **Ghostbusters**. (Similarly, when anyone asks me if I'm a god, I say yes.) For those who don't know, Harold Ramis played Egon Spengler in it, and co-wrote it. It's not the best film ever made. It's not the best comedy ever made. It's not the best sci-fi film ever made. But it holds a special place in my affections, whether it's from the iconography of it (the firehouse, Ecto-1, Mr Stay Puft, that logo – which I wear on my coat) or just that it's so much fun and the characters are all so endearing. I wanted to be Egon when I was younger. Still do, to be honest. He was a nerdy but smart sort, and I loved that he got to nip out with an unlicensed nuclear accelerator and catch ghosts/destroy stuff. Sadly, I never got the chance to meet the man who brought him to life.

So today, after a day in studio, I'm grateful for the opportunity afforded to me to be an insider again. I get to interview people whose work I admire, whether it's one of the stars of **Doctor Who**, the show with which I grew up, or one of the wealth of amazing actors we get in who I've loved in other shows, and whose work for us is right up there with their best roles. And now there's no publicist moving me on after fifteen minutes (though sometimes there's a director or producer), so I can get to know these people a little better and, hopefully, through interviews in this very magazine, you can get to know them a bit better too.

**PAUL SPRAGG**



# SAVAGE HEART

**THE LADY BEHIND THE FOURTH DOCTOR'S SAVAGE COMPANION LEELA, LOUISE JAMESON, TALKS TO PAUL SPRAGG ABOUT RETURNING FOR A SECOND SERIES OF ADVENTURES WITH TOM BAKER**

Hello Louise. Are you pleased with how well received the first series of **Fourth Doctor Adventures** was?

■ I read the *Doctor Who Magazine* [reviews], which I think have been pretty fair, generous and complimentary on the whole, and because I pitched a story for Tom and I'm in the process of co-writing it with Nigel Fairs, I've taken more and more of an interest in writing, specifically during the time we've been doing these scripts. Over this twelve months I've written and performed a play, again with Nigel, called **My Gay Best Friend**, which has just won the Angel award in Brighton, which I'm thrilled about, and we're having a

chat about perhaps taking it into the West End. Watch this space! So writing has become really, really important to me, it looks like it's becoming a parallel career.

Having pitched the [**Doctor Who**] idea, I am now realising quite how difficult it is to write a story, because it's so plot-driven and yet the best stories retain the relationships in a very specific way. Also you have to, to quite a great extent, honour the history of the programme and there are certain rules you have to adhere to, even though you can take it into fantastical and wonderful and untried territory.



Reunited! Louise Jameson and Tom Baker

## SERIES THREE SO FAR...



**THE KING OF SONTAR**  
BY JOHN DORNEY  
OUT NOW!



**WHITE GHOSTS**  
BY ALAN BARNES  
OUT NOW!



**THE CROOKED MAN**  
BY JOHN DORNEY  
OUT THIS MONTH!

## “HAVING PITCHED THE [DOCTOR WHO] IDEA, I AM NOW REALISING QUITE HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO WRITE A STORY.”

Writing aside, how are you finding your second full series?

■ We're only really just embarking on it, so I haven't quite got the feel of it yet. But it's adorable working with Tom, as it has been over the whole series. I never thought that would happen! And it's great! The studio's ten minutes down the road from me, which is a real double whammy bonus, it's fabulous. I woke up this morning and I had a song in my heart knowing I was coming in here to work with Big Finish today. It is one of the loveliest – I want to say gentlest – jobs that I've ever had. I think an awful lot of that is to do with David Richardson and how he captains the ship; he's so generous

with everybody and really has an eye for every detail that's going on. And if you try and say what an amazing producer he is to have around, he just kind of modestly blinks and brushes away the compliment, so I'd be most grateful if you could print what a fantastic boss I think he is. It's not just the efficiency, it's just his whole manner, his whole respect for the genre, his love for the genre, his knowledge of the genre. It's inherent in everything he does.

Did you think the first series would be as successful as it has been?

■ Tom and I had made our peace before this started, so I knew that would be fine. I knew it would go down well because he's such a sought-after, popular Doctor with everybody. To be honest, I wasn't expecting the standard of the writing to be as absolutely brilliant as it is, and that's been the icing on the cake.

People particularly loved *The Wrath of the Iceni*.

■ I loved it. Love John's [Dorney] writing. I really think he's something quite special. Occasionally I'll change a line and they'll be very tolerant of my little interjections, but John's you don't touch a syllable. He really allows Leela to go into quite dark, murky emotional areas, which as an actor is much more satisfying than

running down corridors away from monsters. Which also has its place, obviously, but it's very nice to go somewhere emotionally as well.

Do you feel the character of Leela is expanding?

■ This whole thing of educating Leela is great; now I can read, for example. I still try and keep it childlike when I'm given something to read, but she was given a word – not this script, but in the one I did last week – where I had to read the word twelfth. That's quite a complicated word, so we did this as a child would, absolutely worked it out and then said it, so I'm trying to keep it that she can't pick up an encyclopaedia and work it out. In this story that we're recording today [*White Ghosts*], she reads a book of fairy stories, and of course because she's still discovering the Earth, she doesn't know if the ogres and the ghosts and the monsters and Jack and the Beanstalk really happened, or the babes in the wood really existed or if three little pigs could speak; it's all just quite sweet, it's a really lovely touch that Alan's [Barnes]



**“TOM SAID ... ‘OH, THEY’VE MADE YOU RATHER ARTICULATE IN THIS ONE, HAVEN’T THEY, DARLING?”**

giving it. And he’s also cross-referenced it with the politics and the philosophy behind GM foods without overtly shoving it in anybody’s face. He’s picked something topical from 2012, with some myths and magic from way, way back and we’ve got this spider’s web of a very clever story. He’s also really good at the cliffhanger moments because there has to be at least one, obviously, but he feeds in all these little cliffhangers all the way through. Very clever.

*Have you enjoyed **White Ghosts** today, then?*

■ I really like it. The first thing Tom said when I came into the green room this morning was, ‘Oh, they’ve made you rather articulate in this one, haven’t they, darling?’ Given that that’s been the thrust of him trying to educate Leela, it’s succeeding! And she now picks him up when he’s slightly patronising: ‘Clever girl, Leela! I’m not a dog that needs a pat on the head’. I have that retort in this one.

*Are these stories closer to how you would have liked Leela to be in the TV series?*

■ Completely. Wouldn’t that have been great to have these filmed? I do think the modern companions get a much better

deal on the scripts than we ever did in our day. But there were times; *The Sunmakers* was a very powerful story for me, *The Talons of Weng-Chiang*. Both written by Bob Holmes, of course, who I think was one of the best writers ever of the programme. Really understood the genre like no other in his era and also didn’t play about too much with your mind, kept it good old-fashioned storytelling.

*You’re one of the busiest people we know. What other projects are you working on?*

■ I’m directing sixteen teenagers in **A Comedy of Errors**, which I’ve edited down. It’s Shakespeare’s shortest play anyway, but I’ve edited it even shorter and taken out the interval; that opens in two weeks. Argh! I’m writing for **Big Finish**. My agents want me to go into **Wicked** and I’m going, ‘Oh, I can’t sing!’ so they’re taking me to see the show tomorrow night,



to prove to me that the part isn’t a singing one – **Madam Morrible**. And I’ve got two other plays I want to write; I’ve blocked off two writer’s retreats later in the year. And this weekend Toby Hadoke came down and did – he says it’s his last ever – **Moths Ate My Doctor Who Scarf** and his new show, **My Stepson Stole My Sonic Screwdriver**. I run a little fringe venue down here at the Beacon, a fantastic pub, so he fulfilled two slots for me there. So my life is absolutely surrounded by **Doctor Who**. I’ve got a couple of conventions coming up.

*You love it, though.*

■ I do, you know. It’s my pension, I think! It’s extraordinary, isn’t it? I think you can get conventioned out; I think you can end up doing too many and it ends up becoming formulaic rather than spontaneous, but Anneke [Wills, **Doctor Who**’s Polly] came to the show last night and she said the same as me, it’s just these lovely, lovely people in our life now, thanks to **Doctor Who**. Hurrah! **VORTEX**



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# GET HAPPY



Adam Usden

**P**atients have stopped dying at Collinsport Hospital. Accompanied by her boyfriend Simon, and helped and hindered by the mysterious Dr Balthazar and war veteran Edwin Beadle, parapsychologist Amy Jennings is about to discover just what could be making the dead so happy.

In her last story, *The Lucifer Gambit*, Amy fought the witch Isobel Randall, played by Sheila

Staeffel. In this new adventure, she's meeting another star of stage and screen – the legendary Murray Melvin!

"Murray plays Edwin Beadle," says co-producer Joseph Lidster. "Edwin's a war veteran who, like everyone else at the hospital, finds himself unable to die. Meeting Murray was a real honour. He's had such an amazing career and we were thrilled he agreed to play Edwin."

*The Happier Dead* was written by Adam Usden, a writer new to Big Finish. "It's a fantastic standalone adventure," continues Lidster. "It's a very modern script by Adam, very dark, very funny and very scary. A perfect jumping-on point for new listeners." We asked writer Adam Usden and star James Lawrence, who plays Dr Balthazar, for more information...

**Hello Adam. So what can you tell us about *The Happier Dead*?**

■ Not much, I don't want to give the game away! Ah damn, now I've let on there's a game to give away. Um... it's about a hospital ward where nobody dies. There are bed shortages. The horror is of an administrative nature. No, hopefully it's everything a *Dark Shadows* tale should be: sexy, funny, twisty, twisted and very, very scary.

**So just who is Amy Jennings?**

■ Amy had her first big solo outing last year in *The Lucifer Gambit*. In that episode, she really embraced her heritage, she actively went looking for evil to vanquish. But after the horrors she experienced, she vowed never to go back to

## “I’VE ADORED MY INTRODUCTION TO **DARK SHADOWS** AND THIS EPISODE’S GOT ALL THE RIGHT INGREDIENTS.”

JAMES LAWRENCE

exciting project – the audience basically get a chance to walk through history. It opens in March and is going to run for the next eighteen months, so there’s no excuse not to go! There should be updates on my Twitter, @AdamUsden, very soon.

And finally, why should someone buy this story?

■ It’s a brilliant way into the series for **Dark Shadows** newbies, and hopefully a treat for fans too.



Above: James Lawrence  
Inset: Murray Melvin



### JAMES LAWRENCE

Hello James. So what can you tell us about the good doctor?

■ Well, only so much! Collinsport Hospital is most definitely his patch and he doesn’t take kindly to Amy Jennings asking certain questions. I suppose he’s like anyone else in life; he has his secrets. It just so happens that his secrets are a little more troubling than most...

This is your first work for Big Finish. How did you get involved?

■ I first met Joseph Lidster at a writers group. He discovered that I was a massive

Big Finish fan, although I hadn’t heard **Dark Shadows**. When the new series was being put together, he asked if I would be interested in taking part and... well, there was only one answer I could give!

So what’s next for you?

■ I’ll be taking on the role of sound designer on **The Trunk**, which opens at The Space in London on February 25th. If people are interested in keeping up with what I’m up to, they can follow me on Twitter (@TheMrJL) or have a look at my website, [www.james-lawrence.com](http://www.james-lawrence.com)

And finally, why should someone buy this story?

■ I’ve adored my introduction to **Dark Shadows** and this episode’s got all the right ingredients: mystery, excitement and an unhealthy, Cronenberg-like fixation with real organic horror... **VORTEX**

Collinsport. At the start of *The Happier Dead*, we find her in a good place. She’s studying at Salem State; she’s got a sweet boyfriend, Simon, who is a lovely slice of normality for her. Except of course Simon is also attracted to her because of her brushes with the supernatural! So there’s a bit of a tension there. But they’ve got a really interesting dynamic. I’m sure this is the first of many adventures for them.

This is your first story for Big Finish. How did you get involved?

■ Well I mainly write for theatre, but I’ve grown up watching all the best cult television – **Farscape**, **Being Human**, **Buffy The Vampire Slayer**. My big ambition is to write for **Doctor Who**. So when Joe saw one of my stage plays and asked if I would be interested in penning a **Dark Shadows** tale, I jumped at the chance.

So what’s next for Adam Usden?

■ I’m currently collaborating with three other writers, Outside Studios, and the National Trust, who are commemorating the centenary of the Great War by reverting Dunham Massey, a stately home in Manchester, back into a convalescent hospital, which is the role it played during WWI. It’s a tremendously

**OUT THIS MONTH ON CD AND DOWNLOAD!**



# VILA ROSY

## MICHAEL KEATING TAKES A LOOK AT THE PAST AND FUTURE OF **BLAKE'S 7** AND THE STATE OF THE PLANET WITH PAUL SPRAGG

Hi Michael! What's it like being reunited with the original **Blake's 7** cast?

■ It's lovely. It's like a little reunion. We're probably taking up half the time just chatting about old days and what we've been up to the last thirty-odd years. It's great fun to see everybody again, to have contact with folk. And we're getting paid for it, I believe, so that's even better! And it's a day out as well.

You're getting paid?

■ We're getting lunch, I know that... you're cooking it, aren't you?

What can you tell us about the script you're working on today?

■ There's things going on that are rather spooky. Possibly it's like that in space. Perhaps the reality is that it would be a little spooky when you think there's more than three dimensions in space. I can't give too much away, but put it this way: I come from a family – on my father's side – who were spiritualists and mediums, so it's a kind of echo of that.

Not that I believe any of that stuff, I hasten to add. So it is quite spooky. But it's an interesting episode and the second half will surprise people.

How do these stories compare to the original TV series ones?

■ I think they're excellent, but perhaps, maybe, because it's audio, it's easier and you can have a larger canvas than when you're a little restricted on a tight budget in Betchworth Quarry in 1977/78. I think you can do more; you're putting things into people's mind. It's like reading a book, isn't it? Perhaps in a way television's limiting slightly compared to radio. Perhaps radio's the new thing! It'll come back! I hope. You can go anywhere with it; with radio you can do anything you like.

Does this have the same feel as the classic episodes?

■ I think so. I think it changed anyway in the series, from the first season to the second season. Partly because, I've often said this, when we started it, those of us acting in it – I don't know about the script editor – but all we had were



Michael also appears with Tom Baker in *The Evil One*, an upcoming Fourth Doctor Adventure!



**“WE’RE PROBABLY TAKING UP HALF THE TIME JUST CHATTING ABOUT OLD DAYS.”**

four episodes to work on and so we didn’t know where it was going so we were trying to find our way. But that’s like life; you don’t know where it’s going either. Maybe that was deliberate on Terry Nation’s part. I always think the third season it was really where it should be, and I think the fourth it went off on a tangent. And this [audio series] is bringing us back to what we had in the latter part of the second and third season of the television series. People will probably say I’m talking absolutely rubbish but I think there’s something in that, actually.

**You stayed with the series throughout its run. Were you affected by the cast changes?**

■ I think we were always a team because actors always are. Obviously when we started, that was the first time we’d ever done *Blake’s 7*, so one looks back at it with great fondness. But all of it I look back on with great fondness. But you’ve

got to remember there was always a bit of a break between each season of, to start with, about six months, and between the third and fourth one there was a year. Getting back into it again I sometimes found a little difficult in those days, but it doesn’t seem to be a problem with this now; I can kind of tune right into it, go back in time to how I was, I hope, then... But I’m very old now. I’m a grandfather, I’ve got five grandchildren, but I think I’m still going for thirty-five, thirty-six! That’s why it’s better that it’s audio and not on screen!

**Does it help that Vila was always a little bit childish anyway?**

■ There’s a naivety. And he’s a great survivor, obviously. I think he survived right at the end of the fourth season as well, because when he was shot he was shot in the back but he fell backwards, so was he really shot?

**Were you surprised when you got the call to come back to the show?**

■ It was lovely and I’m pretty pleased to be doing it, obviously, but I was in a way. When we did the first ones, I didn’t think there’d be that much interest, but obviously there is, and that’s good. Amongst people who weren’t around when it was first shown as well! I’ve found this at conventions, [among] people who weren’t alive when we first did it, there’s still a lot of interest in it.

## THE CLASSIC AUDIO ADVENTURES



### WARSHIP BY PETER ANGHELIDES

An alien fleet stands poised to invade Federation space. The only vessel available to hold it back is the *Liberator*.

**OUT NOW!**



### FRACTURES BY JUSTIN RICHARDS

An attack by Travis and a squad of Federation pursuit ships leaves the *Liberator* damaged, its engines in desperate need of repair.

**OUT NOW!**



### BATTLEGROUND BY ANDREW SMITH

The crew of the *Liberator* have a new mission – and their target is on Straxis, a planet also known as Battleground 9.

**OUT NOW!**



### DRONES BY MARC PLATT

The *Liberator* crew is urgently needed on Straxis – but Roj Blake has acute problems of his own...

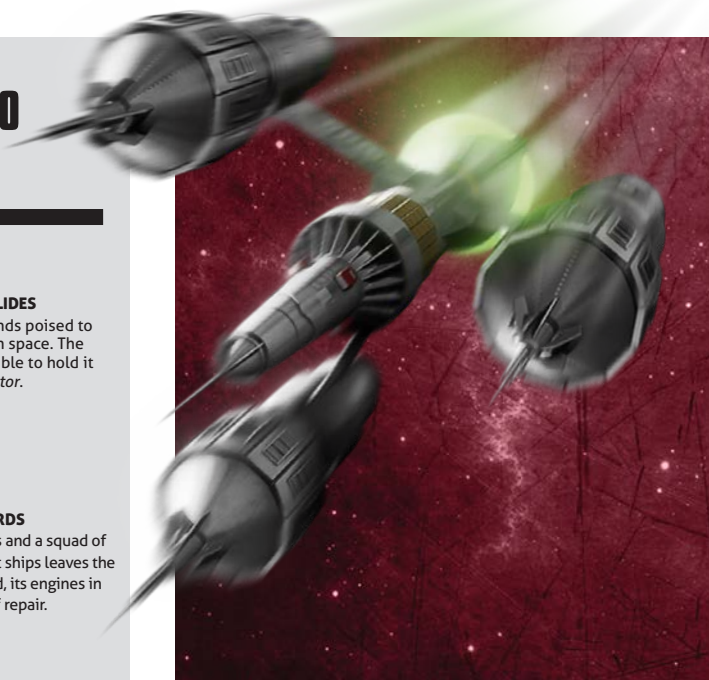
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### MIRROR BY PETER ANGHELIDES

Orac has tracked Space Major Kade – the man who killed Jenna's father – to the planet Vere.

**OUT APRIL**



Are you pleased to keep the variety of these full cast stories and the smaller *Liberator Chronicles* pieces?

■ I think it's good. You often find that in series; you sometimes find that an episode might just be two or three characters. There was a wonderful series years ago called **Homicide: Life on the Street** which I used to watch, and I remember an episode like a [Harold] Pinter play; it was a three-hander, fundamentally. And I think that's good; I think it's ripe for that. Say it's a situation with just two in, it's more acute seeing how they deal with it, just those two characters.

Do you think there will ever be a revival of the show?

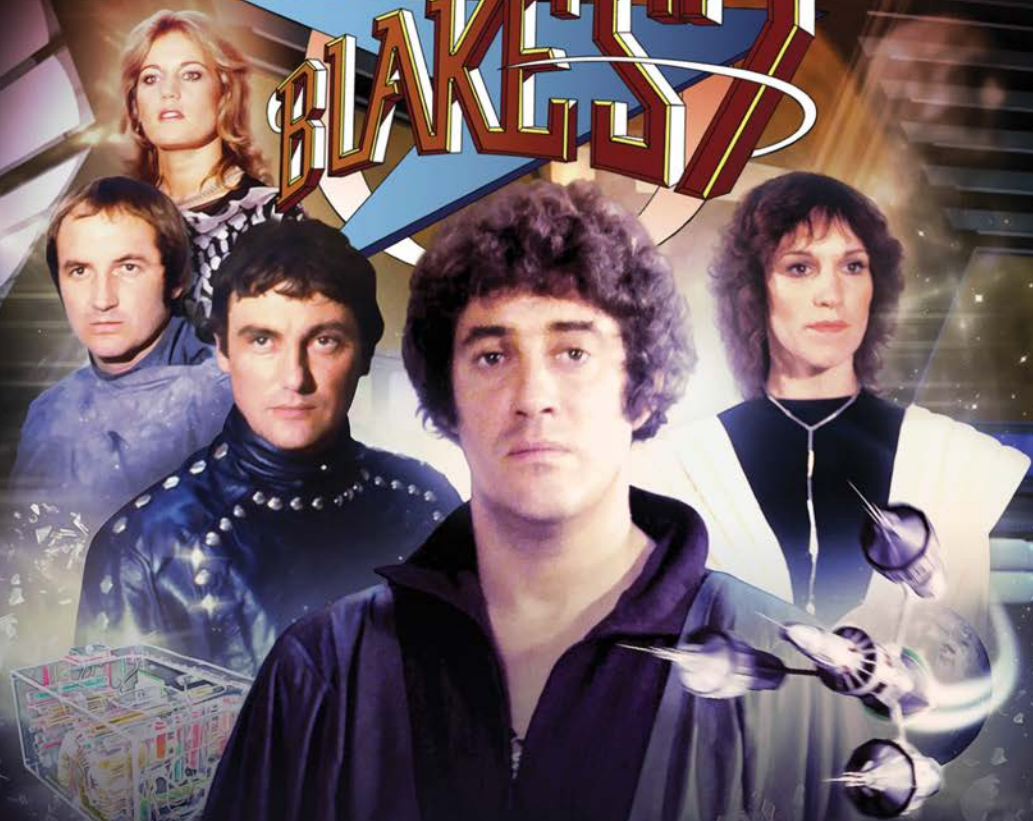
■ I'm sure it's ripe for it. I was reading an article; in a way they felt it was more pertinent to today than when it was first shown, this dystopian thing. The world was always in chaos, but people look at the weather, they say, 'Well, have we done this? What's happening to the planet?' Maybe it has more relevance today.

Who do you see playing Vila?

■ Oh gosh, I don't know really. [thinks] I went to see **Behind the Candelabra**; Matt Damon's a very fine actor. I'm sure he could play Vila. I could play his auntie. Or his grandad. We did say we should do **Pensioners in Space** because we're all old enough now... **VORTEX**

Nerry Nation's

# BLAKE'S 7



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# FROM CHICAGO TO SPACE

**STAR OF THE SARAH JANE ADVENTURES AND NOW THIS MONTH'S MAIN RANGE DOCTOR WHO RELEASE, SCAVENGER, ANJLI MOHINDRA HAS A TANGENT-TASTIC CHAT WITH PAUL SPRAGG...**

Hello Anjali. You've done a few audios for us now; have you been trying to work your way into a main range story?

■ I have, I have. When I met Nick [Briggs, director] – ooh, I think that was my tummy. You didn't hear it, but I did and had to tell you about it. When I first met Nick in Chicago in November at the convention there, I found out that he did Big Finish and he did the **Doctor Who** range, and I was constantly poking him to get me involved, so I'm glad. I'm here!

What can you tell us about your character, bearing in mind any spoilers...

■ Edit myself as I speak? If only I could master that skill! My character's called Jyoti Cutler, and she's the payload specialist aboard the Mandela space station. I wanted to be a film producer but I wasn't quite able to; my parents very irritatingly pushed me into the science route, so I've managed

to blend the two together and I do lots of camera work with my science.

You met Nick at Chicago TARDIS, plus Lisa Greenwood (Flip) and indeed me. It's like a reunion today, isn't it?

■ It's all a bit weird, isn't it? I met Lisa for the first time there, and we got on really well. I think we're quite similar, quite chatty and it's been really nice. We wear a lot of the same clothes as well. We are basically the same person! But working together, I've been able to bring out some of that chemistry that me and Lisa have in Jyoti and Flip; we've become like a little team full of camaraderie.

That'd be a good word to play in today's Scrabble game with Colin.

■ I might try that, you know. If I ever manage to get





## “RAXACORICOFALLAPATORIUS – I PRACTICED THAT A LOT.”

camaraderie [into a game], I will remember you. I will sign your name on the back of the board that I'm playing on, just to mark the moment.

Thanks. My real name or the name of my doppelganger you saw in Milton Keynes?

■ Oh my God, yeah! That is weird, isn't it? Maybe an amalgamation of the two. I only ever see you before this other guy. It alternates. You do have an alter ego, don't you? You've just not told me about it. Do you sleepwalk?

No. Would I know if I did, though?

■ No, you wouldn't. Maybe you do. Maybe you should get a camera.

So you think I'm sleepwalking to Milton Keynes?

■ Maybe the guy that you become when you're sleepwalking has an affinity to Milton Keynes.

We seem to have got off the point somehow.

■ We have! Where were we?

I'm not sure. How did you get into doing audio work?

■ When we were doing ADR [Additional Dialogue Recording, on *The Sarah Jane Adventures*], I always really enjoyed it and could always lip-sync really easily. I think the ADR guys used to say, 'You should probably think of doing it, for fun and for work', so I got a voiceover agent and I've done bits and pieces. I did a BBC GCSE bite-size revision book, in the style of *Sarah Jane Adventures*. It was all about photosynthesis, and we used the concept of wrackweed that came from Raxacoricofallapatorius – I practiced that a lot.

But now you can't stop saying it.

■ I really can't. I bring it out at the most awkward moments. People are like, 'What are you talking about?' or 'Bless you' or they say, 'Don't swear', because it sounds like a swear word.

Do you want to do other *Doctor Who* audios?

■ You know what? I think I do.

What's your range of voices like?

■ This is my first Indian voice, which has been quite fun. I've played a monster before; that was quite fun. I quite fancy a French character next, if you could make that happen.

I'll see what I can do. How does the fandom of *The Sarah Jane Adventures* compare to that of audio dramas?

■ With *The Sarah Jane Adventures*, we did get a lot of proper diehard *Doctor Who* fans that obviously loved Lis and went on to watch *Sarah Jane Adventures* because of her. Interesting people; I got some teddy bears! Sometimes I'll go to the theatre in London, just to watch, and at the end there's a group of people that are trying to get all the autographs from the people that were in the show, and I've been pulled along with them and I'm like, 'I'm not in the show'. 'But you've worked with Lis, can we get an autograph?' But that hasn't happened with audio stuff yet!

I did say to the guy outside this morning – because I got a little bit lost and everyone was in the middle of recording so I couldn't get through to anyone – I said, 'I need to get in to Big Finish,' and he said, 'Big Finish?' and I was like, 'Yeah, Big Finish.' He's like, 'I've been here five years, love, and I've never heard of them.' I was like, 'Big Finish! The recording thing!' and he said, 'Oh!' and then he called them something else.

What's it like working with Colin Baker?

■ Ah, really nice. Colin's fifty jokes a minute; he's really funny, really witty. But he's really cool, and great to learn from. I got a little bit starstruck when I first walked into the green room yesterday because he was the Doctor. He's really nice, really funny.

Which *Doctor* do you fancy working alongside next?

■ I think Sylvester McCoy; I've met him before, also at Chicago, and I think he's so, so funny. Chicago was the trip of a lifetime! I have a memory of him when we went to the Blues bar with Lisa and Nick and he was playing the trombone and the saxophone and the flute, all on his walking stick. Not many people can do that. **VORTEX**

**DOCTOR WHO: SCAVENGER IS OUT THIS MONTH ON CD AND DOWNLOAD!**



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DAY 4**





DOCTOR WHO:

# YEAR OF THE PIG

## KENNY SMITH ROOTS OUT SOME TRUFFLES AS HE REVISITS THE DOCTOR WHO MAIN RANGE CLASSIC YEAR OF THE PIG



**F**or years, *Doctor Who* fans had – wrongly – assumed that Maureen O'Brien wanted nothing to do with the show. After all, in a long and successful career, it was simply a twelve-month job on her CV. So when it was announced Maureen would be making her Big Finish debut, it was something of a surprise. Of course, these days she's a regular, with her latest *Companion Chronicle*, *Starborn*, out this month.

However, her debut wasn't to be in the part for which she was best known, as producer/director Gary Russell cast her as Miss Alice Bultitude in *Year of the Pig*.

Gary says, "Maureen O'Brien and I had hit it off very well at a convention, and I said to her, 'I promise you won't play Vicki, but would you come and do one for us?' I sent her a script and she came back to me a day and a half later as she thought it was magnificent and said, 'You cannot make this without me'."

The story had been speculatively submitted by Matthew Sweet, and is full of bright, wonderfully realised characters. So how many of them were real, or have a basis in reality?

Matthew laughs, "Well, not real exactly, but Toby the Sapient Pig was a turn from the late eighteenth century

– if my memory serves, he was on the same bill as the Industrious Fleas. But he wasn't a real pig, just a bear shaved in all the right places, and probably clamped into an armchair, with the restraining harness hidden by a nice suit.

"Proust is, of course, real, but I have no proof that he stayed in the Hotel Palace Thermae in 1913. The hotel is real, though. Or so it seemed when I stayed in it.

"There's nothing at all real about Alice Bultitude, who has that name simply because I wanted to steal that old Ronnie Barker gag about her pulchritude separating her from the multitude. All the details about Ostend and Ensor are true – especially the mermaids and the monkeys who widdled into the nautilus shells. There was a Jack Spratt's Parrot. The outlandish-sounding historical details are, by and large, all accurate."

For Matthew, writing for Colin Baker and Nicola Bryant was a pleasure, and he enjoyed meeting the duo. "I know some people thought that Peri was not the sort of person who would read Proust. Which begs the question, what sort of person would that be? Are they saying she's dumb or something?

"Nicola was very friendly at the recording, and even kept my daughter occupied reading *The Three Little Pigs* while I nipped into the studio to listen to the actors doing their stuff. If you think her gasping is good at the beginning of part two, I can tell you her oinking and wolf voices are also excellent.

"And writing for Colin was a treat, because he enjoys it all so much. I know there are a few bits of this play that he liked, because when we met he gave me a great bear hug and told me so. As I disappeared within his embrace I remember thinking that the shirt he was wearing was very like the one he wore for the *Radio Times* pictures of the *Slipback* recording." **VORTEX**

**DOCTOR WHO: YEAR OF THE PIG IS OUT NOW ON CD AND DOWNLOAD!**

# VORTEX MAIL

## CATCHING UP

Following the outstanding *The Night of the Doctor* last November, I am sure that I am not the only Whovian who is currently filling in all the gaps in my collection of Paul McGann dramas from the main and **Eighth Doctor Adventures** ranges. I am sure that all those doing the same as me will echo my thoughts as I thank Big Finish for the number of discounts that have been available of late allowing me to fill in such gaps at an increasing pace! With a resurgence of interest in the Eighth Doctor, *Dark Eyes 2* could not have come out at a better time, and I cannot wait to hear the Eighth Doctor's story unfold over the next three *Dark Eyes* volumes. I do, however, have a question: at some point in the future, will the Eighth Doctor's audio adventures 'catch up' with the explosive events of *The Night of the Doctor*, with an audio drama detailing the events directly proceeding (and culminating in) the Doctor receiving Cass's distress signal? And could future audio dramas potentially depict the adventures of a younger War Doctor in the Time War?

### WILLIAM TURNER

**NICK:** These are all great questions, William. These are all things that I feel keenly that Big Finish should do. But for now, the answer is 'not for the foreseeable future'. I don't want to hurry to connect up our Eighth Doctor adventures with *Night of the Doctor*, because one of the beauties of the Eighth Doctor 'era' is that it is so large and unknown. To quote *The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, 'I'm a big fan of rigidly defined areas of doubt and uncertainty. That's where stories grow and flourish. A lot of people have been in touch asking for more Eighth Doctor adventures, so we're not about to sew them up any time soon. As for the War Doctor, that would be fabulous, wouldn't it? But, of course, that falls into the area of the new series, and our licence is for what has been lovingly termed the classic series.

## FUTURE THIRD?

I've recently been wondering (as I'm sure many others have as well) as to the future of

the Third Doctor at Big Finish. Now obviously you're not going to just let the Third Doctor era gather dust in the corner, and I'm sure you've got plans that we mere mortals cannot yet know about, but at the moment it seems as if we won't be seeing Three for at least a year. With the **Companion Chronicles** and **Lost Stories** at an end and the upcoming **Early Adventures** (excited about that) covering only the first two Doctors, where does this leave the Third Doctor? When will we be seeing him again? What can you tell us at this stage?

### NICK FERRAZZA

**NICK:** I can tell you that we certainly have plans and that they're well underway. As to what they are, exactly... well, I would just blab it all without hesitation, but then, where would be the fun in that? When everything is prepared and plans are ready to roll, we'll be letting you know all about the... [censored - Ed].

## WINNERS!

I've just been checking out the BF website and discovered that you won the BBC Audio Drama award for the *Great War* episode of *Dark Eyes*. (Can't wait for the part two box set to arrive!)

I know I am rather late with this, but can I just add my own congratulations to everyone else's by saying: Freakin' awesome, dude! (As I believe the young people are wont to say.)

You had a great success with *The Light at the End* - which I thoroughly enjoyed, although it felt as if it had barely started before it was finished. That's probably just me. And now you've got the new year off to a helluva start with this BBC award. Fantastic stuff.

More power to you!

### PAUL STEVENSON

**NICK:** Paul, thank you so much. I've said this before, but I'm more than willing to say this again... what has made that award for *Dark Eyes* so special is the amount of congratulations we've received. Of course it's important that two laudable judges employed by the BBC decided we deserved the award. But when almost everybody stands up and applauds their decision... well,

that feels like a public vote of confidence. Really rewarding. Many thanks.

## WHO'S WHO?

While I have your attention, and I can't get into work today in New Hampshire as we have about a foot of snow here, can I make a suggestion/request. First off, you may have covered this in a podcast, but I'm afraid though I have a subscription via iTunes, I don't go onto iTunes very often so my listening is a bit hit and miss. Anyway, we all know what shrinking violets actors are and how they avoid publicity, but is there any way we can get a list of participants of the downloads? I'm old enough to listen to a lot of plays on Radio 4 and hear on Big Finish voices I recognise but don't know their names. I remember in the past old 'Dalek bounce' said it was tricky and/or time consuming to put this info on the recording, though how long does it take to read out a dozen names? Less time than another 'hilarious/reference to the guy behind the fridge, surely!! If you can't do that, maybe a copy of the list from the CD could be included in the download like you currently include the artwork.

Sorry if you've covered this before, but tough, I had to ask!!

### PAUL WEBB

**NICK:** The cast list is on the website. Really easy to access. And it would take a lot longer to record the definitive cast list than it would take to make a silly joke about a bloke behind a fridge, honestly. When I was directing *Nebulous* for BBC Radio 4, one of the most time-consuming and dull aspects of the job was getting someone to read out the credits, then spending ages editing out all the mistakes and readjusting the credits at the last minute. But, as we've said many times before, it's something we'll continue to review. Only a very small minority of people are asking for this, and given that we're always working at full stretch, it's just an extra element that we could do without. That said, if there is a real groundswell of opinion...



# FORTHCOMING RELEASES

## MARCH 2014

Doctor Who: *Scavenger*  
(184, Sixth Doctor and Flip)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures:  
*The Crooked Man* (3.3, Fourth Doctor and Leela)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles:  
*Starborn* (8.09, First Doctor)

Blake's 7: *Drones* (1.3, Full Cast)

Dark Shadows 41: *The Happier Dead*

Pathfinder Legends: *Rise of the Runelords –  
Burnt Offerings* (1.1, Full Cast)

## APRIL 2014

Doctor Who: *Moonflesh*  
(185, Fifth Doctor and Nyssa)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures:  
*The Evil One* (3.4, Fourth Doctor and Leela)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles:  
*The War to End All Wars* (8.10, First Doctor)

Jago & Litefoot: *Series Seven Box Set*

Blake's 7: *Mirror* (1.4, Full Cast)

Dark Shadows 42: *Carriage of the Damned*

## MAY 2014

Doctor Who: *Tomb Ship*  
(186, Fifth Doctor and Nyssa)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures:  
*Last of the Colophon* (3.5, Fourth Doctor and Leela)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles:  
*The Elixir of Doom* (8.11, Third Doctor)

Blake's 7: *The Liberator Chronicles – Box Set 8*

Blake's 7: *Cold Fury* (1.5, Full Cast)

Blake's 7: *Novel 5* (Author TBA)

Charlotte Pollard: *Box Set 1*

Dark Shadows 43: *The Devil Cat*

Pathfinder Legends: *Rise of the Runelords –  
The Skinsaw Murders* (1.2, Full Cast)

## JUNE 2014

Doctor Who: *Masquerade*  
(187, Fifth Doctor and Nyssa)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures:  
*Destroy the Infinite* (3.6, Fourth Doctor and Leela)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles:  
*Second Chances* (8.12, Second Doctor)

Survivors: *Series One Box Set*

Blake's 7: *Caged* (1.6, Full Cast)

Dark Shadows 44: *The Darkest Shadow*

## JULY 2014

Doctor Who:  
*Breaking Bubbles and Other Stories*  
(188, Sixth Doctor and Peri)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures:  
*The Abandoned* (3.7, Fourth Doctor and Leela)

Counter-Measures: *Series 3 (Box Set)*

The Avengers – The Lost Episodes:  
*Volume 2 (Box Set)*

Pathfinder Legends: *Rise of the Runelords –  
The Hook Mountain Massacre* (1.3, Full Cast)

## AUGUST 2014

Doctor Who: *Revenge of the Swarm*  
(189, Seventh Doctor, Ace and Hex)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures:  
*Zygon Hunt* (3.8, Fourth Doctor and Leela)

The Fifth Doctor Box Set  
(Fifth Doctor, Adric, Nyssa and Tegan)

Blake's 7: *The Liberator Chronicles – Box Set 9*

## SEPTEMBER 2014

Doctor Who: *Mask of Tragedy*  
(190, Seventh Doctor, Ace and Hex)

Doctor Who: *Signs and Wonders*  
(191, Seventh Doctor, Ace and Hex)

Doctor Who - The Early Adventures:  
*Domain of the Voord* (1.1, First Doctor)

Pathfinder Legends: *Rise of the Runelords –  
Fortress of the Stone Giants* (1.4, Full Cast)

Big Finish Classics: *Frankenstein*

## OCTOBER 2014

Doctor Who: *TBA* (192, TBA)

Doctor Who - The Early Adventures:  
*The Doctor's Tale* (1.2, First Doctor)

The Worlds of Doctor Who *Box Set*

Jago & Litefoot: *Series Eight Box Set*

## NOVEMBER 2014

Doctor Who: *TBA* (193, TBA)

Doctor Who - The Early Adventures:  
*The Bounty of Ceres* (1.3, First Doctor)

Doctor Who: *Dark Eyes 3* (Eighth Doctor)

Blake's 7:  
*The Liberator Chronicles – Box Set 10*

Pathfinder Legends: *Rise of the Runelords –  
Sins of the Saviors* (1.5, Full Cast)

## DECEMBER 2014

Doctor Who: *TBA* (194, TBA)

Doctor Who - The Early Adventures:  
*An Ordinary Life* (1.4, First Doctor)

Doctor Who: *Trial of the Valeyard*

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