

WWW.BIGFINISH.COM • NEW AUDIO ADVENTURES

# VORTEX



# THE WORLDS OF DOCTOR WHO

JOIN JAGO & LITEFOOT, COUNTER-MEASURES, UNIT, GALLIFREY  
AND THE DOCTOR TO CELEBRATE FIFTEEN YEARS OF ADVENTURES!

**BIG** WE LOVE  
FINISH | STORIES

ISSUE 68 • OCTOBER 2014

# DIMENSIONS

# 2014



PAUL MCGANN



PETER DAVISON



SYLVESTER MCCOY



KATY MANNING



LOUISE JAMESON



SOPHIE ALDRED



KAI OWEN



PETER PURVES

As well as... TERRY MOLLOY, ANGELA DOUGLAS,  
DONALD TOSH, ANDREW CARTMEL, RICHARD MARTIN,  
SARAH LOUISE MADISON... and many more



24TH, 25TH  
26TH OCTOBER  
COPTHORNE HOTEL  
NEWCASTLE

WATCH FOR UPDATES ON: [WWW.TENTHPLANETEVENTS.CO.UK](http://WWW.TENTHPLANETEVENTS.CO.UK)



# BIG FINISH

WE LOVE  
STORIES

# WELCOME TO BIG FINISH!

We love stories and we make great full-cast audio dramas and audiobooks you can buy on CD and/or download



## Big Finish... We love stories.

Our audio productions are based on much-loved TV series like **Doctor Who**, **Dark Shadows**, **Blake's 7**, **Stargate** and **Highlander** as well as classic characters such as **Sherlock Holmes**, **The Phantom of the Opera** and **Dorian Gray**, plus original creations such as **Graceless** and **The Adventures of Bernice Summerfield**.

We publish a growing number of books (non-fiction, novels and short stories) from new and established authors.

## Subscribers get more at [bigfinish.com](http://bigfinish.com)!

If you subscribe, depending on the range you subscribe to, you get free audiobooks, PDFs of scripts, extra behind-the-scenes material, a bonus release and discounts.

[www.bigfinish.com](http://www.bigfinish.com)

You can access a video guide to the site at [www.bigfinish.com/news/v/website-guide-1](http://www.bigfinish.com/news/v/website-guide-1)

[WWW.BIGFINISH.COM](http://WWW.BIGFINISH.COM)    [@BIGFINISH](https://twitter.com/BIGFINISH)    [f / THEBIGFINISH](https://www.facebook.com/thebigfinish)

**BIG** WE LOVE  
FINISH STORIES



**BBC**  
**DOCTOR**  
**WHO**

**PHILIP HINCHCLIFFE PRESENTS**  
**THE GHOSTS OF GRALSTEAD • THE DEVIL'S ARMADA**

**OUT NOW!**

[WWW.BIGFINISH.COM](http://WWW.BIGFINISH.COM) [@BIGFINISH](https://twitter.com/BIGFINISH) [f /THEBIGFINISH](https://www.facebook.com/THEBIGFINISH)

# Sneak Previews & Whispers



## Gallifrey: Intervention Earth

**J**ust when we thought the **Gallifrey** series was done and dusted, along comes *Intervention Earth*... In February 2015, Romana and Narvin are back, with Sophie Aldred as Ace joining our heroes, while Stephen Thorne returns as Omega.

Co-writer/producer Scott Handcock said: "When we featured Juliet Ladau's future incarnation of Romana last year, it seemed like an irresistible opportunity before we wrapped up the **Gallifrey** range for good: bring two Romanas together and tease at what her future might have in store. Cut to early 2014, and David Richardson's ringing me up asking if I'd like to explore that future further. New Romana, a new start for the **Gallifrey** range: a one-off drama featuring Juliet alongside Sean Carlsen and Sophie Aldred as Narvin and Ace, focussing on the machinations of the Celestial Intervention Agency. It's all change!

"New team, new theme, new format (four half-hour episodes seemed traditional somehow), but with a trip to Earth thrown into the mix, and a familiar figure from Time Lord lore looming ominously over events. It's a thrilling rollercoaster of a conspiracy, this time round! Plus it features Gyles Brandreth saying 'Romandavoratrelundar'. What more could you want?!" **VORTEX**

## Editorial

**I**'M SITTING here on Monday, September 29th, at 11.47am, having earlier learned of the passing of Maggie Stables.

Anyone's death is sad, but as part of our close-knit Big Finish family, it's something that feels even closer to home. I'm sure I'm not the only one who felt as if they actually knew her, such was the passion and skill she invested in the character of Dr Evelyn Smythe. By spending time with Evelyn, I feel that I spent time with Maggie.

I never actually met Maggie, but did have the pleasure of her time on the phone, over a decade ago. I dropped her a line and she agreed to do a telephone interview with me for my Big Finish fanzine **The Finished Product**, and it was a tremendous chat – full of laughs, self-deprecating humour, and such outstanding warmth. This morning, I've gone back and taken excerpts of that interview, for a **Vortex** tribute to dear Maggie.

Years after that phone call, I helped to organise a charity auction for a **Doctor Who** fan event in Glasgow, to raise money for the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, and Maggie generously sent a couple of signed pictures, saying it was a charity close to her heart, as her family had endured the heartache of losing a child.

But what a legacy Maggie has left us with – 22 adventures with the Doctor, during which time we saw her tame the wilder excesses of the Sixth Doctor (I loved the way she could deflate the Doctor's ego with a pithy comment, like a teacher ticking off a pupil), saw her compassion for little Tommy Schofield, learned of her illness, before she enjoyed a happy life with Rossiter on Vilag – then meeting the Doctor one last time.

And the influence and growth of Evelyn as a character can't be underestimated – her legacy lives on in characters like Rose Tyler, Donna Noble and Clara Oswald, having shown that companions are far more than just being someone who joins the Doctor on his travels, and asks questions.

Maggie Stables – you were a one-off, and as long as there are **Doctor Who** fans, you will always be remembered.

## KENNY

ISSUE 68 • OCTOBER 2014

Managing Editor: Jason Haigh-Ellery

Marketing Consultant: Kris Griffin

Editor: Kenny Smith

Web Services: Hughes Media

Executive Producer: Nicholas Briggs

BFP Administration:

Line Producer: David Richardson

Miles Haigh-Ellery, Cheryl Bly  
& Alison Taylor

Design: Mark Plastow

Publisher: Big Finish Productions Ltd.





# ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLDS

Fifteen years of producing high-quality audio drama sounds like a good excuse for a party, so let's invite some old friends round, and stick on a CD or four...

**I**T'S HARD to believe, but it's now 15 years since Big Finish released its first *Doctor Who* play, *The Sirens of Time*.

Following hot on the heels of 50th anniversary release *The Light at the End* last year, it's a celebration of all things Big Finish in *The Worlds of Doctor Who*, bringing together *Jago & Litefoot*, *Counter-Measures*, *UNIT*, the *Companion Chronicles* and *Gallifrey*. Throw in a Doctor who has been seen in a whole new light thanks to come tender loving care from Big Finish, and you've got the core elements of the story in place.

In an adventure told across four plays – *Mind Games* and *The Reesinger Process* by Justin Richards, *The Screaming Skull* by Jonathan Morris and *Second Sight* by Nick Wallace and Justin Richards – the Doctor's friends must defeat a recurring villain, Mr Rees, played by Jamie Glover.

Producer David Richardson said: "It was an idea that had been floating around in my head for some time, to tell one story that would shift between the decades and between

our different *Doctor Who* spin-off series. It was greenlit by Nick Briggs and Jason Haigh-Ellery before any talk arose of celebrating 15 years of Big Finish. So then we gave it the gorgeous, hardback packaging which sits so beautifully alongside *The Light at the End*. They are both very different stories, but each special in their own way.

"With that loose framework, I then handed over to script editor Matt Fitton and the writers to fashion the overall story."

The special release has a solid writing team behind it, people who can always be relied upon.

David explained: "I went with writers I like, who know the series in question. Justin script edits and writes for *Jago & Litefoot*, has written for *Counter-Measures* and *Gallifrey*, and for the Sixth Doctor. Jonny created the Vault for *UNIT* and its characters, so that episode had to belong to him. Nick Wallace came in to write the finale, and ultimately did that in tandem with Justin as it needed his presence across the whole box set."

## LOUISE JAMESON

LOUISE Jameson has been a member of the Big Finish family since 2003. She made her first appearance in 40th anniversary special *Zagreus*, and has contributed to many other releases since and fittings ever since. *The Worlds of Doctor Who* sees her reunited with her close friend Colin Baker. Louise said: "It's always such a pleasure to work with Colin. I've played his wife on stage several times, and it's always a great joy to be around that Mr Baker."

Lou feels that with Big Finish, she has found a home where quality and good work go hand in hand. She proudly says: "Everything about Big Finish is great – from the scripts, to the people you act with, the directors, the producer, the lunches – Big Finish is spearheaded by people who care about the product, and are not just motivated by money.

"There's a great work ethic and a quality attached to what's being done. There's a working knowledge of the material and they are always very careful with the personalities involved, and the overall attention to detail is so meticulous – I didn't realise just how much work is needed on a script until I started writing."

## KAREN GLEDHILL

COUNTER-MEASURES seems to have been around for ages, so it's surprising when you think that the spin-off from *Remembrance of the Daleks* only began in 2012. The team feature in the second story of *The Worlds of Doctor Who*, where Sir Toby, Group Captain Gilmore, Professor Jenson and Dr Williams encounter Mr Rees.

Karen Gledhill, who plays Allison Williams, is delighted to be involved in the special release. "It's really nice to be part of it – I really think the Big Finish listeners have really taken to *Counter-Measures*. Allison is a really popular character, and I have a bit of fun with her, and hopefully that's coming through. But they really tease me in the studio – the others treat me like I'm the baby, even though I'm quite old! Suddenly, I'm the youngest member of the team, which is pretty rare these days!"

She adds: "What's happened as the series have gone past is the writers have got a better feel for us, the actors, and our characters. We're all quite experienced actors, and things have really grown from the original episodes on television.

Justin – who wrote the third Big Finish *Doctor Who* release, *Whispers of Terror*, in 1999, said: "We started really with just the cast – which characters were going to be in which episodes. So, basically, we knew that the first episode was *Jago & Litefoot*, followed by *Counter-Measures*, then the UNIT Vault, and ending with the Sixth Doctor, Romana and Leela to which Mike Yates then got added. David and Matt asked me to put together some thoughts on how the various stories could be connected, and then we worked together from my ideas to come up with a fairly loose thread. From that I worked up the synopses for the first two stories, Jonny worked on the third and Nick did the last one, which included a lot of background on how it all worked and fitted together.

"The link between the stories is a recurring villain, though not in the traditional sense – the way he appears in or influences each story is rather different from, say, the Master popping up again!"

The director of the opening adventure was Lisa Bowerman – an appropriate choice as she's the regular director on the *Jago & Litefoot* range.

She smiled: "I was very smug because Jamie Glover was one of my castings!"

## 'The link between the stories is a recurring villain. Though not in the traditional sense...'

He's a great actor... and what a voice!

"It's wonderful the way they have made it all come together, and it was nice to be involved in the Big Finish 15th anniversary *Doctor Who* story.

"All the writers have done a tremendous job, because they know their characters so well. Jago and Litefoot find their relationship is cemented in this one, as they very much look out for each other.

"With them, it's a case of opposites attract and the writers have made these two characters not just believable but incredibly likeable... and I'm the one lucky enough get to spend time with them!"

Having created Charlie Sato and Ruth Matheson, did Jonny Morris ever expect them to feature again after their first appearance?

Jonny replied: "I didn't expect them to return after *Tales from the Vault* or *Mastermind*, but I kept things open, just in case, as both the characters and the Vault itself clearly had potential for further stories. Every artefact in the Vault



# The Worlds of Doctor Who

---

has a story behind it, and new items are always being added to the collection, so there's not really any limit to what you could do. That said, we could always blow the place up with both characters inside, nothing is ruled out!

"As this part of the tetralogy is a sort of showcase for the **Companion Chronicles** range, it made sense for it to feature a companion, alongside my own original creations. I chose Mike Yates because the character is very interesting – a soldier who has a crisis of conscience that turns him into a traitor – and because we know so little about what happened to him after his last TV adventure, there's plenty of scope to develop his character and explore his life story without being hidebound by established continuity. He is the battle-scarred veteran of past campaigns who is brought in because of his experience to work alongside the new blood of the Vault duo."

Justin admitted there was a pleasing challenge in bringing together all these different aspects of the Doctor's worlds and the friends he has made.

"Oh, it's great fun, of course," he says. "Though, that said, I did approach the first story as simply a **Jago & Litefoot** and the second as a **Counter-Measures**. So it was only really in the final story that worlds collided, as it were – that we got Yates and the Sixth Doctor, and Leela and Romana all together. Part of the

## 'The highlight for me was when the test copy arrived through the post. It's GORGEOUS.'

idea of the first three stories in particular was to give the 'feel' of those series, so in a sense they needed to be typical episodes from them – although of course there's really no such thing as a 'typical' story from any of them. That's partly why they've all done so well – you never quite know what you're going to get next, except that it'll be an exciting, thrilling story told really well and performed to perfection."

David concludes: "I think it's a story that builds beautifully. Whereas *Light at the End* was a big celebration that brought its characters together for two hours of excitement, nostalgia and surprises, *The Worlds of Doctor Who* stays very much within the worlds of its characters, then ramps up the excitement with each passing hour. That's not to say there aren't some gloriously nostalgic moments in there, because there are.

"Actually the highlight for me was when the test copy arrived through the post. It's GORGEOUS. Stunning. I'm proud to have it on my shelves." **VORTEX**

## TREVOR BAXTER

ANYONE who's heard Trevor Baxter on the extras to **Jago & Litefoot** will have instantly taken a shine to him – a gentleman of the old school, with wit, intelligence and honesty.

He and Christopher Benjamin have effortlessly turned the clock back to 1977, to bring George and Henry to life, and Trevor was delighted to be asked to be in *The Worlds of Doctor Who*: "Being asked to be involved, that was such a great compliment, as we're comparatively new arrivals to Big Finish, but I was still very flattered. Those were lovely days when we did the recording, especially as everybody is so friendly. Other actors come in and find Christopher and I are quite jolly, instead of being bitter old actors!"

Trevor adds: "Litefoot is quite posh, and Jago is quite common, but they have come together and found this wonderful companionship – they are like brothers-in-arms. I think it's the adventures and the variety, and there's also the truth in the relationship. We, as actors, try to find what's true in whatever it is that we do. With Christopher, we find it together, because I think we're both that sort of actor. I really like his acting – I don't know if he likes mine!"

## YEE JEE TSO

YEE Jee Tso and Daphne Ashbrook's Grace Holloway have taken on new roles for Big Finish. Yee Jee's first Big Finish roles came in 2002, in *Excelsi Decays* and *Real Time*, but his recurring role is as Warrant Officer Charlie Sato, which he first played in the **Companion Chronicles**, in *Tales from the Vault* and *Mastermind*, alongside Daphne as Captain Ruth Matheson.

Yee Jee admitted returning to play Charlie in *The Worlds of Doctor Who* had been a pleasant surprise: "You can never really 'expect' to come back as a character. Even if you sign a multi-picture deal they may slot you in as someone else. But suffice to say I suspected there was a possibility and was surprised when it came about."

The actor is delighted to keep coming back to **Doctor Who** especially for Big Finish's 15th anniversary. He said it was: "A huge honour. Truly grateful for the privilege of being a part of these historic **Who** milestones, and Big Finish is especially dear to me. There's always the hope for additional opportunities to tell stories and 'play', especially when the characters and the universe in which they exist are so rich. I see Ruth and Charlie's stories as standing on their own but of course an adventure with the Doctor would be fun." **VORTEX**





**BIG FINISH** WE LOVE STORIES

BRAND NEW AUDIO ADVENTURES IN TIME AND SPACE



**BBC** THE WORLDS OF  
**DOCTOR WHO**

AN EPIC ADVENTURE UNITING THE DOCTOR'S FRIENDS ACROSS TIME AND SPACE, FEATURING JAGO & LITEFOOT, COUNTER-MEASURES, UNIT AND GALLIFREY!

LIMITED COLLECTOR'S EDITION - OUT NOW!

[WWW.BIGFINISH.COM](http://WWW.BIGFINISH.COM) [@BIGFINISH](https://twitter.com/BIGFINISH) [/THEBIGFINISH](https://www.facebook.com/thebigfinish)

**BBC** BBC DOCTOR WHO (word marks, logos and devices) and TARDIS (word marks and devices) are trade marks of the British Broadcasting Corporation and are used under licence. BBC logo © BBC 1996. Doctor Who logo © BBC 2012. Licensed by BBC Worldwide. Gilmore, Bachel, Allison and the Counter-Measures Group created by Ben Aaronovitch and used under licence. Jago, Litefoot and the world of The Talons of Weng-Chiang created by Robert Holmes and used under licence.



IT'S TIME TO PLAY THE MUSIC, IT'S TIME TO START A FIGHT, IT'S TIME TO KILL SOME HUMANS, ON THE SCORCHIES SHOW TONIGHT... KENNY SMITH DISCOVERS WHAT GOES INTO MAKING...

# MUSICAL Theatre

**H**URRAH and huzzah! Rejoice for the rumbustious return of those rollicking rovers in the unrevealed, Henry Gordon Jago and Professor George Litefoot. **Jago & Litefoot** is back this month for its eighth series, and the first of the four plays is *Encore of the Scorchies* (featuring the malevolent puppets from space that first appeared in the **Companion Chronicles**), is going to be completely different from anything the pair have previously faced. It keeps stars Trevor Baxter and Christopher Benjamin on their toes, as they will never be able to guess what's coming next!

Producer David Richardson revealed: "The Scorchies originally came about from a conversation I'd had with Ken Bentley in the pub – the idea of doing deadly alien puppets that invade the world and sing show tunes. Bonkers, but done the right way they could be creative gold.

"And I think that first **Companion Chronicle** *The Scorchies*, was fantastic. I quickly wanted to do a sequel, set in a musical hall, and **Jago & Litefoot** seemed the most obvious home for it.

"I have to say, *Encore of the Scorchies* might be my favourite Big Finish production ever. Howard Carter has delivered the most stunning music and lyrics – worthy of a West End stage spectacular – and Christopher and Trevor are clearly having the time of their lives. Out of every production I have ever worked on, I've played the edits of this one the most, just for fun."

Writer James Goss had a fair idea of how his creations would fit into the Victorian era, after being given his brief by David and script editor Justin Richards. He said: "I'd done a reasonable amount of music hall research for the coffee table book **A History of the Universe In 100 Objects**. But you have to bear in mind that no-one knows or loves music hall and Victoriana more than David and Justin.

"I just looked at a list of music hall songs and it sort of wrote itself. Genuinely, the job of the words was not to get in the way of Howard Carter. Really. Howard Carter. Amazing. I'm not being self-deprecating or bashful, but this is a little like interviewing a picture framer rather than the painter. The work he's done should win awards."

There's a mixture of old and new *Scorchies*, to amuse and terrorise. James said: "I knew I had to keep the Magic Mice (but give them less to say). They're joined by an evil porcelain doll who enjoys mutilating her victims and a prim Colonel who is basically Basil Brush with a bayonet. What is surprising is how thoroughly nasty the end result is.

"The *Scorchies* were all David Richardson's brilliant idea. And, true to form, he came up with the best suggestion for this one – having the proceedings narrated by two Statler and Waldorf-style characters. I had great fun with that, and imagine my grin when I handed in draft one featuring two unimpressed sinister puppetmasters called Richardson and

## 'ENCORE OF THE SCORCHIES IS LIKE NOTHING ANYBODY HAS EVER HEARD BEFORE – EVER!'



From left: Howard Carter, Jenna Russell, Trevor Baxter, Cameron Blakely, Sarah Lark, Christopher Benjamin and James Goss  
Inset: Christopher Benjamin and Lisa Bowerman

Richards. Curiously, they vanished before draft two, but I'm delighted with what's replaced them."

Howard Carter was pushed to the limits with this release, to bring it to full musical life. He said: "Writing the songs for *Encore of the Scorchies* was one of the most exciting and challenging things I've done for Big Finish. I had listened to Richard Fox and Lauren Yason's incredible work on the original *Scorchies Companion Chronicle* so was aware of how high the bar had already been set. From a very early stage we were keen to increase the scope of the music and make the episode a full hour-long musical. I've been working with *Jago & Litefoot* since series three and I feel I've come to know the characters very well, so the opportunity to write songs for them was a real thrill.

"When I first received the script from James there were a

couple of song lyrics fully written and a few which either had just a title or a few lines. I picked up the baton from there and set about adapting the existing lyrics and writing some new songs. It was a great thrill to write some of the lyrics, not only for the *Scorchies* but for the main characters too. I started work on the songs around Easter time last year and spent three or four months finishing everything off. As we were just recording for one day everything had to be prepared in advance of the studio session. This involved writing full scores for all of the performers, preparing parts, recording all the backing tracks with guide vocals and scheduling for the different actors. It was quite nerve-racking on the day, but the performers were so effortlessly professional and wonderful the whole session went without a hitch. We were all sat in the control room at the end of the day as we recorded the last song slightly in shock at what we'd just achieved!"

Trevor Baxter added: "I can't believe we're at season eight already – and this one involves a musical. The producer seemed to be thrilled about it, although I've not heard it yet, as we record our dialogue, and then it goes away for post-production, where they add in the creaking doors, thunderstorms, and music, to provide the scenery which I don't hear until I get the set. The thought of a musical is very different and I can't wait to hear it."

Responsible for bringing the play to life in studio was director Lisa Bowerman. She laughed: "*Encore of the*

*Scorchies* is like nothing anybody has ever heard before – ever! We're lucky enough to have a lot of talented people on hand, like Howard Carter, and on this occasion, I think David thought he was the chap to approach. I think Howard jumped at it and before we knew it, we had a full-scale musical on our hands! And what sublime music it is.

"James Goss has come up with a cracker of a script, and at times, it's rather creepy, even within the

context of the seemingly harmless world of a musical. Howard had done a lot of preparation beforehand. Having done a musical number for a *Bernice* play, *The Worst Thing in the World*, I know exactly how much preparation you need for it – it's not easy.

"Howard sent all the tunes out to the cast a week or so before the recording. I was quietly very confident (actually a bit smug), as I knew I'd got a very good cast together. I also knew I didn't just need people who could sing but who could act as well. You get a lot of musical theatre people who





## Jago & Litefoot

---

can sing, but tend to sell their voice, rather than communicate the true emotion of a song. I personally have always preferred actors who can sing, rather than singers who act... if that makes sense?!"

Lisa was able to bring together an experienced cast. She explained: "I was thrilled to get Cameron Blakely, who's currently in *Les Misérables*. I'd worked with him before on a *Benny*, and knew he was very good. I needed to find someone to play a Nancy from *Oliver!*-type character, and was able to get Sarah Lark, who co-incidentally took part in the Nancy show on the BBC (and who, I wasn't aware at the time, was also in *Les Misérables*). Jenna Russell has a fine track record in all walks of the business, and I'd been wanting to use her for something for ages. I thought I'd chance my arm with offering her the piece and was extremely pleased that we got her. What I also hope a lot of people will now discover is how good a singer Christopher Benjamin is! It was wonderful to be able to throw something different at him. All in all they were a dream cast."

With songs to be learned before the recording, it's easy to imagine it would be a problematic day in studio. Lisa admitted: "Logistically, it was

## 'YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF SINGING AND HUMMING THOSE SONGS FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.'

a tricky production. I had to try and time how long I thought it would take to record. Howard was providing people with full music scores, and recorded guide tracks, but because of the quality of the cast, I was pretty confident we would get it done.

"I think David and Howard expected it would take hours to record; we only had a day to do the whole thing. I scheduled most of the music in the morning, and when we got through the first number in one take, it was a picture to watch through the control room window, as David and Howard's jaws went slack! From that point on, I knew we were going to be okay. It's difficult to overstate just how superb Howard's music is. Not just the individual songs, but the whole piece, from songs, the overture, the orchestrations, and the incidental music."

She added: "I guarantee, you'll find yourself singing and humming those songs for the rest of the day once you've heard them. Every one's an ear worm (in the best possible way!). People have already had a little taster at the end of the last series, but really... you haven't the faintest idea of what's about to hit you!" **VORTEX**



**AS WELL AS ENCORE OF THE SCORCHIES, THERE ARE THREE OTHER ADVENTURES FOR JAGO & LITEFOOT IN SERIES EIGHT.**

### THE BACKWARDS MEN BY ANDY LANE

Director Lisa Bowerman: "I love *The Backwards Men*. From a personal viewpoint, it was great to have the creator of Ellie, Andy Lane, coming back. Suddenly you get her original voice again... her phraseology. Andy is very particular in his Victorian turn of phrase. The plot's suitably gothic: not dissimilar to a freak show, with an evil sideshow proprietor with world domination on his mind! – together with a companion of a different sort for Litefoot."

### JAGO AND LITEFOOT AND PATSY BY SIMON BARNARD AND PAUL MORRIS

Co-author Paul Morris: "The main requirement was to partner our heroes with Patsy, extrapolated from the wonderfully grotesque 'Ghoul' character in *The Talons of Weng-Chiang*. The initial thought that Patsy could be a mudlark suggested the Thames might play a part – and so it does; the story is set variously alongside, on, and even in that mighty river. A bit of research brought up the irresistibly grim and bizarre Jacob's Island, which casts its shadow throughout, with characters from its distant heyday returning to clash with those occupying it in the present. And that's just the start: the Thames also holds supernatural elements galore, from a giant luminous fish to the Darkling Façade themselves..."

### HICSON AND QUICK BY JUSTIN RICHARDS

Author Justin Richards: "I just wondered what it would be like to do a story where Jago and Litefoot are not the heroes. To say any more than that will spoil it. Obviously Jago and Litefoot have to be involved, they have to be the central characters. But what if the situation is such that Ellie and Inspector Quick have to do the actual work of uncovering the villains and defeating them? That was sort of where I started – that and the idea for the twist of how Jago and Litefoot actually are involved in events. But you'll have to listen to it to discover what that is." **VORTEX**

**BIG FINISH** WE LOVE STORIES

BBC

**DOCTOR WHO**

# THE EARLY ADVENTURES

FOUR BRAND NEW AUDIO STORIES, TOLD IN BLACK AND WHITE


AVAILABLE MONTHLY FROM SEPTEMBER 2014

WWW.BIGFINISH.COM @BIGFINISH f /THEBIGFINISH

BBC

BBC, DOCTOR WHO (word marks, logos and devices) and TARDIS (word marks and devices) are trade marks of the British Broadcasting Corporation and are used under licence.

BBC logo © BBC 1996. Doctor Who logo © BBC 2012. Licensed by BBC Worldwide.



They're back – and it's more than about time! Colin Baker and Nicola Bryant tell Kenny Smith why they're delighted to be reunited in the monthly range.

# SIXY AND THEY KNOW IT!

**D**OCTOR WHO fans love trivia – it's a fact. Did you know that since Big Finish started organising its monthly Doctor Who releases into trilogies in January 2009, the Sixth Doctor and Peri have yet to feature in one? In the same period, the popular pairing have starred in 11 **Lost Stories**, as well as three main range adventures (but not in monthly succession), and in Big Finish's 50th anniversary story *The Light at the End*.

But that all changes this month, with the release of *The Widow's Assassin*. For Colin Baker and Nicola Bryant, it's a happy reunion. Colin said: "It just hasn't worked out for us in the trilogies, but we've done quite a few **Lost Stories** in the last few years, and it's always nice to be back with my original companion. I always enjoy working with my companions, but with Nicola, it's always a little bit special because she was the first companion I worked with. I know I was her second Doctor as she started with Peter, but she's the companion I'm most associated with."

Nicola continued: "It feels to me like it's been ages since

I last recorded what I would call a 'traditional' Big Finish. I was involved in all the **Lost Stories** and previously I've done stories set between *Planet of Fire* and *The Trial of a Time Lord*, but this group of stories is something completely new."

**T**he emphasis is very much on the new, as, while previous stories featuring the Doctor and Peri have taken place between their on-screen adventures, this new trilogy takes place after the events of *The Trial of a Time Lord* Parts Five to Eight.

The opening story, *The Widow's Assassin*, was written by Nev Fountain, who previously wrote for Nicola's character in *The Kingmaker* and **Companion Chronicle** *Peri and the Piscicon Paradox*. Nicola said: "When I found out the trilogy was to be set after *The Trial of a Time Lord*, I was really thrilled. We finally get answers to the question of why did she go – or for those who've listened to *Peri and the Piscicon Paradox*, where did one of the Peris go – and why didn't the Doctor come after her?"

"Those, I think, were the questions that were left hanging at



the end of *Trial*." Colin added: "Nev, who's Nicola's other half, has written a very good story, sorting out the whole business with Yrcanos, and whether or not Peri died, and resolving what really happened in the *Trial of a Time Lord* season – did she really marry him? All the fans who have wanted to find out what happened to Peri will finally learn the truth!

"I always think that anyone who can write comedy can write anything. It's a great skill, to be able to write comedy, because you need to have an understanding of the human mind and how it works, and what makes it laugh.

"No doubt this is the ending that Nicola really wanted, and

"It could have been one of a million answers, but it reflects well on them both – it does service to the Sixth Doctor, with the questions raised during his trial, and I think he needed these answers to clear his reputation."

Nicola also embraced the chance to play a slightly different version of her character: "I was very much aware I could be a more mature Peri, because of the journey that happens to her in this story and the following two, and she's physically and emotionally stronger as a character, but there's still a fragility about her, after all, she's been through so much."

Colin added: "It's a great trilogy we've got, beginning with some fantasy in *The Widow's Assassin*, as the whole thing is about Krontep and Peri. I wrote a story in my graphic novel *The Age of Chaos*, set several generations after Peri had married Yrcanos, so now there are two diverging timestreams coming from that – I'll leave it up to our knowledgeable fans to work out the continuity!"

**T**he Doctor's oldest foes are back in November's release, written by Mark Wright and Cavan Scott.

Colin laughed: "*Masters of Earth* – with the Daleks in Scotland! What more could you want? There's always something special

about having the Daleks in a story, and Mark and Cav have come up with a very clever script again. They're old brigade, and very good writers for my Doctor. And what a wonderful cast we had too – Hugh Ross is a Big Finish stalwart and a very versatile actor."

Nicola added: "The Dalek story was fun – we had a really good recording session with that one, and I was pleased that I could bring some maturity to

this story, compared to where Peri was the last time she met the Daleks."

**T**he trilogy concludes in December with *The Rani Elite*. The story was written with Kate O'Mara's Rani in mind, but, knowing that she was ill, the actress gave her blessing for the character of the Rani to continue without her. Colin paid tribute to Kate, saying: "*The Rani Elite* was written before we lost poor, dear Kate – she was a very dear friend of mine, and I was always very fond of her, bless her heart.



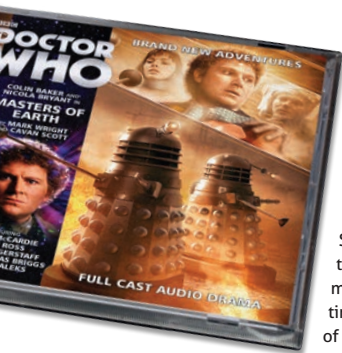
From left: Damian Lynch, Sean Biggerstaff, Nicola Bryant, Colin Baker, Nicholas Briggs, Tracy Wiles and Hugh Ross  
Inset: Colin Baker and Nicola Bryant



'All the fans who have wanted to find out what happened to Peri will finally learn the truth!'

it resolves the relationship between the Doctor and Peri as well."

But Nicola revealed that she has no say in the writing process: "I'm banned – and rightly so! If Nev has any questions, he will ask me, but he's so familiar with the character, having written *Piscon Paradox*. He was very keen to answer those questions that, as a writer and a fan, were running through his head – where had the Doctor been, etc? What I think is amazing is the solution to the question – it's so heartbreaking, and while I don't want to ruin the story, let me just say I love the answers.



"I heard that she spoke to her agent when she knew she wasn't long for this Earth, and, very kindly, said to tell them to go ahead and do it, which was such a kind, remarkably brave and lovely thing to do – she was such a marvellous girl, was Kate.

"And now we have a new Rani in Siobhan Redmond, and when I heard that she was going to play the Rani, it's a moment when you just go, 'Yes.' Like every time they cast a new Doctor, they bring part of themselves to the role, but at the heart of it, they're still playing the same character,

and it's like that with the Rani.

"She's not like a lot of other *Doctor Who* villains, as they are just up for death and destruction, but the Rani is working hard to achieve something – a brilliant scientific mind who just takes things too far.

"Maybe all Time Lords have this unique quality of being capable of being played in innumerable different ways, but as soon I heard Siobhan's voice in the studio, I just knew that it was the Rani."

Nicola also paid her respects to the original Rani: "Kate was a very generous human being – the generosity of her gesture was so typical of her, and it also shows her sheer professionalism, as she understood the show

## 'It didn't feel like her performance jarred in any way with Kate's Rani – it just seemed to flow, and this part was made for her.'

must go on. In the last couple of years, Kate and I became quite close, and it's so sad that she's gone.

"And Siobhan was superb – she was just so right for the part and did a brilliant job. It didn't feel like her performance jarred in any way with Kate's Rani – it just seemed to flow, and this part was made for her."

**C**olin and Nicola recorded the plays earlier this year, and, like the devoted Big Finish listeners, anticipate hearing the work which the sound designers and musicians have done on the plays, along with their directors Ken Bentley and Nicholas Briggs.

Colin said: "I can't wait for the CDs to come through, like everyone else. I like to put the CD in my car, and have no idea of what's coming next. I work on each play intensively for a couple of days, and then it somehow all disappears from my brain. It just means that it all comes as a pleasant surprise to me when I listen to it. They do such a great job."

Nicola too gets the buzz: "I'm really excited to hear them – I don't want to hear me, as I don't want to analyse my own performance. I used to do that, but I found that takes all the enjoyment out of it.

"Luckily I'm so forgetful these days that by the time we get hear the finished plays, I don't remember how the stories go – so it's like listening to them anew." **VORTEX**

## THE WIDOW'S ASSASSIN BY NEV FOUNTAIN

**Author Nev Fountain:** "I was more interested in the situation created by *Mindwarp*, as to why Peri left the Doctor. When the Doctor was told she was living as a warrior queen, I wanted to know why Peri would want to stay with Yrcanos. What would make her go off with him, and leave the Doctor? Why not wait for the Doctor's return? Peri knew the Doctor very well by then, surely in *Mindwarp* she would have known that the Doctor was not a bad man, even though she's been tortured, threatened and battered?"

## MASTERS OF EARTH BY MARK WRIGHT

**Author Mark Wright:** "The setting came out of discussions between myself, Cav and Alan Barnes to see what would be suitable as a setting for a desolate road movie on Dalek occupied Earth. There was a notion at one point that we might go for an Australian setting, but I argued that we were more likely to find an ensemble of Scottish actors closer to home than we were Australian."

**Cavan Scott:** "Writing for the Daleks, well, it's the dream of every *Doctor Who* writer isn't it? And set during one of my favourite *Who* stories too. The Daleks of *Invasion* are basic, and I'm not being derogatory there. Perhaps a better way of saying it is that they're 'pure' Daleks. They exist to conquer and kill. When writing *Masters of Earth* we kept pulling out lines and concepts that were too 21st century *Who*, to try and make sure we kept the Daleks close to their roots."

## THE RANI ELITE BY JUSTIN RICHARDS

**Author Justin Richards:** "I had great fun writing for the Rani. She's different from the Master, for example, in that she's not actually evil – but she is totally amoral, and I suppose selfish and egocentric. It's not that she wants to cause harm to others or see them suffer. She just doesn't care about other people at all. Nothing matters except herself and what she's out to achieve.

"When we rewrote it for Siobhan, I think most of the dialogue actually remained very similar. There were some narrative things that got simplified." **VORTEX**

AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 2014  
SPECIAL EDITION • LIMITED COLLECTOR EDITION • DOWNLOAD





ARTHUR DARVILL AND NICHOLAS BRIGGS IN

# FRANKENSTEIN

BY MARY SHELLEY DRAMATISED BY JONATHAN BARNES



WWW.BIGFINISH.COM     @BIGFINISH     /THEBIGFINISH



# OMEGA THREE

David Richardson, Natasha Gerson and Louise Jameson tell Kenny Smith how the revival of a TV classic came about

**“I** T'S SUPERNATURAL and outrageous and other-worldly, but it's not really science fiction,” explains Louise Jameson, when asked to sum up what **The Omega Factor** is.

She continued: “Back then, and still today, there's an interest as people have that great question – is there anything else out there other than us? And if so, who's responsible for it? They say **The X Files** was just **The Omega Factor** with a budget!”

**The Omega Factor** was created by Scottish writer Jack Gerson, and ran for one ten-part series on the BBC in 1979. It was hugely popular with TV viewers – aside from Mary Whitehouse – and a new series will be released by Big Finish in 2015. David Richardson said: “Like many things I've ended up producing at Big Finish, **The Omega Factor** was a series I enjoyed on TV back in the 70s and I've long felt that it would work brilliantly on audio at Big Finish.

“I got in touch with Natasha Gerson, the daughter of the late Jack Gerson who created the show, and she was very happy for us to make not only the series, but also an audiobook of Jack's original TV novelisation.”

Natasha – who also acted in the original series as the mysterious Morag – said: “My dad was a fan of anything to do with the supernatural. I don't know if he believed in it,

but he always found it fascinating. When I was a kid, I didn't read Enid Blyton or things like that – I wanted to read M R James and Sherlock Holmes, which I loved. I got my dad's fascination with things like that.

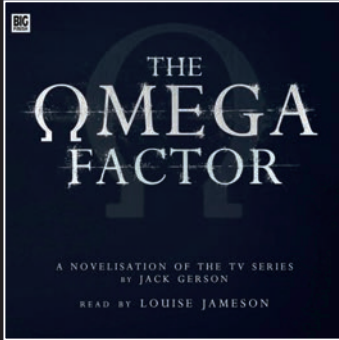
“I liked supernatural films as well, and in the film **Night of the Demon**, based on an M R James story, there was a sequence which my dad borrowed for **The Omega Factor**, which had Jimmy Hazeldine being chased along a street in Edinburgh by little points of light. That's the sort of thing my father liked to do.

“Mary Whitehouse thought it was thoroughly evil and I've got a letter somewhere in the house from her, which I must show David!”

Natasha admitted that the revival of the series wasn't one she had expected. She said: “I was quite surprised, as my dad had died two years ago, and I was trying to work out some way of getting interest going in **The Omega Factor** again. I was delighted when Big Finish got in touch. It's fantastic, and if anyone can develop it, Big Finish can.

“I was down in London a few weeks ago at a union meeting, and I went to see them recording a **Doctor Who**. They are just so good at audio drama. I was so impressed by what they did, and how everybody enjoyed it.”

With a new series currently being written, **The Omega**



## The Omega Factor: Series One

Over thirty years have passed since Tom Crane left Department 7, a top secret organisation that investigates the paranormal.

Anne Reynolds now runs the operation, and for three decades their enigmatic nemesis Omega has been silent.

But that peace is about to be shattered. When Crane's son Adam is drawn into Department 7, the past quickly catches up with Anne and her team...  
Out in May 2015!

## The Omega Factor: Audiobook

The Omega Factor: the end of scientific knowledge. And beyond.

This is the remit of Department Seven, a secret government unit established to explore the paranormal. But can such supernatural powers ever be controlled?

Journalist Tom Crane is having nightmares. Researching a series on the occult for his Sunday newspaper, he disturbs dark forces that change his life forever. Beset by inexplicable and terrifying events, Crane becomes entangled with Dr Anne Reynolds and the affairs of Department Seven.

As occult powers range against him, he must unlock the potential of his own mind to survive.

Together, Tom Crane and Department Seven must confront... The Omega Factor.  
OUT NOW!

**Factor** has made an early return with the release of a talking book of Jack Gerson's original novelisation of the series, read by Louise Jameson. It's a perfect tease, to whet the appetite ahead of next year's series.

Natasha said: "The novel is different from the TV version because, I think, dad wanted to write his own version of **The Omega Factor**, rather than using other writers' storylines."

Louise was delighted to return to **The Omega Factor**, in which she played physicist Dr Anne Reynolds. She said: "It's a rather thrilling one. David put me in the loop early on, and asked if I would have lunch with him and Natasha during the early negotiations for the series, as he hoped that me being there would give it a bit of gravitas.

"It was lovely to see Natasha again as I knew her way back in 1979 when we filmed the series. When David asked me to read the book, I was a bit surprised as I thought he might have wanted a male voice to do it, like John

**'It was really nice to play a doctor, as it was the next thing I did after Doctor Who...'**



Cartlisle, as Jimmy Hazeldine is no longer with us.

"For me, it was really nice to play a doctor, as it was the next thing I did after **Doctor Who**, and it gave me an insight into being a serious-minded career woman – it was a real contrast to what I'd done on **Doctor Who**."

Natasha added: "It was great to see Louise again, and it's such a shame that Jimmy Hazeldine is no longer with us.

"I'm going to be involved in the series, and I'm really looking forward to it.

"At first I was a bit worried, and I told them I had done quite a bit of audio work over the years, but I didn't want to force myself upon them.

"I never said anything in the original **Omega Factor**, but they've got a nice storyline worked out for me – it sounds brilliant. I met one of the writers, and I just loved everything that's been said to me about the series."

With the audiobook now released, work continues apace on the full series. David said: "Lou has done a smashing reading of the book – I played it through pretty much in one sitting. I'm delighted that we've made it, laying the foundations as it were for the full cast audio series that arrives next year.

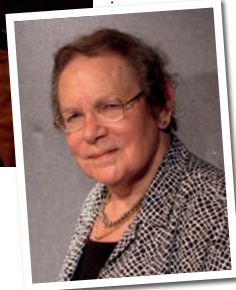
"As I write this, two scripts have been delivered and two more are on their way. It's going to be really scary – like **Survivors**, this is going to be adult drama – and it's going to be a bold reboot for the show. Louise is back as Anne Reynolds, Natasha will be back as the mysterious Morag, and we have yet to cast Adam Crane – the son of Tom, director Ken Bentley and I know who we want – it's all down to availability for the recording dates."

Natasha concluded: "I really hope it's a success. David is definitely the person to do it. My dad would have loved all of this – I hope he's watching, from wherever he is now! I'm just sorry he isn't able to be here in person."

**VORTEX**

# MAGGIE STABLES

Big Finish has sadly lost one of its most popular companions, with the passing of actress Maggie Stables.



**M**AGGIE Stables passed away peacefully on Friday, September 26, having battled ill-health in recent years. Between 2000 and 2011, Maggie appeared in 20 monthly range stories, as well as the webcast *Real Time*, and *Companion Chronicle A Town Called Fortune*.

One of the crowning glories of Big Finish has been the transformation in the perception of the Sixth Doctor, who is now rightly regarded as one of the great Doctors – with Maggie Stables and Evelyn Smythe playing a huge part in that.

Big Finish Executive Producer Nick Briggs: "I met Maggie many years ago when we worked together on a national theatre tour of *Jane Eyre*, in which Maggie superbly played the sinister role of Grace Poole. After that, Maggie was instrumental in getting me a job in the Theatre Royal Nottingham Thriller season, recommending me to the late producer, Colin McIntyre.

"I was keen to get her involved in the Big Finish audios, casting her as the gruff Ruthley in our very first *Doctor Who* release, *The Sirens of Time*. It wasn't long before my friend and producer Gary Russell spotted her and saw her as potential companion material. Evelyn Smythe made *Doctor Who* history. The first, dare I say it, 'elderly' companion of the Doctor's. Maggie was superb in the role and she and her Doctor, Colin Baker, immediately hit it off."

Maggie made the part of Evelyn her own from the word go. However, becoming an actress wasn't always Maggie's first career choice. In a 2003 interview, she explained: "There was an actor I knew when I was much younger, and he had a change of career, from being a straight actor to a sort-of cabaret act. He phoned me and he said: 'I need an escapologist's assistant.' I said, 'I'm too told to wear a leotard and tights,' and he said, 'Oh, no, wear an evening dress, and go and buy a wig.'

"I was doing that part-time on top of my day job. I was a French teacher, and when I got the chance to take early retirement, I grabbed it with both hands. My letter of resignation was returned and completed within half-an-hour!"

Maggie's first brush with Big Finish came in the Bernice Summerfield adaptation of *Just War*, in which she played Ma Doras, before returning to appear as Ruthley in *The Sirens of Time*. Maggie said: "One day, Nick rang me up and said, 'I've got a marvellous part for you, Maggie, as a character actor – she's part-Russian, part-German, and part-warthog!' He said, 'It's just up your street,' and I replied, 'Thanks a bundle, darling, it sounds wonderful!'"

Maggie made a big impression on then-producer Gary Russell, and when it came to expanding the era of the Sixth Doctor, a new companion was the natural way to go – and so Evelyn Smythe was born. Gary said: "The only reason I created Evelyn was purely for Maggie Stables because I love her and she had got on very well with Colin during recording for *The Sirens of Time*. If I had ever been producer



of the TV series, I would have created Evelyn Smythe as the companion. It would be the stupidest thing in the world to do on TV, but it worked on audio."

Gary sent the basic character outline for Evelyn to Jason Haigh-Ellery, which read: "Think Amelia Rufford meets Angela Lansbury meets Margaret Rutherford meets Cameca meets Maggie Stables (i.e. that's who's going to play her)!".

Writing Evelyn's first adventure *The Marian Conspiracy*, and therefore setting up the character for all of her future adventures, was Jacqueline Rayner.

She said: "I was given a list of points about Evelyn – name, interests, habits and so on. Obviously some are more to the fore than others in the finished piece. Her fondness for

"I'm a grandmother, which is far, far away from what you would normally think a **Doctor Who** companion would be like. I think it's a great idea to have somebody that bit more mature who will have some good-natured banter with the Doctor, and be able to meet him on his own level – well, he's a Time Lord and Evelyn is a very well-educated woman, and they thought it would be a good contrast – I think it works well."

As Big Finish were still in their early days at this point in time, the creation of a new companion was a real novelty for the listeners, and the actors.

Colin Baker said: "It is always interesting to learn of a new companion. However much one loves working with the existing companion/companions, the possibility of a new companion forging a different kind of relationship with the Doctor and presenting new challenges to him is

exciting. Evelyn was a good example of that, as her age and intellect immediately set up a relationship that was different from those the Doctor had had before. I really loved working with her. A lovely, generous, kind wise lady, her Evelyn was the definitive companion for old Sixie."

Gary said: "It was a really good relationship. So much of what Colin and Maggie did fed back into what the Doctor and Evelyn did over

the next couple of years. It was like *On Golden Pond*. Those two were the Doctor and Evelyn!"

Evelyn remains as popular today as she did during her first trips in the TARDIS, and Gary Russell knows exactly why that is: "Maggie. Evelyn is Maggie. A smart, intelligent woman who held her own with Colin Baker."

Although a companion of the Doctor in the audio medium, it didn't stop Maggie from being recognised in the street.

She explained: "One day when I was in *The Mousetrap*, somebody tapped me on the shoulder in Leicester Square tube station. A very nice young man then asked me if I was Maggie Stables, and I said that I was. I asked how he knew who I was, and he said he'd seen my photograph in *Doctor Who Magazine*! If you are doing work on audios, you don't really expect someone to stop you when you're out, because they've recognised you.

"I remember mentioning it to one of the other cast members another day, and they said they were amazed. But it just shows you, there are **Doctor Who** fans everywhere. And not one of them has given me a chocolate cake yet!" **VORTEX**



## 'Maggie made a big impression on then-producer Gary Russell, and when it came to expanding the era of the Sixth Doctor..'

coffee changed to chocolate. As for establishing Evelyn's actual character, I was given quite a free hand – although it was all discussed with Gary, of course.

"The major factor, though, was having worked with the brilliant Maggie Stables on the Benny play *Just War*. People who have heard it will know just how distinctive Maggie's performance is, and realise what a wonderful template I had to build on for Evelyn."

**M**aggie said "One day, I got a bit of news via Nick Briggs that I was going to be Colin Baker's new companion, and I thought, 'What?!?!' Then Gary Russell told me that they had me in mind when they created the part, which was quite flattering. They later told me it was because my voice was good!

Listen again...

# RECORDED TIME AND OTHER STORIES



**I**T'S a reunion of one of Big Finish's most popular Doctor and companion pairings this month, as the Sixth Doctor and Peri head off for new adventures in time and space.

The pair have featured sporadically in the monthly range, with one of those being *Recorded Time and Other Stories*, the 150th monthly range release.

The titular story was written by Catherine Harvey, with the Doctor and Peri meeting Henry VIII.

She said: "I'd specialised in literature of that period at university, and I really enjoy the Tudors' use of language. But I grew up with the myths surrounding Henry and Anne. As a child I visited the spot in the Tower where Anne was executed and heard the story of the French sword used as a special favour.

"However, when I was writing *Recorded Time* I did do a bit of extra reading – David Starkey's book (*Reign Of Henry VIII*) was especially helpful. What surprised me most were the things people didn't have then that we take for granted now, such as all the vegetables that hadn't yet been discovered!"

The second adventure on the CD was *Paradoxicide*, by Richard Dinnick.

He said: "I loved that 'Peri, eh' quip Colin ad libbed in *Vengeance on Varos* so I wrote something about Peri not being 'peri-pher'al' to the plot. Colin took this to the next

'I like to give the actors interesting things to do, so for Nicola especially, in that opening intro, she had to play Peri playing English...'

level! So he said at lunch that he would like to make as many 'Peri' puns as he could at the end and have Peri sighing. What a great suggestion! I could just see that happening on TV during his era."

Story three was *A Most Excellent Match*, by Matt Fitton – who has since become a mainstay of Big Finish – with the time travellers entering the worlds of Jane Austen.

Matt said: "The whole point of the story was, in a way, to give them both something out of the ordinary. I'd wanted an opening that would grab the listener and do something different. And having the Doctor propose to his companion was certainly different – I got in just before River Song's wedding!

"I like to give the actors interesting things to do, so for Nicola especially, in that opening intro, she had to play Peri playing English – and she was fantastic. Then Peri later becomes the driving force in the story – she's the one who fixes everything and saves the Doctor. And he's impressed."

The release was rounded off by *Question Marks*, by Philip Lawrence, which deals with memory loss.

He concluded: "I knew that my story would be on a release with three others so even listeners that were new to the range would have a fairly good idea who these characters were, giving me the opportunity to tinker with the format a bit.

"The plan was to explore who we are at our core and show that even with memories stripped away, the characters still retain their own traits whether they realise or not. So you have the Doctor doing Doctor-y things like testing the acoustics using opera, Stone has an inherent chip on his shoulder about being superseded by the younger Destiny, while Destiny has insecurities about failing her crew." **VORTEX**

# VORTEX MAIL

We love to hear from you, so if you have something to say, write to us at enquiries@bigfinish.com. Remember to put 'Vortex Mail' as the subject.

## STOP!

I really enjoy the **Doctor Who** Main Range, the **Dark Eyes** series, the **Fourth Doctor Adventures** and I'm trying to catch up on the **Companion Chronicles** and the **Lost Stories**, never mind the other **Doctor Who** spin-offs and specials. I say to myself, "Stick to these top quality audios as your bank balance can't manage anymore and you're becoming a recluse," and then what do you do at Big Finish? Release the awesome **Survivors** box set! Please, please stop releasing top notch dramas, it just isn't right!

I look forward to your immediate and unreserved apology.

**Lee Turner**

*Nick Briggs: Huge apologies, Lee. Frankly, it's unforgivable of us!*

## WHERE'S THE THIRD?

Thanks for 15 awesome years of amazing stories and more importantly, congratulations! Even though I only started listening last year, I hope I can be around to hear many more stories in the years to come!

While I love the First and Second Doctors (and the Fourth through Eighth, for that matter), it feels as if the Third Doctor has been left out lately in recent releases. I was wondering if you have any plans to do more stories from the Third Doctor's era? Will he be included in **The Early Adventures** or is that just reserved for stories from the First and Second Doctors' eras?

**Andy Ritz**

*Nick: Oooh, Andy, we have plans for the Third Doctor. I love the Third Doctor, actually.*

## POST BLAKE?

As a fan of **Blake's 7** I was wondering if there is a possibility that an audio drama could be made of the last part of the very last TV episode, then carrying on with Paul Darrow's **Lucifer**? I believe this would be an overwhelming success, just like the latest six volume set release (which I have purchased). Could this be done?

**Derek Fawcett**

*Big Finish producer Cavan Scott: At the moment we have no plans to carry on the story post Blake in an audio format – although the audio book of Paul's second Lucifer novel is out next year!*

## ADAPTATION

Can you please consider doing **Bad Therapy** and **The Room With No Doors** as New Adventures audio adaptations?

**Charles Mento**

*Nick: No plans at the moment, Charles. But thanks for the nudge.*

## FILL THE GAP

As we all know, sometimes the Doctor had problems controlling the TARDIS (and seeing as Christopher Owen is still alive), did the Doctor, Romana and K9 return the Earthling (or Mr Morris, as he's called in the novelisation) straight back to Earth at the end of **Meglos**? Or did he become a TARDIS

crew member for a while? I'd love to hear a story in that gap – seeing how Mr Morris will cope putting up with the 'know-it-all' threesome.

**Colin John Francis**

*Nick: You know, I've often wondered about that too. Hmmm...*

## APP?

As someone who mainly listens to downloads I was wondering if there was any plans for a Big Finish app.

I love listening to BF on my iPod but would love to be able to download straight to my iPhone and iPad.

So any plans for a BF app?

**Trevor Smith.**

*Nick: Yes, there are plans for a Big Finish listening app. It's been in the works a long time and we're currently testing it.*

## SPOOKY

Just wondering: any chance of an annual Halloween **Doctor Who** release? Just think: every year, there is a mystery **Doctor Who** release, released on October 31st, with the cover, cast and format details completely unknown until its release. There could be lots of fun teasing about the smallest of details and a nice bit of publicity for the **Doctor Who** range as a whole while promoting the story.

**Michael Hocking.**

*Nick: Rather a fun idea, Michael. We might have a think about that, although we work very far in advance. Nice one, though.*



Coming up...

# RELEASE SCHEDULE

New and forthcoming audio releases

## OCTOBER 2014

- Doctor Who: *The Widow's Assassin* (192, Sixth Doctor and Peri)
- Doctor Who – The Early Adventures: *The Doctor's Tale* (1.2, First Doctor)
- Jago & Litefoot: *Series Eight Box Set*

## NOVEMBER 2014

- Doctor Who: *Masters of Earth* (193, Sixth Doctor and Peri)
- 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)
- Blake's 7: The Classic Audio Adventures 1: *Scimitar* (Full Cast)
- Blake's 7 – Book 6: *Criminal Intent*
- Dorian Gray – *Series Three box set*

## DECEMBER 2014

- Doctor Who: *The Rani Elite* (194, Sixth Doctor and Peri)
- Doctor Who – The Early Adventures: *An Ordinary Life* (1.4, First Doctor)
- Doctor Who: *Trial of the Valeyard*
- Doctor Who: *The Highest Science*
- Blake's 7: The Classic Audio Adventures 2: *Fortuitas* (Full Cast)
- The Ordeals of Sherlock Holmes: *Box Set*

## JANUARY 2015

- Doctor Who: *Mistfall* (195, Fifth Doctor, Tegan, Nyssa and Turlough)
- Doctor Who – The Fourth Doctor Adventures: *The Exilons* (4.3, Fourth Doctor and Leela)
- Doctor Who – The Fourth Doctor by Gareth Roberts *Box Set: The English Way of Death/The Romance of Crime* (Fourth Doctor and Romana)
- Doctor Who – The Fourth Doctor by Gareth Roberts: *The English Way of Death* (Fourth Doctor and Romana)
- Doctor Who – The Fourth Doctor by Gareth Roberts: *The Romance of Crime* (Fourth Doctor and Romana)

- Doctor Who – Short Trips: *The Flywheel Revolution* (05, Download only)
- The Avengers – The Lost Episodes: *Volume 3* (Box Set)
- Pathfinder Legends: *Rise of the Runelords – Spires of Xin-Shalast* (1.6, Full Cast)
- Blake's 7: The Classic Audio Adventures 3: *Mindset* (Full Cast)
- Dark Shadows: *Bloodlust – Episodes 1-7* (Full Cast)

## FEBRUARY 2015

- Doctor Who: *Equilibrium* (196, Fifth Doctor, Tegan, Nyssa and Turlough)
- Doctor Who – The Fourth Doctor Adventures: *The Darkness of Glass* (4.2, Fourth Doctor and Leela)
- Doctor Who – Short Trips: *Little Doctors* (06, Download only)
- Blake's 7: *The Liberator Chronicles – Box Set 11*
- Blake's 7: The Classic Audio Adventures 4: *Ghost Ship* (Full Cast)
- Dark Shadows: *Bloodlust – Episodes 8-13* (Full Cast)
- Vienna – *Series 3* (Full Cast)
- Gallifrey: *Intervention Earth* (Full Cast)

## MARCH 2015

- Doctor Who: *The Entropy Plague* (197, Fifth Doctor, Tegan, Nyssa and Turlough)
- Doctor Who – The Fourth Doctor Adventures: *Requiem for the Rocket Men* (4.3, Fourth Doctor and Leela)
- Doctor Who – Short Trips: *Time Tunnel* (07, Download only)
- Blake's 7: The Classic Audio Adventures 5: *Devil's Advocate* (Full Cast)
- Blake's 7: Lucifer Revelation: *Audiobook of Novel* (Read by Paul Darrow)
- Jago and Litefoot: *Series Nine Box Set*

## APRIL 2015

- Doctor Who: *The Defectors* (198, Seventh Doctor)
- Doctor Who – The Fourth Doctor Adventures: *Death-Match* (4.4, Fourth Doctor and Leela)

- Doctor Who – Short Trips: *The Ghost Trap* (08, Download only)
- Doctor Who: *Dark Eyes 4* (Eighth Doctor)
- Blake's 7: The Classic Audio Adventures 6: *Truth and Lies* (Full Cast)
- Terrahawks *Volume 1* (Full Cast)

## MAY 2015

- Doctor Who: *Last of the Cybermen* (199, Sixth Doctor)
- Doctor Who – The Fourth Doctor Adventures: *Suburban Hell* (4.5, Fourth Doctor and Leela)
- Doctor Who – Short Trips: *The King of the Dead* (09, Download only)
- Doctor Who – Novel Adaptations *Damaged Goods / Well Mannered War* (Special edition)
- Doctor Who – Novel Adaptations *Well Mannered War* (Fourth Doctor)
- Doctor Who – Novel Adaptations *Damaged Goods* (Seventh Doctor)
- Blake's 7: *Novel 7* (TBA)
- The Omega Factor: *Series 1 Box Set* (Full Cast)


## JUNE 2015

- Doctor Who: *The Secret History* (200, Fifth Doctor)
- Doctor Who – The Fourth Doctor Adventures: *The Cloisters of Terror* (4.6, Fourth Doctor and Leela)
- Doctor Who: The Companion Chronicles – *Box Set 1*
- Doctor Who: Short Trips *As Good As a Rest* (10, Download only)
- Survivors – *Series 2 Box Set* (Full Cast)

## JULY 2015

- Doctor Who *We Are The Daleks* (201, Seventh Doctor and Me)
- Doctor Who – The Fourth Doctor Adventures: *The Fate of Krelous* (4.7, Fourth Doctor and Leela)
- Doctor Who: Short Trips *Dark Convoy* (11, Download only)
- Counter-Measures – *Series 4 Box Set* (Full Cast)
- The Avengers – The Lost Episodes: *Volume 4* (Box Set)







**THE  
NIGHT  
OF THE  
TRIFFIDS**

**FULL-CAST AUDIOBOOK BY SIMON CLARK**

**STARRING SAM TROUGHTON AS DAVID MASEN  
WITH NICOLA BRYANT AS KERRIS**



[WWW.BIGFINISH.COM](http://WWW.BIGFINISH.COM)  [@BIGFINISH](https://twitter.com/BIGFINISH)  [/THEBIGFINISH](https://facebook.com/THEBIGFINISH)

Night of the Triffids © Simon Clark and the The John Wyndham Estate, 2001.



THE END OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE.  
AND BEYOND...

# THE ΩMEGA FACTOR



AUDIOBOOK OF THE NOVEL BASED  
ON THE TV SERIES

READ BY LOUISE JAMESON  
AVAILABLE NOW!

SERIES ONE

FULL-CAST AUDIO DRAMA  
AVAILABLE MAY 2015



[WWW.BIGFINISH.COM](http://WWW.BIGFINISH.COM)  [@BIGFINISH](https://twitter.com/BIGFINISH)  [/THEBIGFINISH](https://www.facebook.com/THEBIGFINISH)

The Omega Factor © the estate of Jack Gerson and used under licence