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DOCTOR WHO

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WHAT'S COMING UP IN  
THE MAIN RANGE!

# SECRET HISTORY

WE GO BEHIND THE SCENES WITH PETER PURVES AS THE DOCTOR WHO MAIN RANGE REACHES ITS 200<sup>TH</sup> RELEASE!

ISSUE 76 • JUNE 2015

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# Sneak Previews & Whispers



**Torchwood** producer James Goss sheds some light on the new audio series...

**T**ORCHWOOD IS going to be brilliant. That's about all I can say. Plotwise I can say "someone's on a crashing spaceship". That's literally my only confirmed fact.

What I can say about the six episodes of **Torchwood** we're making, is that the brief we've handed out says, 'Write the episode of **Torchwood** you always wished the show had got around to making'

Each of the episodes centres around a character central to the **Torchwood** we know and love and entangles them in the strange machinations of a sinister force.

We've met and talked with a lot of the cast and they've been incredibly enthusiastic. John

Barrowman's love and support of the show have been stunning – he's done a lot of campaigning on our behalf. The agents we've spoken to (no, can't say who, not yet) have also been delightfully supportive. "Oh, well, as it's **Torchwood** then I'm sure we can do something..." is the refrain we keep on hearing.

Everyone working on this series has always loved **Torchwood**, and the reaction from fans has been utterly overwhelming. Russell (T Davies) has signed off the ideas (very enthusiastically) and it's now up to us not to let him down. I think you'll be surprised – and in a good way.

And yes, very soon, we'll be bombarding you with lots more information." **VORTEX**

**Torchwood: The Conspiracy** will be available on CD and download in September.

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## Editorial

**T**HE COMPANION **Chronicles** are back this month – hooray! I'm sure that I wasn't the only one who was disappointed when I read on the Big Finish website that the series was coming to an end. However, the welcome return of the **Chronicles**, with the first volume of *First Doctor Boxed Set*, has got me grinning again.

My first encounter with William Hartnell's original Doctor was with **The Five Faces of Doctor Who** repeats in 1981 and it wasn't until the release of *The Daleks* on VHS back in 1989, that I got to the chance to see him (over and over) again. And I fell in love with that era – with fantastic companions in the form of Susan, Ian and Barbara. It's such a simple idea – have a history teacher and a science teacher, who can explain the background to stories to us, the viewers. Genius.

As the VHS tapes were slowly released during the 1990s, more and more of those early years began to appear and I was introduced to more of the Hartnell era companions – and let's be honest – who doesn't love Peter Purves and Maureen O'Brien as Steven and Vicki?

As well as the VHS releases, another big part of my **Doctor Who** 'life' in the 1990s was the *New Adventures* – and in particular, Professor Bernice Summerfield.

I've been with Benny all the way – through the *New Adventures*, both with the Doctor and without, to Dellah, to the Braxiatel Collection, and beyond.

The release of volume two of **The New Adventures of Bernice Summerfield** this month takes me back to those exciting times, when the releases from Virgin Publishing were the only new **Who** on the horizon. I'd be itching for the latest book appearing in my local Ottakars and dashing down to check, every other day, to see if it had been released.

Ah, happy times and places – unless, of course, you're Benny, facing the might of Sutekh the Destroyer...

KENNY





# TAYLOR MADE

It's a bumper month for fans of the First Doctor as Kenny Smith finds out about the return of the Companion Chronicles, and two of his companions in the Main Range...

**T**IME TRAVEL is a wonderful thing – it can make the new seem old (is it really 10 years ago that Christopher Eccleston regenerated into David Tennant?) and the old seem new. The latter is most definitely the case, as Peter Purves returns to the role of Steven Taylor.

Peter is back in the TARDIS this month, for not just one but three new tales, featuring in a brace of adventures in **Companion Chronicles: The First Doctor Box Set**, as well as in *The Secret History*, in which Peter and Maureen O'Brien (Vicki) encounter Peter Davison's Fifth Doctor.

*The Secret History* by Eddie Robson takes the Doctor, Steven and Vicki to the Italian city of Ravenna in the year 540 – besieged by the army of the celebrated Byzantine general Belisarius, where they become caught up in the fighting.

It's the first time Steven has featured in a monthly range story and it was something which delighted Peter.

He explains: "It was great to do. It was really lovely to work with Maureen again – we didn't do a lot of episodes together on TV – I did two episodes of *The Chase* with her, then *The Time Meddler*, *Galaxy 4* and *The Myth Makers*, so that was 14 episodes and then she was gone. She's great, Maureen and I really enjoyed seeing her again.

"That's the thing about Big Finish – you get to come in and meet nice people, do some good acting work and also meet old friends.

"When I first went into **Doctor Who**, I used to watch it on Saturdays because I was free to and then once I joined the show, there just wasn't the time as we were working and recording our episodes on Saturdays. It's just a shame there's so many of them which were made, but I never had the chance to see. When you hear Donald Tosh (**Doctor Who** screenwriter) talking about *The Massacre*, you really do feel you've missed out on something.



## The Companion Chronicles: The First Doctor Box Set

**THE SLEEPING BLOOD**  
BY MARTIN DAY

Exploring a disused research centre hoping to find medical supplies, Susan becomes embroiled in the deadly plans of a terrorist holding an entire world to ransom.

**THE UNWINDING WORLD**  
BY IAN POTTER

Vicki seems to remember things being better once, before the little flat. It's time she put some excitement back into her life. It's just a shame the Doctor can't help.

**THE FOUNDING FATHERS**  
BY SIMON GUERRIER

When the Doctor, Steven and Vicki find themselves locked out of the TARDIS, only one man can possibly help them. But the American, Benjamin Franklin, has problems of his own...

**THE LOCKED ROOM**  
BY SIMON GUERRIER

Steven left the Doctor to become king of an alien world. It's many years since he gave up the throne. He's not escaping his past though, as his granddaughter, Sida, is about to discover...

**WRITTEN BY:** Martin Day, Simon Guerrier, Ian Potter

**DIRECTED BY:** Lisa Bowerman

**STARRING:**

Carole Ann Ford, Maureen O'Brien, Peter Purves, Alix Dunmore, Alice Haig, Darren Strange

**RELEASED:** THIS MONTH!

## Doctor Who: Peter Purves

"We were doing it week after week and there's so many missing episodes I've never seen. I just live in hope."

Having made his Big Finish debut in October 2007, Peter is enjoying the chance to revisit the character of Steven. He says: "After I did [Companion Chronicle] *Mother Russia*, I'd no idea I'd still be doing them all these, years later.

"I had heard of Big Finish when I'd been to conventions – I'd never been a tremendous fan of *Doctor Who* and had seen it from time to time over the

see what happened and after four or six parts, that story would end."

**P**ETER'S FIRST appearance of the month comes in *The Secret History*, by Eddie Robson, who enjoyed the experience of bringing together two different eras of *Doctor Who*, with the Fifth Doctor and 1960s companions.

Eddie admits: "It was great. Alan Barnes offered me it and I couldn't have been more delighted – Peter, one of my favourite Doctors, brought into

**"I think I've now done more Companion Chronicles than anyone else, which is really nice."**

years, but I did start to wonder, 'Why have they never asked me to be in one?', and then I forgot about it.

"It really did come out of the blue when I was asked to do *Mother Russia*. Actually, I'd like to be able to go back and re-do that one, as I don't think it was my best performance and I could do a better job now, especially with the accents. I really thought that would be it after that, as I had no idea there would be others, but I just go on doing more and more!

"I think I've now done more **Companion Chronicles** than anyone else, which is really nice."

Peter particularly likes being able to revisit the early years of *Doctor Who*. He admits: "I love the simple narrative of the early days, compared to where it's gone now.

"I'm not being critical of Steven Moffat, he has done a great job, as did Russell T Davies before him, it's just what I prefer.

"*Doctor Who* used to be like the old Saturday morning adventure serials, like *Superman* and *Flash Gordon*. You had a storyline you could follow, which ended on a cliffhanger and you would tune in the following week to



Above: Alice Haig and Peter Purves

one of my favourite eras alongside one of my favourite companion teams. It's a mishmash of loads of things – it's partly a Lucarotti/Whitaker style historical, taking us to a time and place that's a little off the beaten track, with questions about interfering with history; and it's partly a Spooner/Cotton style historical with comedy characters and epic set pieces on a 1960s BBC budget.

"But although it starts as a 'straight' historical, it doesn't stay one... actually now I come to think of it, that side of it is less like a TV Fifth Doctor story, and much more like a Steve Parkhouse comic strip.

"There were two big challenges. One was the period setting, which



# Doctor Who: Peter Purves



Above: Maureen O'Brien, Tony Millan and Peter Purves  
Inset: Peter Davison



**“I’ve had to try and make my voice sound older, which is actually quite difficult!”**

was much harder than I expected. I haven’t done that many **Who** stories in period settings and something like *Industrial Evolution* was much easier to do – the Victorian era is very familiar and I got a good sense of the type of setting I wanted by reading **Hard Times** and **North and South**. For sixth-century Constantinople, it was easy enough to find out the big historical stuff, but I kept getting lost on the detail. Things like how people actually related to each other, what day-to-day life was like.

For instance, I knew I wanted the chariot races to be part of it and thought ‘OK, so Steven gets a job at the chariot races. But then – what jobs did they have? Who was in charge? How many people worked there?’ All that was much harder to find out. I did what I usually do – I research what I can, guess the rest and get someone who knows more about it than me (in this case, my friend Dr Matthew Symonds) to read it and point out where I’d gone wrong. But even then, I found myself stopping every ten minutes to think some bit of historical detail through.

“The other challenge was making sense of the whole ‘Doctors out of time’ concept! It’s obviously loads of fun, and I jumped at the chance to be part of it.”

Eddie also had the honour of writing the landmark 200th Main Range release. He admits he is: “Really proud. I’ve done over 20 **Who** audios now – it’s ten years since Gary Russell asked me to pitch an idea, which became *Memory Lane* – and I’m honoured to have been asked back so many times. I’m doing a lot of other writing work now and all these years of writing for Big Finish has been invaluable experience.”

**T**HE NEW **Companion Chronicles** box set opens with an adventure featuring the First Doctor and Susan, with *The Sleeping Blood*, by Martin Day. I really enjoyed writing it,” admits Martin. “I know that’s an obvious thing to say, but for any fan of **Doctor Who**, writing something set before the events of *An Unearthly Child...* Well, it doesn’t get much better than that, does it?”

“And sitting in the studio, listening to Carole Ann Ford bring my words to life – the woman is incredible, she can still sound like Susan when she needs to – was an absolute and unalloyed joy. So that was a definite highlight.

“I knew Ian (Atkins, producer) had nudged me in a really interesting direction – he suggested the basic theme – so I didn’t have to worry about that too much, just concentrate on putting it all across within the confines of what is essentially an augmented audiobook. Sometimes having a limited number of characters can be a real advantage.

“I think the biggest challenge was trying to get the language right –

I didn’t want it to be an old-fashioned story, but neither did we want to use terminology that felt glaringly inappropriate. You’ve got to be able to imagine this being on screen in an alternate 1963!

“So, for example, we don’t once use the term ‘nanobots’, which feels quite modern, but we used ‘nanotechnology’ and ‘robot’ variously instead. (I think

‘Nanotechnology’ as a term was first used in the early 70s, but it feels like it could have been coined earlier.) Mind you, you don’t want to talk about ‘space rockets’ or ‘laser guns’, or it starts to sound like **Flash Gordon**. It’s a fine line, but it keeps you on your toes...”

*The Unwinding World*, by Ian Potter, is a character piece for Vicki. Ian says: “My brief was Vicki with Ian and Barbara. I was delighted because I love Maureen O’Brien’s performance. I decided I wanted to go for a dialogue piece rather than narration to really exploit that. That meant coming up with a story that puts what’s special about Vicki at its centre, while still finding things for the other regulars to do in the background. That pulled me towards SF rather than history because I felt it allowed Vicki to feel most at home.

“I think my favourite **Companion Chronicles** present a story that gives us more insight into the series regulars and their relationships and benefits from one companion being the prism we see events through. The show has been so lucky with astonishing actors who so often ended up playing second fiddle to the Doctor. The **Companion Chronicles** give them a chance to shine.”

**T**HE **FOUNDING Fathers** by Simon Guerrier takes the TARDIS to 1762, and an encounter with Benjamin Franklin, while *The Locked Room* returns to an older Steven on the world formerly inhabited by the Savages.





## Doctor Who: The Secret History

The TARDIS brings the Doctor, Steven and Vicki to the Italian city of Ravenna in the year 540 – besieged by the army of the celebrated Byzantine general Belisarius. Caught up in the fighting, Steven ends up on a boat bound for Constantinople, the heart of the Roman Empire.

Rescuing Steven, however, is the least of the Doctor's problems – because he shouldn't be mixed up in this particular adventure at all. Someone has sabotaged his own personal timeline, putting him in the place of his First incarnation... but who, and why? The truth is about to be revealed – but at what cost to all of the Doctors, and to the whole future history of the planet Earth?

**WRITTEN BY:** Eddie Robson

**DIRECTED BY:** Barnaby Edwards

### STARRING:

Peter Davison (The Doctor)  
Maureen O'Brien (Vicki)  
Peter Purves (Steven)  
Lysette Anthony (Sophia)  
Sarah Woodward (Theodora),  
Tony Millan (Procopius, Yazid)  
Giles Watling (Belisarius)  
Tim Wallers (Justinian)

**RELEASED:** THIS MONTH!

Simon has written for Steven on several occasions, and obviously has a real affinity for the character. A modest Simon says: "Well, it's very kind of you to say so. If I've 'got' Steven's voice, I think that's all down to Steve Lyons, who did such an extraordinary job with his BBC Books. I also had Marc Platt's *Mother Russia* and Jac Rayner's *The Suffering* to work from, so I feel I kind of borrowed my version of Steven from them. As for why I'm writing for him again, that's down to producer David Richardson, who tells me who to write for. But I laid the groundwork in *The War to End All Wars*, hoping that I'd be allowed to do more."

Looking at his two new stories, Simon reveals: "I wrote them together.



Above: Peter Purves and Maureen O'Brien

*The Founding Fathers* came from Peter saying at the recording of *The War To End All Wars*, that he could do a better American accent than the one he did for Morton Dill in *The Chase*. That part was written as broad comedy. So I was thinking about how I could use that and have Peter play five characters – young Steven, old Steven, the Doctor, the copy of the Doctor's mind, and Benjamin Franklin.

"Thinking the two plays would be recorded together, I thought I'd make *The Locked Room* a bit less arduous on Peter, which meant focusing on Sida and telling more of her story. I'd also realised something from one of my earlier *Companion Chronicles* that I thought needed tying up..."

Peter is one of the most prolific companions to have featured in the series, with nine plays featuring the character and he especially enjoyed recording *The Locked Room* for the new box set, as it presented him with a vocal challenge.

"I think I'm quite lucky my voice hasn't changed a lot over the years," says Peter, sounding as youthful as ever. "If you listen to the CDs or watch the old video recordings from way back, it's very much the same.

"In a number of the stories, particularly the ones Simon Guerrier has written which are set later in Steven's life, I've been playing him at the age I am now. I've had to try and make my voice sound older, which is actually quite difficult!

"When I'm doing those stories, I need to work out if I'm playing Steven the narrator, who is older, or if I'm Steven, the younger, when he's having the original adventure. It can get quite complicated to follow, but it's great fun to do."

Having put in many long, hard hours in writing the plays, Simon feels that having them performed by Peter is: "Extremely satisfying. Peter is a very good actor – my plays wouldn't work without him being able to convince you

that Steven and the Doctor are there together in the room. He actively encourages me to push what we can do. It's been a great pleasure."

Peter adds: "I was in the local shop the other day and a guy there said, 'Oh, hang on a minute, I think I recognise you,' which I've heard quite a bit over the years, as people recognise me from *Blue Peter*.

"And then he said, 'Oh, hang on – you're Steven Taylor!' That's a bit of a rarity, to be honest, as it's usually older people in their 40s and older who recognise me. It's still nice to be recognised, though! I've done quite a few conventions and you do see more younger faces there – the fan base is definitely changing." **VORTEX**



# PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE

Kenny Smith looks ahead to what the **Doctor Who** Main Range holds

**T**HE DOCTOR Who Main Range has reached release number 200 this month and with Big Finish's licence from the BBC running until March 2020, there are plenty of treats in store over the coming year.

*Vortex* can exclusively reveal these are big and exciting plans, as we outline the plays until December 2016... plenty to whet the appetite!

Script editor Alan Barnes said: "After release 200, we're entering a bit of a new era for the Main Range – a lot of our ongoing storylines have come to their natural conclusion, so we wanted to make each of the next year or so's worth of trilogies a clear jumping-on point for new listeners."

A new Seventh Doctor and Mel trilogy begins in July, with *We Are The Daleks*, by Jonathan Morris.

Alan said: "It occurred to me that *Remembrance of the Daleks*, made in 1988, was partly a nostalgia piece set 25 years in the past... but that more than 25 years have passed since *Remembrance*, so it'd be interesting to make a not dissimilar piece now, in 2015, with the Daleks in London of around about 25 years ago."

The duo then travel to *The Warehouse*, by Mike Tucker, it's a future-set satire on the present-day, located in and around a giant parcel delivery facility floating in space.

*Terror of the Sontarans* completes the trilogy with Big Finish's voice of Sontarans and TV's Commander Strax – actor Dan Starkey – teaming up with John Dorney to write a fast-paced sci-fi thriller set on a strange alien world.

The second September release starts a new Sixth Doctor trilogy in Matt Fitton's *Criss-Cross*, in which he meets Leading Wren Mrs Constance Clarke at Bletchley Park, the famous WWII code-breaking facility.

Siobhan Redmond is back as the Rani after her acclaimed debut last year. Marc Platt has written *Planet of the Rani*,

where she returns to the site of one of her worst atrocities, the world of Miasimia Goria.

In November, **2000AD** writer Ian Edginton has written *Shield of the Jötunn*, set in the Arizona desert in the near future.

Executive producer Nicholas Briggs says there are some exciting stories on the way over the next 12 months.

Nick revealed: "Coming up in December, we have another of our four single-episode releases. It's entitled *You Are The Doctor* and features scripts by John Dorney (one of our favourite writers), Jamie Anderson (son of the famous Gerry Anderson as well as writer, director and producer of our recent **Terrahawks** audio adventures), Christopher Cooper (writer of the **Doctor Who** Quick Read *The Krillitane Storm*) and Matthew Elliot (acclaimed **Sherlock Holmes** author). The stories feature an Earth invasion, a murder mystery with a difference, a heist story and a returning monster from a previous Sixth Doctor story.

"From January to March 2016, the Fifth Doctor is travelling with Nyssa and Tegan. We find out what happened immediately after *Arc of Infinity*, with a story set in Amsterdam... but in the past. Then we head off into space to encounter some uniquely robotic creatures. Then it's back down to Earth for an encounter with an historical massacre.

"Then from April to June, there's a very special trilogy indeed. It features the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Doctors and... Well, the storylines are being written now and we're extremely excited about it indeed. I dare not even hint!

"From July to September, the Seventh Doctor is back, with Ace and Mel. Then, from October to December, the Sixth Doctor is back with our new companion Constance again. You may have noticed that I've missed out the second September release... Fingers crossed for an extra special treat in there." **VORTEX**



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# LIFE ON MARS

KENNY SMITH KNEELS BEFORE THE MIGHT OF SUTEKH!

**T**HE FIRST lady of Big Finish, Professor Bernice Summerfield, is back with her old TARDIS companions this month – and is facing one of her biggest and deadliest threats. **The New Adventures of Bernice Summerfield: *The Triumph of Sutekh*** sees the ever-popular archaeologist reunited with the Seventh Doctor and Ace, in *The Pyramid of Sutekh* by Guy Adams, *The Vaults of Osiris* by Justin Richards, *The Eye of Horus* by James Goss and *The Tears of Isis* by Una McCormack.

Bernice is still undoubtedly the star of the show, although her old Time Lord friend is never too far away. Lisa Bowerman, who is delighted to be back with Sylvester McCoy and Sophie Aldred, says: "It's been a bit of a muddy area, but they are technically **Benny** stories and with the recent box sets, it's been fantastic to have the Doctor and Ace and they're definitely not sidelined.

"Last time, the Doctor was an occasional character, acting as the catalyst to the story arc, but this time he's very much in every story.

**"Last time, the Doctor was an occasional character, acting as the catalyst to the story arc, but this time he's very much in every story."**

"It's always good working with Sylvester and Sophie again – no question about that! Sylvester is always entertaining and he's a great guy, while Sophie is also a friend. It's always good to see them.

"There's an overall sweeping approach to it – it's got a real **Indiana Jones** feel: stretching over time and space, with Sutekh being the dominant presence. A real sense of an adventure story."

Producer James Goss was delighted with how quickly the second series was commissioned, after the success of





Above: Gabriel Woolf • Inset: Sylvester McCoy



Below (from left to right): Lisa Bowerman, Guy Adams, Naomi McDonald, Rachel Atkins and Matthew Bates

**“The lesson is – never take Lisa Bowerman for granted. She won’t mind, but fate will come and bite you on the bum.”**

the first. He said: “When we delivered the finished episodes for sign off. Both David Richardson and then Nick Briggs sent lovely emails saying how pleased they were with it and asking for more. So...”

**H**aving produced the first series, what did James learn from that, which he could take forward for the second volume? “Most people got what we were doing immediately,” he says. “The series was designed to be a tribute to the *Virgin New Adventures*, which quite often had the Doctor set the plot up then go for a walk. He was very much the guiding hand while Benny got on and did the heavy lifting!

“Basically, the Worst Yoda Ever. But you know, there were some people who listened to volume one and said, ‘The Doctor’s not in it enough, I don’t get it.’ Someone even timed Sylvester’s appearances with a stopwatch, which was surprising.

“So, for volume two we made sure he was in every adventure of the box set in some way. Benny is still at the heart of these adventures. While also being enmeshed in a fiendishly complicated Seventh Doctor plot.

“The other thing I’ve learned is how amazing Lisa Bowerman is. It was so easy to take her for granted last year – she was simply superb, great fun and tireless. No matter



what went wrong, you could just turn to her and go ‘Lisa, could you just...’

“So we really, really threw things at her this year, knowing she could cope... and then, on day two, she lost her voice. First time in her career that’s happened. Something like that, it’s very odd, because you’re in a radio studio and it’s all genteel and everyone’s laid back and lovely and there are biscuits... it all seems fine. But at the same time it’s all falling apart. Your lead actress is lying croaking on a sofa and insisting in her fiercest whisper that at any

minute she’ll be able to do the next scene. Benny really is at the heart of these adventures and you can’t do it without her.”

Lisa confirms: “Unfortunately, I fell ill during the recording – we all decided it must have been the Curse of Sutekh!”

But James continues: “Brilliantly, she came back in a couple of weeks later to pick things up. But the lesson is – never take Lisa Bowerman for granted. She won’t mind, but fate will come and bite you on the bum.”

**W**ith James as producer and Scott Handcock directing, Lisa was delighted with the atmosphere in the studio – particularly the presence of Gabriel Woolf as Sutekh! She explains: “James and Scott looked after us very well and we also had Guy Adams around,

# Bernice Summerfield

providing a few voices as well as writing the first one. And Gabriel Woolf – what a legend! I think he was a bit bemused by it all!

‘I’d met him at a convention a while ago and we shared a taxi back from King’s Cross to Victoria and had a little chat. He’s a real gentleman and

“And then, of course, it offered us the chance to work with Gabriel Woolf, who was utterly delightful. He’d arrive early and be sitting in the corner of the studio, reading a book while the other cast came filing in. All of them young and excitable and you could see them wondering, just a little, who is that



Above: Lisa Bowerman and Sylvester McCoy



## The New Adventures of Bernice Summerfield: The Triumph of Sutekh

THE PYRAMID OF SUTEKH  
BY GUY ADAMS

Professor Bernice Summerfield has discovered a pyramid on Mars. Inside she finds her old friend the Doctor is fighting a battle with the Osiran God Sutekh. One he is losing.

THE VAULTS OF OSIRIS  
BY JUSTIN RICHARDS

Egypt in 2015 is an unsettled place. The trade in stolen antiquities is a murky one, and it’s about to get a whole lot worse, as an ancient and terrible force enters the market.

THE EYE OF HORUS  
BY JAMES GOSS

Ancient Egypt is enjoying a golden age – peace, prosperity and a powerful Pharaoh. But something is moving through the sands. A forgotten god requests an invite to the feast.

THE TEARS OF ISIS  
BY UNA MCCORMACK

Russell Courtland prophesied the world would end on Tuesday. No-one was more surprised than he was when it did.

WRITTEN BY: Guy Adams, Justin Richards, James Goss, Una McCormack

DIRECTED BY: Scott Handcock

RELEASED: THIS MONTH!

## “Without Benny there would be no Big Finish. Imagine that – no Doctor Who, no Survivors, no Terrahawks.”

was amazed a part he had played so long ago had stayed in people’s imaginations.”

One of the big attractions for this new series is the return of Sutekh the Destroyer to a **Doctor Who** story, for the first time since 1975 TV story **Pyramids of Mars**.

James explains: “Benny’s an archaeologist, he’s an Egyptian God. Together they fight crime. But, come on they just seemed such a perfect fit, in a ‘why has no-one done this before?’ way. She’s even an expert on Martian archaeology, which means that immediately you get ‘Scene 1: A Pyramid on Mars’ and you’re away.

serene-looking man? They’d do all their acting and be lovely and then Gabriel would nod, slip the bookmark into his book and unleash THAT VOICE.”

Sylvester, Sophie and Lisa were joined by another veteran of **Doctor Who** TV story *Survival* in *The Eye of Horus*. Lisa says: “They were looking for someone who could play a good exotic queen and I thought, ‘I know just the person,’ so suggested Sakuntala Ramanee (who played Shreela). She was fantastic – she just nailed it.

“It’s incredible that one job for a couple of weeks in 1989 has had such a lasting effect on my career! It was such a great experience, even though it was



hot and uncomfortable (Lisa played cat-person Karra), but we were away on the shoot and living by the sea, so we all had a great time. It was a very bonding experience.

"I'm still in touch with Sakuntala, Will Barton and Dave John – we've got good old Facebook! It was such a friendly cast. I've had Will in for [Doctor Who audio story] *Key 2 Time*, and I'd love to get Dave in. I keep bumping into him and he's a very good voice actor."

we just had to have, then placed a story in each of them.

"*The Pyramid of Sutekh*, by Guy Adams, is set in a pyramid on Mars. It features war, desolation and an old God coming back to life, with Benny and the Doctor fighting to stop him. Also it has a lot of mummies and a nicely surprising guest star.

"*The Vaults of Osiris* by Justin Richards is set in modern Egypt and is based on all those horror stories you hear

about priceless artefacts being smuggled out of the country. But what if one of them was an Osirian object of terrible power?

"*The Eye of Horus* was very nearly called *The Obelisks of Hatshepsut*, as I was keen to win the award for 'least spellable, least sayable Big Finish title ever'. Anyway, it's set in Ancient Egypt and features a battle between Egypt's feisty female Pharaoh, her mysterious medical adviser and Sutekh.

"*The Tears of Isis* by Una McCormack is set in a country house. It's an end of the world party. Basically the mysterious Temple of Sutekh have forecast that the world will end on

Tuesday. It does. And that's just the start of things going badly wrong for them. It's part epic confrontation between the forces of good and evil and partly afternoon tea."

Many Big Finish customers will be regular purchasers of the **Doctor Who** ranges, so what would James say to anyone who's not tried a **Benny** series before? He adds: "Well, I really do think you're missing out. Without Benny there would be no Big Finish. Imagine that – no **Doctor Who**, no **Survivors**, no **Terrahawks**.

"She's had a long and wonderful life but you don't need to know any of that. She's been re-united with her best friend and they're off having brilliant adventures together. Benny is one of the all-time great **Doctor Who** companions, up there with Sarah Jane, Romana and Donna Noble – people who you just love spending time with."

**VORTEX**



Above (from left to right): Sophie Aldred, Gabriel Woolf, Lisa Bowerman and Guy Adams

**"Benny is one of the all-time great Doctor Who companions, up there with Sarah Jane, Romana and Donna Noble – people who you just love spending time with."**

**L**isa, a regular Big Finish director when she's not acting, enjoyed having the chance to concentrate solely on her performance.

She laughs: "It takes the pressure right off! I love directing and I love acting, but the wonderful thing about being employed to simply say the words is you can just concentrate on what you are doing and getting the performance right. The great thing is we had James and Scott around, who made a fantastic working atmosphere. It was a bit of a party!"

When preparing each of the stories in the box set, James reveals: "We sat down and worked out the four settings that

**The New Adventures of Bernice Summerfield Volume Two: *The Triumph of Sutekh*** is out this month on CD and download from [bigfinish.com](http://bigfinish.com).

Kenny Smith meets the team behind series two of the acclaimed *Survivors*.

# ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVORS

**I**T'S QUITE fair to say that in 2014, one of Big Finish's biggest hits was the first series of *Survivors*. Having been such a hit, a second series is released this month, developing and building on not just the characters from the TV show, but the people who joined them along the way.

Returning to the show once again are original stars Lucy Fleming (Jenny Richards), Ian McCulloch (Greg Preston) and Carolyn Seymour (Abby Grant), alongside Louise Jameson (Jackie Burchall) and John Banks (Daniel Connor), who featured in the first Big Finish series.

Four new plays feature in the new season, *Dark Rain* by Ken Bentley, *Mother's Courage* by Louise Jameson, *The Hunted* by Ken again and *Savages* by series script editor Matt Fitton.

After cameo appearances in series one, Carolyn Seymour fully features in the new season as Abby. Carolyn sums up the central concept: "It's an apocalypse series and the world is rebuilding itself.

"Abby, I think, is the unwilling matriarch of the English bunch – she doesn't want to be in that position, but she cares deeply about democracy, her friends and getting it right. But her real driving force is trying to find her son, Peter."

Carolyn was a late addition to the first audio series, but was delighted to be involved once again.

She explains: "They are really lovely at Big Finish. It was a bit of a shock, actually. They found me on Facebook, but I had no idea they were steaming ahead and doing a new series without Abby being in it. So, after they found me, they got in touch and I said, 'Of course.'

"It was great getting back together with Lucy and Ian – it was heaven. We hadn't really kept in touch, although we had seen each other at the launch of the DVD, we had occasionally bumped into each other, but not too often because I lived in the United States for 35 years."

The actress is particularly delighted with the way Abby has been brought back, alongside her old friends, as well as the original Big Finish characters.

"This team is really interesting," Carolyn says, "and I'm delighted we have Louise Jameson. She's also written a

**"I had no idea they were steaming ahead and doing a new series without Abby being in it."**

story for us and she's turned out to be a really strong writer – she's captured all our voices.

"I feel very comfortable doing these – they've really got Abby's character and I don't have to strain myself with it.

"You know how to react and respond to the things that are happening – but you have to remember that 40 years have passed since we first did these, so you've got to take away all that experience from your voice, which we didn't have back then.

"They are just such good scripts. I love doing audio as you can't hide. You can't cheat the listener, because you have to really be the person, as it's all in the vocal performance."





Above: Louise Jameson

**G**OOD SCRIPTS were what made the first series of *Survivors* such a hit with the listeners all over the world. Having been such a critical hit, Matt Fitton reveals: "There was a feeling initially that we weren't too sure how it would do, but once it came out, the brilliant thing was how word of mouth helped push the sales up – and that's the way it should be. It's great to know people were buying it because they had heard it was good. We've also been helped by Chase Masterson [who plays Maddie Price in the series] who is very good at helping push it in the US as well!

"We know it's a very serious, adult drama and it isn't to everyone's taste, but this showed there really is an appetite for darker drama and it inspired me to push it even further for series two. I had a number of ideas, which play out across this second season."

Louise Jameson adds: "I'm told that within five days of the first series being released, there was a huge surge in the sales, just because of word of mouth. It's a tremendous series and I really hope Radio 4 Extra pick it up, like they've done with the first season of Leela and Fourth Doctor stories.

"I've worked a lot for Big Finish and I love it all, but there's something really special about *Survivors*. The first series was so beautifully written.

"Jackie is such a marvellous part. She's a great character, who has a deep, dark secret that she carries around with her

and it informs everything she does. It's a real Shakespeare trick – the character and the audience know the secret, which forms an invisible bond between them."

Matt continues: "With this second series, we pick up a few days after the end of the first TV series. We have Abby Grant, who was not seen again by the characters in the TV show, so we knew our starting point – she's got some news about her son and this is us seeing her beginning this search that we don't see for the rest of the TV series.

"We know roughly what happens to Abby, as mention is made of her in passing on the TV show, even though she never meets up with Greg and Jenny again. It offers us a challenge, in using the original characters and keeping within the original continuity of the show, to explore these stories."

**"Within five days of the first series being released, there was a huge surge in the sales."**

**L** OUISE PREVIOUSLY co-wrote the *Doctor Who* story *The Abandoned* for Leela and the Fourth Doctor with Nigel Fairs, but series two of *Survivors* sees her writing on her own.

"We had an idea Lou wanted to take on" says Matt, "and we've got Ken Bentley as well this time. It was a pleasure to work with her, as we knew writing was something she had been interested in for quite a long while. She came in as Jackie in the first series and she totally understood the character and the setting. More than anything, *Survivors* is about human emotional drama, and David Richardson (producer) knew she would be a natural fit for this.

"She had worked very closely with Nigel Fairs when writing before and I was delighted to help her through the whole process. Her episode [*Mother's Courage*], has a group of characters, all female, while Ken's episode [*The Hunted*] features all the male characters together. These two episodes happen concurrently, as they both go on separate journeys after the events of episode one and they converge back together for episode four."

Louise adds: "I've got my solo writing debut this season. Matt has been incredibly patient. We did a lot of to-ing and fro-ing, as I'm still so green to it all. I think I'm quite good on dialogue and relationships, but Matt was so generous at helping me with the story arc."

Ken joins the writing team, with two plays in the box set. He explains: "I'm not sure what it says about me, but I find it quite easy to get absorbed by the world of *Survivors*. It has a primal quality I find appealing and I like that it can reflect on and highlight all that was wrong with the world before the outbreak – the world we still live in now! Peril was the primary goal for series two. One of the first things we discussed at the script meeting was that, in this new world,

# Survivors

even the smallest or slightest thing can become a life threatening situation. For both stories I expanded on that idea."

As well as writing his plays, Ken also got to direct his own work. "I have what must be quite natural anxieties beforehand," he admits, "probably the same as any writer, whether they're directing their own work or not. I want it to be as good a script as it can be and I hope it offers everybody lots of opportunity to enjoy their work in the studio. But we record a lot of drama in a short amount of time, so once we're in the studio my main goal is to follow the schedule and make sure we record all the scenes. Once I'm focused on doing that and on working with the cast to bring the script to life, I quickly forget who the writer is."

**"It's very topical and pertinent... Imagine what it would be like if Ebola came here – that's where Survivors is."**

**L**IKE THE first box set, series two contains adult material not suitable for younger listeners, with Jackie in particular having had a tragic revelation (which *Vortex* won't reveal here. If you've not heard it, go and order it, listen and come back!).

Louise says: "I was given an emotional free range on it and how to do it. Nothing was written down on paper. You could put a big, emotional cry on it, or whisper it – there's so many ways I could have played it and to be honest, I wasn't sure how it would come out. I just let it roll. After we'd recorded it, the director leaned forward and said, 'I know that worked, because David Richardson is crying.' It's great for an actress to be given something like that, which you can really get your teeth into."

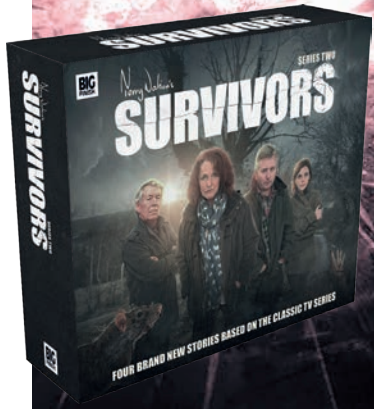
With adult content, how far does Matt think Big Finish can go in this area? "As long as it's real, as long as it's plausible for the character and as long as it's never gratuitous, we can explore that kind of area.

"Given the whole premise of the series, it can take you to some very horrible places, as we discover the individual experiences our characters have had."

Did Ken have a highlight of season two? "Given the nature of *Survivors*," he grins, "highlight" seems the wrong way to describe it! I'm excited about the inclusion of the big cat in series two. Animals and wildlife seem to me to be a too often overlooked aspect of a post-apocalyptic life. *The Wall* (2012) is one of my favourite films for this very reason. It's a captivating illustration of our relationship with animals, when you remove all the baggage we've constructed to protect ourselves and shut ourselves off from the natural order of things. We (people) would once again become a – shall we say – more active participant in the food chain! The cat is probably my favourite new character in the series!"

**C**AROLYN AND Louise are both of the opinion that *Survivors* has been a success because it's something we can relate to today. Louise says: "It's so relevant now, more than ever, when you think of something like Ebola. These days, we rely so much on computers for the infrastructure of everything and that would just fall down now without them. We've moved further and further away from being able to look after ourselves without technology." And Carolyn feels: "I love it – I think it's very topical and pertinent just now. You can find a comparison all over the world just now with Ebola. Imagine what it would be like if Ebola came here – that's where *Survivors* is."

Series three of *Survivors* was recorded last month, and Matt was reticent about saying too much, but teases: "For series three, there's a different kind of take on it, with a different story. And Abby will be back again!" **VORTEX**



## Survivors: Series Two

### DARK RAIN

BY KEN BENTLEY

Months after the plague, storms batter the country. As Abby resumes the search for her son, Jackie and Daniel fight for their lives.

### MOTHER'S COURAGE

BY LOUISE JAMESON

The search for Peter leads to Aberystwyth, and a community of women who have cut themselves off from the outside world. But what appears to be a safe haven could be nothing of the sort...

### THE HUNTED

BY KEN BENTLEY

Greg, Daniel and Russell need the help of survivalist Irvin Warner, who is hiding out in the Brecon Beacons. But predators are roaming in the barren countryside too...

### SAVAGES

BY MATT FITTON

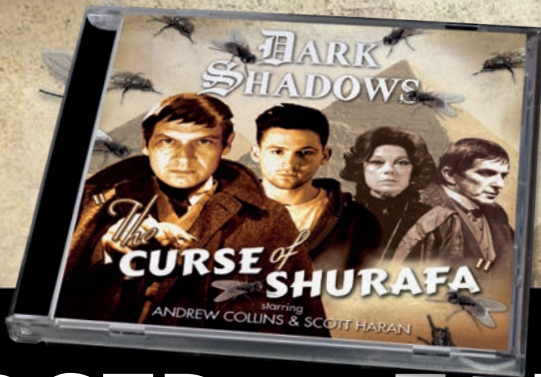
Wounded, split apart and fighting for their lives, the survivors discover that survival isn't everything...

**WRITTEN BY:** Ken Bentley, Louise Jameson, Matt Fitton

**DIRECTED BY:** Ken Bentley

**RELEASED:** THIS MONTH!





# CURSED AMONG EQUALS

Kenny Smith meets some brave Egyptians as he translates some hero-glyphics to learn more about the latest **Dark Shadows** release (he Sphinx that's funny)!

**A** VAMPIRE and zombies in Egypt – if ever there were a few words to pique interest in a story, then those certainly do the deal. *The Curse of Shurafa* is the second in the new series of enhanced audio tales from **Dark Shadows**, performed this month by Andrew Collins, Scott Haran and Stephanie Ellyne.

Summing up the play, co-producer Joseph Lidster says: "In *The Curse of Shurafa*, written by Rob Morris, our resident vampire, Barnabas Collins, tells a young man about an adventure he had in Cairo during which he and his friends, Doctor Julia Hoffman and Professor T E Stokes encountered zombies!"

Writer Rob expands: "It's about how the friendship between a 200-year-old vampire and a brilliant doctor is put to the test when an ancient Egyptian spirit returns to 1970s Cairo. Some pretty horrible things go down – seriously, I'm disgusted by myself – but the worst is that their friendship leaves the vampire with a horrible choice to make."

For those who don't know who the pair are, Rob explains: "Barnabas is cursed to walk the earth as one of the living dead. Julia is the doctor who has become his confidante and ally; she keeps him in check while trying to cure him of his affliction, so they have a deep bond.

"As the story plays out, that bond leads him towards doing something which could destroy their friendship. But if he doesn't do it then she will die, so either way he could lose her forever."

This is Rob's first story for Big Finish. How did he get involved and what's his background? He laughs: "It's my first story for anyone! One of the things that Big Finish do with

**Dark Shadows** is use it to give a chance to new writers, which is amazing and I think more production companies should do things like that – not just because it got me the gig, but because there are some great voices out there who deserve a chance.

"Anyway, I heard there was a slot available for pitches, so – because I loved the show – I decided to give it a try and I guess there was something in my idea they liked. It's changed a lot from the initial pitch, but the relationship between Barnabas and Julia was always going to be part of it for me. They're a great team. Before this I'd had reviews and articles for various magazines published but nothing really in the field of drama. I'd submitted a few entries to writing competitions or established ranges with encouraging notes, but never had been picked off the slush-pile. So this time when I was asked if I'd be prepared to work on it more – and with a writer as good as Alan Flanagan on board as script editor – I couldn't have been happier."

Looking to the future, Rob has more writing work lined up. He says he has: "A few more reviews and previews at present, but hopefully more scripts in the long run. They're hard work for someone with a day job but the thrill of hearing actors as great as Andrew, Scott and Stephanie read your lines is worth all the rewrites and long hours."

For those unsure about making a purchase, why does Rob think someone should buy this story?

He smiles: "Because it's creepy and scary and features some of the best characters to have come out of any soap opera ever: a 200-year-old vampire and his mad-scientist gal-pal! What's not to love?" **VORTEX**

Listen again...

# ONE HUNDRED

As Big Finish hits its 200th monthly range release, Kenny Smith winds the clock back 100 releases to... well, you do the maths!

**I**N 2007, Big Finish was in celebratory mood – and why not? September marked the release of the 100th Main Range play. To commemorate the occasion, we joined Colin Baker and the late, great Maggie Stables, as the Doctor and Evelyn Smythe went on four adventures, all relating to the number 100.

Four of the most popular writers Big Finish had employed during that first century of releases returned.

Jacqueline Rayner wrote the opening tale of the release, *100BC*, saying: "Julius Caesar's birthdate is a matter of much speculation and disagreement, which felt like something that could feed a story. I had great fun writing my original draft, which was pure sitcom – deliberately unrealistic and farcical. Unfortunately that wasn't what Big Finish wanted!"

The second story of the release was Rob Shearman's *My Own Private Wolfgang*. He says: "I love Mozart and I love the fact that he was a genius whose young death robbed us of an ever more glittering future – the James Dean syndrome. And here we were at the 100th release and a naughty part of me thought it would be quite funny to suggest that had Mozart carried on, his career would have turned rubbish – that, just possibly, a reputation can rest upon knowing when to stop.

"It was a joy to be asked. I felt rather honoured really, to be part of the celebrations – I think I'd have been very hurt if they hadn't invited me! Writing the audios had been such a huge part of my life for a few years and I think it utterly changed the direction of my career."

Joseph Lidster, who had moved on from Big Finish to write episodes of the *Sarah Jane Adventures* and *Torchwood*, crafted *Bedtime Story*. "I struggled to come up with an idea. Nick Briggs suggested that 100 years of sleep as in *Sleeping Beauty* might be a good starting point. Which it was.

"I really enjoyed it, although my first draft was massively over-length. It was nice to be able to do a simple *Tales*



**"I had great fun writing my original draft, which was pure sitcom – deliberately unrealistic and farcical. Unfortunately that wasn't what Big Finish wanted!"**

of the *Unexpected*-style story. I wanted to write about a very real family with their rivalries and games of one-upmanship. I also wanted to do something that was a bit of a skewed take on something real – the circle of life. It was me trying to be Rob Shearman!

"Basically, I wanted to write something very much set in the real world but that was very dark and horrific and also, hopefully, humorous – a celebration of the best kind of *Doctor Who* story."

Paul Cornell's *100 Days of the Doctor* was his personal celebration of not just 100 *Doctor Who* releases, but he also wanted to mark the entire Big Finish canon.

Paul said the story was: "A nostalgic wander through the various Big Finish lines, as observed by the Sixth Doctor. I originally wanted other worlds like *Sapphire and Steel* and *2000AD* in there, but of course that wasn't possible."

This release finally gave Paul the chance to write for Colin Baker. "It was a nice box to tick. I've now had my work performed by every Doctor from Peter Davison to David Tennant." **VORTEX**



# VORTEX MAIL

Send us an email and tell us the things that you like most... Email [feedback@bigfinish.com](mailto:feedback@bigfinish.com) and remember to put 'Vortex Mail' as the subject.

## TWO GOOD?

Very much looking forward to **The Prisoner**. Just wondering if you will have different Number 2s as we go along?

**Geraint Williams**

*Nick: Yes, there will be different Number 2s for each episode.*

## THANK YOU

As a subscriber since the very beginning (and still now), I just wanted to let you know how thrilled I am to hear that the BBC have extended your **Doctor Who** licence for a further five years. And how much I think this is deserved.

I love your work. You've carried the flame through **Doctor Who's** wilderness years, given the Eighth Doctor an era, breathed unrealised life and love into old Sixie, brought back Tom when we never thought he'd return, reunited the Fifth Doctor's team, and explored *New Adventures* with number seven.

And then there's been the amazing spin-offs. I still re-listen to the extraordinary **Dalek Empire**, the tragedy of **I, Davros**, the shocks of **Unbound**, the farce of **Jago & Litefoot**, and the Machiavellian manipulations of **Gallifrey**. I'm looking forward to the new **UNIT** series, **Doom Coalition**, and the Sixth Doctor's last story very much.

You've given me so much joy over 15 years of my life. Whatever hardships I've faced, you've been there to offer a little bit of escapism. So thank you. And sorry for not saying that often enough.

**Dave Stevens**

*Nick: Dave, that's a brilliant summation of our proudest*

*achievements. We often hear that the entertainment we offer has helped people through hard times, and it always makes us feel proud and reinvigorates us, inspiring us to work even harder. What we do is work on the stuff we love. So we do it with love and dedication, which is why an email like yours is so lovely for us to read. Many thanks.*

## FLYING SOLO

I really enjoyed *The Defectors* and how a different Doctor interacts with a previous companion, the 'locum' Doctors is starting to look like an exciting side step in the Main Range. If this trilogy is well received do you intend to making more of these in the future?

I do also though enjoy companionless/companion lite adventures for the Doctor such as *Valhalla* as these involve different dynamics and progression without the start with the companion, separate for a while and meet up at the end formula.

Is there any possibility in the future of perhaps a box set featuring a two-part story for all the Doctors with the only link to each other being that they are all solo adventures for the Doctor (i.e. not a running story arc for the box set) although I do like multi-Doctor stories such as *The Light at the End* or *The Four Doctors*.

**Lee Turner**

*Nick: We have no plans to repeat the 'Locum Doctors' experiment, simply because, as you'll discover, there is a very specific story reason for it happening. But there's no reason*

*why Doctors can't team up with companions from other eras. It would be a question of them revisiting them in later life, perhaps. The fun of the 'Locum' idea is that we can parachute a later Doctor right into the middle of an earlier Doctor's era... and that should remain fairly unique, I think. There will certainly be more stories where Doctors are companionless. This is always a nice change of pace and storytelling style. No firm plans, but it's definitely something I want to do, although probably not in a box set... but never say never! That's my motto!*

## BOOKED UP

I just saw the release of a Sylvester McCoy *New Adventure* and a Tom Baker novel adaptation by Big Finish – incredible! Something I will have on my 'to do' list. Does Big Finish's license for *New Adventures* allow Big Finish to do the following adaptations?

- 1) *Timewyrm* novels.
- 2) *Cat's Cradle* novels.

I personally have very fond memories of both trilogies, and I would love see an audio adaptation of either trilogy.

Thanks for getting the license for **The Prisoner**. I've pre-ordered the release, and I'm looking forward to how Big Finish handles Number 6 and *The Village*.

**Michael Koo**

*Nick: Thanks, Michael. No plans so far for the New Adventures you mention. Glad you're on board with **The Prisoner**. Spread the word. It's going to be great... well, that's the plan, anyway!*

Coming up...

# RELEASE SCHEDULE

Forthcoming audio releases.

## JUNE 2015

- **Doctor Who: *The Secret History*** (200, Fifth Doctor, Vicki and Steven)
- **Doctor Who – The Fourth Doctor Adventures: *The Cloisters of Terror*** (4,6, Fourth Doctor and Leela)
- **Doctor Who: The First Doctor Companion Chronicles – *Box Set 1***
- **Doctor Who: Short Trips *The Shadows of Serenity*** (5.06, Download only)
- **Doctor Who: The New Adventures of Bernice Summerfield: *The Triumph of Sutekh***
- **Survivors – Series 2 *Box Set*** (Full Cast)
- **Dark Shadows: *The Curse of Shurafa*** (46)

## JULY 2015

- **Doctor Who: *We Are The Daleks*** (201, Seventh Doctor and Mel)
- **Doctor Who – The Fourth Doctor Adventures: *The Fate of Krelon*** (4,7, Fourth Doctor and Leela)
- **Doctor Who – Short Trips: *Dark Convoy*** (5.07, Download only)
- **Counter-Measures – Series 4 *Box Set*** (Full Cast)
- **The Avengers – The Lost Episodes: *Volume 4*** (Box Set)
- **Dark Shadows: *In the Twinkling of An Eye*** (47)

## AUGUST 2015

- **Doctor Who: *The Warehouse*** (202, Seventh Doctor and Mel)
- **Doctor Who – The Fourth Doctor Adventures: *Return to Telos*** (4,8, Fourth Doctor and Leela)
- **Doctor Who – Short Trips: *Foreshadowing*** (5.08, Download only)
- **Iris Wildthyme: *Wildthyme Reloaded*** (Box Set)
- **The Omega Factor: *Series 1 Box Set*** (Full Cast)
- **Dark Shadows: *Deliver Us From Evil*** (48)

## SEPTEMBER 2015

- **Doctor Who: *Terror of the Sontarans*** (203, Seventh Doctor and Mel)
- **Doctor Who: *Criss-Cross*** (204, Sixth Doctor and Constance)

**Doctor Who: *The Sixth Doctor – The Last Adventure*** (Limited Edition)

- **Doctor Who – The Early Adventures: *The Yes Men*** (2,1, Second Doctor, Jamie, Polly and Ben)
- **Doctor Who – Short Trips: *Etheria*** (5.09, Download only)
- **Doctor Who – The Third Doctor Adventures: *Box Set***
- **Torchwood: *The Conspiracy*** (1,1, Captain Jack Harkness)
- **Dark Shadows: *Tainted Love*** (49)
- **Big Finish Classics: *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz***

## OCTOBER 2015

- **Doctor Who: *Planet of the Rani*** (205, Sixth Doctor and Constance)
- **Doctor Who – The Early Adventures: *The Forsaken*** (2,2, Second Doctor, Jamie, Polly and Ben)
- **Doctor Who – Short Trips: *The Way of the Empty Hand*** (5.10, Download only)
- **Doctor Who: *Doom Coalition 1*** (Eighth Doctor)
- **Survivors – Series 3 *Box Set*** (Full Cast)
- **Jago & Litefoot: *Series 10 Box Set***
- **Dark Shadows: *And Red All Over*** (50)

## NOVEMBER 2015

- **Doctor Who: *Shield of the Jötunn*** (206, Sixth Doctor and Constance)
- **Doctor Who – The Early Adventures: *The Black Hole*** (2,3, Second Doctor, Jamie and Victoria)
- **Doctor Who – Short Trips: *The Other Woman*** (5.11, Download only)
- **UNIT: The New Series: *UNIT: Extinction*** (Series 1, Kate Stewart)
- **Blake's 7: *Book 8: Mediasphere*** (Kate Orman and Jonathan Blum)
- **Blake's 7: *The Liberator Chronicles – Box Set 12***
- **The Confessions of Dorian Gray: *Series Four***

## DECEMBER 2015

- **Doctor Who: *You Are The Doctor (And Other Stories)*** (207, Seventh Doctor and Ace)

■ **Doctor Who – The Novel Adaptations: *Theatre of War***

- (07 Seventh Doctor, Ace and Bernice)
- **Doctor Who – The Novel Adaptations: *All-Consuming Fire*** (08 Seventh Doctor, Ace and Bernice)
- **Doctor Who – Short Trips: *Black Dog*** (5.12, Download only)
- **Doctor Who – The Early Adventures: *The Isos Network*** (2,4, TBA)
- **The Confessions of Dorian Gray: *The Spirits of Christmas***

## JANUARY 2016

- **Doctor Who: *The Waters of Amsterdam*** (208, Fifth Doctor, Tegan and Nyssa)
- **Doctor Who – The Fourth Doctor Adventures: *The Wave of Destruction*** (5.1, Fourth Doctor and Romana II)
- **Torchwood: *TBA*** (1,2)
- **The Prisoner: *Volume 1 Box Set***
- **The Avengers – The Lost Episodes: *Volume 5*** (Box Set)
- **Charlotte Pollard: *Series Two Box Set***

## FEBRUARY 2016

- **Doctor Who: *Aquitan*** (209, Fifth Doctor, Tegan and Nyssa)
- **Doctor Who – Fourth Doctor Adventures: *The Labyrinth of Buda Castle*** (5,2, Fourth Doctor and Romana II)
- **Gallifrey: *Enemy Lines*** (8, Romana II, Leela and Ace)
- **Torchwood: *TBA*** (1,3)
- **Vienna *Series 3*** (Full Cast)

## MARCH 2016

- **Doctor Who: *The Peterloo Massacre*** (210, Fifth Doctor, Tegan and Nyssa)
- **Doctor Who – The Fourth Doctor Adventures: *The Paradox Planet*** (5,3, Fourth Doctor and Romana II)
- **Doctor Who: *Doom Coalition 2*** (Eighth Doctor)
- **Doctor Who – Short Trips: *Washington Burns*** (Download only)
- **Torchwood: *TBA*** (1,4)



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