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ISSUE 88 • JUNE 2018

## UNIT: SHUTDOWN

KATE, OSGOOD AND THE TEAM RETURN TO FACE A NEW ENEMY. MEET THE TENGOBUSHI!

**PLUS!**

CLASSIC HORROR

**DARK SHADOWS**  
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

NEW SEASON

**SURVIVORS**  
WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE

COMPANION CHRONICLES

**FRAZER HINES**  
FOUR ERAS OF JAMIE!

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# Sneak Previews & Whispers



**G**ET ready to return to the Time War this September as the War Doctor is back for his third box set – *Agents of Chaos*.

Script editor Matt Fitton reveals: "For this series, we look at various agents on a mission and factions within the Time War who may not be what they seem.

"We kick it off with what happens when the Time War comes to Earth. David Llewelyn has written *The Shadow Vortex*, which is set in Berlin during the Cold War. There's factions from the East and West, and the War Doctor and another agent arrive there in pursuit of something in particular.

"At the end of *Infernal Devices*, the War Doctor was determined to do his own thing and tells Ollistra he won't be used by her any more, but she effectively blackmails him into this mission because she knows he has a soft spot for the Earth.

"Story two is *The Eternity Cage* by Andrew Smith. There's a reason why the War Doctor becomes involved with events here, and again, it's because of Ollistra. We also have the Sontarans, and the lengths they will go to to try and become a part of the Time War – so we have Daleks, Time Lords and Sontarans.

"The third story is *Eye of Harmony* by Ken Bentley. Essentially, this is set in a very damaged Battle TARDIS in the vortex. It's falling apart and the Daleks seize upon it as a chance to make a massive strike against Gallifrey. Think of *Das Boot*.

"During the course of the second story, the Doctor picks up a passenger, Kalan, who is effectively another companion for the War Doctor, who goes along for the ride.

"At the end, it leaves the Doctor in an interesting place, all ready for Series Four..."

**VORTEX**

## Editorial

**I**'m an optimist. I always see the good in things, no matter how bleak or difficult the situation – whatever it is, I'll find a positive. And sometimes, it's only just.

However, I think that even I might struggle to find something to be cheery about if I was living in the world of *Survivors*. It's quite hard to imagine yourself into a world where all of your friends and family have died, technology is gone without electricity, and there's no established force to maintain law and order.

Nope, I'm struggling to find anything positive about how easy would it be to go on, without the people with whom you've shared your life so far?

*Survivors* is great at looking at that issue, of how a new world order would be established, what people would do and how they would survive.

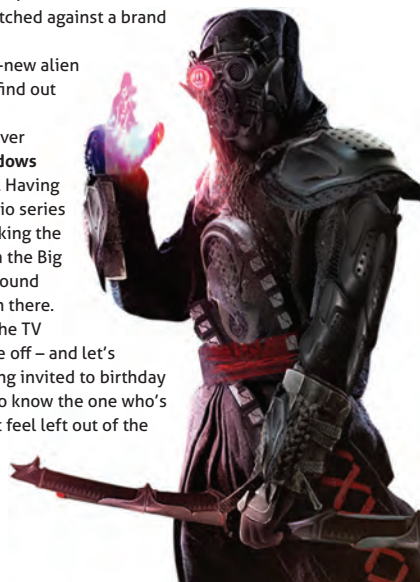
Survival of another kind is the aim in the new series of *UNIT: The New Series* this month – and it's an exciting one. So far, we've seen Kate Stewart and Osgood on TV cope with Missy and the Zygons, and on audio with the Autons, so this is the first time we've experienced them pitched against a brand new threat.

The Tengobushi are an all-new alien menace and I can't wait to find out more about them.

It's also a special month over in Collinwood, as *Dark Shadows* celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Having become hooked on the audio series with *Bloodlust*, I've been taking the chance to indulge myself in the Big Finish back catalogue and found some great horror stories in there.

I'm not too familiar with the TV series, but that's not put me off – and let's be honest, we all enjoy being invited to birthday parties. I feel that I've got to know the one who's holding the party, so I don't feel left out of the celebrations!

KENNY



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# UNIT WE STAND

Kenny Smith prepares as Kate Stewart and Petronella Osgood get ready for another alien invasion with their UNIT associates



**“I KNEW I DIDN’T WANT TO BRING BACK ANOTHER TV SERIES MONSTER AGAIN SO SOON AFTER THE AUTONS, SO MUCH OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WERE CENTRED ON THE CREATION OF THE TENGOBUSHI.”**

David Richardson

**T**HERE’S no denying the first series of **UNIT** was a huge hit. It had everything – action, aliens, an invasion, a fascinating new team joining the TV show regulars, and even a hint of romance for Osgood.

It would have been easy for Big Finish to rest on their laurels and repeat the success of *Extinction* with an all-out invasion by, say, the Bandriils. But **UNIT: Shutdown** changes the game, by pitting Earth’s defenders against an invasion by stealth, from a new enemy more powerful than even the Nestenes...

The second series is being brought to life by the same team as the first, with producer David Richardson, director Ken Bentley, and writers Matt Fitton and Andrew Smith.

David says: “I knew I didn’t want to bring back another TV series monster again so soon after the Autons, so much of our conversations were centred on the creation of the Tengobushi. We wanted them to have their own society, philosophy and

codes of conduct, and I think we’ve created a really vibrant **Doctor Who** monster.

“We found them so interesting, in fact, that Matt niftily seeded them in the first volume of *The Diary of River Song*. Have another listen and see if you can work out how!”

**T**HE series opens with *Power Cell* by Matt Fitton. On the trail of missing alien technology, Kate Stewart encounters the ambitious Felicity Lyme. Who are Cerberus – and what are they doing in the London Docklands?

Matt believes that his experience on *Extinction* helped inform his decisions when working on series two.

He explains: “When we were writing it and making it, it felt like it was something new and special. When we were in studio, it was great to hear the actors bringing it to life and how they reacted to it.

“It really helped when it came to writing the second series, having

heard the actors in studio, not just Jemma and Ingrid but our new crew as well. That definitely fed into writing *Shutdown*. It’s great to give the new team members substantial storylines, alongside the established TV characters of Kate and Osgood.”

Andrew Smith adds: “The intention was for the threat to be different from series one. We had an invasion that was very public, with everyone aware of it. This time we wanted something more discreet. There’s an element of *Edge of Darkness* to it, which I took as my tone.

The Tengobushi’s arrival on Earth comes at the same time **UNIT**’s control of recovered alien technology is challenged by the Government.

“**UNIT** has screened various items of alien tech out, because they don’t have the resources to analyse and sort everything,” says Andrew. “So the Government has turned to the private sector to share everything out; and now Lyme Industries has found an artefact which they hope to exploit.”

## UNIT: Shutdown

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Beth Chalmers, Asif Khan, Tyrone Huggins, James Joyce, Dan Li and Harry Ditson  
Inset: Nigel Carrington, Alice Krige, Stephen Billington

Lyme Industries' CEO is the scheming Felicity Lyme – played by legendary *Star Trek* actress Alice Krige.

"It was wonderful to bring Alice onboard as Felicity Lyme," says David. "She was lovely to work with, yet brought the same ruthless personality to the role as she did with the Borg Queen on *Star Trek*. Lyme is quite the departure from your standard *Doctor Who* megalomaniac – she's cool and collected, but with a total disregard for the world at large. She's the ideological opposite of Kate in that respect and it was brilliant to hear Alice and Jemma bring that conflict to life in the studio."

**T**HE second play in this set is *Death in Geneva*, by Andrew Smith. With Tengobushi assassins on their tail, Kate and Osgood retreat to UNIT Command in Geneva, where Captain Josh Carter comes face to face with the enemy.

Andrew says: "For my first episode, I was given a brief involving Kate going to Geneva to ask UNIT HQ for support.

"It was nice to be able to have the different setting. I originally had an idea for a story featuring the Large Hadron Collider as it's in Geneva, on the Swiss/France border, and I learned so much about it, it got to the point where I could have lectured on it as I'd done so much research! But then, Matt reminded me Joe Lidster had written a *Torchwood* radio play set there, so I had to drop that.

"We've got a fantastic American actor, Harry Ditson, who played General Grant Avery, the head of UNIT, and he was great. He was in the movie *Top Secret* – which is a lovely comedy – and he came in and got the character absolutely perfectly and did it in a way which I never expected. He brings so much to the part.

"When Kate first meets him, you do wonder if he's a character you can trust – he plays it so well."

**F**ROM foreign shores, the series returns to the streets of London for *The Battle of the Tower*, also by Andrew Smith. As London sleeps, an alien horde rises from the shadows. The Tower has been infiltrated – and UNIT must hold the line. At any cost.

"With episode three," says Andrew, "we've got the Tower of London under siege – and I was really pleased to play with that idea.

"I had to do some online research when it came to Geneva, but when it came to the Tower of London, I was able to visit it. I've lived in London for a long time, but had never actually been to the Tower before!

"It was a great way to do my research, walking around with my camera and a notebook and coming up with story elements as I went along like Osgood trying on the crown and wondering if it's treason!

"I really enjoyed it, writing something with the fast pace that's required."





## UNIT: SHUTDOWN

Kate Stewart and her UNIT team investigate and confront alien attacks on the planet Earth in the new 5 disc boxset.

### POWER CELL

On the trail of missing alien technology, Kate Stewart encounters the ambitious Felicity Lyne.

### DEATH IN GENEVA

With Tengobushi assassins on their tail, Kate and Osgood retreat to UNIT Command in Geneva.

### THE BATTLE OF THE TOWER

As London sleeps, an alien horde rises from the shadows. The Tower has been infiltrated – and UNIT must hold the line at any cost.

### ICE STATION ALPHA

Caught between human greed and an unstoppable alien power, Kate Stewart leads her forces to the Antarctic.

WRITTEN BY: Matt Fitton, Andrew Smith  
DIRECTED BY: Ken Bentley

CAST: Jemma Redgrave, Ingrid Oliver, Warren Brown, James Joyce, Alice Krige, Asif Khan, Tyrone Huggins, Nigel Carrington, Beth Chalmers, Harry Ditson, Dan Li, Akira Koieyama, Stephen Billington, Jot Davies.

**S**ERIES Two concludes in dramatic fashion with *Ice Station Alpha*, also written by Matt Fitton. Caught between human greed and an unstoppable alien power, Kate Stewart leads her forces on one last mission to the Antarctic. It's UNIT against the world.

Director Ken Bentley says: "With *Extinction* we proved UNIT was capable of standing on its own two feet. It had never had to fend for itself before. The Doctor had always had to step in and help save the day. We needed to prove they could do it for themselves, and I'm proud that we managed to do that. It meant we had on our hands a very capable team of people. And it meant we needed to up our own game and bring them face to face with an even more challenging problem to solve. In *Extinction* they were up against the Autons and the press. In *Shutdown* they're up against two very different enemies, and very much dealing with it on their own."

Ken is particularly happy that UNIT are facing an all-new enemy rather than a TV foe.

He explains: "This is something we always wanted to mix up. In the first series there was a lot of new ground to tread. Lots of new characters, an entirely new series. So we felt it was important to have something familiar to build upon. But we wanted to establish very quickly afterwards that UNIT would be facing new challenges too.

"There's a real buzz and energy to UNIT recordings. I think it has something to do with the logistics of getting everybody into the studio. Jemma Redgrave was about to go into *Holby*, Ingrid Oliver was flying off to Los Angeles and Warren Brown had just got back from filming in the Caribbean. I feel a real sense of camaraderie building up between us all when we get into the studio. Every time we manage to get a series of UNIT recorded it feels like we all get to plant another flag in

the top of another mountain. It's fun and exhilarating, and there's a real sense of achievement when you make it work, get the job done, and everybody leaves with a grin on their face because they've enjoyed themselves."

**U**NIT: *Shutdown* is all set for release, but work is now well underway on the next series,

UNIT: *Silenced*.

David reveals: "We're already underway on the third box set; in fact, we've almost finished recording. We've reintroduced the Silence in some new and surprising ways, which I think will keep listeners guessing!"

Ken adds: "I've been more heavily involved in the development of this series than I have any other production at Big Finish. I get a lot of satisfaction from knowing we got it right, that the listeners embraced it so warmly and were so enthusiastic about asking for more." **VORTEX**

# FIRE at FIFTY

Kenny Smith gets ready to attend Dark Shadows' 50th anniversary party

**J**UNE 2016 sees the release of the Big Finish **Dark Shadows** 50th anniversary special *Blood & Fire*. This two-hour celebration sees an old enemy return to a pivotal moment in the haunted history of the Collins family – a moment that begins a new Big Finish run of stories, continuing the series of audio tales which first began in September 2006.

Given how **Doctor Who** celebrated its 50th anniversary, did that have any bearing on how series producers Joseph Lidster and David Darlington wanted to mark **Dark Shadows'** golden year?

David says: "I don't think that's crossed my mind until you asked the question. We're not, despite Tim Burton's best efforts, working on a multinational cash-cow franchise here! It's lower-key than that. We're putting in every bit as much effort, only without the world looking over our shoulders while we're doing it... there's perhaps an iota more 'responsibility' than there is with a standard release, but fundamentally it's still about telling a good story well."

Joe adds: "I think our first thought was that we knew we had two audiences to go after. We have our Big Finish audience but we've also got the older **Dark Shadows** followers who might not have bought much

of the range. We decided, therefore, to present a special that works very much as a standalone story, as well as a celebration of the history of **Dark Shadows**.

"*Blood & Fire* is a big scary gothic romance set in 1767 about a witch trying to destroy a family. In my mind it's like a brand new standalone feature film but told on audio. If

done before, whilst paying tribute to the show's great past?

David says: "What we did was analyse what aspects of what makes **Dark Shadows** great that perhaps the audio range had not yet looked at, or addressed only to a lesser extent. I'm thinking here of the historical strand, and of 'parallel time' – although that's not specifically what we're doing – and of the flexibility of our cast to play other characters..."

Joe agrees: "It came about from wanting to do something separate to the ongoing sort-of present day stuff. That meant trying to find a moment in the history of **Dark Shadows** that would be good to visit and celebrate.

"But, a lot of the big historical moments in the mythology have been detailed, so it was a case of finding a time period that hasn't been visited. And so we went for 1767, allowing us to use all of our cast members, but as new characters. Hopefully there'll be a few surprises for the fans."

Roy Gill has been chosen as the writer for the special release.

Joe says: "In some ways it was a process of elimination. We couldn't use anyone who was working on *Bloodline*, our next series. We wanted a writer who was pretty experienced – we've never done a four-part standalone story before so they needed to really understand narrative



you've seen the original series then there's lots of fun to be had seeing how it all links up. But, like *Bloodlust*, if you've never encountered **Dark Shadows** before then it's a brilliantly exciting and atmospheric introduction"

**W**ITH so many years worth of storytelling, how difficult was it coming up with something special that hadn't been

and story structure and how this would be different from an hour long story or 13-part serial.

"The other thing we wanted was a writer who liked **Dark Shadows** but wasn't a long-term superfan. We wanted someone who'd concentrate on telling a story rather than filling it full of fan-pleasing moments. It is full of fan-pleasing moments but they've been incorporated into it by me!

"Roy's only written one story for us before, but he's also written for **The Confessions of Dorian Gray** and he's got his own range of original novels.

"As we wanted *Blood & Fire* to have the feel of a gothic romantic horror novel, he was the perfect guy for the job. And he's done an amazing job. The script's got that thing that I think Russell T Davies does so brilliantly; there's so much happening in it but it feels light and breezy rather than dense and difficult to follow. It's utterly tragic – with moments of real terror – but every character is a total joy to spend time with."

**W**RITER Roy is delighted to have written the script, which features the return of a name long-term **Dark Shadows** aficionados may recognise – Laura Murdoch Stockbridge, who has her own supernatural secret.

Roy says: "The starting point I was given was Angelique was to be sent

back in time by the Dark Lord to 1767, with the goal of destroying the Collins family. There was also a need for the script to offer a good range of parts of varying sizes to accommodate a fair number of returning actors!

"Joe sent through a document detailing his initial research – including a list of characters that might have been present in 1767. I zeroed in on Laura Stockbridge – who also made her first TV appearance 50 years ago this year, by the way – and made a strong case it was time to tell her story. Once I had a go ahead for that, the play quickly gained a structure and title: *Blood & Fire!*"

Did Roy feel any pressure, before starting out, knowing this is a special one for the **Dark Shadows** listeners?

"Oh... loads of pressure!," he laughs. "I think it's inevitable people will have strong feelings about what a 50th anniversary special should be; and they'll all have their own favourite characters and actors, sadly not all of whom can be present. I'm also aware that listeners have quite a broad range of familiarity with **Dark Shadows**; from those who have been following it for decades, to those who perhaps came aboard more recently with *Bloodlust*.

"We've tried hard to be true to the themes and history of the original show – whilst telling a pacy, exciting and surprising story. I really hope they'll all be pleased!"

Roy admits that a highlight was bringing together the two main characters of the story.

"To be able to write new scenes between Angelique and Laura was a joy. They're both such strong, driven characters – and I hope I've been able to show a new side to their story as well.

"I also very much enjoyed working with Joe Lidster again. His enthusiasm for **Dark Shadows** is as epic and mad as the show itself."

What is it about **Dark Shadows** that Roy thinks has made it endure for 50 years?

"I think it was seriously ahead of the curve. Blending an epic family narrative with supernatural monsters is quite a thing now – and yet here was this mad soap opera doing just that, five nights a week, 50 years ago.

"No wonder the kids that saw it fell in love with it. And thanks to reruns, DVDs – and of course Big Finish – people will keep finding their way to Collinport..."

**T**error will return to Collinport this autumn in a brand-new 13-part serial: **Dark Shadows: Bloodline**, featuring those that survived the terrifying events of *Bloodlust*. Also available in June is **Dark Shadows: Echoes of the Past**, featuring four new stories performed by stars of the series. **VORTEX**



## DARK SHADOWS BLOOD & FIRE

A two-hour adventure celebrating 50 years of **Dark Shadows**!

The year is 1767. Young widow Laura Murdoch Stockbridge is to marry Joshua Collins, heir to the Collins fortune. Meanwhile, Joshua's sister Abigail is in love with disreputable sailor Abraham Harkaway.

Featuring cast from the original television series, *Blood and Fire* is a special audio drama to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of **Dark Shadows**.

WRITTEN BY: Roy Gill

DIRECTED BY: Ursula Burton & Joseph Lidster

CAST: Lara Parker, Kathryn Leigh Scott, Mitchell Ryan, Joanna Going, Andrew Collins, Daisy Tormé, James Storm, Lisa Richards, Christopher Pennock, Marie Wallace, Nancy Barrett, David Selby, Matthew Waterhouse, Jerry Lacy, John Karlen, Ursula Burton, Alexandra Donnachie, Scott Haran, Wallis Hamonde, Daniel Collard and Natalie Britton.



# BEGIN AGAIN

Kenny Smith meets a new  
community of **Survivors**.



**S**URVIVORS is set in a bleak and desolate world. Humanity has been virtually wiped out by a virus, and the last vestiges of the human race have been trying to rebuild society.

With people forced to fend for themselves, new leaders emerge to bring order to the world – and series four of the critically-acclaimed range finds our heroes encounter one of these post-apocalyptic personalities.

Producer David Richardson says: "Work on series four began while we were making *The Omega Factor* last August. We were recording in Wadhurst, and a few of us were staying with Louise Jameson, so one evening after recording we sat around her kitchen table throwing out ideas. I love those initial storyline meetings – they're so exciting and filled with creativity, as someone will throw out the germ of an idea which someone else will then embellish and the whole thing grows and grows before your eyes.

"It was Louise who came up with the clever idea for the central core of series four, and created the character of Theo and his community. I suggested the government bunker, which also plays a key role in the series. And everyone else – Matt Fitton, John Dorney, Ken Bentley – offered vital stuff, that enters the realms of spoilers at this stage.

"This time we have Ian McCulloch and Lucy Fleming as returning TV characters Greg and Jenny, and Louise and Fiona Sheehan are our continuing audio characters Jackie and Molly.

"It's set during season two of the TV show, which dictated that we couldn't have the brilliant Carolyn Seymour as Abby Grant this time. And there's a host of new characters – the aforementioned Theo, who was always going to be played by Ramon Tikaram, from the very moment he was discussed, and Evelyn, who is played by Zoe Tapper – who was one of the leads in the re-imagined series of *Survivors*, but here playing a different character."

Matt Fitton, the series script editor, adds: "I suppose it's a mini-reboot, as we get another perspective on the outbreak and we introduce another new regular character in the shape of Evelyn Piper, who's a lowly Government civil servant.

"Through her, we get to see the panic and how the plans of the Government are set in motion after the various outbreaks – and how everything goes wrong.

"It made sense to go back to Greg and Jenny because series three was very much an ending, with several characters' storylines being tied up in different ways.

"Now, we're revisiting the premise of it and pick up where we left our surviving characters.

"We learn more about Molly and her story - we've seen where she was when the outbreak happened and now we find out about the previous experiences she had."

**T**HE *Old Ways* by Ken Bentley starts the new series, as the Government has plans for a

national state of emergency. But when Evelyn Piper and her colleagues shelter in the Tartarus bunker, they discover no amount of planning can prepare for the reality of the death...

Ken, also the director of the series, says: "I wrote two episodes in the second series of *Survivors* and both were quite tricky. Most stories have tangible villains. People doing wrong. My first two episodes each had villains but in an almost secondary capacity. The villain was mostly the circumstances the characters found themselves in.

"That was a useful exercise to explore before tackling this new episode. This time round there really is no villain. If anything the bunker is the villain. Any wrongdoing by any of the inhabitants is simply a result of circumstance (and fear) rather than a desire to do wrong. Fear is the villain in the episode."

**L**UISE Jameson, who plays Jackie in the series, returns as a writer with *For the Good of the Cause*. The story finds Greg and Jenny visiting a utopian community where the inspirational Theo seems to have founded the perfect way of life...

Matt says: "This series we have another script from Louise, who's very good at creating communities, as she did in series two with the women of Aberystwyth.

"She's done something very different here, with Theo. He likes to be in balance with nature and bring out the best in people. Theo's a very interesting character and when you're listening, you'll find it hard to work out whether he's a goodie or a baddie. As you go on, you'll find there's some doubts in your mind until the final episode."

Lou continues: "I came up with an idea for a scenario and a character, originally for just my story, and they've decided to use him across throughout the box-set. I found that

**"I LOVE THOSE INITIAL STORYLINE MEETINGS - SOMEONE WILL THROW OUT THE GERM OF AN IDEA WHICH SOMEONE ELSE WILL THEN EMBELLISH AND THE WHOLE THING GROWS AND GROWS BEFORE YOUR EYES."**

David Richardson

# Survivors: Season Four

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Louise Jameson, Ramon Tikaram, Zoe Taoper, Ian McCulloch, Fiona Sheehan, Laurence Dobiesz, Lucy Fleming and Matt Fitton

quite hard, not being able to see something all the way through to the end on my own.

"But it's been a great experience and I feel I've learned so much from it, working with Matt, who has been very patient with me!

"In a way, it's a bit easier to write for new characters. It's great that Molly has become a recurring part of the series, as the original plan was that she'd die, but everyone has come to love her so much."

Louise relates to her own character very well, saying: "I find Jackie very easy to write for because I really do understand her. And it's a wonderful part to play as the writers have very quickly found her voice.

"But with my writer's head on, I have to remind myself that I shouldn't give her all the best lines and have her centre-stage all the time!"

**A**CTOR Christopher Hatherall makes his Big Finish debut as a writer with the series' third instalment. *Collision* reveals what happens when the old world collides with the new.

David says: "Christopher was actually discovered when he was performing in a guest role in series three. Chris and I were chatting in the green room, and he told me how he's a writer, and also a big fan of apocalyptic tales. I asked him to send

me some examples of his work, and he did. Before long, he was plotting out episode three of series four; and it's a superb debut at Big Finish. You will be hearing much more from him, both on audio and behind-the-scenes."

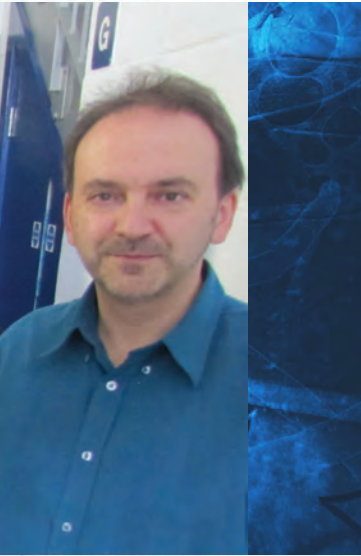
Chris says: "For some as yet obscure and disconcerting reason I find it quite easy to imagine the destruction of society and the struggles of normal folk to survive beyond that. Perhaps I have an unconscious pessimism regarding the future of the human race!

"All I tried to do was imagine what day-to-day survival tasks would involve when there were no supermarkets, cars, NHS, police and the like. It also helps to have a fascination with human nature, particularly the darker more selfish sides, as they provide the most conflict in relationships. Then I tried to get a feel for what the characters hold onto, what they let go, what is fundamental to their beliefs and morality.

"Combine those fascinations with the well-drawn main characters and the dynamics of the series and episode briefs, and you are half way there

**"FOR SOME AS YET OBSCURE AND DISCONCERTING REASON I FIND IT QUITE EASY TO IMAGINE THE DESTRUCTION OF SOCIETY AND THE STRUGGLES OF NORMAL FOLK TO SURVIVE BEYOND THAT."**

Christopher Hatherall



to immersing yourself and realising something believable and engaging.”

**R**OUNDING off series four is Matt Fitton with *Forgive and Forget*, where long-buried crimes surface, and resentment threatens to destroy the peace of Theo's Foundation.

Matt explains: "I've said it before, but *Survivors* is one of the hardest things to do, because it is rooted in the real world and deals with tough issues. You get to ask very moral questions.

"At the same time, it's also one of the most rewarding series to work on. It's always a thrill to go back to the world of *Survivors*."

Ken Bentley adds: "*Survivors* has almost limitless potential to explore the darker side of human nature. As storytellers the only boundary we have to stay within is that of good taste.

"For listeners to endure this hellish world we have to make sure the stories, however dark, are never gratuitous, and – probably most importantly – we have to give them hope." **VORTEX**



# SERIES FOUR SURVIVORS

## THE OLD WAYS

When Evelyn Piper and her colleagues shelter in the Tartarus bunker, they discover no amount of planning can prepare for the reality of the Death...

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

Greg and Jenny visit a utopian community where the inspirational Theo seems to have founded the perfect way of life...

## COLLISION

While Greg and Theo work together for the future, Jenny tries to save lives - with the help of a troubled young man called Michael...

## FORGIVE AND FORGET

Jenny, Jackie and Molly have their own trials to bare, while Greg confronts the truth of this new world head on. For some, nothing will ever be the same...

WRITTEN BY: Ken Bentley, Louise Jameson, Christopher Hatherall, Matt Fitton  
DIRECTED BY: Ken Bentley

CAST: Ian McCulloch, Lucy Fleming, Louise Jameson, Fiona Sheehan, Zoë Tapper, Ramon Tikaram, Jane Maud, Paul Panting, Jonathan Oliver, Terry Molloy, Sean Murray, Alex Lanipekun, Vnette Robinson, Laurence Dobiesz, Enzo Squillino Jnr.



Kenny Smith travels back to the era of the Second Doctor

# SECONDS



“I PROBABLY got a bit literal about the set when I was first given it to produce,” says **Companion Chronicles** producer Ian Atkins. “It’s a **Companion Chronicles** set, so let’s focus on the companions.”

As well as overseeing the monthly **Short Trips** range, Ian succeeded David Richardson as producer of the **Companion Chronicles**, and this month sees the release of four new tales from Patrick Troughton’s time in the TARDIS.

The adventures are brought to life by Frazer Hines (Jamie), Anneke Wills (Polly), Deborah Watling (Victoria), Wendy Padbury (Zoe) and Elliot Chapman (Ben), reprising the role played on screen by the late, great Michael Craze.

Ian continues: “It’s an era you’ve got Jamie running through like the message in a stick of rock, so I wanted to make it about significant moments in his travels with the Doctor. If the modern series had a historical character like Jamie, I think we’d have seen those times on screen, but they were different days then and the companions tended to be treated a little less as characters.

“Big Finish often are credited with improving on TV portrayals of the classic era characters, and in part I believe this comes from being able to treat them more as people.

“So, that was the original thinking. I’d happened to be in studio for one of the days of **Early Adventures’** *The Black Hole*, and talked to Frazer about my ideas. He was really up for it, which gave me the drive to really get things underway.

“And finally, this set was coming out

in 2016 – 50 years on from Patrick Troughton starting as the Doctor. So I wanted this to enjoy and celebrate an era that’s defined so much of what’s followed.”

As Ian says, this year marks the golden anniversary of the first appearance of Patrick Troughton as the *Doctor in The Power of the Daleks*, and on December 17 1966, Frazer made his debut as Jamie.



Frazer and writer John Pritchard

Frazer said: “Patrick had done one story before I joined, and someone pointed out to me it wasn’t just the 50th anniversary of Patrick joining the show, but 50 years since I’d joined too.

“It’s lovely that people are still interested in our era – at Big Finish, there weren’t many Second Doctor stories for a number of years, and now we’re doing **Companion Chronicles** and **The Early Adventures**, so people obviously still want to hear us.

“There’s still a lot of love from fans who’ve come to the new version

of the show who are interested in what we did all those years ago – if it wasn’t for what we’d done back then, there wouldn’t be a show now.”

**T** HIS new box set features *The Mouthless Dead* by John Pritchard, with the Doctor, Jamie, Ben and Polly finding themselves in 1920s England; *The Story of Extinction* by Ian himself, where the Doctor, Jamie and Victoria join a survey team on the planet Amyrnda to find out why nothing lives for long; *The Integral* by David Bartlett, where the Doctor, Jamie and Zoe arrive at Aspen Base, which is under siege; and *The Edge* by Rob Nisbet, in which they find secret lies hidden in the galaxy’s scientific hub of experimentation.

Ian says: “I made a list of ‘beats’ that I felt might have been in Jamie’s life in the TARDIS. To me, he and Ben change from being slightly antagonistic to finding a common ground, so there was probably a time when they began to think, ‘We’re not that different, are we?’.

“With Victoria, you have people of a similar age, a very different background, thrown together into a mad universe like a sort of Hansel and Gretel. How do you think of each other when that happens? So I wanted to explore that too. And one aspect I wanted to look at was how Jamie viewed monsters. This is, after all, the ‘monster era’ of **Doctor Who** – so how does that come across to someone who’s very (no pun intended) black and white in his outlook?

“It enabled us to contrast with Zoe, who sees this a lot less definite. And finally, I wanted to look at what this

# OUT

“THERE’S STILL A LOT OF LOVE FROM FANS WHO’VE COME TO THE NEW VERSION OF THE SHOW WHO ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT WE DID ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.”

Frazer Hines



## THE SECOND DOCTOR: VOLUME ONE

Four tales from figures associated with the Second Doctor era.

THE MOUTHLESS DEAD  
THE STORY OF EXTINCTION  
THE INTEGRAL  
THE EDGE

WRITTEN BY: John Pritchard, Ian Atkins, David Bartlett, Rob Nisbet  
DIRECTED BY: Lisa Bowerman

CAST: Frazer Hines, Anneke Wills, Deborah Watling, Wendy Padbury, Elliot Chapman and Robert Whitelock.

time with the Doctor has done to him. What has he picked up, learned, what is he now capable of?"

**2** 015 saw Elliot Chapman joining Frazer and Anneke Wills for **The Early Adventures**, succeeding the late Michael Craze in the part of Ben Jackson.

Frazer explains: "It's always fun to work with Anneke. Before, you would have myself and Anneke having to share the voices of the Doctor, Jamie, Polly and Ben. There's stories like *The Selachian Gambit* where we've got the pair of us doing all those voices, as well as the monsters.

"But now we've got Elliot on board, it takes the pressure right off us. He's very, very good at it; he's obviously put a lot of work into it.

"Elliot is great fun to work with when we're in studio, there's a nice relaxed atmosphere. He gets on really well with Anneke and myself."

Elliot's portrayal of Ben has won over anyone who doubted that he was up to the task, with a careful and truthful performance, capturing the essence of Michael Craze.

He tells *Vortex*: "I don't go on message boards and forums, but the feedback I did hear was very positive, which was lovely to know. People have been kind enough to say some lovely things,

which is very reassuring. If it hadn't worked out, then I'm sure I wouldn't have been asked back to do more.

"I put in a lot of work to capture the spirit of Michael Craze and I'm pleased people have appreciated that.

"It's always a pleasure working with Frazer and Anneke. I did a recording with Anneke in Tunbridge Wells, which was a great experience, and I met up with Frazer at a convention, where we watched the **Doctor Who** episode *The Witch's Familiar*. It was fantastic, as he was giving me a running commentary, explaining that Davros was the creator of the Daleks. It wasn't his period of **Doctor Who**, but he knew what he was talking about – it was a great experience!

"I'm so pleased to be back again, as I did wonder if things might be a bit quieter on the Big Finish front this year, now they have John Hurt, David Tennant and Catherine Tate, but that's not been the case at all."

**P**RODUCER Ian believes that the Companion Chronicles have been such a success over the years because of the way they have helped to define the characters of the Doctor's friends.

He says: "I think with the unfair press clichés of '**Doctor Who** assistant' being a screaming, ankle-twisting female, and the majority of

companions being women, the male companions tend to be sidelined in their significance. And yet you've got Ian Chesterton being the first person to challenge the Doctor's world view.

"There's Rory Williams, standing up to the Doctor's relationship with people. And you've got Jamie there, a best friend years before Sarah Jane, or Donna Noble, or Amy Pond. How would anyone not want to travel with him and the Doctor? There's so much affection there, a mutual trust and reliance."

Ian was particularly pleased with the way the plays were brought to life.

He adds: "The studio sessions went well. I have all sorts of fun memories from it – everything from having a drink with Frazer after one session, and him talking about working with Charlie Chaplin, to having Elliot Chapman staying at my house the night before recording, and watching *Underwater Menace* with him while he points out how he's mapped Michael Craze's pallet, and can tell how far into his time on the show they are from the tone of the voice.

"I've been hugely grateful at how everyone really worked at it, from the writers tweaking drafts, to the prep the actors bring to studio. And that's before I mention Lisa Bowerman's epic work in the director's chair – she has such a great ear for emotion and character moments." **VORTEX**

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# DARK SHADOWS the CREEPING FOG

Kenny Smith looks through the mists of time to find  
*The Creeping Fog*

**T**HERE are some things that we all instinctively find scary – such as fog at night.

That's the basic set-up for *Dark Shadows* play *The Creeping Fog*, written by Simon Guerrier and originally released in June 2011.

This atmospheric release stars original series actor David Selby as Quentin Collins, joined by former *Doctor Who* star Matthew Waterhouse as John Cunningham; Matthew's first role for Big Finish.

Simon, who was unfamiliar with the series beforehand, was commissioned by producers James Goss and Joseph Lidster, and recalls: "I found it difficult to write because I didn't know the TV series or the tone of it well enough. When I handed it in, I had no sense of whether it was any good or not. James, Joe and Stuart Manning provided a lot of notes, catching things I'd got plain wrong or where the style wasn't quite right. They also worked on Quentin's character, adding in bits of backstory and setting up things that were to come. I'm really happy with the final script, but it owes a lot to their hard work and patience.

"That said, I think what really makes the story work is the way it's played and directed. I could see David Selby was brilliant in the episodes Joe and James showed me, but blimey – Matthew Waterhouse was a revelation. I'd met him once, briefly, at a convention in the 1990s but in my head he was Adric. He clearly put his heart into what I'd written, and I was thrilled when I heard it."



Joe continues: "I'd worked with Simon on the *Bernice Summerfield* range so knew he'd be someone who could write a fab script to a deadline and he'd be a new writer to the range so would bring something different to it.

"Around the same time, we discovered that Matthew Waterhouse was a big fan of *Dark Shadows* (he mentions it in his autobiography). At that point, Matthew had never done anything for Big Finish and neither of us knew him... but could he be tempted? Turned out he could! Simon's script was brilliant. David Selby and Matthew Waterhouse were fantastic."

Future co-producer of the range David Darlington adds: "Because I'd produced and published the audio version of Matthew's memoir and his first novel, and I was doing the odd bit of work for Joe and James, I was kind of the missing link here. I got a couple of quiet emails from the boys asking 'D'you think he'd be up for it?' and 'Is he any cop at it?', which I was pleased to answer positively."

Matthew himself says: "I was delighted to be asked to appear in Big Finish's *Dark Shadows* range.

"I loved the original series, which I had been watching on DVD. In fact, I think I was offered *The Creeping Fog* because I had made a casual aside in *Blue Box Boy* about how much fun I thought *Dark Shadows* was!

"Simon Guerrier's splendid script was essentially a two-hander between the original series character Quentin Collins and John Cunningham, who runs a down-at-heel museum in war-torn London.

"Happily, I was in LA the day of the recording, so David Selby, the brilliant actor who plays Quentin, and I could record all of our scenes together. We were in the same studio, placed opposite each other and so able to address each other directly. It was a lot like doing a stage play.

"It was because *Creeping Fog* was such a good script and such fun to make that I changed my mind about doing *Doctor Who* for Big Finish." **VORTEX**

# VORTEX MAIL

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

I just wanted to make a tiny suggestion about some series that myself and others would love to see. The first is a series surrounding the goings on at the Maldovarium (Dorium Maldoovar's nightclub/black market). It could give us some brilliant new characters, possibly a few bounty hunters (if you take inspiration from the bar scene in *Star Wars*), and it would possibly be able to bring back some old monsters (such as the Headless Monks who have been said to have a history with Dorium). The second idea that I would like to tell you about is the idea to bring back Tom Baker's character from the 50th anniversary in a series of his own. Some may feel that this is a risky move as his identity was left ambiguous in the special episode. However, I am positive that many fans would buy this series and you could be able to do it in a way that doesn't reveal if he is the actual Doctor or not. Connor White

**Nick:** *We don't have any plans to do either of things, I'm afraid, Connor. On the first count, I'm not sure I see the same potential you see for Dorium's domain. On the second count, the BBC have specifically told us not to use Tom's character from the 50th anniversary. We'll let you know if there's ever a change in that.*

## FAB FOURTH

I loved the Fourth Doctor adventure *The Labyrinth of Buda Castle*. It is great to have Tom Baker and Lalla Ward working together again. Looking forward to the next story. Keep up the good work!  
S J Upex.

**Nick:** *Thanks. We love working with Tom and Lalla.*

## FIRST CLASS

Having always been opposed to the recasting of roles I have been completely persuaded by William Russell's First Doctor and Elliot Chapman's Ben Jackson. Whilst William Russell gives a very different (but completely engaging) take on the First Doctor, I find Elliot Chapman's performance as Ben to be so accurate I couldn't tell the difference between his delivery and that of Michael Craze. I am greatly looking forward to the new **Early Adventures** and **Companion Chronicles** stories – any chance of a First Doctor, Ben and Polly story? Also, I have just listened again to some of the earlier Tom Baker CDs and there are lots of asides about a parrot in the TARDIS – was this ever explained because I must have missed that title – which CD wraps up the 'parrot in the TARDIS' arc?! Thanks (as always) for such excellent and reliable releases!  
Martin Edmonds

**Nick:** *The idea of a First Doctor, Ben and Polly story has been circulating for a while. Just imagine... You haven't missed the parrot 'conclusion', Martin. That is coming up at the end of the current Fourth Doctor season.*

## CHOICES, CHOICES

As a longtime Big Finish Who fan it's great when you discover a new audio drama filled with suspense, atmosphere and supernatural goings on. I am of course praising **Dark Shadows**, just listened to disc one of volume one of *Bloodlust* – and I am hooked – can't wait to hear and get the rest. It will be a hard choice to decide which to listen to first as a **Who** CD and **Dark Shadows** CD arrive

at the same time! Also fascinating to read some of the series background in *The House of Despair* (*Vortex 71*). Please, please, please keep up the great work.  
Jim Harris.

**Nick:** *Only you can answer that, Jim. As long as you end up listening to both, we're happy.*

## SUPER SERVICE

I just wanted to send you a belated big thanks for helping out with my enquiry about replacement cases a month ago. I was really grateful to receive the cases, without question, and free of charge (even though it would have cost you to send them!). This kind of customer service is outstanding, and truly shows the regard you have for your customer base – keep up the great work. My appreciation for the great efforts you go to in the service of providing quality product to keep us all entertained so well. I have been studying counselling for the last five years and am now in the final months of my BA year, its been intense, but somewhere along the way I discovered Big Finish, which has made my journeys to and from university a welcome relief from the learning.  
David Edwards

**Nick:** *So glad you had a good customer service experience with us. We have a great team who work extremely hard on this. Brilliant people.*

EMAIL US AT:  
feedback@bigfinish.  
com and remember  
to put 'Vortex Mail' as  
the subject...

# RELEASE SCHEDULE

Forthcoming audio releases.

## JUNE 2016

- **DOCTOR WHO: THE TWO MASTERS**  
(215, Seventh Doctor)
- **DOCTOR WHO – FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE TROUBLE WITH DRAX**  
(5.6, Fourth Doctor, Romana II and K9)
- **DOCTOR WHO: SHORT TRIPS: LOST AND FOUND**  
(6.06, Second Doctor, Ben, Polly, download only)
- **DOCTOR WHO – THE COMPANION CHRONICLES: THE SECOND DOCTOR** (Volume 1)
- **UNIT: THE NEW SERIES: SHUTDOWN** (2.1)
- **SURVIVORS – SERIES 4: BOX SET** (Full Cast)
- **TORCHWOOD: MOVING TARGET** (2.4)
- **DARK SHADOWS: BLOOD & FIRE**
- **DARK SHADOWS: ECHOES OF THE PAST**

## JULY 2016

- **DOCTOR WHO: A LIFE OF CRIME**  
(214, Seventh Doctor, Mel and Ace)
- **DOCTOR WHO – FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE PURSUIT OF HISTORY**  
(5.7, Fourth Doctor, Romana II and K9)
- **DOCTOR WHO: SHORT TRIPS: THE BLAME GAME**  
(6.07, Third Doctor, Liz, download only)
- **DOCTOR WHO: CLASSIC DOCTORS NEW MONSTERS** (Volume 1)
- **THE NEW COUNTER-MEASURES: WHO KILLED TOBY KINGSLEA?**
- **TORCHWOOD: BROKEN** (2.5)
- **THE AVENGERS – THE LOST EPISODES: VOLUME 6** (Box Set)

## AUGUST 2016

- **DOCTOR WHO: FIESTA OF THE DAMNED**  
(215, Seventh Doctor, Mel and Ace)
- **DOCTOR WHO – FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: CASUALTIES OF TIME**  
(5.8, Fourth Doctor, Romana II and K9)
- **DOCTOR WHO: SHORT TRIPS: DAMASCUS**  
(6.08 Third Doctor, Jo, download only)
- **THE NEW ADVENTURES OF BERNICE SUMMERFIELD – VOLUME 03: THE UNBOUND UNIVERSE** (Box Set)
- **SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE SACRIFICE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES** (Box Set)
- **TORCHWOOD: MADE YOU LOOK**  
(2.6, Gwen)
- **YOU'RE HIM, AREN'T YOU?**  
(Audiobook, Paul Darrow)

## SEPTEMBER 2016

- **DOCTOR WHO: MAKER OF DEMONS**  
(216, Seventh Doctor, Mel and Ace)

- **DOCTOR WHO: THE WAR DOCTOR: AGENTS OF CHAOS** (Box Set, The War Doctor)
- **DOCTOR WHO: SHORT TRIPS: A FULL LIFE**  
(6.09 Fourth Doctor, Romana II and Adric, download only)
- **DOCTOR WHO: THE EARLY ADVENTURES: THE AGE OF ENDURANCE** (3.1 First Doctor, Susan, Ian and Barbara)
- **DOCTOR WHO: PHILIP HINCHCLIFFE PRESENTS**  
The Genesis Chamber (2.1 Fourth Doctor, Leela)

## OCTOBER 2016

- **DOCTOR WHO: THE MEMORY BANK AND OTHER STORIES** (217, Fifth Doctor, Turlough)
- **DOCTOR WHO: DOOM COALITION 3** (Eighth Doctor, Liv and Helen)
- **DOCTOR WHO: THE EARLY ADVENTURES: THE FIFTH TRAVELLER** (3.2, First Doctor, Ian, Barbara, Vicki and Jospa)
- **DOCTOR WHO: SHORT TRIPS: RULEBOOK**  
(6.10, Fifth Doctor, Peri, download only)
- **DOCTOR WHO: THE CHIMES OF MIDNIGHT LIMITED VINYL EDITION**
- **CHARLOTTE POLLARD: SERIES 02** (Box Set)
- **JAGO AND LITEFOOT: SERIES 12** (Box Set)
- **THE CONFESSIONS OF DORIAN GRAY: SERIES 5**
- **DOCTOR WHO: THE THIRD DOCTOR ADVENTURES:** (Volume 2)

## NOVEMBER 2016

- **DOCTOR WHO: ORDER**  
(218, Sixth Doctor and Constance)
- **DOCTOR WHO: SHORT TRIPS: TBA**  
(6.11, TBA, Download only)
- **DOCTOR WHO: THE EARLY ADVENTURES: THE RAVELLI CONSPIRACY** (3.3 First Doctor, Vicki, Steven)
- **SURVIVORS – SERIES 5: BOX SET** (Full Cast)
- **THE AVENGERS – STEED AND MRS PEE: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL**
- **THE AVENGERS – STEED AND MRS PEE: THE COMIC STRIP ADAPTATIONS** (Volume 2)
- **UNIT: THE NEW SERIES: Silenced** (3, Kate Stewart)
- **TORCHWOOD: OUTBREAK**  
(Box Set, Jack, Ianto, Gwen, Rhys, Andy)

## DECEMBER 2016

- **DOCTOR WHO: ABSOLUTE POWER**  
(219, Sixth Doctor and Constance)
- **DOCTOR WHO: QUICKSILVER**  
(220, Sixth Doctor and Constance)

- **THE NEW COUNTER-MEASURES: SERIES 1**
- **DOCTOR WHO: SHORT TRIPS: THE HESITATION DEVIATION**  
(6.12, Seventh Doctor, Bernice Summerfield, Download only)
- **DOCTOR WHO – THE NOVEL ADAPTATIONS: ORIGINAL SIN** (Seventh Doctor, Roz, Chris)
- **DOCTOR WHO – THE NOVEL ADAPTATIONS: TBA** (TBA)
- **DOCTOR WHO: THE EARLY ADVENTURES: THE SONTARANS** (3.4, First Doctor, Steven, Sara)

## JANUARY 2017

- **DOCTOR WHO: THE STAR MEN** (221, Fifth Doctor)
- **DOCTOR WHO – FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE BEAST OF KRAVENOS** (6.1 Fourth Doctor, Romana II, K9, Jago & Litefoot)
- **DOCTOR WHO: SHORT TRIPS: TBA**  
(7.01, TBA, Download only)
- **DOCTOR WHO – THE DIARY OF RIVER SONG: SERIES 02** (Box Set, River Song, Sixth Doctor, Seventh Doctor)
- **GRACELESS: SERIES 4** (Box Set)
- **THE PRISONER VOLUME 02** (Box Set)
- **THE AVENGERS – THE LOST EPISODES: VOLUME 07** (Box Set)

## FEBRUARY 2017

- **DOCTOR WHO: THE CONTINGENCY CLUB** (222, Fifth Doctor)
- **DOCTOR WHO – FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE ETERNAL BATTLE** (6.2 Fourth Doctor, Romana II and K9)
- **DOCTOR WHO – NEW SERIES: THE WAR DOCTOR VOLUME 4** (4, War Doctor, Leela)
- **DOCTOR WHO: SHORT TRIPS: TBA**

## MARCH 2017

- **DOCTOR WHO: ZALTYIS** (223, Fifth Doctor)
- **DOCTOR WHO – FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE SILENT SCREAM** (6.3 Fourth Doctor, Romana II and K9)
- **DOCTOR WHO: SHORT TRIPS: TBA**  
(7.03, TBA, Download only)
- **DOCTOR WHO: DOOM COALITION 4**



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