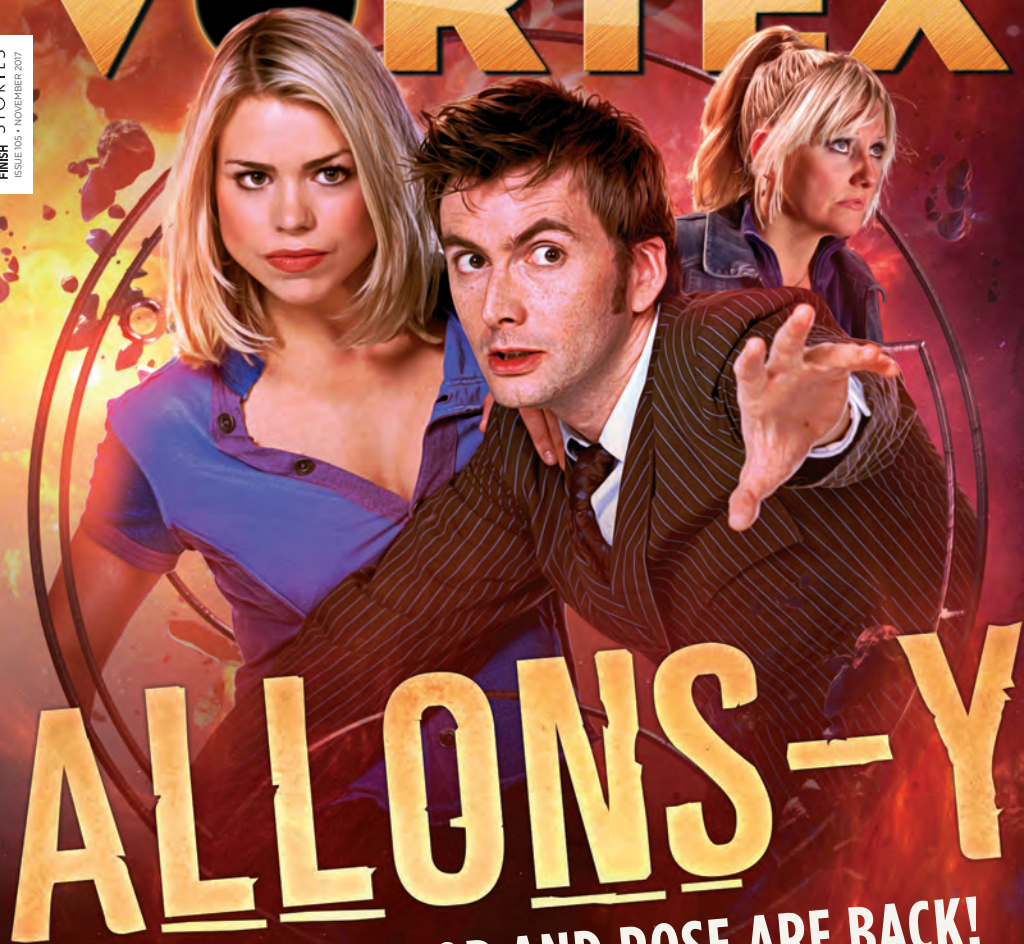


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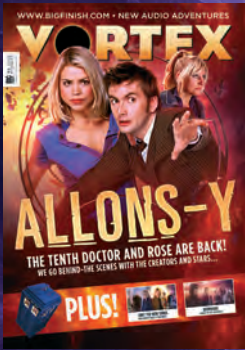
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EDITORIAL

ISSUE 105 • NOVEMBER 2017

DOCTOR WHO has always had its fans, with a core group of us having stuck with the show through thick and thin during the classic era.

So when the series returned in the 21st century, I'll concede that I found it both delightful and a little bit odd that everyone suddenly loved the show I had always adored. **Doctor Who** was no longer cult viewing. It was just... viewing!

Perhaps it could be said that the most iconic Doctor and companion pairing of the new series was the Tenth Doctor and Rose, as David Tennant and Billie Piper (quite rightly) became the nation's darlings.

And now, the duo are back together with Big Finish. Speaking to those who were in studio at the time, it seems that David and Billie had a ball,

and that's just what we like to hear. David's an old hand at Big Finish, but for Billie it was a new experience – so let's all hope she enjoyed herself and wants to come back to do more!

This new set of stories sounds just like the opening three episodes of any Russell T Davies-produced series of **Doctor Who**, with one story set in the present day, followed by one in the past and one in the future. I can't wait to hear them.

Also this month, we've got the return of **UNIT** in four exciting new standalone tales, and **Survivors** reaches its seventh run. I've been doing a **Survivors** relisten lately on my drives to and from work, and my word, each series gets progressively darker than the last. Just wonderful!

KENNY

SNEAKPREVIEW

Scott Handcock previews the first full series of Cicero, coming in 2018...



“IT WAS back in February shortly after the release of the pilot episode, that we knew we'd be coming back to do more. We always knew there was potential for additional stories, and the reaction to that initial story made it a no-brainer.

“With that in mind, Jason Haigh-Ellery kindly commissioned five more hours, allowing us to explore the wider social and political climate of ancient Rome. The series is very much a drama about the life of Cicero, rather than straying into a case-by-case legal drama, which helps keep things fresh.

“It is, of course, an added pleasure to welcome Sam [Samuel Barnett] and and George [Naylor] back as back as Cicero and Quintus. We had such a fun time making the first story, and even more fun making the series. Their fraternal chemistry

is wonderful. This time around, we also meet Cicero's parents (Sarah Douglas and Richard Earl); his wife, Terentia (Laura Riseborough); and even the infamous Atticus to whom he addresses his letters (Rupert Young). It's a very personal series of stories, and everyone threw their all into making it.

“Other guest actors include Wilf Scolding, Samantha Béart, Ben Arogundade, Deirdre Mullins, Jon Culshaw, Rachel Atkins, Oliver Mason, Sarah Owens and the terrifying Paul Clayton as Sulla...” **VORTEX**



COOL REUNION

It's Saturday evenings in 2006 all over again for Kenny Smith...

THEY CAME, they saw and they conquered Saturday nights. They were the pairing that everyone loved, and they cemented **Doctor Who** in the public's affections once again. And now the Tenth Doctor and Rose are set to do it all again as they materialise for their first three adventures for Big Finish.

David Tennant and Billie Piper reunite in *Infamy of the Zaross*, *The Sword of the Chevalier* and *Cold Vengeance*, for the second set of Tenth Doctor adventures following on from his adventures with Catherine Tate as Donna Noble last year.

Senior producer David Richardson admits: "We'd always hoped, possibly beyond hope, that Billie might be willing to work for Big Finish one day, but those hopes became more concrete when she started

making very positive noises while attending conventions.

"Fans were asking Billie if she would do a Big Finish, and she was saying she would. Jason Haigh-Ellery instantly approached her agent, and one day there was a very exciting call from Jason – Billie had said yes! Nick then approached David Tennant and he was very keen to work with Billie again, so the ball was rolling."

Executive producer Nicholas Briggs, an old friend of Mr Tennant, reveals: "I'd spoken to David while

he was filming **Broadchurch** – which is actually based in the town where I live. Every time he was filming here he'd let me know, but it never coincided with my being at home. Then there was this one occasion during the filming of the third **Broadchurch** when our stars aligned and I walked literally five

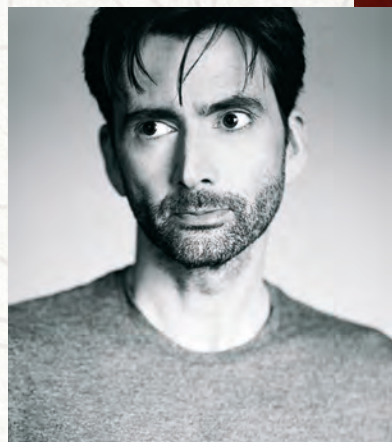
were available at the same time to do it. David had let me know he'd be performing a play in the West End of London in the early part of 2017 (Don Juan in Soho) and so would theoretically be available during the daytime once performances started. It took a while to track down Billie's availability, and we

Tyler, fighting an alien invasion – though this time Dorney has taken the threat to Norwich!"

When Jackie Tyler takes an away day to visit her old friend Marge in Norwich, she finds her holiday immediately interrupted in the worst way possible – an alien invasion!



Above (left to right): David Tennant and Camille Coduri



Above: David Tennant

minutes up the road to the hotel he was staying in while filming.

"During our chat over coffee, I made it very clear to him that he should always assume we're keen to do more with him. He said, 'Yeah, I get that' with a big smile. So I told him we'd got wind of the fact that Billie had apparently said at a convention that she'd love to do some Big Finish stories with David. She has since told me that 'about ten thousand people' were asking her that question. So, eventually, we managed to get it to work."

Acquiring the services of two of Britain's most popular and in demand actors was a problem that had to be overcome.

Nick concedes: "It was a challenge. Both Billie and David were on board. It was just a question of finding a time when the two very busy, popular actors

“IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT WE HAVE CAMILLE CODURI BACK AS JACKIE, FIGHTING AN ALIEN INVASION.”

DAVID RICHARDSON

had at least one false start – but we eventually sorted it out."

WITH THE acting leads secured it meant that three scripts were going to be needed, which David Richardson had a hand in.

He says: "I suggested our three writers to Nick with the proposal that the first story should be set in the present day along the lines of a Russell T Davies season opener. And with David and Billie both on board, it was essential that we have Camille Coduri back as Jackie

The infamous Zaross have come to take over Earth. Or have they? After Jackie calls in the Doctor and Rose to deal with the menace, it soon becomes clear that this is a very unusual invasion indeed. The Doctor is about to uncover one of the most heinous crimes in the history of the galaxy. And if he can't stop it an awful lot of people are going to die.

WHEN ASKED if he'd like to write for the Doctor and Rose, John admits: "I was delighted. I received the email to say, 'We're going to be doing David



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Directed By: Nicholas Briggs

Starring:

David Tennant,
Billie Piper,
Camille Coduri

INFAMY OF THE ZAROSS

by John Dorney

THE SWORD OF THE CHEVALIER

by Guy Adams

COLD VENGEANCE

by Matt Fitton

Infamy of the Zaross, The Sword of the Chevalier and **Cold Vengeance** are also available to buy as individual single-disc releases. Each are priced at £10.99 on CD and £8.99 for download.

Tennant and Billie Piper, which was massively exciting. I was also told I had Jackie – and everyone loves her, and everyone loves the Doctor and Rose. Jackie was just an extra little something to play with – she's such a lovely character and Camille does such a glorious job with her. There's a real vibrant energy to her.

"She's more like the companion that we'd probably be, a bit out of our depth. We all like to think we'd be Rose, but really, we'd all be like Jackie!

"Literally last night, I saw the National Theatre Live broadcast of *Yerma*, which stars Billie, and it's such an astonishing bit of acting. I felt completely humbled that I was even allowed to write any dialogue for this magnificent actor. It's the same with David Tennant as well – I remember rewatching *Taking Over the Asylum* when I was writing for him, and to put words in these actors' mouths at all is an honour.

"And then to be allowed to write dialogue for this iconic couple that everyone really remembers,

“WE ALL LIKE TO THINK WE'D BE ROSE, BUT REALLY, WE'D ALL BE LIKE JACKIE!”

JOHN DORNEY



Above (left to right): Nickolas Grace, Lucy Briggs-Owen, Mark Elstob, James Joyce and Tam Williams

that was amazing. They were the ones that nailed it to the mast in television history as one of the most iconic Doctor and companion

combinations that there are.

"You also know you can give them interesting and fun things to do, because they will just go



Above (left to right): Nicholas Briggs and Camille Coduri



for it. There's lots of emotionally heavy stuff for Billie and big dramatic moments for David – which people want and expect from these characters.”

John was also delighted to be able to create a new monster for the Doctor and Rose to face, with the Zaross following in the footsteps of the Judoon, Hath and Racnoss by being based on a recognisable animal.

He explains: “The Zaross initially appear to be your standard **Doctor Who** monster – war-mongering warthogs, quite angry and quite

hairy, but as the story goes on it becomes apparent there's a little more than that going on with them.

“The Doctor is a little bit baffled that he hasn't heard of them before so there's clearly something happening there, but initially they seem to be straightforward.

“I like the idea of warthog animals – I've done walruses and pigs before. I also got a reference in to *The Lion King*, which was perfect for George Asprey who has been playing Scar in the West End production and has been for several years.”

David Richardson adds: “Nick

asked me to do the casting for these stories, and for *Infamy of the Zaross* I was able to secure both Guy Henry and Rosie Cavaliero. I'd just seen *Rogue One*, the **Star Wars** prequel, so it was a real thrill to be working with Grand Moff Tarkin himself, and Rosie had starred alongside Nicola Walker and Mark Bonnar in the brilliant **Unforgotten 2**. She was so outstanding that she instantly went on my list of potential guest stars.”

John reveals: “It was massively happy in studio. I found the whole thing just a joy. I get nostalgic for this time, even though it wasn't that long ago, but hearing these voices and iconic characters come to life again is automatically enticing. They still sound identical to how they did then and that comes over in your head.

“The guest stars are fantastic – Rosie Cavaliero is brilliant in everything that she does, and Guy Henry is great, having recently been Grand Moff Tarkin. Yes, it was a really terrific day. Billie and David seemed to be having a blast, which is exactly what we wanted.”

THE TARDIS takes the Doctor and Rose back in time for *The Sword of the Chevalier*, which has been written by Guy Adams. David Richardson reveals: “I'd proposed that the second story should be a 'celebrity

THE TENTH DEGREE

Kenny Smith presents a beginner's guide for Tenth Doctor fans looking to try something else from Big Finish...

I F YOU'RE a newcomer to Big Finish with the latest Tenth Doctor set of audios this month, then welcome to the wonderful world of Big Finish.

Big Finish has been releasing original adventures from the worlds of **Doctor Who** since 1999, with the Fourth, Fifth, Six, Seventh, Eighth, War and 10th Doctors, starring the original actors.

And it's not just the Doctor who has returned as there have also been some great spin-off series featuring Daleks, Cybermen, UNIT, Winston Churchill, River Song and Captain Jack – to name but a few.



LIKE: *The Christmas Invasion?*

TRY: *Relative Dimensions*.

If you want to know how a family Christmas celebration can go wrong, this is the one for you! It's got the Eighth Doctor (Paul McGann) and his friend Lucie Miller

(Sheridan Smith), welcoming his granddaughter Susan (Carole Ann Ford) and great-grandson Alex (Jake McGann) into the TARDIS. But there's something fishy going on...

LIKE: *The Runaway Bride?*

TRY: *Classic Doctors, New Monsters* Volume Two:

Empire of the Racnoss.

Fifth Doctor Peter Davison is dragged back in time to the 'Old Times', when Gallifrey is at war with the Racnoss. The giant spiders are warring amongst themselves and the Time Lord, and it's not going to be a pretty sight. Here, the Racnoss Empress is played by Adjoa Andoh – Martha's mum Francine Jones in the TV series.



LIKE: *The Sontaran Stratagem/ The Poison Sky?*

TRY: *The Sontarans*.

It's an adventure that tells the story of William Hartnell's original Doctor encountering the cloned species for the first time as part of the **Early Adventures** series. It's recounted by Peter Purves and Jean Marsh reprising their roles as Steven Taylor and Sara Kingdom, who appeared alongside William Hartnell in 1965/66.

“THIS ONE IS JUST FUN, FUN, FUN, ALL THE WAY!”

KENNY SMITH

LIKE: *Human Nature/ The Family of Blood?*

TRY: *Love and War*.

In similar fashion to the TV episodes, this is an adaptation of a **New Adventures** novel written in the 1990s by Paul Cornell. It features Sylvester McCoy as the Doctor, with his companion Ace (Sophie Aldred) going through a traumatic storyline of lost love, as well as meeting Professor Bernice Summerfield (Lisa Bowerman). Benny was the first character to feature in the Doctor Who audio plays from Big Finish.

LIKE: *Blink?*

TRY: *Doom Coalition 4:*

The Side of the Angels.

Paul McGann's Doctor encounters the Weeping Angels in New York, as a collection of Time Lord villains plan their conquest of time. Of course, the Angels aren't quite what they seem – can the Doctor and his people really trust them, or do they have their own agenda?

LIKE: *The Fires of Pompeii?*

TRY: *The Fires of Vulcan.*

Sylvester McCoy and Bonnie Langford (Mel) travel back to the ancient city which is set to be covered in lava. Of course, there's nothing to suggest that both Doctors weren't in town at the same time – the Seventh Doctor and Mel could easily be just around the corner in almost every scene!



LIKE: *The Unicorn and the Wasp?*

TRY: *The Auntie Matter.*

It's got that wonderful 1920s period feel with larger than life characters, and there's jokes aplenty that are guaranteed to amuse. Of course, there's an alien in there too – and it's got outstanding performances from Tom Baker as the Fourth Doctor and the late, great Mary Tamm as Romana in her first incarnation.

LIKE: *The Next Doctor?*

TRY: *The One Doctor.*

The Doctor realises when he apparently meets himself that

there's something not quite right about this other man. This one is just fun, fun, fun, all the way! With Christopher Biggins playing the other Doctor, look out for a pre-Nardole guest role from Matt Lucas as the Jelloid and Cylinder.

LIKE: *Midnight?*

TRY: *The Companion Chronicles*

– *The First Doctor Volume*

Two: *Across The Darkened City.*

A Dalek accompanies Steven Taylor (Peter Purves) as the Chaons have absorbed the energy on the planet Shade, and the pair have to call upon each other to survive – but will either or both of them betray the other as they undergo a journey in their bid to escape?



LIKE: *End of Time?*

TRY: *The Sixth Doctor –*

The Last Adventure.

There's a regeneration in this story as the Doctor (Colin Baker) and several of his friends encounter an old foe in the form of the Valeyard (Michael Jayston). There are different story strands from the Doctor's various associates, which all come together in the end with tragic consequences. **VORTEX**

historical', and Guy Adams suggested various candidates, all of which I declined because they'd been done in **Doctor Who** elsewhere.

"I then proposed that it should be about a woman, and Guy came back with the Chevalier d'Eon, an historical figure so exciting that if I had a time machine, I'd want to go back and meet her myself. It's a glorious episode – I've heard the final edits and it left me with a huge, warm smile on my face. It's **Doctor Who** with heart, and that's often my favourite kind."

It's 1791 and the Doctor and Rose get to meet one of the most enigmatic, thrilling and important people in history: the Chevalier d'Eon. She used to be known as a spy, but then she used to be known as a lot of things. If there's one thing the Doctor knows it's that identity is what you make it. However, if the Consortium of the Obsidian Asp get their way, all lives may soon be over...

HOW DID Guy react when he got the email to write a Tenth Doctor and Rose story? He laughs: "I kept screaming, 'Yes!' at the computer screen. Then realised neither David Richardson or Matt Fitton could hear me so I had to type it (though they later admitted they had picked up a slight whining sound from an easterly direction!).

"I like their sheer joy when facing the universe. It's so contagious. Obviously, you're dealing with actors at the top of their game, but look at them! They're just wonderful, who wouldn't want to spend time in their company?"



Above: David Tennant



Above (left to right): Antony Stuart-Hicks, Sean Biggerstaff, Maureen Beattie and Keziah Joseph

“ I DO LOVE A HISTORICAL. I THINK ITS THE WIGS. ALWAYS DID LOVE A WIG. ”

GUY ADAMS

“I do love a historical. I think its the wigs. Always did love a wig. While it’s fun to dash off to other worlds it’s easy to forget ours is just as rich and varied if you poke hard enough.”

By having a historical tale, it meant Guy had to do some research into the character of the Chevalier d'Eon: “A fair amount, but the story doesn’t use much. Always the way. I just wanted to get as much of a handle on her as possible.

“She’s fascinating obviously, but when we meet her she’s towards the end of her life. Bordering on washed-up in fact, holding out for one more adventure, a chance to prove herself again. Naturally she gets one.”

Joining David and Billie for this adventure is Mark Elstob,

better known as Number 6 in **The Prisoner** series from Big Finish.

Mark says: “Working with the two of them was simultaneously terrifying and a breeze.

A breeze because both of them are exceptional performers who



made the recording sessions fun and relaxed. They slipped into their characters with such natural ease the scenes almost played themselves. Terrifying because, for a fan like myself, it’s not just David and Billie, it’s the Tenth Doctor and Rose! The Dream Team!

“The leading actors in **Doctor Who** – whoever they are – must if nothing else, be individuals of enormous charisma and magnetism. It’s safe to say that David and Billie did not disappoint.”

Mark plays Joxer, but what can he say about his character?

He grins: “That is a tricky question! A strange, unearthly combination of slaving, carnivorous monster and prissy, bickering partner. I was never sure whether they were one entity with two aspects, or two discrete entities inhabiting the same body. My half (?) didn’t have any redeeming features but I seem to remember Lucy Briggs-Owen may have represented our better side!”



Above: Camille Coduri

B RINGING THE set to a close as the Doctor and Rose encounter some cool customers, is *Cold Vengeance*, written by Matt Fitton.

David Richardson reveals: “We discussed all sorts of old monsters for Matt’s episode. Initially I was quite keen to go with one of the forgotten classic monsters – a bit like Russell did with the Macra in *Gridlock*. But then Nick suggested the Ice Warriors and I loved that idea – they’re one of the most popular creatures from the show’s rich history, and yet the Tenth Doctor never got the chance to meet them. Until now. What’s lovely about Matt’s episode is, once I’d finished listening to it I was convinced it had been on TV. I know it’s an audio episode we made, but my mind tells me it was in David’s first season!”

The TARDIS arrives on Coldstar, a vast freezer satellite, packed with supplies to feed a colony world. When Coldstar’s tunnels begin to melt, they find that nobody’s vengeance is colder than an Ice Warrior’s.

M ATT ADMITS: “I couldn’t quite believe it when I opened an email from David Richardson mysteriously entitled, ‘Coming Soon’ and read the name ‘Billie Piper’. And we went from there. It’s great to be able to revisit that era and also to use the character of Rose. She, as much as anyone in that first year – even Chris Eccleston – played a massive part in *Doctor Who* coming back and being a success. That’s why we’re still watching *Doctor Who* 12 years later. She was so good.

“We kicked around a couple of classic monsters and thought

about how we would update them. But very early on, David, Nick and I all crossed emails pretty much at the same time suggesting Ice Warriors. As soon as I got that, I knew it would be set in a cold storage facility – an Iceland in space kind of thing – doing what Russell T Davies often did, taking the familiar and shifting it thousands of years into the future and putting a *Doctor Who* twist on it.

“I really like the Ice Warriors anyway. I’ve always enjoyed the Second Doctor ones where they were really nasty, rather than being the Federation nice guys.

“There’s something about the stature of them, they are so big and imposing, they are a massive presence with their honour and long history and culture – that’s all interesting to explore.”

Joining the cast as Callum Volta is Sean Biggerstaff, who thoroughly enjoyed the chance to work with David and Billie.

He admits: “It was lamentably brief but lovely. I’ve known

David for years through his wife, Georgia, who's a dear friend of mine. I had never worked with him before though. He was great, as he tends to be, and with all the appearance of it being effortless."

Sean was familiar with the characters having watched them on TV. He says: "Yes, but not, er, encyclopaedically, I have to admit. I don't watch much telly."

Callum is an interesting character, and Sean reveals: "I can say that he has more to him than initially appears, which is fun to play."

Sean was also delighted to appear with another Scots actor, Maureen Beattie, who appeared on TV's **Doctor Who** in *Last Christmas* as Fiona Bellows. One of his outstanding memories was: "The delight of playing mother and son (for the third time!) with the great Maureen Beattie, who's a friend of mine and an outstanding actor."



Above (left to right): Toby Hrycek-Robinson, David Richardson, George Asprey, George Watkins, Rosie Cavallero, Nicholas Briggs, Camille Coduri, Guy Henry, Matt Fitton, David Tennant and John Dorney

“BILLIE SAID, WITH HER VOICE FULL OF INCREDULITY, ‘IS THAT IT?’.” NICHOLAS BRIGGS



THE DOCTOR and Rose always seemed to be having a good time during their adventures on television and Nick Briggs confirms this was definitely the case when it came to the recordings.

He says: "The studio sessions were pretty joyous. I had an inkling that Billie would be surprised how easy audio recording is for an actor, as

compared to how difficult and time-consuming filming can be.

"As she walked into her booth, I told her it would be easy. And after we'd done a couple of takes for the first scene and I told her and David that I was happy with what I'd got and would move on to the next scene, Billie said, with her voice full of incredulity, 'Is that it?'. When I told her that was indeed 'it' for that scene, she said, 'Wow, this is much

easier than filming!' And she never really lost that feeling of ease about the whole thing.

"About three scenes in I remembered to tell her that she was being brilliant. I can tell you that Billie Piper is one of the best people in the world to compliment. Whether it's something she was born with or whether she learnt it or was taught it, her response to a compliment is so warm, delightful and grateful that it makes you feel a million dollars for having offered it.

"She is lovely and so easygoing to direct. David was on top form too. I was particularly impressed by how protective he was of the integrity of the Doctor's character. He made a couple of superb suggestions for making the scripts better and making the Doctor less brash. I loved that. He is almost supernaturally good as an actor. You feel like he's some sort of acting super being." **VORTEX**

VORTEXMAIL

Email: feedback@bigfinish.com and put 'Vortex Mail' as the subject...

JUST MY TYPE

One of the first pages I turn to when I get my copy of *Vortex* is the letters page. I enjoy reading the creative – sometimes crazy – ideas for ranges you could develop. In my distant youth, I used to write to *Smash Hits*. One or two of my letters were published but I never got a response from the enigmatic 'Black Type' who wittily replied to the best ones each week. So it's particularly nice that Nick makes a point of responding to every letter published in *Vortex Mail*, so no one is disappointed.

● TREVOR LAMBERT

Nick: Thanks, Trevor. I feel it's an important part of my job to keep in touch with what our loyal listeners are thinking. It helps us to make our own 'smash hits'... hopefully.

A CHIB OFF THE OLD BLOCK?

We have very detailed interviews and articles regarding Russell T Davies and Steven Moffat's positive opinions on Big Finish, but what about Chris Chibnall's? I've tried searching, but he doesn't seem to have stated what he thinks of the range in any interviews I've been able to find. Has he ever told you about what he's thought of **Doctor Who** audios?

● KEVIN MEI

Nick: I've met Chris quite a few times – we actually, coincidentally, live in the same town in Dorset. Long before he got the top job, he and I had a couple of lunches together – and we still keep in touch a bit although he's suddenly somehow a very busy man! Obviously, we did talk a bit

about Big Finish. I don't think he's ever listened to any – I'm not sure I ever asked him if he'd done so. But, naturally, he's very aware of Big Finish Doctor Who stories and how popular they are with fans. To be honest, my impression is that he probably believes the positive views he's heard expressed by others. But as to whether he's heard or liked any himself, I honestly can't say. I'll ask him next time I see him!



ANTHOLOGY EXCELLENCE

One of my favourite aspects of the monthly range is the anthology releases that you do annually (*Circular Time*, *100*, *Time in Office* etc.). A couple of them would even go in my top 10–15 best Main Range releases, and the Fifth, Six, Seventh and Eighth Doctors have all had awesome ones. But have you considered doing some for the first four Doctors? A Third Doctor anthology could be done within **The Third Doctor Adventures**, the First and Second Doctors could be covered by **The Early Adventures** and you could always do a special **Fourth Doctor Adventure** release perhaps? It's just a thought, but

I'd love to have an anthology release for each Doctor.

● ALEX H

Nick: Nice thought. I shall ponder on it and see if we have any opportunities to do just that.

DOOMSDAY?

Congratulations on your output of audio CDs. Have you ever thought about doing some **Doomwatch**? I used to watch this on Monday nights and some of these stories have not survived.

● MICHAEL PARSONS

Nick: We're not sure it would have a big enough audience. Also, we're not exactly sure where the rights reside, although it was a BBC programme. There may be some writer rights tied up in it. Nice idea, though.



MORE NARVIN

I am absolutely infatuated with **Gallifrey's Narvin**! Please, please, please give us a standalone box set of his day to day adventures in the CIA. The Big Finish world needs more Narvin!

● 'BINKERY'

Nick: What is it about Narvin? He inspires a kind of mania. It must be Sean Carlsen's natural, irresistible charisma. Must be. Anyway, Narvin is set to return in a way you probably weren't expecting... next year! VORTEX



KENNY SMITH IS READY FOR ACTION WITH FOUR NEW TALES FROM KATE STEWART, OSGOOD AND THE TEAM...

WHEN **UNIT** have taken on a foe in any of the first four box sets, there's been an overarching story to each set.

The fifth series is a break with that tradition, as producer David Richardson reveals: "Our standard format for **UNIT** is to do single four-hour stories – tales with a huge sweep and detailed plots and big casts. That's probably how most of the box sets will be devised, but not this one. Here we have four one-hour stories with only the slightest of links (which does set up something coming in series six...).

"I liked the idea of this set of standalones because it allows us to tell some stories that wouldn't justify four episodes, but work beautifully as one-offs."

Director Ken Bentley concurs: "I like the different format with standalone episodes. It gives us much more scope to include other characters and monsters, and to use them in new and hopefully surprising ways. You never know, it might also be an opportunity for us to start creating more of our own."

UNIT – *Encounters* opens with *The Dalek Transaction* by

Matt Fitton, as a rogue guerrilla faction offers an alien artefact for auction – but don't think there's similarities between this tale and the Ninth Doctor's *Dalek* TV story.

Matt says: "My starting point is similar to Rob Shearman's *Dalek* but I pushed it in a different direction fairly quickly. There are references to Utah and they are aware of it – they are on the same trail, which has been picked up by these central American mercenaries who are more than what they seem. The Dalek is offered up for auction.

"Daleks are a threat – they are always dangerous. You don't have the Doctor here to save the day, and it's got to be a threat that **UNIT** can deal with, credibly. A single Dalek on its own, cornered and

desperate, is the most dangerous Dalek you can get. The twist I did, to move it away from *Dalek*, was to get it out of its casing and get it into the jungle, to give it a *Predator* vibe. The guerrilla leader is named after the only female character in the film – that’s my little homage!

“There’s always an extra thrill in writing the Daleks. It’s amazing to hear Nick’s voice coming through the speakers – and to see the actors reactions too.

“For the regular cast, I try and find twists and interesting things for them to do so they get some variety to play.”

THERE’S A newcomer to **UNIT** with the series writing debut of Roy Gill – a familiar name to followers of Big Finish. Matt reveals: “Roy has done some brilliant stuff. I was



Above (left to right): Ramon Tikaram and Jemma Redgrave



“THE UNIT SERIES HAD BEEN DESCRIBED TO ME AS, ‘SPOOKS WITH MONSTERS’”

ROY GILL

first impressed by his work on *Dorian Gray*, and because of that got him in on *The Omega Factor*.

“He has a good ear and it made sense to give him an opportunity on **UNIT**. He has the new series tone for Osgood and Kate, with a scary supernatural vibe. It’s a lovely Halloween story. Roy was very good to work with,

so we’ve also brought him to *Tales From New Earth* which is being released after **UNIT**.”

Roy’s script, *Invocation*, sees ghosts from the past haunting **UNIT**. Roy says: “The **UNIT** series had been described to me as, ‘**Spooks with monsters**’, ‘**Spooks**’ meaning the spy-based TV adventure show, of course.

I thought I might turn that on its head and tell a **UNIT** story with some actual spooks!

“I’m simplifying a bit here, but that was one of the triggers that pointed me in the way of the supernatural...”

“I think there’s plenty of room to explore elements of horror and dark fantasy in the **Doctor Who** universe – you just have to be aware of the dominant tone. My task was to find a way to tell a supernatural story within a science-fiction/action-adventure context, to bring that kind of tale firmly into Kate and Osgood’s world... I hope there’s some twists and turns along the way!

“I think it’s good to mix-up the format and try different things. I am now desperately keen to find out what the other guys have come up with!”

THE TEAM face a foe which **UNIT** has encountered on television in the 21st century, with *The Sontaran Project*



UNIT: THE NEW SERIES ENCOUNTERS

OUT THIS MONTH

CD: £23.00, Download: £20.00

EXTRAS Bonus disc

Directed By:
Ken Bentley

Starring:
Jemma Redgrave
Ingrid Oliver
Ramon Tikaram
Dan Starkey
Nicholas Briggs

THE DALEK TRANSACTION
by Matt Fitton

INVOCATION
by Roy Gill

THE SONTARAN PROJECT
by Andrew Smith

FALSE NEGATIVE
by John Dorney

by Andrew Smith, as Colonel Shindi finds more than he bargains for in the Forest of Ardennes.

Andrew, of course, is no stranger to Sontarans having written for them several times for Big Finish. He says: “The series plan just said, ‘A Sontaran story by Andrew Smith’, so I pitched three or four ideas, one of which became *The Sontaran Project*.

“This story gives Colonel Shindi a prominent role. Initially, he was going to be killed off at the end of *Extinction*, our first **UNIT** box set, but it was felt he should return.

“He’s a great character and Ramon Tikaram is fantastic. And so funny. In the afternoon of the recording, we had Dan Starkey, Jemma Redgrave and Ramon, and they were just brilliant – three incredibly witty people. It was a pleasure to write for them.”

Andrew added: “This is my fourth Sontaran story for Big Finish. A couple of other people have been allowed to write Sontaran stories – I don’t know how that was able to happen! But I’m glad it was, the more Sontaran stories the better. And I’d like to give a



Below (left to right): David Jonsson, Lucy Fleming and Matthew Cottle



particular mention to the First Doctor **The Early Adventures** story *The Sontarans*, by Simon Guerrier. I particularly love that one.

“Seriously, though, I do have a very soft spot for Sontarans. They are capable of wiping out thousands of millions of people in a stroke and they have a military mindset. We’re not doing the Strax-like Sontaran

with a bit of comedy, these are very much the threatening, be-careful-of-these-guys Sontarans.

"These are Sontaran characters you can really play around with. They have character – they are individual, even though they are clones and have a voice very similar to Dan Starkey! Dan does different Sontarans – he is brilliant. I love knowing that when I write

UNIT's laboratory, Osgood and Josh find themselves in a whole new world of trouble.

David reveals: "I'd been thinking for ages that it would be great to do a sequel of sorts to the Third Doctor story *Inferno* – to have our UNIT characters slip into a parallel universe where they meet very different versions of themselves. John Dorney has

as the story develops you begin to spot what's going on.

"I was given a relatively open brief, with a few suggestions of things that I might look into. I think they expected a straight-forward thriller, and I opted to do a French farce, just for the fun of it! I essentially sent through *A Comedy of Errors*.

"I kind of went with having our regulars because I didn't feel I needed anyone else, and that gave me a lot of interesting combinations to play with and push what I was doing. There are good opportunities for some theatrical acting as well. I had a clear idea of the scenes I wanted to do; the first scene has Osgood and Josh in bed together,

“WE DON'T HAVE SAM BISHOP THIS TIME – BECAUSE HE REALLY IS FLYING AROUND THE WORLD HAVING SECRET MISSIONS.”

DAVID RICHARDSON



Above (left to right): Ingrid Oliver and James Joyce
Right (left to right): Dan Starkey, James Wilby and Beth Goddard

Sontaran stories, I am writing for Dan. I'm really glad to add another Sontaran story to the catalogue."

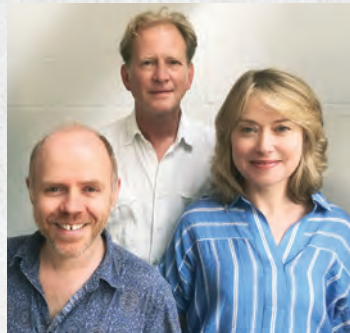
J OHN DORNEY'S *False Negative* concludes this series and it's a story with a difference as when a strange travel capsule is activated in

taken up my suggestion for *False Negative*, and I was delighted by his proposal that utilised only the four regulars (plus their doubles). It's wonderfully inventive – of course it is, it's by Dorney – but also, at times, very funny."

John continues: "This is a difficult one to talk about, but

which was entertaining to start with! There's another sequence towards the end which I don't want to spoil, but I was pretty much shifting the entire plot around to get to a specific scene that happens between the two of them, which is a moment of glorious awkwardness in a high tension situation."

One of the regulars is missing this time, and David adds: "Sadly, we don't have Sam Bishop this time – because he really is flying around the world having secret missions. Warren Brown is playing the lead in Sky's action series *Strike Back*, and has been filming in Budapest for most of the year, but we're hoping his schedule will allow for Sam's return in the next set..." **VORTEX**





SURVIVAL GUIDE

OR: HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE APOCALYPSE...

THE LATEST season of **Survivors** promises something different. Up until now the Big Finish **Survivors** stories have slotted around established continuity, but the seventh series is where everything changes.

Producer David Richardson reveals: "Over the course of seven **Survivors** box sets, we've been running in parallel to the original TV series – telling new stories with some of the TV cast, and also with new leads of our own invention.

"It was always my intention to work fully through the three TV

seasons, and with this box set that journey is complete. In this series we learn new information about Abby Grant's son Peter, we go to the days after the death of Greg Preston and – in the last story in the set – we go beyond the final episode of the TV series – in *Reconnection*, Abby and Jenny Richards are reunited."

The seventh series begins with *Journey's End* written by Roland Moore, as Abby has one last hope to find her son. Script editor Matt Fitton reveals: "This is Abby solo, closing in on Peter, but the worst possible thing for

her might be for her to actually find what she's looking for."

Roland says: "In story terms we are picking up Abby's search for her son after other events had taken up her time. And as Matt and I discussed various approaches to the opening episode, Matt wondered if Abby's faith in Peter's survival could be finally faltering and she might face the possibility that she'd never find him. So I took that and ran with it. In fact, when I submitted my idea I was worried it might be too much – but it wasn't!"

As with so many areas of **Survivors**, this taps into a

fear that we can relate to as parents hunt for a lost child.

“Abby’s plight is amplified by it taking place in this nightmarish world where there is very little infrastructure to help find a lost teenager. And if you add that story strand to the wider world of what Terry Nation established – the ideas of how would you rebuild a shattered society – then you can see why the series is so resonant.”

E MOTIONS CONTINUE to run high in *Legacy*, with Greg having died. When she and Ruth encounter those whose lives he touched, Jenny is forced to remember

gift. I could spread my wings and do everything I humanly could to create an epic drama.”

Legacy picks up from the TV series, and explores the emotional reactions to Greg’s death from smallpox.

Simon admits this was: “Immensely difficult. Well, to be more accurate: emotionally difficult. I still remember the shock of watching the original

a living, speaking character. I decided part of the story would involve an individual gathering eye-witness accounts of Greg’s good deeds, much as you might see in TV documentaries today when people are interviewed in order to build up a picture of someone who has achieved the status of legendary hero.”

He adds: “Writing **Survivors** has been a real labour of love.

“IN THE LAST STORY IN THE SET – WE GO BEYOND THE FINAL EPISODE OF THE TV SERIES.”

DAVID RICHARDSON



Above (left to right): Christopher Hatherall, Alastair Mackenzie, Ken Bentley, Carolyn Seymour, Toby Robinson, Lucy Fleming, Justin Avoth and Jamie Laird
Right (left to right): Carolyn Seymour, Ian McCulloch and Lucy Fleming



When I look back at *Legacy* now I firmly believe this is the finest story I’ve ever written. I’m so happy with it, and so grateful to David Richardson for giving me the best writing job of my life.”

how the man she loved abandoned her.

Writer Simon Clark reveals: “The brief I received stressed that this series would be largely stand-alone stories allowing the writers to explore in even greater depth the lives of the central characters. The specific brief for the episode I’d write was, ‘Jenny and Ruth meet again and learn how Greg changed people’s lives’. Of course, for me, being such a huge fan of the show, this brief was a wonderful

TV series when Greg’s death is revealed. I thought long and hard how I would approach *Legacy* and how I would deal with characters discussing Greg’s ‘death’, and it seemed to me that at least one character would refuse to accept that Greg, the man who had, seemingly, been rebuilding civilization single-handed, could be dead.

“The story is told in flashback, so, of course, I’m happy to reveal that Greg appears as

F ACING UP to the past is core to Matt Fitton’s *Old Friends*. Ruth and Evelyn unite on a mission of mercy as an old friend is in trouble and in the path of dangerous forces. Jackie could reveal secrets that change lives. But first, she must find her own way back.

Matt says: “When we first met Jackie she had retreated from the real world and was living very much in her own head. After all the trauma she’s had we revisit that aspect of her here.



Above (left to right): Susie Emmet, Ken Bentley, Helen Goldwyn, Graham Seed, Simon Clark, Lucy Fleming and Ian McCulloch

“ I KNOW I’LL BE IN FLOODS OF TEARS WHEN I GET TO LISTEN TO THE EDIT! ” DAVID RICHARDSON



Above: John Banks

“There’s lots of big, emotional stuff which I know Louise Jameson excels at. There are big, heavy issues that we deal with.

“This brings some closure to story lines we’ve previously featured, and there are things we touch on that Evelyn has done that haven’t been fully addressed – we have demons for all of them to face.”

David continues: “It was great to have John Banks back as Daniel for an episode. We love working with John and we loved the character of Daniel – which is exactly why we chose to write him out in the third series. His departure had to hurt.

But here he is, reunited with Jackie, and it gives us a chance to explore her raw pain. It’s a fantastic episode for Louise Jameson – I know I’ll be in floods of tears when I get to listen to the edit!”

Playing Ruth is Helen Goldwyn, who adds: “There’s a couple of times in series seven where there are characters contemplating the alternative – to end their battle to survive, but ultimately everyone is following their human instinct, as they want love, they want children, they want family.

“It’s not an easy listen. It’s very intense and very exhausting to hear. Even though I know what’s going to happen, the impact is still the same on me.”

T HE SEVENTH series concludes with *Reconnection*, which has



SURVIVORS SERIES SEVEN

OUT THIS MONTH

CD: £25.00, **Download:** £20.00

EXTRAS Interviews

Directed By:
Ken Bentley

Starring:
Carolyn Seymour
Ian McCulloch
Lucy Fleming
Louise Jameson

JOURNEY'S END
by Roland Moore

LEGACY
by Simon Clark

OLD FRIENDS
by Matt Fitton

RECONNECTION
by Christopher Hatherall



Above: Louise Jameson

meet' so a lot of discussion ensued about how and why, and where, and what could happen. To be asked to do it was a gift. They are two dynamic and independent characters – iconic in the *Survivors* world – so to bring them back together, after so long apart, was an exciting challenge. This does mean, however, that there is pressure to get their reconnection right.

"I liked the idea that for these two iconic characters who share such a close bond, we might all be expecting a reconnection that is full of love, relief, respect and happiness – and we do get

"I tried to find tension between those two admirable aims. Any trepidation that I felt before we got into studio quickly dissipated as Lucy and Caroline embraced it wholeheartedly. Their first rehearsal crackled and fizzed with all their talent and years of understanding and familiarity."

Director Ken Bentley adds: "The cast from the original series know their characters and know their journeys. They would have made decisions when they started playing the roles at the very beginning and those choices would have informed the

“ THE ORIGINAL BRIEF SIMPLY SAID, ‘ABBY AND JENNY MEET’ SO A LOT OF DISCUSSION ENSUED... ”

CHRISTOPHER HATHERALL

been written by Christopher Hatherall. As Jenny continues her plan to restore electricity across the country, she meets someone she never thought she'd see again – but it's a very different Abby Grant to the one who left the Grange.

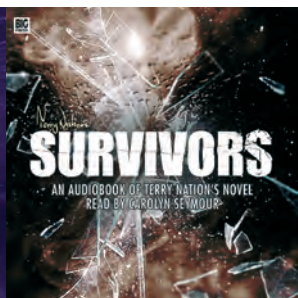
Chris says: "The original brief simply said, 'Abby and Jenny

all that, but it is muddled by frustration and misunderstanding too. Jenny and Abby went their separate ways to chase differing ideals; Jenny's motive to help Greg establish his Federation is magnanimous, for the greater good; Abby's motive to find and save her son is individual, personal.

scenes we've recorded recently. The world of *Survivors* is quite extreme so it's hard to determine how anybody might react under similar circumstances. I could be wrong, but I'd like to think these are things the vast majority of us have never and will never experience. Thankfully." **VORTEX**

LISTEN AGAIN

Kenny Smith dons his hazmat suit and breaks out the hand sanitiser to discover the 'novel' origin of *Survivors*...



Read by Carolyn Seymour, in charge of the release was Neil Gardner who directed the production. He recalls: "Usually when I am contacted by Big Finish, it is to be asked about creating some sound design for one of their amazing full-cast productions. So when David Richardson dropped me a line about *Survivors* I was expecting it to be about the explosive audio drama, but it wasn't. Here he was asking

“A SLIGHTLY LESS-THAN-PROFESSIONAL LUNCH BREAK DOWN THE PUB WITH THE MEMBERS OF BLACK SABBATH...” NEIL GARDNER

T HIS MONTH marks the release of the seventh Big Finish series of Terry Nation's *Survivors*, as the inhabitants of the Grange continue in their bid to get on in a world devastated by a deadly virus.

Back in December 2014, Big Finish also snapped up the audiobook rights to Terry Nation's original *Survivors* novelisation. Producer David Richardson says: "I thought it was the perfect companion piece to our original full-cast audios. It gave us an opportunity to witness the opening of the story for Abby, Greg and Jenny, even if the course of the novel does differ from the canon of the TV series."

me if I could record, produce and deliver a single-voice audiobook edition of the original Terry Nation tie-in novel. Well, fantastic! This is my bread-and-butter.

"My company, Ladbroke Audio, produces audiobooks for a living, and I'd been hoping to do something like this for Big Finish for a while. I was expecting him to say Louise Jameson or one of the new cast would be narrating, but like a shot out of the dark he said it would be Carolyn Seymour. Hang about, THE Carolyn Seymour? Star of the original TV series and all-round living legend?

"It isn't often that I am star-struck, but alongside the first times I have directed one of the Doctors, and a slightly less-than-professional

lunch break down the pub with the members of Black Sabbath and Iron Maiden, here I was temporarily flummoxed. Blimey... getting to work with one of my acting heroes... fab!"

N EIL CONTINUES: "I went about seeking a surviving copy of the novel – a rather tatty second hand affair – and from there, transcribed it to create a studio manuscript. David arranged the recording dates and before I knew it, there in my studio in sunny Croydon was Carolyn Seymour. A moment of deep breathing was required, but then the old professional producer instincts kicked back in and things got started.

"What can I tell you about working with Carolyn? Over those days she was the consummate, but fun, professional actor, narrating superbly and with great character. All in all, it was one of my most memorable and enjoyable audiobook productions.

"Once the recording stage was done it was the usual editing, checking, fixing and mastering – as I said, it's my day to day work, and it was a real pleasure to create an audiobook for Big Finish. I have a passion for single-voice audiobooks and I think they fit beautifully into the Big Finish universe, and I genuinely hope to get to produce many more for them over the coming years... there are a lot of amazing books out in the world that could do with the Big Finish touch.

"What an honour to work with Carolyn, bring the incredible Terry Nation's words to audio life, and add a little bit more to the *Survivors* universe. I really can't thank David and Big Finish enough." **VORTEX**

COMING SOON

NOVEMBER 2017

- **DW • MAIN RANGE: THE MIDDLE**
(233, SIXTH DOCTOR, FLIP AND CONSTANCE)
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- **DW • THE TENTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: INFAMY OF THE ZAROSS**
(TENTH DOCTOR AND ROSE)
- **DW • THE TENTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE SWORD OF THE CHEVALIER**
(TENTH DOCTOR AND ROSE)
- **DW • THE TENTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: GOLD VENGEANCE**
(TENTH DOCTOR AND ROSE)
- **DW • SHORT TRIPS: THE INGENIOUS GENTLEMAN ADRIC OF ALZARIUS** **DLO**
(7.11, FIFTH DOCTOR AND ADRIC)
- **DW • THE EARLY ADVENTURES: THE MORTON LEGACY**
(4.3, SECOND DOCTOR, JAMIE, BEN AND POLLY)
- **UNIT - THE NEW SERIES: ENCOUNTERS** (5)
- **SURVIVORS: SERIES 7** (BOX SET)
- **BLAKE'S 7: HEROES**
(BOOK, EBOOK, AUDIOBOOK)

DECEMBER 2017

- **DW • MAIN RANGE: STATIC**
(234, SIXTH DOCTOR, FLIP AND CONSTANCE)
- **DW • SHORT TRIPS: O TANNENBAUM** **DLO** (7.12, FIRST DOCTOR AND STEVEN)
- **DW • THE EARLY ADVENTURES: THE WRECK OF THE WORLD**
(4.4, SECOND DOCTOR, JAMIE AND ZOE)
- **DW • THE WAR MASTER** (BOX SET)
- **THE NEW COUNTER-MEASURES: SERIES TWO** (BOX SET)
- **DARK SHADOWS: SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT**

JANUARY 2018

- **DW • MAIN RANGE: KINGDOM OF LIES**
(234, FIFTH DOCTOR, TEGAN, NYSSA AND ADRIC)
- **DW • FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: SERIES 7A**
(7A, FOURTH DOCTOR, LEELA AND K9. BOX SET)
- **DW • FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE SONS OF KALDOR** **DLO**
(7.1, FOURTH DOCTOR, LEELA AND K9)
- **DW • FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE CROWMARSH EXPERIMENT** **DLO**
(7.2, FOURTH DOCTOR, LEELA AND K9)

- **DW • FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE MIND-RUNNERS** **DLO**
(7.3, FOURTH DOCTOR, LEELA AND K9)

- **DW • FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE DEMON RISES** **DLO**
(7.4, FOURTH DOCTOR, LEELA AND K9)

- **DW • THE FIRST DOCTOR ADVENTURES: VOLUME ONE** (BOX SET)

- **DW • THE DIARY OF RIVER SONG 3:**
(BOX SET)

- **DW • SHORT TRIPS: THE AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE**
(8.1, SIXTH DOCTOR AND PERI)

- **BLAKE'S 7: CROSSFIRE** (PART TWO)

FEBRUARY 2018

- **DW • MAIN RANGE: GHOST WALK**
(235, FIFTH DOCTOR, TEGAN, NYSSA AND ADRIC)

- **DW • SHORT TRIPS: MEL-EVOLENT** **DLO**
(8.2, SIXTH DOCTOR AND MEL)

- **DW • THE CHURCHILL YEARS VOLUME TWO** (BOX SET)

- **GALLIFREY: TIME WAR** (BOX SET)

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- **THE OMEGA FACTOR: SPIDER'S WEB**
(NOVEL, AUDIOBOOK AND EBOOK)

- **VIENNA: RETRIBUTION** (BOX SET)

- **BIG FINISH CLASSICS: THE MARTIAN INVASION OF EARTH**

MARCH 2018

- **DW • MAIN RANGE: SERPENT IN THE SILVER MASK**
(236, FIFTH DOCTOR, TEGAN, NYSSA AND ADRIC)

- **DW • SHORT TRIPS: THE SIEGE OF BIG BEN** **DLO**
(8.3, META-CRISIS DOCTOR, JACKIE TYLER)

- **DW • TALES FROM NEW EARTH** (BOX SET)

- **TORCHWOOD: THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN JACK** (19)

- **THE OMEGA FACTOR: SERIES THREE** (BOX SET)

APRIL 2018

- **DW • MAIN RANGE: TBA** (237, TBA)

- **DW • THE TENTH DOCTOR CHRONICLES: VOLUME ONE**

- **DW • SHORT TRIPS: THE TURN OF THE SCREW** **DLO**
(8.4, EIGHTH DOCTOR, CHARLIE SATO)

- **BLAKE'S 7: CROSSFIRE** (PART THREE)

- **TORCHWOOD: TBA** (20)

MAY 2018

- **DW • MAIN RANGE: TBA** (238, TBA)

- **DW • FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: SERIES 7B**
(7B, FOURTH DOCTOR AND LEELA. BOX SET)

- **DW • FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE SHADOW OF LONDON** **DLO**
(7.5, FOURTH DOCTOR AND LEELA)

- **DW • FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE BAD PENNY** **DLO**
(7.6, FOURTH DOCTOR AND LEELA)

- **DW • FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: KILL THE DOCTOR!** **DLO**
(7.7, FOURTH DOCTOR AND LEELA)

- **DW • FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE AGE OF SUTEKH** **DLO**
(7.8, FOURTH DOCTOR AND LEELA)

- **DW • SHORT TRIPS: FLIGHT INTO HULL!** **DLO**
(8.5, META-CRISIS DOCTOR, JACKIE TYLER)

- **UNIT - THE NEW SERIES: TBA** (6)V

- **TORCHWOOD: TBA** (21)

JUNE 2018

- **DW • MAIN RANGE: TBA** (239, TBA)

- **DW • THE COMPANION CHRONICLES: THE SECOND DOCTOR: VOLUME TWO**
(BOX SET)

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