

THE BIG FINISH MAGAZINE

# VORTEX

107

ISSUE 178  
DECEMBER 2023  
BIG FOR THE LOVE  
FINISH OF STORIES



# BLEAK MIDWINTER

CHRISTMAS WOULDN'T BE  
CHRISTMAS WITHOUT THE  
EIGHTH DOCTOR!

STAR COPS

## BLOOD MOON RISING!

THE STAR COPS TEAM RETURNS...





**BIG FINISH** | FOR THE LOVE OF STORIES

# BIG FINISH

WE MAKE GREAT FULL-CAST AUDIO DRAMAS AND AUDIOBOOKS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO BUY ON CD AND/OR DOWNLOAD

## FOR THE LOVE OF STORIES

Our audio productions are based on much-loved TV series like **Doctor Who**, **Torchwood**, **Dark Shadows**, **Blake's 7**, **The Avengers**, **The Prisoner**, **The Omega Factor**, **Terrahawks**, **Captain Scarlet**, **Space: 1999**, **UFO** and **Survivors**, as well as classics such as **HG Wells**, **Shakespeare**, **Sherlock Holmes**, **The Phantom of the Opera** and **Dorian Gray**.

We also produce original creations such as **Graceless**, **Charlotte Pollard** and **The Adventures of Bernice Summerfield**, plus the **Big Finish Originals** range featuring seven great new series: **ATA Girl**, **Cicero**, **Jeremiah Bourne in Time**, **Shilling & Sixpence**, **Investigate**, **Blind Terror**, **Transference** and **The Human Frontier**.

Secure online ordering and details of all our products can be found at: [bgfn.sh/aboutBF](http://bgfn.sh/aboutBF)



### THE BIG FINISH APP

The majority of Big Finish releases can be accessed on-the-go via the Big Finish App, available for both Apple and Android devices.





## THE MASTER! PLANET DOOM

**THE MASTER** is set for a reunion with an old ally as Eric Roberts reprises his role in **Master! Planet Doom**. This box set features another trio of tales as the Time Lord and bounty hunter Vienna Salvatori (played by Chase Masterson) come up against the Axons.

*The Master and Vienna form an unlikely alliance when they're forced into joining an expedition to a forbidden planet. Accompanied by elite marines, government scientists and a corporate mercenary with access to some very old UNIT files, they go in search of an ancient, subterranean labyrinth infested by an alien lifeform the Master knows all too well...*

The stories in this set are *Basilisk* by Robert Whitelock, *Axos Rising* by Barnaby Kay and *Hellbound* by Robert Valentine.

Producer David Richardson says: "Our approach to these **Master!** box sets was always to have a strong sense of place and characters – and for each one to have a stand-alone overall concept.

"So here we have the Master and Vienna thrown towards a strange alien world which they investigate in the company of the military. The secrets buried beneath the surface of this world are a surprise even to the Master himself... and a reunion awaits." **VORTEX**

### MASTER! PLANET DOOM

- RELEASED: FEBRUARY 2024
- FORMAT: CD/DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: [bgfn.sh/drezz](http://bgfn.sh/drezz) 



## EDITORIAL

**TO PARAPHRASE** the Big Finish classic *The Chimes of Midnight*, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the Eighth Doctor.

I don't know what it is about this incarnation but he just seems perfectly suited to Christmas – perhaps it's his wondrous enthusiasm that works so well, especially in that 2002 classic. That said, it's not the Eighth Doctor's only Christmas adventure either. We've had *Death in Blackpool* (a darker one), as well as *Better Watch Out! Fairytale of Salzburg* in the **Ravenous** series. Oh, and don't forget he's also featured in a couple of Big Finish **Short Trips** – *Tuesday* and *The Caves of Erith*.

One of the best things about the new trio of Christmas adventures in the latest box set *In the Bleak Midwinter*, is, of course, the return of Charlotte Pollard. It's been one of the best-kept secrets at Big Finish this year. I was in studio for the second recording day of this set for *The Empty Man* in April, and there was a strangely festive mood about the recording (although there was no plum pudding in sight!).

The chemistry between India Fisher as Charley and Jaye Griffiths as Audacity was fantastic, with the wonderful Nickolas Grace keeping us all amused with his incredible stories. Our lunchtime chat was so much fun with India and I was literally in tears of laughter at one point.

And that's not our only Eighth Doctor treat. C'rizz is back! Long-term Big Finish listeners will recall the Euterмесan played by Conrad Westmaas. And if you don't know who he is, treat yourself to a Christmas present and pick up one of his adventures which are virtually all just £2.99! **VORTEX**

*Kenny*





# BOX SET OF DELIGHTS

## CHRISTMAS WOULDN'T BE CHRISTMAS WITHOUT THE EIGHTH DOCTOR!

**WELL, WHO** saw THAT coming? At the end of *Audacity: The Great Cyber-War Part 2*, the Doctor and his new friend Audacity collect Charlotte Pollard and the three of them head off on their travels together.

The Doctor wants to take them somewhere enjoyable, and what can be more fun than somewhere at Christmas? (Well, we know that Christmas is a time of Zygons impersonating deceased family members, robotic Santas, flying sharks and being stuffed to death with plum pudding – but don't tell the Doctor and friends that!)

*Vortex* asks **The Eighth Doctor Adventures** producer David

Richardson about *In the Bleak Midwinter* – a box set of adventures for Christmas 2023. David says: "It came about pretty organically. The next box set just happened to be in a December release slot and the stories were veering towards the spooky... so it felt right to make these three wonderfully atmospheric stories revolve around Christmas."

The Eighth Doctor works really well in the festive season, given the number of adventures he's had at Christmas. David agrees: "Well, he even looks like he belongs on a Christmas card doesn't he?! Seriously though, there's so much warmth in Paul McGann's portrayal, you just feel safe with the Eighth Doctor when the dark nights have drawn in."

David was also delighted to welcome India Fisher back as Charley alongside Jaye Griffiths as Audacity. He says: "I'm a big fan of having two companions. Some of the best

combinations have occurred when it's been the Doctor and two of his friends: Sarah and Harry, Nyssa and Tegan, Liv and Helen... The trick is finding two characters who belong together, and Audacity and Charley really do. What we couldn't have planned for, of course, was how much Jaye and India gel together – they came into the studio on that first day and were instant best friends! It was lovely to watch. By the end they were practically begging me to let them do more together!"

Script editor Matt Fitton adds: "It's been a delight to bring Charley back. Hearing **Charlotte Pollard – The Further Adventures** box set reminded me of those early days with the Eighth Doctor. Paul had just started doing *Big Finish*, and we heard those first stories with India as Charley. It was just like having a new series before **Doctor Who** came back on television.



Above (l-r): Jays Griffiths, Nickolas Grace and India Fisher

**ONE OF MY FRIENDS MESSAGED ME AND SAID, 'YOU REALLY SHOULD DO A DOCTOR WHO STORY ABOUT AN ADVENT CALENDAR.'**

JOHN DORNEY

"So when David suggested that we have a new companion join the Doctor – and then have the reveal that we're actually midway through Charley's earlier travels as well, that was a great way of having your cake and eating it! We had something new and something old together, creating a new era for the earlier, bouncier, happier Eighth Doctor."

**TWENTY-FOUR** *Doors in December* by John Dorney opens the set as the Doctor decides to treat his companion to a proper Christmas holiday. Matt says:

"When we suggested the idea of Christmas, John said he'd like to write 'an Advent calendar story'. John came up with a high concept pitch and then put it into it a very human, very touching, emotional story about ordinary people in London."

John continues: "The idea for this script came to me about a year ago. I was trying to finish a completely different script in the run up to Christmas and I made a joke on Twitter saying that I had an Advent calendar but that the Advent calendar was an actual physical

representation of how badly I was doing with the script because it was a countdown to the day when I was supposed to have finished writing it.

"I wanted the script to be completed by the 23rd so I could visit my family on the 24th. Every opening of a window was me effectively telling myself, 'You still haven't even started on the script at this point, or you still haven't finished that story, have you?!' And yes, I did completely fail to get everything done by Christmas Eve!

"When I recounted this, one of my friends messaged me and said, 'You really should do a **Doctor Who** story about an Advent calendar.' And immediately, my brain thought, 'That's amazing.

That's really good and exciting, and brings with it all the structural shenanigans that I really love!"

One of Big Finish's crowning glories is the Eighth Doctor and Charley story *The Chimes of Midnight* written by Robert Shearman.

John continues: "I had been reading Rob's short story collection *We All Hear Stories in the Dark* and it got me thinking in a particular direction. There wasn't a Santa or anything like that, but there was a story about zombie actors that reminded me of panto and actors at Christmas – actors who weren't succeeding and that gave me an idea. I then started thinking about other things like ghost stories at Christmas, all of which bedded into the same general shape.

"I'd already come up with the title very early on. Initially, I called it *Twenty-Four Days in December*, but then I realised *Twenty-Four Doors in December* gave me a structure, so I changed it to that. It meant it had to take place over 24 days with 24 scenes – and each scene had to involve a different door. I knew what the door on day 1 was and what day 24 would be, and then it was just a question of



figuring out everything in the middle.

"I know a lot of people who have worked in stores as Santa and his elves, and I asked a couple of them about it. One was Moray Treadwell (who plays Book in **The Monthly Adventure ...ish**), and Lydia Piechowiak (who plays Susan De Winter in **ATA Girl**). Moray still gets to be Santa every year, and Lydia is often an elf.

"I wrote some of *Twenty-Four Doors in December* whilst my mum, Suzanne, was very unwell and sadly passed away. One of my chief delights is that one of Mum's favourite TV series was **McDonald and Dodds**. The main guest actor in the audio is Jason Watkins, one of the leads in **McDonald and Dodds**, which is a beautiful tribute to my mum. Also, I'm delighted we've got Natalie Gumede to play the Chief Elf. My mum and I used to watch her together when she was doing **Strictly Come Dancing** a few years ago."

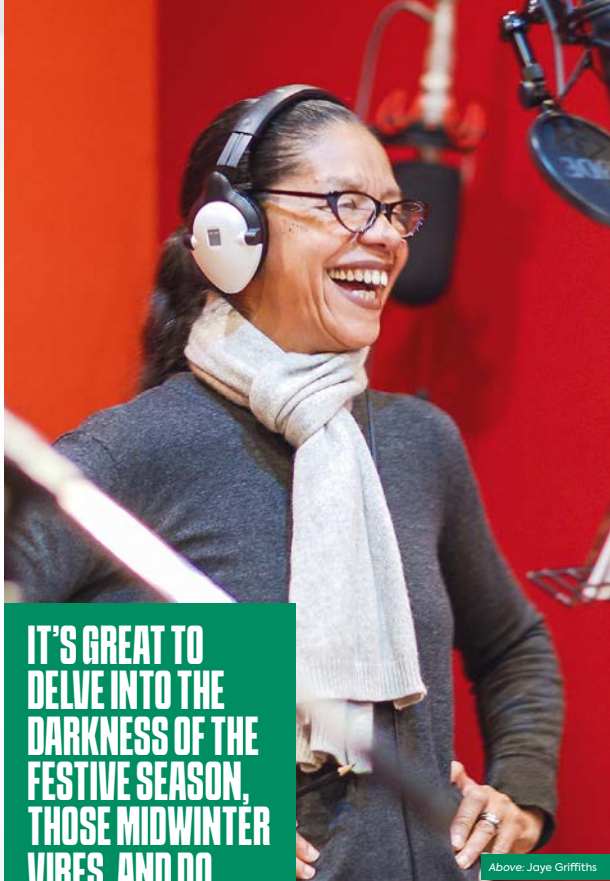
**THE SECOND** tale is *The Empty Man* by Tim Foley. *Eldridge Brinkwood*, a scribe of scary stories, is preparing to share another of his tales on Christmas Eve. Except this is a horror like no other.

Matt says: "One of the Great British Christmas traditions is, of course, the ghost story. Tim had the idea of a storyteller, a radio narrator of ghost stories very much in the M.R. James tradition who ends up being haunted by a ghost of his own. It's great to delve into the darkness of the festive season, those midwinter vibes, and do something a bit spooky and scary as well."

Tim explains: "I zoned in on the festive tradition of telling ghost stories at Christmas. I'd been reading a lot about writer Algernon Blackwood becoming one of the first BBC radio presenters and the spooky tales he'd tell on air, and I thought that would make a good starting point.

"I'd just written a Cyber epic with a huge cast so I was keen to swing completely the other way and focus on one guest character. I couldn't have hoped for better casting than that of the legendary Nickolas Grace – he made the part of Eldridge Brinkwood his own, and he was so sweet and dedicated in studio.

"And it was great to write for Audacity again, now with a few adventures under her belt. I like the way that she challenges the



Above: *Joye Griffiths*

IT'S GREAT TO DELVE INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE FESTIVE SEASON, THOSE MIDWINTER VIBES, AND DO SOMETHING A BIT SPOOKY AND SCARY AS WELL.

MATT FITTON

Doctor's lifestyle and his effect on people. That's going to be fun to continue to explore."

**THE THIRD** adventure is *Winter of the Demon* by Roy Gill. *The TARDIS* brings the travellers to Victorian Edinburgh. *Industrialist Donald Shaw* plans to transform the city with electric light, but people are dying, found horribly burned... What ancient power has Shaw summoned?

Matt tells *Vortex*: "*Winter of the Demon* is not just looking at Christmas but exploring folklore too, which is something that Roy does so well. We delve into midwinter traditions with legends, creatures and demons, and all that that entails. It's again inspired by horror tropes, and of course the film *Night of the Demon* which is itself inspired by an M.R. James story."

Roy explains: "Matt suggested we go for a Christmas ghost stories vibe... I'm a fan of those old M.R. James/



Above (l-r): *Joye Griffiths* and *India Fisher*



Above: India Fisher

Charles Dickens type of tales anyway, but I didn't want to lean too heavily into phantoms and hauntings – I wanted something more tangible and visceral. A terrible 'demon' that's burning people to death! How's that for jolly Christmas spirit?!

"Matt was keen on a Victorian setting for the finale but wanted somewhere outside of London to contrast with the earlier stories. I suggested Edinburgh as it has a wealth of interesting and strange history... I'd been reading about early attempts to electrify the city and that seemed like an interesting place to begin our winter of horrors... I've had a lot of fun interweaving actual historical facts with outrageous invention.

"It's an exciting adventure set in a frosty Victorian Edinburgh that's sparkling with electric lanterns and midwinter chills... I can promise a

devilish capitalist (voiced with silky charm by David Robb), precisely timed explosions, a kiss in the snow and the surprising use of a Christmas cracker!"

Roy is delighted to be involved in a new era for the Eighth Doctor, saying: "It's fun to be in at the start of things. Every so often, **Doctor Who** has these periodic rebirths or sidesteps and I think it probably does us all good to see things from a different angle. The Eighth Doctor paired with, say, Liv Chenka, has evolved into a very contemporary figure – they're both very dry and smart, and 'now' in tone and style. I think alongside Audacity and Charley he's a bit closer to that romantic hero mode he inhabited back when we first met him."

Matt concludes: "The brief for this

## I SUGGESTED EDINBURGH AS IT HAS A WEALTH OF INTERESTING AND STRANGE HISTORY ...

ROY GILL

set was very much for spooky winter tales. Hopefully everyone will settle down in front of the fireplace and have a listen to these in the orange glow.

"The Eighth Doctor and Charley already have a Christmas story that's still extremely popular, more than 20 years later, and we're sort of harking back to that as well. Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the Eighth Doctor and Charley." **VORTEX**



Above: Nickolas Grace

### THE EIGHTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER



- RELEASED: DECEMBER 2023
- FORMAT: CD/DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: [bgfn.sh/advent](http://bgfn.sh/advent)







# THE WORMWOOD THAT TURNED

**RANI IS BACK – AND THIS TIME SHE’S GOT BOTH OF HER BEST FRIENDS WITH HER...**

**RANI TAKES** on the *World* returns for more adventures as the intrepid investigative journalist is back in a second box set, *The Revenge of Wormwood*.

Anjali Mohindra reprises her role as Rani Chandra with Daniel Anthony as Clyde Langer. And this time their other childhood friend, Luke Smith played by Tommy Knight, also joins in the fun.

Russell T Davies, creator of the original *The Sarah Jane Adventures* on television, is very hands on with this Big Finish audio spin-off.

Speaking exclusively to *Vortex* he says: “I can’t actually remember how the audio series came about,

if it was Big Finish who came to me with it or if it was the producer Emily Cook. I think it was Emily!

“Anyway, we got in touch with Anjali, Daniel and Tommy who all agreed to take part. It’s fantastic that Anjali can do this because she’s such a leading actor these days. I’m delighted for her. I’ve been following her and always congratulate her. Her continued success is just one of the great pleasures in my life.

“There were many stories being bandied about for this new box set so I had a Zoom with the writers and gave them a lot of suggestions as to how things should go. I’ve always loved the relationship between Daniel and Anjali as Clive and Rani. I

had a lot to tell the writers and it was a fun session. I actually thought, ‘I should do calls like this more often,’ as they are a really nice bunch!

“And then, I left them to it. And I’ve got to say, I’m delighted by the end result.”

## **PRODUCER EMILY**

admits: “I was chuffed with the reaction to the first **Rani Takes on the World** box set, *Beyond Bannerman Road*. I was really excited for it to be released because it was an entirely new series and I hoped it would strike a chord with listeners, especially fans (like myself) who had grown up watching **The Sarah Jane**





Above: Aniji Mohindra

### THE STAR-CROSSED

*Diversion* by Alison Winter continues the set. Alison says: "My episode brief was to create an adventure for Rani and Clyde to really bond, or re-bond, essentially. It was always going to be a bit of a call-back episode so I set it in Ealing and found opportunities for Rani and Clyde to remember old adventures from a past bleeding through. There are lots of Easter eggs for eagle-eared fans of the TV show. "I wanted to find moments where Rani steps more into her Sarah Jane energy, so I wrote the part of young Jude where Rani could feel what it's like to be the adult confronted with an all-too-brilliant teenager determined to save the world. "After falling asleep on the night tube back to Ealing, Rani and Clyde wake in a nightmare future in which an alien race have succeeded in occupying Earth. Humans are docile cattle and the planet's resources are being sold to the

**I WROTE THIS STORY, WHICH REFERS TO THE GANG SAVING THE WORLD FROM AN ATTIC IN EALING, WHILST I WAS LIVING IN MY ATTIC FLAT IN EALING...**

ALISON WINTER

**Adventures** as children. I received so many lovely messages after it came out. I'm thrilled that people find it so moving and engaging.

"The over-arching theme of the first set was growing up and losing childhood (while at the same time also trying to hold on to it). The theme of this second set is hopes, dreams and regrets. With **Rani Takes on the World**, I feel we're exploring subjects which are very real and relatable in terms of how we navigate life and face the world. How we grow and change, and how we stay the same."

The second box set opens with a script by Lizbeth Myles.

Emily says: "The first episode, *Time Schisms!*, sees the return of Luke. He's reunited with Rani, however, there is some tension in

the reunion due to the fact that he's now working for UNIT who are at loggerheads with Rani's investigation. The episode also sees Rani (somewhat reluctantly) team up with a fan of her podcast."

Lizbeth admits she is delighted to be involved with the series. She tells *Vortex*: "Brilliantly excited! I love **The Sarah Jane Adventures** and I love these characters.

"My brief was Rani reuniting with Luke who's now working at UNIT, and for there to be an appearance of Wormwood and a hint at her future plans. Rani also meets one of her biggest fans and asks her to investigate the time traveller running the local post office."

Liz admits her highlight was: "Getting to write for Rani. What a brilliant character!"

highest bidder. Rani and Clyde find that saving the future may depend on remembering their past."

Alison adds: "I wrote this story, which refers to the gang saving the world from an attic in Ealing, whilst I was living in my attic flat in Ealing: method writing! I've lived and worked in Ealing most of my adult life so this is my personal ode to the area, and its quirky crisscross of tube lines and old stations which have forever made me think of parallel worlds and other eras."

### THE GHOST of Bannerman

*Road* by Jonathan Morris marks the return of the gang's old foe in the form of Mrs Wormwood played by celebrated stage and screen actor, Samantha Bond.

Jonny says: "It was genuinely

hugely exciting to be asked to write one of these episodes. And it was a huge joy to write for the three regulars and to have the Mrs Wormwood story. Plus, it's great when Russell is involved with a project because he's pretty rigorous in terms of what he thinks is a good story and what he thinks is lazy or obvious, so you have to up your game (not that I don't up my game for everything else!).

"The brief was to bring back Mrs Wormwood and flesh out the various other storylines that needed developing. But generally, it was imagine **The Sarah Jane Adventures** but the kids have grown up so the story should be about being in your mid-20s."

Summing up his script, Jonny



Above: Samantha Bond

## ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF WORKING ON THIS SET WAS WORKING WITH SAMANTHA – WHAT AN ABSOLUTE TREAT THAT WAS.

EMILY COOK

says: "Well, like the best **The Sarah Jane Adventures** my story has a theme and a pretty strong one. It's basically inspired by those questions that you get on social media, such as, 'If you could go back and tell your 16-year old self one thing, what would it be?' And, of course, all the science boffins say, 'I wouldn't tell them anything because it would cause a paradox and risk tearing apart the space-time continuum.'"

"But it ties in with a general feeling of missing opportunities – if I knew then what I know now... and the idea of that being a bit of a trap. Which I think is something you learn as you get older, that wondering 'what-if' is a waste of time.

"Also, it has UNIT investigating scientists going missing, mysterious thefts from top-secret research establishments and so on. That's the plot but it's not what the story is about."

Emily adds: "One of the highlights of working on this set was working with Samantha – what an absolute

treat that was. It's a testament to the show that these actors are so keen to reprise their **The Sarah Jane Adventures** roles.

"Sam resurrected Mrs Wormwood instantly and brilliantly. It brought back chills from my childhood to hear the character again, live in studio. Sam is such a class act and it was an honour to work with her. Everyone in studio was a little bit in awe of her."

Daniel Anthony adds: "I've got nothing but fond memories of working on the TV show for those five years. The cast and crew, and all the guest stars we had on, were just amazing. So when I was asked to come back and play Clyde, it was a very, very easy decision for me. I was delighted to be jumping back into the role again.

"It was so good to be back in the studio with Anjli, it's always lovely to see her. We said afterwards, it's always the same whenever we meet, whenever we're playing Clyde and Rani again, it just fits. There's no need to oil up the wheels, if that makes

any sense! It's just all very easy.

"The writers obviously know their stuff. You can tell they've watched the show and they know how we interact. It just comes as second nature to everyone, I think. I'm really looking forward to hearing the finished result."

VORTEX

### RANI TAKES ON THE WORLD: THE REVENGE OF WORMWOOD

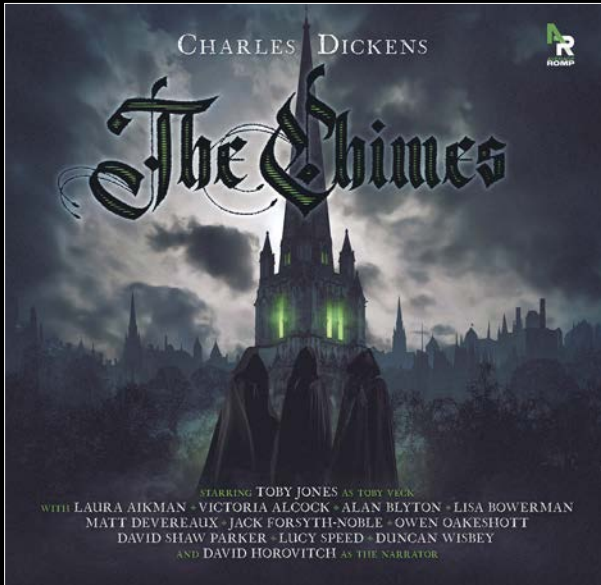


■ RELEASED: JANUARY 2024  
■ FORMAT: CD/DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: [bgfn.sh/luke](http://bgfn.sh/luke)







a bit of a rush so the plot needs a bit of sorting-out, and also it's darker and more radical than some of his other work. Dickens wanted to raise awareness of the social issues of the day – particularly the idea that some people are 'born bad' and fated to live unhappy lives. He wanted to show that even the kindest people can end up destitute, not necessarily through their own actions but the failings of society."

Jonny's work closely follows the original Dickens prose.

He says: "My adaptation follows the original novel very closely but a lot of the events and themes are clearer and stronger. I've also dramatised incidents that are only mentioned in dialogue; where the novel 'tells', my adaptation 'shows'. But unless you know the novel very well, you won't be able to tell which bits are by Dickens and which bits have been added.

"*The Chimes* is basically a 90-minute widescreen movie adaptation but for your ears. The goal in terms of casting and production, sound-design and music was to produce an audio drama that was as good as anything you would see on any streaming channel. And I think we achieved that – it has incredibly good reviews. By the time you've finished listening to it, you will have been put through the wringer emotionally, but will be crying tears of joy!"

*Vortex* asks: what is it about Dickens that appeals so much at Christmas time? Jonny explains: "There are two things, I think. Dickens pretty much invented our idea of Christmas in *A Christmas Carol*, along with Victorians giving us all the trappings that we associate with it today – trees and puddings and so forth. And there's also that Christmas is a time for sitting around the fire to listen to ghost stories and tales of the supernatural. *The Chimes* does both. It has all the festive traditions but it's a tale of ghosts, goblins and the terrifying spirits of the bells..." **VORTEX**

### BIG FINISH CLASSICS: THE CHIMES

- RELEASED: NOVEMBER 2023
- FORMAT: DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: [bgfn.sh/veck](http://bgfn.sh/veck) 

# The Chimes

## (OF CHRISTMAS)

GET READY FOR A DICKENS STORY YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T READ AT SCHOOL!

**THINK OF** a Charles Dickens story for the festive period and you'll most likely suggest *A Christmas Carol*. But have you heard of another of his classics, *The Chimes*? Adapted for audio by writer Jonathan Morris, *The Chimes* is being given a digital release through Big Finish this Christmas.

Jonny says: "Everyone has heard of *A Christmas Carol*, but if you pick up a modern edition of Charles Dickens's works, you'll find that he wrote another three Christmas stories you may not know about. *The Chimes*, which came out the year after *A Christmas Carol*, was a big hit at the time and Dickens would give readings

from it for years later – he regarded it as one of his best works. But it's been rather overlooked in latter years when it comes to film and TV adaptations, which is a pity because it's a fantastic story that anticipates the basic idea of the film *It's A Wonderful Life*."

*The Chimes* boasts a cast featuring Toby Jones (**Doctor Who: Amy's Choice**), David Horovitch (**House of the Dragon**), Lucy Speed (**EastEnders**), Laura Aikman (**Casualty**) and Victoria Alcock (**Bad Girls**). It was directed by Lisa Bowerman, with sound design and music by Howard Carter.

Jonny continues: "Why has *The Chimes* been overlooked? Perhaps for two reasons: it was written in



# THE CLONE WARS

**BIG FINISH IS MARKING 50 YEARS OF THE DUPLICATED TIME WARRIORS**

**IT'S HARD** to believe but it's now half a century since Commander Jingo Linx crash-landed on Earth, introducing the Sontarans to **Doctor Who** in the television episode *The Time Warrior*. They've since gone on to become one of the most popular monsters in both the classic and 21<sup>st</sup> century series with their never-ending passion for conflict.

To mark the occasion, Big Finish is releasing four separate audio adventures pitting Robert Holmes's creations against different Doctors, starting with Paul McGann's Eighth Doctor. And it's not just a celebration of the return of the Sontarans. Actor Conrad Westmaas, who last appeared in **The Monthly Adventure**, *Absolution* released in 2007, reprises his role as the Eighth Doctor's companion C'rizz. C'rizz is a Eutermesan – an alien

lizard whose skin can change colour – first encountered by the Doctor and Charlotte Pollard in the Divergent Universe in *Creed of the Kromon* released in 2004.

Producer David Richardson says: "I realised the 50th anniversary of *The Time Warrior* was approaching and that we were long overdue a big, epic foray into the Sontaran/Rutan war. I pitched the concept to executive producers Jason Haigh-Ellery and Nicholas Briggs and got an instant green light to get underway with development."

**Sontarans vs Rutans** begins this January with *The Battle of Giant's Causeway*. A temporal tidal wave leads the Doctor, Charley and C'rizz to the Giant's Causeway, Ireland 55BC where the TARDIS drains of power and they encounter Sontarans who believe they're Roman Legionnaires. *What has caused this and what is the strange secret in the rocks?*

David explains more: "Writer Lizzie Hopley sets up the saga with an alien clash set back in history... As well as bringing Sontarans and Rutans to Earth it is, of course, notable for the reunion of *that* lead cast..."

"I felt it was time to revisit the travelling triumvirate of the Eighth Doctor, Charley and C'rizz – in fact we were long overdue a revisit..."

"Everyone got very excited by the idea so my next step was to chat to Conrad to see if he was willing to reprise the role. And he pretty much said, 'Just tell me when and where you want me!'"

A delighted Conrad tells *Vortex*: "This isn't something any of us saw coming but – 20 years after they were first thrown together – the Eighth Doctor, Charley and C'rizz are back for their most explosive, action-packed adventure yet!

"Lizzie really 'gets' this trio, and from the word go the three are





Above (l-r): Conrad Westmaas and India Fisher

caught up in a Sontaran vs Rutan crossfire at a very bloody and mystical point in Earth history.

"Not having been in the studio for 15 years was a bit daunting but Paul, India and I just threw ourselves headlong into battle and had an absolute blast. I honestly think this is one of the strongest outings this team has ever had. I'm so proud, and can't wait for people to hear it!"

**LIZZIE – WHO** long-term listeners may recall playing the Eighth Doctor's 'forgotten' companion Gemma Griffin in **The Monthly Adventure Terror Firma** acting with her friend Conrad – was delighted to write the return of C'rizz.

She says: "I must boast that this was partly my idea. I've written for the Eighth Doctor and Charley before and when it came to this story, I just felt someone was missing – a very important someone. So I pitched for him in the Zoom meeting.

"Conrad and I were cast together in a theatre tour of *Abigail's Party* over 20

## IT WAS TO BE A GLORIOUS CRAZY ARC PITCHING RUTANS AND SONTARANS IN SOME COMPLEX GENETIC SHENANIGANS.

LIZZIE HOPLEY

years ago. There were some big names in the cast and always a queue for Conrad at the stage door. Nowadays, I recognise the loyal Big Finish fans with their CDs and photos, but back then I had no idea what it was all about. I was intrigued – you mean my beloved **Doctor Who** had this underground life I knew nothing about?!

"So I begged Conrad to mention me to Big Finish producer Gary Russell and the rest is history. Conrad did me a massive favour back then and this is my long-awaited thank you."

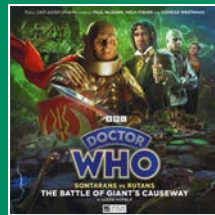
Talking of her brief, Lizzie says: "It was to be a glorious crazy arc pitching Rutans and Sontarans in some complex genetic shenanigans. I mean that's what I wrote down. The brainchild of David orchestrated by John Dorney. A recipe for fun and madness!

"David had told me ages ago on seeing my holiday snaps that the Giant's Causeway needed to be a setting for a **Doctor Who** audio – and voila! The place is *made* for sci-fi. I'm a big fan of geological formations (who isn't?) and the Causeway is crazy – a geometric hive-like structure that just screams Rutan involvement.

"The Rutan character was new for me to explore. That's why C'rizz was so important to this story. They're shapeshifters and he can identify with that. What's it like to empathise with a Rutan? Yikes! I had a chat with Conrad beforehand about the conflicting aspects of C'rizz. I remember being struck by C'rizz's darkness back in *Terror Firma* and I wanted to revisit that. Conrad is an actor capable of such complexity, he has this unique blend of naivety and darkness whilst understanding humour. He is a gift to write for."

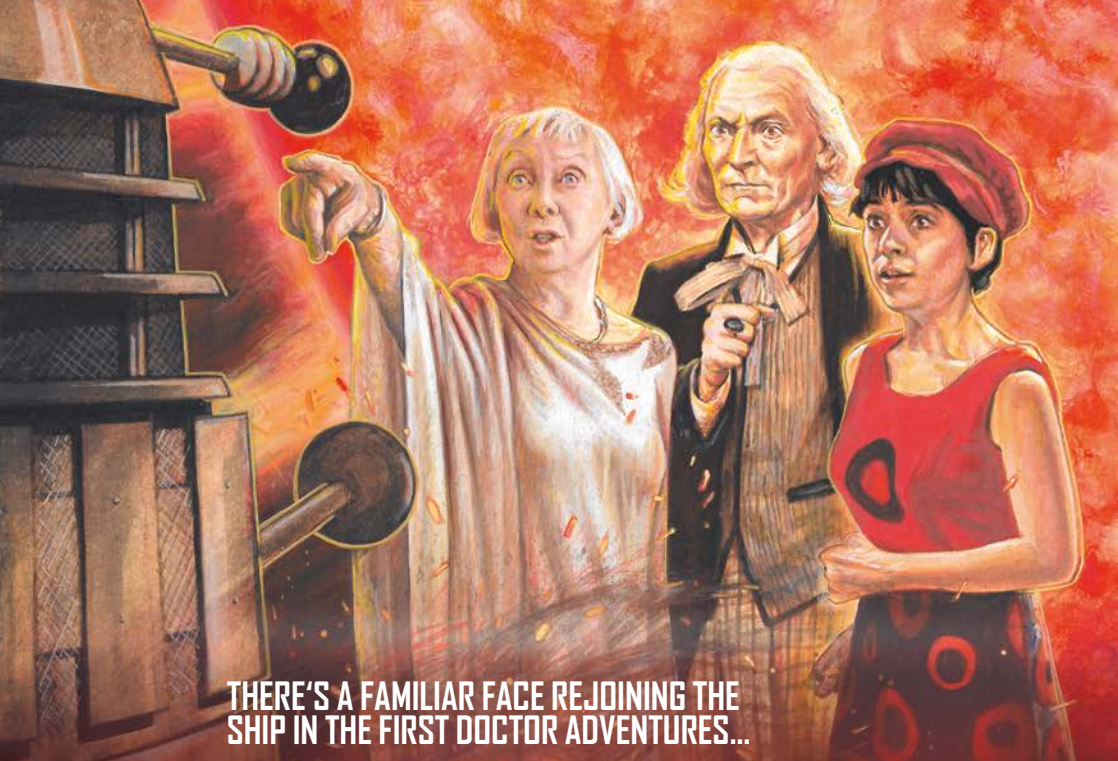
Talking of the studio recording, David concludes: "It was just all very easy. 'We've got the band back together,' Paul enthused as the first scenes got underway, and the affection in the studio was palpable. When you've got that much instant and easy chemistry it just makes everyone's job very straightforward. There was a lot of laughter and love." **VORTEX**

### SONTARANS VS RUTANS: THE BATTLE OF GIANT'S CAUSEWAY



■ RELEASED: JANUARY 2024  
■ FORMAT: CD/DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: [bgfn.sh/giant](http://bgfn.sh/giant) 



THERE'S A FAMILIAR FACE REJOINING THE SHIP IN THE FIRST DOCTOR ADVENTURES...

# V FOR VICKI!

**FUGITIVE OF** *the Daleks*, a six-part adventure written by Jonathan Morris, pairs Maureen O'Brien as an older Vicki alongside the First Doctor (Stephen Noonan), with Nicholas Briggs directing, script editing and voicing the Daleks.

*Years after ending her travels with the Doctor, Vicki finds herself back in the TARDIS. The Doctor desperately needs her help, and she's only too happy to oblige. But in the process, the two of them fall into a series of perilous encounters, with the dreaded Daleks never far behind them – and a surprise return of Dodo!*

Producer Mark Wright says: "Bringing Maureen O'Brien back as a Vicki who has lived a life but perhaps still yearns for one more adventure, has been a true joy of producing

## The First Doctor Adventures.

"Maureen is really in a class of her own, bringing her wealth of experience, a playful wit and a fierce commitment to the work we're doing. Combining that with Stephen's take on the Doctor in a brilliant script is a very special thing."

Writer Jonny says: "The brief for this story was fairly complicated. Nick explained it to me over a Zoom call and when he finished he had to explain it all over again because I was still confused! It features Vicki but at a point about 60 years after she left the Doctor. My feeling was that with a complicated brief like this the only approach was to lean into it and use the complexity as the starting point for the story; the story is the answer to the problem posed by the brief!

"People have already picked up on

the fact that it's going to be a bit like the **Doctor Who** television serial *The Chase* in that it has the TARDIS being pursued through time and space by the Daleks in their own time machine, visiting all sorts of strange places in the future, colourful periods in the past (the Battle of the Little Bighorn), in the present day (London, 1965) and exotic alien worlds. It does the same thing of each episode bringing in a change of scene, and to an extent a different tone too.

"So, yes, there is an element of homage to *The Chase* and the second half of the TV serial *The Daleks' Master Plan* there. But is that all it is doing? It wouldn't be a Morris script if there weren't at least half-a-dozen bonkers twists! Which I can't talk about, or they wouldn't be twists... It is the most bonkers thing I've ever written."





Clockwise from left: Mark Elstob, Gary Turner, Stephen Noonan, Ashley Cousins, Lauren Cornelius, Maureen O'Brien

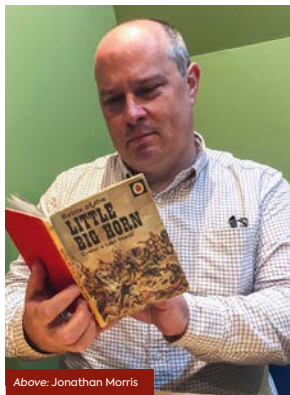
## THE REALLY IMPORTANT THING, THOUGH, WAS NOT TO THINK OF AGE AS BEING A CHARACTER WEAKNESS, BUT A STRENGTH.

JONATHAN MORRIS

**HOW DID** Jonny find writing for an older Vicki? He replies: "At the beginning of the story, we meet Vicki after she left the Doctor in the TV serial *The Myth Makers* where she's been enjoying a long and happy life with Troilus living in ancient Carthage, or present-day Carthage as it was known then. She likes to tell her grandchildren stories about her time with the Doctor, and she looks back on it with a sense that it ended too soon, that she would like to see the Doctor again, to have one more adventure in the TARDIS. And perhaps to be the young girl she was too. Not regret as such, but nostalgia.

*Fugitive of the Daleks* explores that, the idea of wanting to go back only to find that even if the Doctor hasn't changed in the slightest, she has changed too much to turn back the clock. You could say that's the theme of the story. Finding out who you really are, rather than who you imagine you are.

"The danger with an older companion story would be to write her as an old woman, you know, always complaining about her knees and so on. But firstly, living in Carthage, Vicki has had a very healthy life (all that fresh fruit and fish oil!) and secondly as the story goes on, Vicki stops thinking of herself as 'old', it's something she doesn't care to be reminded of. The really important thing, though, was not to think of age as being a character weakness, but a strength. Vicki now has experience,



Above: Jonathan Morris

she has lived, she has perspective, she has self-reliance and she refuses to be limited by what other people expect of her. She's grown as a person, not diminished.

"I've written for Maureen O'Brien as Vicki before a couple of times and what makes her a great companion is pretty much all down to Maureen's performance. Her cheekiness and gutsiness and sense of wonder. And it was just lovely to write for the character, and knew that Maureen would take what I'd written and elevate it. It meant I could write some pretty emotional, heartfelt stuff in there, knowing that she would play the scenes with absolute truth, and make it so much richer."

Maureen tells *Vortex*: "Up to now, I've always played Vicki at the age of 15, which was the age she was when she first met the Doctor, so to be playing Vicki as the

age I am now is very refreshing."

Nick says: "Listeners may remember that at the end of our last First Doctor story, *The Incherton Incident*, the Doctor suddenly disappeared. And this has some bearing on how he now finds himself travelling with an older version of Vicki. There's a lot for the older Vicki to cope with but she embraces every challenge with gusto. This is an exciting and emotional journey for her as she plunges back into the fray with renewed vigour! But as you'll notice from the cover artwork and the photos in this feature, we couldn't turn our backs on Lauren Cornelius as our brilliant Dodo. Having her turning up as a surprise guest is something we couldn't resist. It was part of my mad brief to Jonny, and you'll never guess how he's made it happen!" **VORTEX**

### THE FIRST DOCTOR ADVENTURES: FUGITIVE OF THE DALEKS



■ RELEASED: JANUARY 2024  
■ FORMAT: CD/DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: [bgfn.sh/dock](http://bgfn.sh/dock) 



**BIG FINISH'S ACCLAIMED RANGE OF AUDIOBOOKS RETURNS IN JANUARY 2024 WITH A TWELFTH DOCTOR RELEASE THAT'S GOT...**

# THE POWER OF THREE

**TO DATE**, Big Finish's range of enhanced audiobooks with specially composed music and sound effects have been narrated by a single reader with occasional guest performances from Nicholas Briggs as the Daleks or Cybermen. But the next release in **The Audio Novels** range, *The Chaos Cascade* by Colin Brake, is being brought to life by three readers in the form of Dan Starkey, Beth Chalmers and Rebecca Root.

Producer David Richardson tells *Vortex*: "It was great fun assembling the jigsaw that is this novel. Three readers! And I knew immediately who I wanted them to be. Dan Starkey, because his Twelfth Doctor readings are phenomenal; Beth Chalmers, because I'd heard her reading in for Missy at other recordings and knew what energy

and frisson she would bring to it; and Rebecca Root because, frankly, we always need more Tania Bell!"

*The Twelfth Doctor embarks on a desperate search for the three scattered parts of the Triskelia – the only means to contain a dangerous multi-dimensional breach in reality: the Chaos Cascade. Meanwhile the Doctor's former housemate Tania Bell travels to Yorkshire to investigate reports of alien activity and is delighted to run into a previously unknown incarnation of the Time Lord: one that is female, dresses in purple and carries a parasol!*

Writer Colin says: "It's always exciting to get the offer to write some **Doctor Who**. **Doctor Who** was a major part of me wanting to be a writer and it was certainly why I wanted to be a BBC script editor. I can't believe how lucky I've been to have had the opportunity to write

**Doctor Who** novels, short stories, comics and audios professionally.

*"The Chaos Cascade* had quite an open brief: Twelfth Doctor, Missy and a companion who knew the Doctor – but not that one! It was commissioned not long after the announcement that Russell T Davies was back and so there was quite a lot of back and forth checking who we could use for the companion and, after a few false starts, we settled on Tania – and I couldn't be happier.

"I really enjoyed **The Eighth Doctor Adventures: Stranded** box sets and loved the character of Tania and her relationship with Liv, Helen and the Doctor so I was very happy to write her an adventure with a very different Doctor. Tania's a down-to-earth 'everywoman' kind of companion. Hurling her into a big cosmic adventure was great fun."



Above: Dan Starkey



Above: Beth Chalmers



Above: Rebecca Root

**HOW DID** Colin find writing three separate strands of the story for the different narrators? He explains: "I'm not going to lie – it was a bit complicated! At first it was just going to be one narrator like the other **Audio Novels** have been, and all in third person prose, but then David Richardson – the gov'nor – suggested the three narrators approach and that Tania's sections could be first person narration. "So that was interesting. I reviewed my detailed episodic treatment and worked out which bits would be the Doctor's point-of-view, which might be better as Missy's point-of-view and which would work best as Tania's narration. And it quickly became clear that we would need to jump between each of the three narrators quite a lot. Then it became a game to try and make sure the three narrators had roughly equal word counts. It was a challenge but it was also great fun. As someone who has written a lot for

television where restrictions on the use of certain characters or sets and locations are part and parcel of the job, it wasn't that hard once I got going." Rebecca enjoyed the chance to return to the role of Tania, saying: "Reading *The Chaos Cascade* was both challenging and exhilarating. Giving voice to several characters, whether human or alien, friend or foe was great fun if somewhat tricky. The format of using alternating narrators was also interesting because you had to keep track of what had happened to your character/s in someone else's section." **DAN TELLS** *Vortex*: "This was an interesting one to record, sharing the narration with Beth and Rebecca. It's an epic, universe-spanning quest in multiple times and places so there's a lot of scope for varying your performance in the different sections. I particularly enjoyed the Twelfth Doctor's final season too, so it's a nice to have a story exploring those 'frenemy'

dynamics against such a varied backdrop."

Beth adds: "I had to voice lots of characters that already exist, as well as some that had been created by the other narrators who recorded before me. That's always a bit of a challenge. Doing approximations but not impersonations is a difficult line to tread (not that I can do impersonations) but our director Nigel Fairs gave us free rein to play with the characters and make them ours. So I could be inspired and guided by the other readers but not stymied. The perfect place to be really."

Colin concludes: "My writing career started out in TV, first as a script editor on **EastEnders** and then as a writer for the show. I actually prefer writing for actors to writing prose. With *The Chaos Cascade*, knowing this was a big long novel but one that would be

## GIVING VOICE TO SEVERAL CHARACTERS, WHETHER HUMAN OR ALIEN, FRIEND OR FOE WAS GREAT FUN IF SOMEWHAT TRICKY.

REBECCA ROOT

performed by three amazing actors, was a complete joy. And putting words into the mouths of the Twelfth Doctor, Missy, Tania and Liv was perhaps the most joyful aspect of the whole thing. I can't wait to hear it!" **VORTEX**

### THE AUDIO NOVELS: THE CHAOS CASCADE



■ RELEASED: JANUARY 2024  
■ FORMAT: DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: [bgfn.sh/three](http://bgfn.sh/three) 





THE STAR COPS TEAM RETURN  
IN SIX NEW ADVENTURES...

# BLOOD MOON RISING

**IT'S THE** near future. Mankind has branched out into space and the International Space Police Force is keeping law and order. In 1987, *Star Cops* was broadcast for a run of nine episodes on BBC Two before being revived on audio by Big Finish in 2018.

Script editor Andrew Smith, who had a police career spanning four decades, says: "*Star Cops* is always a treat to come back to. The concept, established by the late Chris Boucher, provides a rich dramatic canvas.

"There are so many adventures that can be told about policing near-Earth space in the near future. Stories that are told in a gritty, realistic way and the writers never fail to deliver. And of course we have such wonderful regular characters

including our three leads from the original television series to tell those stories. Nathan Spring, Colin Devis and Pal Kenzy are a pleasure to write for, especially with David Calder, Trevor Cooper and Linda Newton back in their original roles."

Producer Emma Haigh tells *Vortex*: "I really enjoy working with Andrew and the writers on these *Star Cops* episodes. When we start out, we have a rough idea of a story arc and it's wonderful to see how it evolves, with all the twists and turns.

"This new series, *Blood Moon*, is no different. I'm really excited about the release of these new adventures. Hearing them brought to life by our wonderful cast led so brilliantly by David, Linda and Trevor is always a joy."

This series of *Star Cops* sees a new regular joining the team. Andrew reveals: "Inspector Alice Okoro played by Lynsey Murrell is a former captain in the Royal Military Police who was working in corporate security when she first met the *Star Cops*.

"Nathan recruited her, and in the first three releases she's learning the ropes to an extent. But she's diligent and dedicated, and her previous experience means she hits the ground running and is fully involved in the team's investigations. She brings a lot to this policing party."

*I Was Killed Yesterday*, written by Andrew, opens the series in January. He explains: "There's an arc across *Blood Moon* that's one of the most impactful things we've done with *Star Cops* so far. Emma and I threw



Above: Linda Newton

witness – the murder victim himself. Quite how they manage this is at the heart of the story.”

### FEBRUARY'S RELEASE,

*Daughters of Death* is the second episode by a writer new to Big Finish, Nicola Baldwin. Andrew explains: “It’s Nicola’s first Big Finish script but she’s no stranger to audio drama by any means, nor to space tales. She wrote a stage play about British astronaut Helen Sharman which struck me as excellent background for the type of real-world space storytelling we’re always after.

“*Daughters of Death* involves an investigation into an accident on

**I LOVED EVERY  
MINUTE! I  
PREPARED FOR IT  
LIKE A MISSION.**

NICOLA BALDWIN

Above (l-r): Philip Olivier  
and Trevor Cooper

some ideas around, as we always do at the outset, and very quickly came up with something that excited us both with its potential. What I can say without spoilers is that one of the Star Cops team makes a discovery that shakes up their whole world, and it has serious ramifications for their relationship with the other Star Cops. I’m very

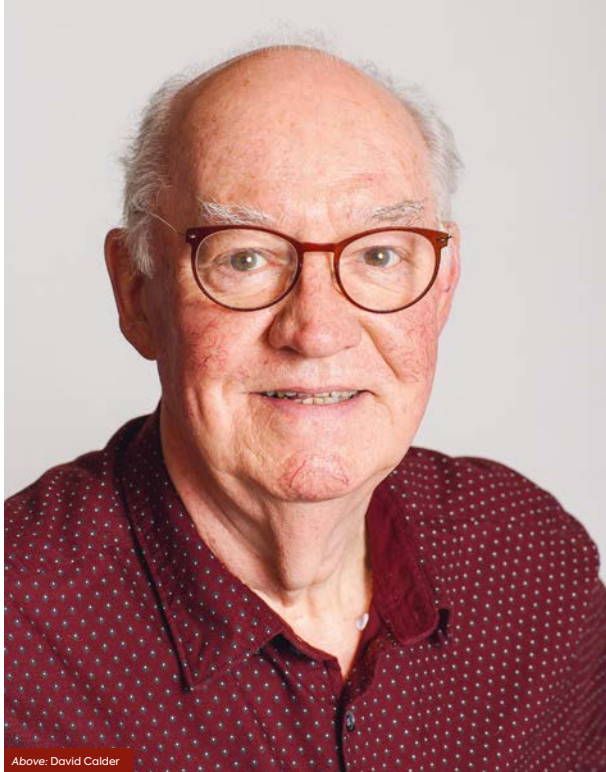
excited for our audience to hear this.

“*I Was Killed Yesterday* is a story idea that had been in my head for a while. The Star Cops investigate a brutal murder at a spaceport on Earth (they have jurisdiction at space facilities on the ground). They carry out investigations both on Earth and on the Moon, and they find a way to question an unusual

a space station which may not be an accident, while also dealing with the initial fallout from that shock discovery for one of the team I mentioned earlier. This may be Nicola’s first Big Finish script but I’m sure it won’t be her last.”

Of writing for *Star Cops*, Nicola says: “I loved every minute! I prepared for it like a mission. I was coming into a really strong existing format so I tried to go back in time, to take in as much as I could of the world before I was given the brief. I watched the TV episodes and listened to Chris and others talking about the original show, before reading all the Big Finish scripts and then listening to the audio episodes. I was trying to absorb the places the characters had been and approach it through my imagination, before starting as a writer.”

She sums up her script as: “An unexpected quest into the unknown. *Daughters of Death* begins as a routine accident investigation. Kenzy and Alice visit Sharman One, a huge orbital laboratory staffed by Professor Max Fleming and lab assistant Jessie, comatose due to her own ‘human error’. Max is a charismatic and



Above: David Calder

meticulous pioneer of zero-gravity science, keen to help the police. But Kenzy smells a rat. Devis struggles to find background information on Sharman One. Nathan oversees both cases as he prepares to brief the UN on global risks in space."

Vortex asks Nicola what her highlight has been: "Two highlights. I love how **Star Cops** is writer-led; episodes evolve through conversation and feedback from fellow writers, which is really liberating. Secondly, the opportunity to celebrate Helen Sharman OBE, the first Briton in space and first woman ever to visit the Mir Space Station in 1991. Sharman, an industrial chemist, joined the Soviet Union's stringent cosmonaut programme as part of 'Project Juno' sponsored by British companies. While on Mir, she cultivated crystals and seedlings, and discovered – among other things – how protein crystals grow faster and quicker in zero-gravity. "Sharman's experience on Mir is near-contemporary with **Star Cops** on TV. *Daughters of Death* imagines Sharman's experiments on a future, industrial scale and reminds us that

## THERE'S A CRACKING CLIFFHANGER WHICH I'M SURE WILL WHET LISTENERS' APPETITES FOR THE NEXT ADVENTURE.

ANDREW SMITH

science, like space exploration, gets complicated by politics or greed... which is why we need **Star Cops**."

**TROUBLED WATERS** by Una McCormack is March's story. Andrew says: "Una's an experienced Big Finish hand and she's previously written for **Star Cops** on the **Mars** set. I was so glad she was able to return, and she's provided an excellent third adventure. "Una has set up an intriguing mystery where a passenger apparently

disappears on a shuttle flight from the Moon to the Earth. Much of the action takes place in Barcelona, and there's a cracking cliffhanger which I'm sure will whet listeners' appetites for the next adventure."

Una was delighted to be invited back to write for **Star Cops**. She



Above: Trevor Cooper

says: "I love Chris Boucher's writing and general sensibility, so to be able to write in this universe is a joy. Andy and I had a Zoom session together where we thrashed out the plot which was an absolute hoot.

"Writing the third adventure was something of a juggling act – resolving what had come before and setting up the end of my script so that the next story is ready to go.

"Without giving away too much of the story arc, Devis and Paul head to Earth to assist the Spanish police with a missing person case, and Devis butts heads with anarchists.

"It's an absolute pleasure to write lines for actors of this calibre. I didn't make it to the recording, sadly, but I hope they enjoyed themselves with the script. I can't wait to hear it." **VORTEX**

### STAR COPS: BLOOD MOON 1 – I WAS KILLED YESTERDAY

- RELEASED: JANUARY 2024
- FORMAT: CD/DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: [bgfn.sh/bm1](http://bgfn.sh/bm1) 



# BOOK CLUB

EVERY MONTH THE BIG FINISH BOOK CLUB SPOTLIGHTS A RELEASE FROM THE BIG FINISH CATALOGUE, WITH A SPECIAL DISCOUNT ON THE DIGITAL DOWNLOAD PRICE.

## DOCTOR WHO GHOST WALK



**DOCTOR WHO** has always included scares since its earliest days, however, the television programme rarely tapped into the supernatural. Big Finish addressed this in 2018, when one of the most scientifically minded teams to ever grace the TARDIS – the Doctor, Nyssa and Adric – plus their friend Tegan, had a brush with the unusual in the audio drama *Ghost Walk*.

*This is a city of ghosts and no-one knows them better than Leanne. Twice a night she leads tourists to visit the most haunted sites – the Hanging Yard, the Witch Pool, the Screaming House, and, of course, the Catacombs.*

*Leanne's realised the ghosts of the city are real. Something's lurking in the Catacombs – an ancient force that*

*has been growing in the darkness for centuries. Sabaoth is returning and they must be stopped before they devour the world. Leanne knows this, because a ghost told her.*

Script editor Guy Adams says: "*Ghost Walk* is a brilliantly

**HE WOULD  
TERRIFY,  
WIND UP AND  
SHAMELESSLY  
PRANK ALL OF  
THE PEOPLE  
HE GUIDED ON  
HIS WALKS.**

**JAMES GOSS**

constructed tale from James Goss. Leanne is a guide on a city ghost walk but she has never believed in the stories that she tells. And she doesn't think that there really are any ghosts. But then she meets one. He's called the Doctor!"

Writer James was inspired to do the story after a visit to Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland. He says: "I was literally asked one day, do I have an idea for a **Doctor Who** story? And that day, I had been on a ghost walk around Edinburgh, and I thought, 'That'll do nicely!'"

"I was in the very lucky position where Guy used to be a professional ghost walker, and I always loved his stories about how he would terrify, wind up and shamelessly prank all of the people he guided on his

walks. So, I emailed him, told him about my idea, and he said 'Yes!'"

James found that the traditional ploy of separating the Doctor from his companions was especially convenient for this script. He explains: "Splitting the companions up is an obvious thing to do as part of the structure of the plot as it allows you to explore different aspects. A lot of the haunted sites on this ghost walk are taken from the one I did in Edinburgh, even though the story is set in any city."

"Adric and Nyssa are fundamentally competent – there's a reason why they've managed to survive for several adventures with the Doctor. Nyssa is very, very bright and practical, and quite charming and Adric is very, very sharp. He's not necessarily the person you would want helping you out in a difficult situation, but he's very canny at preserving himself."

The Fifth Doctor actor Peter Davison admits that he's never been on a search for the paranormal.

He explains: "I used to see lots of guides when I was in the East End of London telling stories to rather indifferent, tired-looking tourists! But I've never been on one of the walks myself. Maybe I should try it?" **VORTEX**

### DOCTOR WHO: GHOST WALK



- RELEASED: FEBRUARY 2018
- FORMAT: DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: [bgfn.sh/walk23](http://bgfn.sh/walk23)



SEND LETTERS TO: [FEEDBACK@BIGFINISH.COM](mailto:FEEDBACK@BIGFINISH.COM)  
AND USE VORTEX MAIL AS THE SUBJECT

# VORTEX MAIL



## A BIG THANK YOU

I first discovered Big Finish through the brilliant **Dark Eyes** box sets. I've listened to hundreds of releases over the last 10 years, often providing a well-earned escape from the stress of everyday life. I want to thank Big Finish for helping me get through this year. I lost my dad after a year-long battle with stage four cancer. During the difficult months supporting Dad, I found it incredibly difficult to focus on anything, my only respite was Big Finish. Thank you for helping me escape across time and space with my favourite Doctors and companions, doing battle with villains and monsters, old and new. I've especially enjoyed recast classic Doctors and companions, **The Third Doctor Adventures** have been a revelation. With that in mind I was wondering if the possibility of a recast Delgado Master has been considered?

MARTIN WILKES

*Nick: Thanks so much for all you say, Martin. I know precisely where you're coming from, **Doctor Who** has provided me with shelter from emotional storms. We certainly would consider a Delgado recast – I've been thinking about this for some time.*

## FUTURE TENSE

I just wanted to congratulate Big Finish on the fantastic **Once and Future** series. I was initially unsure of the mixing and matching of different eras of **Doctor Who** but was very soon won over. What a joy to hear David Tennant and Michelle Gomez together, and what a final performance from David Warner as the Unbound Doctor, opposite Christopher Eccleston. Each and every cast member, writer, director, musician, sound designer and other production team member should hold their heads high with this fantastic work – thank you

one and all. I have one question though – have you started planning for the 70th anniversary yet?!

MIKE THYNNIS

*Nick: I have to confess that we haven't, Mike, but we'll probably start soon!*

## RETURN OF THESE CYBERMEN?

It was just amazing to see once again, David Banks and Mark Hardy on the big screen at the BFI, as the Cyber-Leader and Lieutenant for the showing of **The Five Doctors**. A while back, they reprised their roles in **Warzone/Conversion** and **Hour of the Cybermen** for Big Finish – what a treat they were and reminiscent of the much-loved 80s era. If I was Cyber Control, I would awaken them from their Telos Tombs and command them, once again, to invade the Big Finish studios to cause us more audio mayhem. Could we hear more from them one day?

STEPHEN WALLACE

*Nick: I absolutely think that's a brilliant idea, Stephen.*

## TRIPS OF A LIFETIME

I have recently started reading one of the old Big Finish **Short Trips** books which was **Short Trips: The Solar System**. While I was reading the book it got me thinking about whether you have considered re-releasing the **Short Trips** books as 'epub' downloads. It would be good to have those **Short Trips** books available on the Big Finish website and allow for more people to read them as the physical books are out of print. Could we possibly see this happen at some point?

ADEN SMITH

*Nick: We no longer hold a licence for book publishing in the **Whoniverse**, Aden. But it's something we may consider in the future.* **VORTEX**



## CREDITS

Managing Editor:  
**Jason Haigh-Ellery**  
Executive Producer:  
**Nicholas Briggs**  
Senior Producer:  
**John Ainsworth**  
Editor: **Kenny Smith**  
The Big Finish Team:  
**Chris Allen**  
**Cheryl Bryant**  
**Heather Challands**  
**Sue Cowley**  
**Emily Davis**  
**Jackie Emery**  
**Sufyan Javaid**  
**Karen Parks**  
**Hannah Peel**  
**Alfie Shaw**  
**Paul Spragg**  
**Scott Talbot**  
**Lizzie Worsdell**  
Graphic Design:  
**Mark Plastow**  
Copy Editor:  
**Stephanie Hornett**  
Marketing & Publicity:  
**Steve Berry**  
BFP Administration:  
**Reanne Hawkins**  
**Deanna Shore**  
**Brenda Smith**  
**Alison Taylor**  
Publisher:  
**Big Finish Productions Ltd.**

## SOCIAL

**BIGFINISH.COM**  
X **@BIGFINISH**  
f **THEBIGFINISH**  
@ **BIGFINISHPROD**  
• **BIG-FINISH**  
• **BIGFINISHPROD**

# BIG FINISH RELEASE SCHEDULE

Please note that Big Finish is currently operating a digital-first release schedule. The mail-out of collector's edition CDs will be delayed, due to logistical and economic conditions beyond our control, but all physical purchases of new releases will unlock a digital copy that can be immediately downloaded – or played on the Big Finish app – from the release date.

**FOR FULL DETAILS AND UPDATES VISIT:**  
[bgfn.sh/whatsnew](http://bgfn.sh/whatsnew)

### DECEMBER 2023

DW | THE SEVENTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES  
*The Last Day 1* (BOX SET)

DW | THE EIGHTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES  
*In the Bleak Midwinter* (BOX SET)

DW | THE DOCTOR CHRONICLES  
THE ELEVENTH DOCTOR  
*Everywhere and Anywhere* (BOX SET)

DW | THE WAR DOCTOR BEGINS  
*Enemy Mine* (BOX SET)

DW | SHORT TRIPS  
*The Hoxthet Time Capsule* **DLO**

TORCHWOOD *Oracle* (78)

### JANUARY 2024

DW | THE FIRST DOCTOR ADVENTURES  
*Fugitive of the Daleks* (BOX SET)

DW | RANI TAKES ON THE WORLD  
*The Revenge of Wormwood* (BOX SET)

DW | SONTARANS VS RUTANS  
*The Battle of Giant's Causeway* (1)

DW | THE AUDIO NOVELS  
*The Chaos Cascade* **DLO**

STAR COPS: BLOOD MOON 1 – PART 1  
*I Was Killed Yesterday* (1.1)

THUNDERBIRDS  
*Danger and Deception* **DLO**

TORCHWOOD *TBA* (79)

### FEBRUARY 2024

DW | THE NINTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES  
*TBA* (BOX SET)

DW | THE THIRD DOCTOR ADVENTURES  
*TBA* (BOX SET)

DW | THE DOCTOR CHRONICLES  
THE ELEVENTH DOCTOR  
*Volume 6* (BOX SET)

DW | MASTER! I  
*Planet Doom* (BOX SET)

DW | SONTARANS VS RUTANS  
*The Children of the Future* (1.2)

STAR COPS: BLOOD MOON 1 – PART 2  
*Daughters of Death* (1.2)

TORCHWOOD *TBA* (80)

### MARCH 2024

DW | THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES  
*Storm of the Sea Devils* (BOX SET)

DW | CLASSIC DOCTORS: NEW MONSTERS  
*Broken Memories* (BOX SET)

DW | THE SIXTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES  
*TBA* (BOX SET)

DW | SONTARANS VS RUTANS  
*Born to Die* (1.3)

STAR COPS: BLOOD MOON 1  
*Troubled Waters* (1.3)

TORCHWOOD *TBA* (81)

**DLO** = DOWNLOAD ONLY • **DW** = DOCTOR WHO  
DATES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.



THE BIG FINISH MAGAZINE

# VORTEX



ISSUE 178  
DECEMBER 2023  
BIG FOR THE LOVE  
OF FINISH OF STORIES

## THE REVENGE OF WORMWOOD

RANI IS BACK – AND THIS  
TIME SHE’S GOT BOTH OF HER  
BEST FRIENDS WITH HER...

STAR COPS

### BLOOD MOON RISING!

THE STAR COPS TEAM RETURNS...

