

DOCTOR WHO SCOTT SNOWDEN EMERGES FROM BEHIND THE SOFA TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF THE CLASSIC SCI-FI CULT SERIES

Who's the daddy

It is difficult to believe. Small-budget special effects and monsters made from just about anything the props department could get their hands on used to terrify viewers across the country, appealing to every generation.

For 40 years, the world's first and foremost Time Lord has enthralled and alarmed age groups young and old across the globe. His adversaries are devoted to evil and dedicated to destroying the human race. The Doctor has had to battle with one-eyed monsters, mechanoids, humanoids, Cybermen, Daleks, giant spiders, Cybermen, Daleks, giant spiders, ice warriors and Bonnie Langford.

Monster smash

The series was originally devised in 1963 as an educational programme for kids, with no scary monsters. But when the Daleks were introduced, the attitude of the programme changed forever.

Since then, it has generated one of the biggest global cult followings ever seen, with dedicated magazines and websites and a new novel published almost



Doctor new: The latest animated, webcast incarnation

every month for the last 30 years.

The Doctor is a renegade Time Lord: a member of an ancient alien race who have the ability to travel through time, but choose not to interfere with the rest of the universe. In direct contravention of Time Lord policy, the Doctor continues to traverse the galaxy, often with a companion or two, battling evil.

His timeship, the TARDIS, is a wreck – with character. The circuit that allows the ship to blend innocently into the local environment is damaged, leaving it forever frozen in the shape of a 1960s British Police call box.

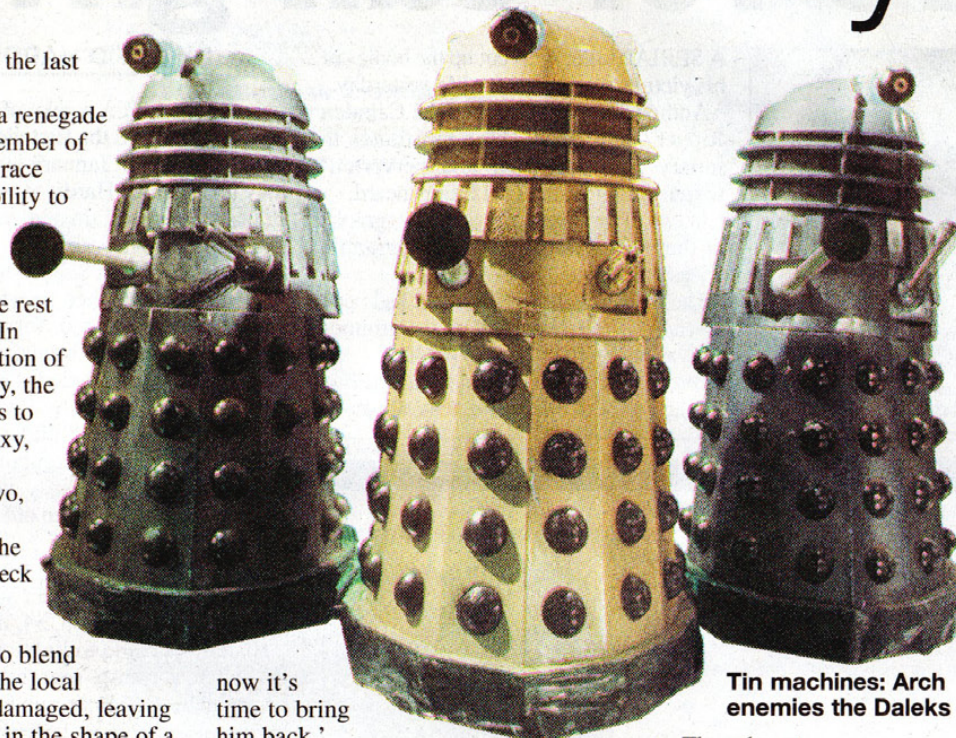
There has been much talk about bringing the good Doctor back to our screens – and it appears he may return within two years. A new BBC series will be written by Russell T Davies, creator of controversial Channel 4 drama *Queer As Folk*. He says: 'I grew up watching Doctor Who and hiding behind the sofa like so many others. Doctor Who is one of the BBC's most exciting and original characters. He's had a rest and

now it's time to bring him back.'

Davies is expected to start work in the New Year, with the series screened in 2005. Richard E Grant, Paul McGann and Alan Davies are all thought to be in the running to take on the lead role.

What's up, doc?

Meanwhile, the BBC has begun a new animated webcast adventure. *Scream Of The Shalka*, written by established Doctor Who novelist Paul Cornell, is a six-part series, with a new instalment available



Tin machines: Arch enemies the Daleks

every Thursday at www.bbc.co.uk/doctorwho. Richard E Grant plays the 9th Doctor, with Sir Derek Jacobi, Sophie Okonedo and Diana Quick also starring.

The BBC will show *The Story Of Doctor Who*, a new documentary, over Christmas. www.bbc.co.uk/doctorwho – the official website
www.whosdw.com – detailed history of the Dr Who character
www.drwhoguide.com – good episode guide

DR WHOS DOWN THE YEARS

Regeneration game

When William Hartnell left the show, rather than cancel a successful programme the writers



came up with the Doctor's ability to regenerate his body when he is near death, thus allowing for the smooth transition from one actor to another playing the role. In all, eight different actors have played the Time Lord on TV:

1. William Hartnell (1963-1966)

Old-aged, old-fashioned, cranky... even a bit sinister.

2. Patrick Troughton (1966-1970)

A little more high-spirited and not quite so uptight.

3. Jon Pertwee (top) (1970-1974)

Groovy guy who liked his gadgets; had a car called Bessie.

4. Tom Baker (1974-1982)

Erratic, eccentric, spooky, yet stimulating; had a very, very long scarf.

5. Peter Davison (1982-1984)

Cool, calm and collected, but kitted out in some kooky cricket clothing.

6. Colin Baker (1984-1986)

Passionate and principled, but not very believable – the slippery slope starts here.

7. Sylvester McCoy (1987-1989)

Pitiful attempts at projecting a mysterious persona included a question mark umbrella.

8. Paul McGann (1996)

Never really had time to develop a unique character, showed great potential, though.



APPLIANCES OF SCIENCE

Doctor Who was full of mental technology, some of which bears no resemblance to any possible science...

Cybermen (pictured right)

This race inhabited Earth's twin planet, Mondas. As it moved farther away from the Sun, its inhabitants took drastic measures in order to survive; their bodies became old and diseased, and were replaced with plastic and metal. Finally, computers replaced their brains.



They desire Earth both for its mineral resources and for its people – captured humans are converted into Cybermen.

Daleks

Encased in their pepperpot-shaped travel machines, each Dalek is a mutant monstrosity from the planet Skaro (Dalek leader Davros pictured far right). One of the galaxy's most feared races, they are interested only in conquest.

K9

Constructed by Professor Marius of the medical Bi-Al Foundation, K9 is a huge database of information and is

equipped with a laser in his nose. In his first encounter, K9 helped defeat the Swarm that was attacking not only the Bi-Al Foundation but the Doctor's own brain.

TARDIS

The Time And Relative Dimensions In Space vessel is what Time Lords travel in. It exists outside of normal space and time, and is not limited by standard geometry and physics (it's bigger on the inside than outside). There is a telepathic link between the Doctor and his ship and they share a kind of symbiotic relationship.



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