

THE **BIG FINISH** MAGAZINE

VORTEX

ISSUE 167
JANUARY 2023
BIG FINISH FOR THE LOVE OF STUDIES



THE DOCTOR FACES THE

DEMON SONG

THE NEW ERA OF THE
FIRST DOCTOR AUDIO
ADVENTURES CONTINUE...

ALSO INSIDE

THE ELEVENTH DOCTOR CHRONICLES
THE DOCTOR EXPLORES ALL OF TIME
AND SPACE IN THE LATEST RELEASE...





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



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.



BBC



ONCE AND FUTURE

BIG FINISH is marking 60 years of **Doctor Who** with a huge eight-part series beginning this May. *Once and Future* stars Tom Baker, Peter Davison, Colin Baker, Sylvester McCoy, Paul McGann, Christopher Eccleston and David Tennant – and there are still dozens more guest cast members yet to be revealed!

The adventure opens in the Time War where the Doctor has been injured and brought to a Time Lord field hospital. His body glows with energy but this is no regeneration into a future form – instead, the Doctor's past faces begin to appear as he flits haphazardly between incarnations...

Staggering to his TARDIS, the Doctor sets out to solve the mystery of his 'degeneration'. Who has done this to him? How? And why? From the Earth to the stars, across an array of familiar times and places, he follows clues to retrace his steps, encountering old friends and enemies along the way. Tumbling through his lives, the Doctor must stop his degeneration before he loses himself completely...

Producer David Richardson says: "An astonishing array of talent has come on board to be a part of this epic eight-hour anniversary story. It's a huge **Doctor Who** party and a massive celebration that has been years in the making."

Once and Future will be released monthly with the first seven parts materialising between May and October (two releases in October) 2023 – with a final cod book being released in November 2024. **VORTEX**

DOCTOR WHO ONCE AND FUTURE

- RELEASED: 2023
- FORMAT: CD/DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: bgfn.sh/sixty 



EDITORIAL

SO HERE we are. It's January 2023 – how can **Doctor Who's** 50th anniversary year have been a decade ago? *Zagreus* was 20 years ago. And that means *Dimensions in Time* was the halfway point of the show's lifetime. And *The Five Doctors* was only a third of it. And *The Three Doctors* only a sixth!

Time is a funny concept, isn't it, when you look at it that way? But what a year this is going to be. There are many fantastic surprises, thrills and spills in the recently announced Big Finish contribution to the 60th anniversary celebration, *Once and Future*. Obviously I'm not going to spoil it for you (and I only know a bit about it myself) but it sounds fantastic and a worthy way to mark six decades of our favourite Time Lord.

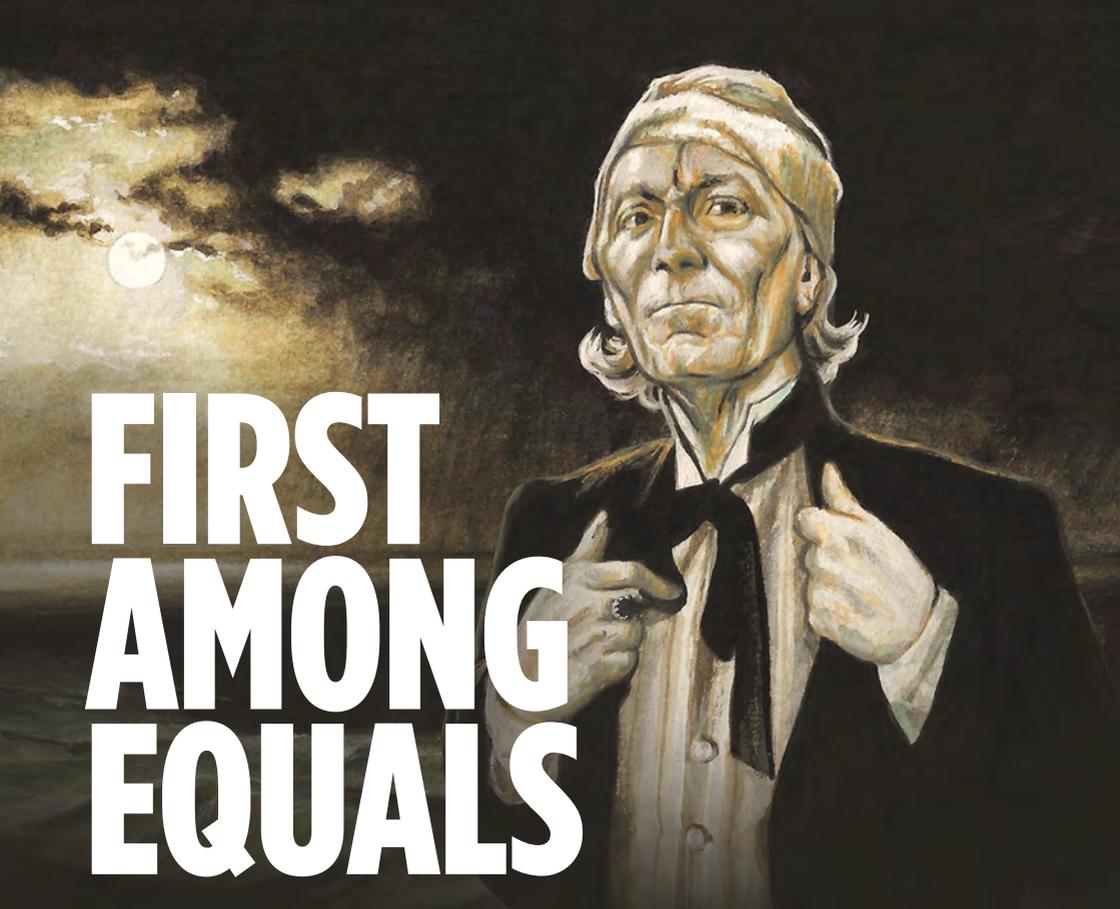
This month, it seems appropriate to be previewing a return to the era of the First Doctor in the latest adventures with Stephen Noonan in the title role.

And at the same time we've got more Ninth Doctor on the way, featuring the one and only Christopher Eccleston as the man who helped revive the series for a whole new generation.

Doctor Who – both the classic series and its 21st century – is as alive as ever and in safe hands with Big Finish.

Who says there's no such thing as time travel?! **VORTEX**

Kerry



FIRST AMONG EQUALS

THE NEW ERA OF THE FIRST DOCTOR'S ADVENTURES CONTINUES...

DOCTOR WHO'S earliest years are being expanded in the next pair of tales in **The First Doctor Adventures: The Demon Song**. After showcasing his critically-acclaimed performance in *The Outlaws*, Stephen Noonan returns as the First Doctor. And with Lauren Cornelius reprising the role of Dodo Chaplet, the duo explore two contrasting eras on Earth.

Writer Bob Ayres makes his Big Finish debut with the first tale of the set, the sinister *The Demon Song* set in modern-day Camden Town. And in the second tale, *The Inchernton Incident* by Nicholas Briggs, the Doctor uncovers an alien conspiracy

in a post-war seaside town.

Producer Mark Wright says: "We were all bowled over by the great response to **The First Doctor Adventures: The Outlaws**, especially the praise for Stephen and Lauren's performances as the Doctor and Dodo.

"It was a delight to be back in the studio creating new adventures for this era and to add further dimensions to the Doctor and Dodo's relationship. From modern-day London and the hunt for a demon, to a post-WW2 conspiracy in the seaside town of Inchernton, the Doctor might just be facing his greatest challenge..."

Script editor and director Nicholas Briggs agrees: "I've been really pleased at the growing surge of enthusiasm for Stephen Noonan's brilliant portrayal of the First Doctor. I think it took a lot of people by surprise since we already had David Bradley on board. We've some very exciting plans afoot for further stories with

David Bradley — something quite out of the ordinary and rather delightful.

"I was very focussed on having a First Doctor performance which was a more 'in keeping' vocally similar homage to William Hartnell. Stephen's taken on a massively difficult task. Firstly, because everyone feels they know what William Hartnell sounds like, and secondly because we feel very protective towards the beginning of this series that we all love with every fibre of our being. William Hartnell's performance was an ever-shifting thing; he sounds very different, very often. So Stephen's almost impossible task is to continually find those elements of his performance that are both most appropriate to whichever scene he's playing, and also most recognisable to the audience.

"Every bit of Stephen's performance has a corresponding



Above (l-r): Stephen Noonan and Lauren Cornelius

clip from the original TV series which shows it's authentic. There are moments as the director when I query things and Stephen sends me a clip of William Hartnell saying a similar or even the same line in exactly the way he himself has performed it! What I'm suggesting is that – perhaps outrageously – no one knows William Hartnell's voice as intimately and accurately as Stephen does! And on top of that, it's a living, breathing, infinitely adaptable performance. He's such a delight to work with because his performance opens up so many opportunities for great stories. I couldn't wait to get started on this latest box set."

VORTEX ASKS writer Bob Ayres how the commission came about and he explains: "Nagging! I have wanted to write for Big Finish for ever. I've approached several of the producers at various conventions over many years with no result but of course they get dozens of people coming up to them at every single event saying, 'I'm a writer! Let me write for Doctor Who!'"

"So I got some experience behind me. I wrote narration scripts for the BBC's *Doctor Who* soundtrack range; I wrote and produced some award-winning short films for an education charity, and then a full-cast

audio drama for a podcast channel.

"Eventually, I was able to send Nick some links to examples of my work along with a spec script and he kindly agreed to meet up. He said he'd bear me in mind for future projects, and I sort of thought, 'Well that's that, then.' But Nick got back in touch a few months later and asked me to pitch some story ideas. He chose two – one of which was *The Demon Song*. Nick liked this one because he felt it played to the strengths of the audio medium, and he basically said, 'Yeah, do that'. He also said, 'Try to scare your 12-year-old self!'"

"Music was an obvious theme to explore for an audio play so I began to think about music as a language, and what sort of creature might use music to communicate? And that got me thinking about musical memes – tunes that spread like a virus – because viruses have been on everyone's minds recently, for some reason..."

Nick confirms: "I was approached by Bob ages ago about the possibility

AN ACCURATE PORTRAYAL OF THE FIRST DOCTOR AND DODO VISITING LONDON IN THE 2020S!

NICHOLAS BRIGGS

of him writing for us. And when I came to work out the make-up of this box set, he popped into my mind. Bob pitched me several ideas and I immediately picked what turned out to be *The Demon Song*. It's one of those scripts that very much focusses on the audio nature of the story, using music as an intrinsic part of the production.

"First-time Big Finish writers often do this, as they think, 'Right, I'm doing audio, how can I make audio important?' And it's a very valid approach. We can't do it every time but Bob's done a great job here.

"And I think what we've come up with is an interesting take on



Above (l-r): Lauren Cornelius, Henry Nott, Bhavnisha Parmar, Bob Ayres and Stephen Noonan

something that was impossible back in 1966 – an accurate portrayal of the First Doctor and Dodo visiting London in the 2020s! That culture clash is a delight. And there's a very scary monster too!"

Summarising the story, Bob says: "The Doctor and Dodo arrive in Camden Town to find that everyone seems to be singing, humming, whistling and playing the same strange tune. When Dodo disappears without a word, the Doctor discovers there has been a spate of missing persons in the area and rumours of a demon stalking the streets at night. He teams up with Archana 'Archie' Pawar, whose boyfriend has also gone missing, and together they attempt to solve the mystery with the help and occasional hindrance of self-styled demon hunter Daniel De'Ath. Meanwhile, Dodo wakes up in a church crypt with no idea how she got there, surrounded by comatose people. Then the strange song, sung by a demonic voice begins again..."

How did Bob find writing for the Doctor and Dodo? He tells *Vortex*: "I loved it! This might be a controversial opinion but I think

HOW WOULD HE COPE WITH 'OUR' MODERN WORLD? RATHER WELL, IT TURNS OUT.

BOB AYRES

Doctor Who works best when it's the Doctor and just one companion because you can split them up and introduce new characters for them to interact with, and it doesn't get too crowded.

"TV episode *The War Machines* is the only time we really see the First Doctor interacting with what was then the modern world, and that became one of the inspirations for this story: how would he cope with 'our' modern world? Rather well, it turns out."

"Writing for the First Doctor I realised what a positive force he is. He's always driving forwards – curious, decisive, affirmative and

encouraging: 'Quite so, quite so! He's an action-packed Doctor!'"

THE SECOND adventure in this set is *The Incheron Incident*, written by Nick. He says: "Working on the first box set was a voyage of rediscovery for me and the firing up of a genuine love of the First Doctor era that I'd never quite felt so keenly before. And when that kind of thing happens, I can't wait to write a script. It happened with India Fisher as Charley, Sheridan Smith as Lucie and it's happened here with Stephen and Lauren as the Doctor and Dodo.

"While revisiting old William Hartnell TV stories, I realised that the historicals had an element of danger in them that somehow wasn't quite present in the science fiction stuff. In *Marco Polo* and *The Smugglers*,

for example, it constantly feels really possible that the Doctor and friends might die or be stranded.

"So I toyed with historical ideas but then decided to do something set in a period of history that would never have been considered back in 1966, mainly because it felt like



Above (clockwise from top left):
Henry Nott, Stephen Noonan, Lauren
Cornelius and Bhavnisha Parmar

last week to them: the immediately post-war period in Britain. There's a crisis of national identity going on. Holding on to ideas of dominance and victory, and yet almost the entire population – but particularly those who fought – suffering from a collective PTSD. Into this, I placed one, discreet alien presence with an agenda that will probably be quite unexpected to many listeners."

As well as writing the script, Nick directed it too. He reveals: "*The Incheron Incident* was a lovely experience in studio. It's always more fun to direct your own script because you have a more intimate knowledge of it, no matter how closely you work on a script by someone else. It's instinctive. And you can be very free with it. 'Gives more notes when he's written it, doesn't he?' remarked Mr Noonan, in an 'Ooooh, get him!' sort of way. And I think that's fair!"
"It was fantastic to work with

YOU ROCKET THROUGH LAUGHTER AND JOY THEN FRUSTRATION AND TERROR (LOOKING AT THE CLOCK TICKING) BACK TO EXCITEMENT AND FINALLY, AN EXHAUSTED SATISFACTION.

NICHOLAS BRIGGS

Genevieve Gaunt again, in a major role in this one. Hers and Stephen's voices have such a musicality about them that I often find, while creating the music, that I don't have to compose anything for their scenes – the music is in their voices.

"Going into studio is for me both exciting and stressful. It's exciting because you start to hear the story come alive with real human beings speaking. That's incredible. Like a dream coming true. But the stress is that there are realistic, scheduling limitations to abide by.

"I'd like at least twice the amount of time in studio, really! But the imperative for things to make economic sense is everything when you're running a business, so you must contain the amazing talent of your cast in the time you have available. Wrestling with that fundamental conflict is a kind of exquisite torture. It almost feels like an intensely bipolar experience at top speed. You rocket through laughter and joy then frustration and terror (looking at the clock ticking) back to excitement and finally, an exhausted satisfaction. It leaves me shattered and numb quite often. But, by jingo, it's worth it for the results.

"So many laughs along the way with Stephen. And then I realise I haven't said a word to Lauren. She's an amazingly adept performer. Just gets on with it, offers so much extra. But I think the biggest chunk of madness in this was having to coordinate all the weird singing. Oh my goodness... crazy!" **VORTEX**

THE FIRST DOCTOR ADVENTURES
THE DEMON SONG



■ RELEASED: FEBRUARY 2023
■ FORMAT: CD/DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: bgfn.sh/imp 



THE NUMBER OF CHRISTOPHER ECCLESTON'S FANTASTIC BIG FINISH AUDIO ADVENTURES KEEPS RISING AND WE'RE ON...

CLOUD NINE

IT'S HARD to fathom, but Christopher Eccleston has now completed nearly twice as many episodes of *Doctor Who* on audio as he did on television.

The second series of *The Ninth Doctor Adventures* comes to a conclusion this February with a trio of all-new tales set, variously, in charity shop where customers vanish, a 1920s gentleman's club besieged by giant plants and a distant colony planet where death hides in darkness.

Producer David Richardson says: "*Shades of Fear* is the eighth box set... that's 24 episodes in total. Two more seasons of the Ninth Doctor than we ever thought we'd be able to make! We're sticking with character-rich stories that are full

of heart – with something very nasty lurking in the shadows."

There are three stories in the new set, *The Colour of Terror* by Lizzie Hopley, *The Blooming Menace* by James Kettle and *Red Darkness* by Roy Gill.

The Colour of Terror opens the set and Lizzie says: "I'd been reading some science journals about the characteristics of colour and became fascinated by the idea of having an alien force that can travel through colour spectrums and wavelengths.

"Setting it in a charity shop in the Midlands was a good contrast to the science-based theme and gave me an opportunity to put Chris's Doctor at the centre of a group of very ordinary people who become heroes under his guidance."

Lizzie previously wrote for this Doctor in *Lost Warriors* in the first series of Ninth Doctor audios, and explains: "I loved writing for Chris in *The Curse of Lady Macbeth*. Once you imagine him saying your lines, it gets easier. I now have his voice in my head and can even see his facial expressions when I write. I adore his enthusiasm, and you know you can trust him with humour and gravity in equal measure.

"I wanted him to be exasperated by the characters in the shop that he just 'acquires' without any choice but then realises their worth and bravery. This story is about ordinary people being extraordinary, and he has the subtlety and the depth as an actor to achieve this."



Above (l-r): Frank Skinner and Christopher Eccleston

Frank Skinner guest stars in *The Colour of Terror* as Pete Snow, a nosy neighbour who gets roped into investigating a junk shop with the Doctor. Lizzie continues: "I hadn't planned it to be a comical story but it just wrote itself. For some reason the character of Pete in my head had Frank Skinner's voice!"

"I worked with Frank on a short film called *Jam* (starring Annette Badland, trivia fans!). The fact that he was then available, and apparently agreed without even reading the script as he's such a fan of Big Finish was immense! You can hear in the interviews that he and Chris were thrilled to meet each other. The script hung on the characters being likeable and having massive chemistry so it was great to hear that happen among such a brilliant cast.

Oh, and Susan Penhaligon's Mrs Bevell is a monstrous treat."

Director Helen Goldwyn adds: "When Lizzie said she'd written the role of Pete specifically with Frank in mind I thought we had to try and get him! And as Frank is a **Doctor Who** fan he said yes pretty much immediately.

"As soon as Chris and Frank met they hit it off and you could see the mutual respect and admiration which was lovely to be around. Frank did confess he has a **Doctor Who** passion. Chris is such a humble guy but he understands the love and affection people have for the show. It was really good fun with lots of anecdotes being told."

Frank admits: "I love watching the Ninth Doctor on TV. Chris is brilliant and unlike any Doctor seen before with an amazing energy. I was very sad when he left but I'm glad we've got that one series as it's an absolute

corker. Without him, I don't think we'd have everything we've had since. It's pretty exciting viewing Chris as the Ninth Doctor close up."

David says: "I think my strongest memory of this set will always remain Chris and Frank recording with each other. Frank, such a fan of **Doctor Who** and so happy to be working with Chris; Chris such an admirer of Frank's work and so delighted to have him there. If you get the chance, listen to their interview together on the extras – it's absolutely lovely."

JAMES KETTLE was delighted to write the second adventure, *The Blooming Menace*. He says: "I think that with any Doctor you have your own personal sense of their era – gravitating towards the elements that you enjoy the most or which seem to lend themselves to further storytelling.

"From the 2005 TV series it might seem like there isn't an enormous

I HADN'T PLANNED IT TO BE A COMICAL STORY BUT IT JUST WROTE ITSELF.

LIZZIE HOPLEY

amount to go on but it actually packs in a huge amount of range from quirky intellectual comedy to grand operatic drama. The brief at the beginning of this series was to lean towards the lighter end of the spectrum so I'm working with the more playful side of Chris's Doctor and its one that's very pleasurable to write for.

"As I recall the brief was very simply 'What's next for the Ninth Doctor?' I had a pretty free hand in terms of suggesting things, and wasn't told to build in any returning elements. I pitched a load of one paragraph ideas, and this was commissioned as a result.

"*The Blooming Menace* is a front-end collision between John Wyndham and PG Wodehouse, mixing the genres of drawing-room comedy with disaster sci-fi. Two 20th century genres that are generally kept apart meeting up for a wild night, and this is the progeny! I also wanted to touch on some politics, but in a playful rather than didactic way."



Above (l-r): Helen Goldwyn, Dinita Gohill, Laura Rollins, Frank Skinner, Susan Penhaligon and Christopher Eccleston

IT WAS GREAT TO HAVE DAVE HEARN IN STUDIO. I'M A HUGE MISCHIEF THEATRE FANBOY...

JAMES KETTLE

James was delighted to have one particular member in the guest cast, known to the public from *The Goes Wrong Show*.

He says: "It was great to have Dave Hearn in studio. I'm a huge Mischief Theatre fanboy as well as a Russell T Davies one, so that really added to it for me. I think he makes a great 'companion that never was'."

RED DARKNESS sees Roy Gill write the final story for the second time in a Ninth Doctor series. He tells *Vortex*: "I already had a good idea of the Ninth Doctor's voice in my head from the 2005 TV series. Listening to recording sessions, I started to get an idea of the sort of moments and dialogue that Chris especially responds to, and I think perhaps I'm writing towards that... *Way of the Burryman/Forth Generation* had a substantial guest cast in terms of the Cybermen, the Brigadier, Sam Bishop and Fiona – and a much longer running time. This episode, by contrast, has a tighter focus on the Doctor.

"I think there are only two or three short scenes that Chris is not in across the whole thing. He absolutely drives this story with his energy and passion, and that's what

regarding how it would fit into this run of stories. Matt was also keen on something set on a future colony world which gave me ideas about the scale of the danger necessary..."

Summarising what lies ahead, Roy says: "Dr Iona Lennox heads up a research team on an isolated Earth colony world. Working and living alongside her are colleagues Bram, Marjie and Niall, her son Callen and his best friend Doyle. When the Doctor runs into them they're in a desperate situation, the population of their world is rapidly dwindling. They're only just clinging on – and all around the darkness is closing in..."

"Callen Lennox is an important character for me. He's a typical teenage lad in a lot of ways, a bit restless and dissatisfied with where he's living, looking to challenge his boundaries and find something new. He's also visually impaired primarily due to macular degeneration – a condition that my mum (and several other family members before her) have developed.

"But he doesn't let this limit him and together with Doyle he's ready for most challenges... Adam Martyn, the actor who plays Callen, was a great bit of casting by the director, Helen Goldwyn. The dynamic between Callen and the Doctor and Doyle was



Above (l-r): Christopher Eccleston and Dave Hearn

I was hoping for when I wrote it.

"I had an idea for a sort of elemental monster that I adapted in response to Matt's suggestions



Above (l-r): Harkit Bhambra, Christopher Eccleston, Adam Martyn and Michael Shelford

THE DOCTOR WILL HAVE TO MAKE SOME TOUGH DECISIONS, AND NOT EVERYONE IS GOING TO MAKE IT OUT ALIVE..

ROY GILL

an absolute joy to hear in studio.”

A delighted Adam tells *Vortex*: “In early 2021, I had the lovely Helen on my podcast, AMTV Radio, where we chatted and nattered about her marvellous work. After recording I mentioned that I was a partially sighted performer and how I’d been due to lead a new musical (*No Horizon*) which was sadly postponed right at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. And, like many an actor, finding work during those times was increasingly difficult. Helen advised me to submit my voice reel to Big Finish, and about six months later she rang me up and said some words I’ll never forget, ‘Would you like to be part of a Big Finish *Doctor Who* story?’ to which, without missing a second, the answer was a very excited ‘yes!’ “And then when she told me it would be starring Christopher

Eccleston as the Doctor... that still ranks as one of the most joyful moments of my life. Chris’s portrayal was what got me and many other kids into *Doctor Who* when it came back in 2005, and he remains one of my biggest inspirations as an actor. Had you told a nine-year-old Adam that he’d one day be working alongside his Doctor, I think he’d be lost for words!

“Callen is a lad who I feel I share a lot of qualities with. He’s confident in himself (most of the time), has his dry, sarcastic moments (like any Northerner), and he also has those classic teenager traits of being a bit abrasive sometimes, particularly with those close to him. His heart is firmly in the right place though, and for me the most interesting aspect was the fact that he was partially sighted like myself. That feeling of wanting to be respected and not pandered or patronised because of his disability

was very important to me. Callen has Doyle by his side who is absolutely his best mate, and someone he loves deeply. He appreciates the assistance Doyle can give him but will always be quick to point out that whilst his vision isn’t perfect, he is just as capable and resourceful as anyone with 20/20 eyesight.”

Roy concludes: “It’s a story of survival, friendship and family. The Doctor will have to make some tough decisions, and not everyone is going to make it out alive...” **VORTEX**

THE NINTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES SHADES OF FEAR



■ RELEASED: FEBRUARY 2023
■ FORMAT: CD/VINYL/DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: bgfn.sh/fades 

THE THIRD DOCTOR
IS SET FOR AN
ENCOUNTER WITH
HIS BEST FRIEND...
BUT NOT IN THE WAY
EITHER EXPECTED...



HAVE YOU MET MRS JONES?

IT'S FANTASTIC to think that the effervescent Katy Manning has now been playing the part of Jo Grant/Jo Jones for more than half a century.

In that time, she's battled the Master, Autons, Daleks, Drashigs and giant maggots, as well as a host of other terrors including the Meddling Monk, Cybermen and Primords on both television and audio through Big Finish.

Talking of the latest box set, *The Return of Jo Jones*, director and script editor Nicholas Briggs says: "As always we're looking to do exciting and different things. Katy is such an energetic actor who always delivers on the Jo Grant front, but she has increasingly spoken to me about how finding the younger Jo Grant voice was becoming quite a stretch. So I promised her that we'd

find a way for the Third Doctor to travel with the older Mrs Jo Jones.

"And once I'd found a credible way to get around the Eleventh Doctor's tacit acknowledgement that he'd never re-visited Jo after *The Green Death* (in a **Sarah Jane Adventures** TV episode), we were ready to go! Then producer Heather Challands put forward some authors she wanted us to work with and we invited pitches from them all."

Heather confirms: "Back when Katy was in **Doctor Who** on TV she was already changing her voice, making it higher to play Jo, but now she's finding that a little trickier and more exhausting to do for longer periods in studio. So, in terms of the narrative of Jo's story, it feels like it's a fitting time in her life to have the Third Doctor coming back to her.

"Katy's just so wonderful to have

in studio. She's such a hard worker as well as being a completely lovely human being. I think everyone would agree that it's usually chaos, in a good way, but what's really gratifying is seeing the connection that she still has with the character and the thought that she puts into everything.

"And it's great to have Katy and Tim back together. The last time we had this pairing in a release was a story called *Conspiracy in Space* – I know that because it was my first ever production!"

THE BOX set comprises three two-part episodes opening with a tale by Matt Fitton. Heather says: "What I'm really enjoying about these three stories is that they're all very different in terms of the setting. The first



Above (l-r): David O'Mahoney, Katy Manning, Tim Treloar, Poppy Miller, Paul Copley and Gary Turner

adventure, *Supernature*, is set in the modern day where something strange is going on with the wildlife, resulting in a bunch of attacks. Jo has been brought in by an old friend, unaware she's about to meet and be reunited with another one. It's a lovely script which feels very Pertwee-ish, with its ecological themes and being very grounded in Jo's work and life.

"We go from the modern day to a futuristic autocratic regime filled with political unrest. It's a society that is attempting to control or mitigate risk and danger, and of course right at the pinnacle a revolution is happening. Essentially everyone gets a risk rating. And that can go up or down depending on the choices that they make. So, your risk rating will go up if you become a parent but then will decrease when you get to old age because you have a child to care for you. It's a great re-introduction for Jo to learn just exactly how dangerous this adventuring life is, as it always

IT MADE SENSE TO GO HISTORICAL OR ALIEN. MY HISTORY IS A BIT MUDDY, SO SPACE IT WAS.

FELICIA BARKER

was, and at the centre there's also a really nice family drama as well."

THE SECOND adventure, *The Conservitors*, was written by Felicia Barker. Felicia tells *Vortex*: "The central concept for the set was the strong and simple idea of adult Jo being reunited with 'her' Doctor. We're still aiming for stories that feel true to the tone of the Third Doctor's era, but capitalising on the life after *The Green Death* that TV and

audio has built up for Jo. Beyond that it was wide open but since the first story is about reuniting the pair it was inherently going to be contemporary (I assume) so it made sense to go historical or alien. My history is a bit muddy, so space it was.

"*The Conservitors* is partly inspired by Britney Spears! I don't think anyone would guess that without being told, but it's pretty close to the surface. It's a story all about guardianship, custody, dependence and independence. And part and parcel of that is how power over someone for their own good can be corrupted. Also, the title is a great pun, if I say so myself!"

THE RETURN of *Jo Jones* concludes with *The Iron Shore* written by Lizzie Hopley. Heather says: "*The Iron Shore*, tonally, is drastically different again. It's sort of ghostly, sort of horror. I imagine it being in black and white.



Above (back row l-r): Tim Treloar, Wanda Opalinska and Corrinne Wicks
Above (front row l-r): Katy Manning, Wayne Forester and Viv May

"The Iron Shore is set on an alien planet, specifically in an industrial fishing community, and the main setting of it is this wet dock that people now believe is cursed. There have been deaths so there's a real mystery around it – and it turns out there is something lurking within the depths of the dock. It's very atmospheric!"

Lizzie says: "Heather and Nick wanted something that fitted into the 1970s feel which involved Jo Jones rather than Jo Grant. This story stood out to them because it had a ghostly tone which was something new for the range. I was able to write for a slightly older Jo, with the relationship between her and the

I USED
TO THINK
THEY WERE
TERRIFYING
AND ALWAYS
WONDERED
WHAT WAS IN
THERE... NOW
YOU CAN TOO!

LIZZY HOPLEY

Doctor entirely built on trust – and perhaps a little less parental?

"It's a monster story but is essentially about heritage and identity, and a community being ravaged by a curse that just won't stop. The initial pitch featured a haunted wet dock in the Old Dock Road in Liverpool, my home city. This industrial area was a big part of

my childhood from when my father became an officer in the Navy. The wet docks are just as Jo describes them in the story – a big rectangle of deep black water that never moves. I used to think they were terrifying and always wondered what was in there... now you can too!"

KATY WAS also able to provide some script input. Nick explains: "Because of the sad passing of actor Stewart Bevan, we asked Katy if she wanted us to reference the death of Clifford Jones. She said that she would like that so we put her in touch with the writer of the opening episode, Matt Fitton, for them to discuss the details. Then, with huge, improvised contributions from Katy on the day, we came up with something very moving and honest.

"Katy and I have developed a really robust working relationship over the years. I think it's fair to say that she's a demanding performer in that she always has a very strong opinion on the scripts. She and I typically have a four-hour phone conversation about them before the recording day. Katy is rightly very protective of Jo and so it's always useful to talk it all through with her. And I'm happy to take most of the suggestions on board because, as I say to Katy, she's the expert on Jo."

Nick concludes: "They say pride is a sin, don't they? But I'm always proud to work with a great team of people and to put in as much effort as I possibly can. As I answer these questions, I'm still thinking about the raucous and creatively nourishing time we had in studio. Three solid days with Katy and Tim. So many laughs along the way. I think I actually collapsed on the floor, twice, in helpless laughter! A bonkers but beautiful time!" **VORTEX**

THE THIRD DOCTOR ADVENTURES THE RETURN OF JO JONES

- RELEASED: FEBRUARY 2023
- FORMAT: CD/DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: bgfn.sh/missus 

VISIT: BIGFINISH.COM/OFFERS/V/BOOKCLUB
USE THE ACCESS CODE: **STORIES**

BOOK CLUB



CLASS RETURNS to Big Finish this month with *Secret Diary of a Rhodian Prince*, four years after the **Doctor Who** spin-off first materialised on audio. **Class** was broadcast on television in 2016 as eight episodes in a self-contained series set in Coal Hill Academy. Set during the television series, the first audio box set of **Class** features three tales, *Gifted* by Roy Gill, *Life Experience* by Jenny T Colgan and *Tell Me You Love Me* by Scott Hancock.

Director and producer (as well as writer) Scott says: “The most exciting thing about **Class** for me, both as a viewer and producer, is the talent involved. The cast are all brilliant and enthusiastic, which always makes a new project appealing, but the characters themselves are fascinating too. “They’re not a natural group of friends which makes the combinations you can play with instantly interesting. Sometimes the characters we’ve chosen get

on, and at other times there is conflict. And that period of your life can be quite impulsive.

“In the audios we get to explore some of the fallout from the TV episodes, and the trauma characters might have experienced (such as the death of Ram’s girlfriend, for instance).”

Speaking about *Gifted*, Roy says: “I was asked to pitch a story for either Ram or April, and I chanced my luck and asked if I could have them both! The TV series shows those two characters coming together and then rapidly splitting, so I felt there was room to explore a bit more of them during their relationship, and how they connect.

“*Gifted* is a fantasy adventure. I was reaching for that young adult-ish, Buffy-ish tone – it’s as much about people and emotions as the monsters.

“As well as each other, both lead characters have strong interests in their lives; Ram has his sport – his football, and April is a musician. They’re both very determined people.

It’s about what they will and won’t sacrifice to get what they want.”

For *Tell Me You Love Me*, Scott says: “It’s a claustrophobic chamber-piece for Charlie, Matteusz and Quill, and technically quite a challenge for Greg, Jordan and Katherine (and me as the director!). It’s the most demanding script I’ve written – but it’s been fun to be quite experimental and give the leads something meaty to sink their teeth into.”

The first series features all of the original TV cast. Greg Austin plays Charlie Smith, Fady Elsayed is Ram Singh, Sophie Hopkins plays April MacLean, Vivian Oparah is Tanya Adeola, Jordan Renzo plays Matteusz Andrzejewski and Katherine Kelly is Miss Andrea Quill.

Scott adds: “It feels like a cliché to say these were a joy – because all Big Finish recordings are a joy – but they were genuinely enormous amounts of fun. More so, in a way, because we were welcoming a brand-new cast into the Big Finish universe and none of them had any idea what to expect. But they instantly found their rhythm and loved the process of it.” **VORTEX**

CLASS VOLUME ONE



■ RELEASED: AUGUST 2018
■ FORMAT: DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: bgfn.sh/jan23 



TRIPS HAZARD

GET READY FOR HALF A DOZEN DRAMATIC BURSTS OF DOCTOR WHO...

BIG FINISH'S range of small but perfectly formed slices of **Doctor Who** continue with the release of **Short Trips Volume 12**. This anthology of five first-person narratives and one audio mini-drama explores hidden corners of assorted **Doctor Who** eras. The six stand-alone short stories in this volume are: *Salvage* by Max Curtis (an Eighth Doctor and Bliss adventure) read by Adèle Anderson; *AWOL* by Angus Dunican (a Third Doctor and Brigadier mini-drama) performed by Jon Culshaw; *The Three Flames* by Sophie Iles (a Twelfth Doctor adventure) read by Dan

Starkey; *Identity Check* by Eugenie Pusenjak (a Ninth Doctor and Rose adventure) read by Jacob Dudman; *Table for Two, Dinner for One* by Jennah Dean (a Tenth Doctor adventure) read by Ayesha Antoine; and *The Galois Group* by Felicia Barker (an Eleventh Doctor and Valarie adventure) read by Safiyya Ingar.

Producer Alfie Shaw says: "As is usually the way with **Short Trips**, this set was created in tandem with the previous volume. So we've got a few returning readers from *Volume 11* but we're doing different things with them. For example, Dan Starkey is a Sontaran in the previous set and he's reading a 12th Doctor story for us in this one. And Jon Culshaw is back but this time he is the Third Doctor and the Brigadier.

"In terms of writers, we've got mostly known people from the

previous runs of **Short Trips** and **Subscriber Short Trips**. It was a delight working with them all before and great to be able to do so again."

Alfie gives *Vortex* a preview of each of the adventures: "*Salvage* is an Eighth Doctor and Bliss Time War tale that really appealed as it takes place on the fringes of real events. It's weird, as any good Time War story should be, but leans hard into strange and wonderful ideas instead of strange and wonderful structural tricks.

"*AWOL* proves what a powerhouse Jon Culshaw is. It takes place at a key point in the Doctor and the Brigadier's relationship and highlights what makes that pairing so unique.

"*The Three Flames* by Sophie Iles leans heavily into Steven Moffat fairytale qualities and has some very touching moments.



Above (l-r): Jacob Dudman and Safiyya Ingar

"*Identity Check* marks the return of another of the Paul Spragg Writing Opportunity winners. Eugenie Pusenjak has done a lovely little tale for the Ninth Doctor and Rose.

"*Table for Two, Dinner for One* is a solo Tenth Doctor outing and the **Doctor Who** debut for Jennah Dean. It's a really fun story with some great lines.

"And *The Galois Group*, as you can probably guess by who's in it, was the very last to be commissioned. The Doctor and Valarie's run is very limited so it's been great to flesh out their adventures in this small way."

Writer Sophie says of *The Three Flames*: "This **Short Trips** story has been worked on for a long time, even before I wrote *Master Thief!* Lots of different iterations but I wanted to do something that felt like a timeless fairy tale with a sprinkle of adventure with the Twelfth Doctor. It led to a story about the Doctor helping a troubled family in a time of need. I remember finding it very hard to write because of the world of COVID-19 but I'm really pleased with how it came out."

IT'S BEEN SUCH AN INTERESTING AND FORMATIVE RIDE. YOU LEARN A LOT PRODUCING SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

ALFIE SHAW

And Eugenie, winner of the Paul Spragg Writing Opportunity in 2020 with *Free Speech*, adds: "It was a really pleasant surprise to receive the email from Alfie inviting me to be involved in this **Short Trips** collection. The email arrived on my birthday when I was on holiday in Queensland, so it capped off a brilliant day!

"The brief was fairly succinct: a story featuring the Ninth Doctor and Rose but prior to their travels with Captain Jack. Alfie asked that, ideally, it be a high concept idea (similar to *Free Speech*) or a character study which explored the relationship between the Doctor and Rose.

"This story is essentially about

identity. How well do we truly know ourselves? What happens when we discover that perhaps we're not the moral, upstanding person we thought we were? Can a person really change? And how do we learn to live with the things we've done in the past?

"I am super excited to listen to the story; I can't wait to hear Big Finish work their magic and bring it to life!"

This is the last volume in the range to be produced by Alfie as Peter Anghelides is taking over the reins. Alfie says: "It's been such an interesting and formative ride. You learn a lot producing something like this, although due to the nature of the range as it was, it took a while to implement that knowledge. I had two years-worth of stuff locked in and was sitting on this collected pool of feedback that I couldn't immediately do anything with!

"The stories in *Volumes 11* and *12* are a response to the previous two series. *Volume 11* got a consistently positive reaction and so I'm hoping that *Volume 12* goes down equally well.

"I owe a lot to this run of **Short Trips**. It's my first professional writing gig, my first terrible review, my first brilliant review – and it's led to me doing stuff I dreamed of as a kid. But **Doctor Who** is a show that thrives on change. It is built into the very core of it. So it's definitely time for me to step down and I look forward to the new heights that Peter is going to take the range to." **VORTEX**

SHORT TRIPS VOLUME 12



- RELEASED: FEBRUARY 2023
- FORMAT: DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: bgfn.sh/short12





CHRONIC HYSTERIA

THE DOCTOR CHRONICLES
RETURN IN FEBRUARY WITH
ALL OF TIME AND SPACE...

WITH ALL of space and time at his fingertips, the Eleventh Doctor is back in another set of adventures from Big Finish.

Following their pairing in the highly acclaimed *Geronimo!* last year, Jacob Dudman and Safiyya Ingar are back as the Time Lord and his friend Valarie Lockwood for a trio of new tales.

Producer Alfie Shaw reveals: "I cannot state enough how thrilled I am that people have taken so well to this TARDIS team. Hearing the combination of Jacob and Saffy in the studio was instant magic,

and they both do wonders with the material we give them.

"The stories here are not quite as interlinked as the last set. The opener follows directly from the end of the *Geronimo!* cliffhanger, but other than that they don't flow one into the other. That more direct link from one story to the next will return as the series goes on, but these adventures are slightly more standalone.

"The episodes are all, to some degree, stories about stories. It wasn't a planned theme for the set but developed organically as the scripts came together. *Curiosity Shop* is a three-hander, and the strengths of both Jacob and Saffy are on full display. They really are something special. And given the Eleventh Doctor's speech about 'all being stories in the end', it's a lovely way to invoke the era while also doing something new."

ALL OF TIME and *Space* by Ellery Quest is the opening story, with the author himself making an appearance.

As concepts for shows go, it's a good one. An adventurer and his friend travelling through all of space and time, righting wrongs and defending those who can't defend themselves. Yet, as its creator is about to discover, there are those who'd rather this show never existed.

Ellery explains: "I've come up with a fantastic concept – a madman who travels around space in a box with a companion who is part human, part telephone. Rather original don't you think? It's been a struggle pitching it but I've clearly found a kindred spirit in Alfie, the producer of this series!"

Can he tell *Vortex* much about what happens? Ellery says: "No, not really! The story was definitely



Above (l-r): Sofiya Ingar, Jacob Dudman, Nicholas Briggs and Derek Griffiths

heading in one direction but there are character elements who seem to pull it in another, despite it being fictional.

"I think all writers put themselves in their work one way or another. The really skilled ones are a little more subtle about it, I suppose. I'm certainly no actor. I admire the chaps who do it for a living but it's not really my cup of tea."

THE YEARN by Angus Dunican is the second story of the set.

The people of Medrúth are under siege. Forced into underground bunkers, the Medrúthians are desperate for a way to escape. When the Doctor and Valarie arrive it seems like they've finally got everything they wanted. Except, that's when the nightmares really begin.

Angus, who previously wrote *Deleted Scenes* for the **Short Trips** range, says: "There were lots of fun things in the pot, especially from discussion with the others writers. One of them had really gotten into *The Illuminatus* trilogy by Robert Shea and Robert Anton Wilson, and Alfie ran with that a bit and broke off some related themes as jumping off points. Things evolved a lot during the process but – broadly speaking – my brief was to explore

IT'S GOT RAVENOUS
GHOST-PANTHER-
CREATURES AND LOTS
OF RUNNING AWAY.
SO YOU'LL GET YOUR
MONEY'S WORTH!

ANGUS DUNICAN

ideas around interconnected consciousness and include a dash of romance (I won't say for whom)."

Summing up the story, Angus reveals: "It's a very classic 'base under siege' story with some modern and warm (I hope) human stories inside it. ... Also it's got ravenous ghost-panther-creatures and lots of running away, so you'll get your money's worth!"

CURIOSITY SHOP by James

Goss is the closing story.

One woman informs Mr

Foreman she knows the truth about Barbara, that she went on impossible adventures

with a man called the Doctor. This

woman, this Valarie, will do anything to be reunited with Barbara and the Doctor. Even if it kills her.

James says his brief was to write: "An episode that showcases the growing relationship between the Doctor and his new companion in an interesting way.

"It's a mystery in a junkyard on an alien planet. Valarie is convinced that the mysterious owner of the junkyard is the Doctor and visits him weekly to trade stories with him. Two alien battlefleets are waking up in orbit and if this man really is the Doctor, he's needed before they destroy the world."

How did James find writing for the new companion? He replies: "I found it fascinating that Valarie is a cybernetically enhanced human and not a sinister secret deathbot! She's a member of the Doctor's favourite species, just more so. It really seemed like a good thing to exploit that because I know the Doctor would. I had great fun using Valarie as a way of explaining that the companions make the Doctor who he is, but in this story, it's rather more literal. The Doctor asks all his companions to make sacrifices – but how far will he go?"

When asked for his highlight, Alfie says: "There is a thing that happens within the first two minutes of *All of Time and Space* that had everyone in the studio just giddy with delight. You'll know it when you hear it." **VORTEX**

THE ELEVENTH
DOCTOR CHRONICLES
ALL OF TIME AND SPACE



■ RELEASED: FEBRUARY 2023
■ FORMAT: CD/DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: bgfn.sh/itsalot





KEEP ON SURVIVING

IT MAY BE A NEW DAWN FOR HUMANITY BUT THE SAME-OLD PROBLEMS EXIST IN A POST-APOCALYPTIC WORLD . . .

IT'S A NEW day, it's a new dawn, it's a new life... but it's fair to say that the survivors of the Death still aren't feeling good!

Survivors: New Dawn continues on audio with a brand new box set of three dramas based

on the Terry Nation-created BBC television series. Originally aired from 1975–77, **Survivors** follows a community in the aftermath of a world-wide plague known as the Death. Since 2014, Big Finish has continued the post-apocalyptic tale starring the original series actors Carolyn Seymour (as Abby Grant) and Lucy Fleming (as Jenny Richards).

Survivors: New Dawn 1 and **New Dawn 2** follows the lives of those who have lived through the Death, and especially Abby's quest to find her lost son, Peter. In **New Dawn**

3 we continue the drama set two decades after the original outbreak as conflict between the survivors intensifies with power struggles, political tension and a generational clash which threatens the society they've worked so hard to rebuild.

THE THREE dystopian adventures, written by the series' director Ken Bentley, are *The Turning part one*, *The Turning part two* and *Samaritans*. Producer Emma

Haigh tells *Vortex*: "I'm so pleased we



Above (l-r): Carolyn Seymour and Lucy Flemming

can learn more about Abby and Jenny, and the continuing lives of the survivors. This series is a fascinating exploration of what can happen when society is seriously challenged by a warming environment and dwindling natural resources. But it also shows the true kindness of human beings to one another."

KEN HAS directed all of the **Survivors** box sets to date – all 12 of them! – as well as writing two scripts, *Dark Rain* and *The Hunted* in **Survivors Series Two** (both of which were notable for their exceptionally dark content) and *The Old Ways* in **Survivors Series Four**.

Ken says: "Some of the first writing I did for Big Finish was for **Survivors** and it was a thrill to help establish the style and voice of the range, including an episode that was shortlisted for the BBC Audio Drama Awards in 2016.

"Eight or nine years ago when former producer David Richardson, script editor Matt Fitton and I first started work on the series, we knew

we wanted to be true to Terry Nation's original vision for **Survivors**. We also had a clear idea of where we wanted the story to go – we just never knew when we might get there.

"I've been deeply involved in this series for so long now that I feel a genuine responsibility to the characters and their journey. It's been a privilege to write for them again.

"I'm really grateful to David for inviting me to write for **Survivors** in the first place, and to Emma for giving Matt and I the opportunity to return to this story world as we begin Abby and Jenny's final journey. It won't be easy listening, but then **Survivors** never has been."

THE FIRST nine series of Big Finish **Survivors** audios came to an end in June 2019, just prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 which brought the world to its knees in real life. The first two volumes of *New Dawn* followed in November 2021 and February 2022.

Vortex asks Ken why he thinks the series has got such a resonance and long-lasting popularity?

Ken explains: "I think **Survivors** endures because it feels so prescient. The story world is familiar to us despite being apocalyptic. It's such a grounded series that despite being fiction we know it could so easily be fact. We exist on a knife edge one step away from that world. And as a species we're fascinated by stories of survival, of seeing people succeed against seemingly insurmountable odds."

Ken finds it difficult to sum up the events of these new stories without giving too much away.

He agrees: "It's very hard to talk about these episodes and avoid spoilers! *The Turning parts one and two* sees Jenny caught between two entrenched factions, each determined not to give any ground to the opposition. The episode explores how destructive that sort of bloody-minded intransigence can be. *Samaritans* is a complete change of pace. Abby and Jenny are beginning their final journey but that journey isn't just a physical one, it's also a spiritual and philosophical journey. They've been through so much I want to give them the opportunity to process who they've become as a consequence and what they want from the life they have left."

KEN IS delighted to have worked on this trio of tales, with characters he has come to know and love over the years.

He concludes: "For me the highlight of this set is being able to work with Matt again. When we first started work on **Survivors** eight or nine years ago we talked a lot about the series and what he felt that story world would logically go.

"I can't tell you how happy I am to finally tell the stories we first started imagining all those years ago. Thrilled beyond words!" **VORTEX**

SURVIVORS NEW DAWN 3

- RELEASED: APRIL 2023
- FORMAT: CD/DOWNLOAD

ORDER NOW: bgfn.sh/endure 

SEND LETTERS TO: FEEDBACK@BIGFINISH.COM
AND USE VORTEX MAIL AS THE SUBJECT

VORTEX MAIL



MAGS-NIFICENT

I recently relistened to the Seventh Doctor and Mags trilogy from **The Monthly Adventures** range and had an excellent time with the pairing. I was wondering if there were any plans to hear more from them at some point? And if they need another travelling companion, Ray from *Delta* and the *Bannermen* would be a welcome return too!

RONAN HEATHCOTE

Nick: Great ideas, Ronan, though no plans for a Mags return at the moment. Ray seems like an inspiring choice too!

DARK TIMES

The other day I was rewatching the all-time classic *Garth Marenghi's*

Darkplace, ahead of the new book. It got me thinking of you – would Big Finish ever consider doing an audio series based around the whistlings of *Darkplace*, as I would love to hear the *Darkplace* gang back together?

FINLAY L. KIDD

Nick: Well, of course, we had 'Garth' himself in an audio production not that long ago. Hmmmm...

A FUTURE CLASSIC

The new **Eighth Doctor Adventures** – *What Lies Inside?* set was wonderful to listen to. *Paradox of the Daleks* is a brilliant timey wimey story, and the plot folds in on itself in a classic **Doctor Who** way and I loved it! I enjoyed that little twist involving

the TARDIS team. That was a nice reference to long ago, yet a sneaky preview of what's to come in the Eighth Doctor's life. I dare say it's a classic John Dorney story, on the terms of quality, that certainly won't lose its magic with time.

ANDRÉ LUCAS

Nick: Ooh yes, John Dorney is certainly a legend in his own time – or so he tells me! Top writer!

LUNCH TIME

I had, rather ashamedly, never been one to explore behind-the-scenes content before being introduced to Big Finish and can now proudly say I have listened to every behind-the-scenes segment for every title I've purchased (and have been inspired to do so with other media forms).

I love listening to the history of the ideas, the experiences of the creatives behind the drama and getting an insight into the camaraderie between cast members. However, one common topic has cropped up for many, many years now that is shrouded in enigma and has become almost as frustrating a secret as the Doctor's true name: the Big Finish lunch. Adored. Celebrated. Legendary. It's spoken of so highly and yet the behind-the-scenes segments never truly pull back the curtain completely on what the lunches comprise of. So... any chance us listeners can finally hear about this mythic event?

CHARLIE ANDREWS

Nick: Alas, the studio where those superb lunches were prepared has now sadly closed – COVID-19 put paid to that. We subsist on perfectly adequate takeaway fare nowadays... VORTEX



CREDITS

Managing Editor:
Jason Haigh-Elbery

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
Jade James
Sufyan Javaid
Karen Parks
Hannah Peel
Alfie Shaw
Paul Spragg

Graphic Design:
Mark Plastow

Copy Editor:
Stephanie Hornett

Marketing & Publicity:
Steve Berry
Chrissie Wood

BFP Administration:
Reanne Hawkins
Brenda Smith
Alison Taylor

Publisher:
Big Finish Productions Ltd.

SOCIAL

BIGFINISH.COM
@BIGFINISH
THEBIGFINISH
BIGFINISHPROD
BIG-FINISH
BIGFINISHPROD

"Dusty brown boots in the corner by the ironing board. Spray on dust is the greatest thing."

BIG FINISH RELEASE SCHEDULE

Please note that due to factors beyond our control, Big Finish is currently operating a digital-first release schedule. Our warehouse remains open but the mail-out of collector's edition CDs and vinyls may be delayed. However, all physical purchases of new releases will unlock a digital version 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

JANUARY 2023

DW | THE EIGHTH DOCTOR
Time War: Cass (BOX SET)

DW | THE AUDIO NOVELS
The Dead Star (SECOND DOCTOR) **DLO**

DW | THE DIARY OF RIVER SONG
Friend of the Family (BOX SET)

DW | CLASS
Secret Diary of a Rhodian Prince
 (BOX SET)

TORCHWOOD *Double 1* (69)

TORCHWOOD *Double 2* (70)

FEBRUARY 2023

DW | THE NINTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES
2.4 Shades of Fear (BOX SET)

DW | THE NINTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES
2.4 Shades of Fear (LIMITED VINYL EDITION)

DW | THE FIRST DOCTOR ADVENTURES
The Demon Song (BOX SET)

DW | THE THIRD DOCTOR ADVENTURES
The Return of Jo Jones (BOX SET)

DW | THE DOCTOR CHRONICLES
The Eleventh Doctor: All of Time and Space (BOX SET)

TORCHWOOD *The Last Love Song of Suzie Costello* (71)

MARCH 2023

DW | THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES
New Frontiers (BOX SET)

DW | THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES
Ice Heist! **DLO**

DW | THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES
Antilia the Lost **DLO**

DW | THE LOST STORIES
Doctor Who and the Ark
 (FOURTH DOCTOR)

DW | THE LOST STORIES
Daleks! Genesis of Terror
 (FOURTH DOCTOR)

BLAKE'S 7 *Origins*
 (HARDBACK NOVELISATIONS BOX SET)

THE AVENGERS: THE COMIC
 STRIP ADAPTATIONS
Volume 7: Steed and Tara King (BOX SET)

UFO *Volume 2: Breaking Point* (BOX SET)

TORCHWOOD *The Thirst Trap* (72)

APRIL 2023

DW | THE FIFTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES
Conflicts of Interest (BOX SET)

DW | THE ROBOTS *Volume 6* (BOX SET)

DW | UNIT: NEMESIS
Masters of Time (BOX SET)

DW | RANI TAKES ON THE WORLD
Beyond Bannerman Road (BOX SET)

SURVIVORS *New Dawn 3* (BOX SET)

STAR COPS *The High Frontier 2* (BOX SET)

TORCHWOOD *Launch Date* (73)

DLO = DOWNLOAD ONLY • DW = DOCTOR WHO

DATES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.

THE **BIG FINISH** MAGAZINE

VORTEX

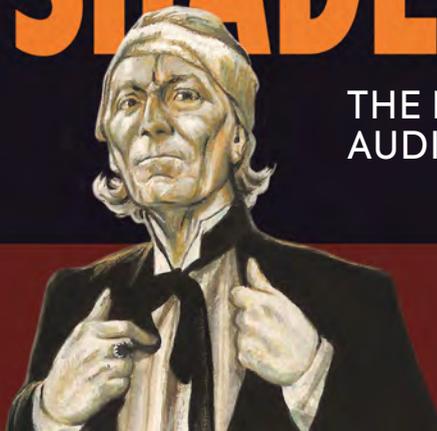


ISSUE 167
JANUARY 2023
BIG FINISH
FOR THE LOVE
OF STORIES

DOCTOR WHO

SHADES OF FEAR

THE NINTH DOCTOR'S FANTASTIC
AUDIO ADVENTURES CONTINUE...



ALSO INSIDE

THE FIRST DOCTOR ADVENTURES
THE DOCTOR FACES THE DEMON
SONG IN THE LATEST RELEASE...