

OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW WRITERS

For a very limited period, we're inviting new writers to pitch ideas for a one-off, 25-minute Fifth Doctor and Nyssa audio adventure, which we hope will make up one of four single-episode stories comprising a future *Doctor Who* release.

IMPORTANT: THIS IS NOT A COMPETITION

This is an *opportunity*, ***not*** a competition. All we're offering is a 'way in' to our standard story development process. Any prospective writer whose proposal interests us sufficiently *may* be invited to develop their proposal further, ***without obligation***. Licensing and other issues, however, mean that we cannot guarantee that any story idea that interests us will necessarily make it into production.

Of course, anyone whose idea makes it past the 'further development' stage and enters production will be offered a standard Big Finish writer's contract.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- A pitch for a single, self-contained 25-minute 'full cast' audio drama, with a beginning, middle and end (see, for example, *100, 45* and *The Company of Friends*).
- Featuring the Fifth Doctor and Nyssa, plus no more than THREE other (wholly original) characters.
- Setting, style and time period are entirely up to you. Surprise us! But, please note:

WHAT WE DON'T WANT

- Stories in any form other than the single, self-contained 25-minute episode specified – eg 4 x 25-minute episodes. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Established characters, settings or monsters – eg the Brigadier, Peladon, the Cybermen. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Stories dependent on references to other *Doctor Who* adventures, in any media, seen or unseen – eg the Time War. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Please note that proposals that ignore any of the above points will go unread. Really, really – ***NO EXCEPTIONS!*** Similar criteria applied the last time BF invited submissions from new writers, and *still* we received a great many submissions featuring old companions, old monsters, etc. Please: use this opportunity wisely – don't waste it on a story about how Dodo's half-Terileptil son became the Black Guardian, or whatever.

WHAT TO SEND US

- An outline of no more than 500 words in length, detailing the beginning, middle and end of your story: a premise is not enough.

- Plus: no more than **two** pages of sample script, setting out a **single** scene taken from your story. Your sample should be laid out single-spaced, in 12 pt Courier, following the script format example on page 3 of this document.

Choose the scene you send us carefully: exchanges of meaningful, to-the-point dialogue, clearly thought-through action and proper positioning of sound FX will impress us far more than overwrought, 'literary' monologues!

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

Anyone who's not written for Big Finish before is welcome to pitch a proposal that fits with all of the above criteria. We're not interested in previous written work, and we don't need references: a good, solid idea and a cracker of a scene will tell us far more!

APOLOGIES, BUT...

We can't enter into any further correspondence. Everything you need to know to pitch is contained within this document.

Unfortunately, we won't be able to give any feedback on unsuccessful pitches.

Just one pitch per person, please. We don't want *every* idea you have; we want the *best* idea you have.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PITCH

By email, as a single Microsoft Word .doc attachment *or* as a single .pdf attachment (no other formats, please), to:

pitches@bigfinish.com

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T FORGET...

... to type your name, address, email address and daytime telephone number at the top of your attached document – not just in your email, please.

DEADLINE

... is 9.00 AM (GMT) on Monday 1 February 2010. We're *hoping* to have read all your pitches by the end of February... but we can't promise! We'll keep you updated via the website: www.bigfinish.com

We look forward to reading your ideas!

Alan Barnes – *Doctor Who* script editor, Big Finish Productions
Nicholas Briggs – *executive producer*, Big Finish Productions

SCRIPT FORMAT (EXAMPLE)

SCENE 2: EXT. HOTEL VERANDAH

(FX: POLICE BOX DOORS. MONEYED HUBBUB)

CHARLEY:
But this isn't –

DOCTOR:
Journey's end. As requested. (FX: POLICE BOX DOOR SHUT)
Singapore Harbour. New Year's Eve, 1930. This is where you were
headed, wasn't it? Before you met me.

CHARLEY:
The Singapore Hilton!!!

DOCTOR:
No, one better than that. Just in case of – you know, awkward
encounters.

CHARLEY:
But I look like a tramp! (SOTTO) And not the right sort of
tramp for a place like this...

DOCTOR:
Sorry?

CHARLEY:
What's the time?

(FX: CLICK OF FOBWATCH)

DOCTOR:
Eleven fifty-nine. (FX: SHAKE) Oh, hang on –

(FX: DISTANT FIRECRACKERS. CHINKING GLASSES. STEAMERS HONK.
OFF, A CLOCK STRIKING TWELVE)

CROWD:
(CHEERING) Happy New Year! [etc]

(WILDTRACK: DRUNKEN 'AULD LANG SYNE', WITH MUFFED WORDS)