



Sound and Vision

Digital artist Tom Webster explains how he creates evocative photo illustrations for the Big Finish range of audio drama releases.

INTERVIEW BY **CHRIS BENTLEY**



The CD sleeves created for the Big Finish range of *Doctor Who* audio dramas would provide an ideal case study for art historians of the future. As raster graphics editing software has evolved and the skill sets of users have developed, so the illustrations adorning the Big Finish covers have become increasingly complex, textured and artistic – to the extent that the early arrangements of cut-out portraits now appear quite crude in comparison to the vibrant, dynamic art of recent releases.

The current roster of artists was joined in 2014 by newcomer Tom Webster, who made an immediate impact with covers for the *Companion Chronicles* range and a trilogy featuring the Seventh

Doctor (Sylvester McCoy) – *Revenge of the Swarm*, *Mask of Tragedy* and *Signs and Wonders*. More recently he's provided the artwork for dramatisations of four mid-1990s *Doctor Who* novels and *Gallifrey: Intervention Earth*, a spin-off adventure with Time Lady Romana (Juliet Landau) and Ace (Sophie Aldred). Forthcoming projects include *The Sixth Doctor: The Last Adventure* and *UNIT: Extinction*, a four-story box set following Kate Stewart (Jemma Redgrave) and her new UNIT team.

“Tom was recommended to us by another artist, Damien May, and he just hit the ground running,” says producer David Richardson. “He started on the *Companion Chronicles* and he just turned our heads with those, and before long he was getting more and more to do. He's pretty much doing stuff for