

Fourth Doctor companions  
reunited in a new series...



# SARAH JANE & COMPANY

**A FEW YEARS** after leaving the TARDIS, Sarah Jane Smith and Harry Sullivan team up again on new investigations. Sadie Miller and Christopher Naylor feature in the roles of the Fourth Doctor's companions – as originally played on television by Elisabeth Sladen (Sadie's mother) and Ian Marter – in **Smith and Sullivan: Reunited**, a brand new full-cast audio adventure.

They are joined by K9 (John Leeson) and Sarah's Aunt Lavinia (Annette Badland, taking over the role first portrayed by Mary Wimbush in **K9 and Company**) in the chaos

of 1980s London, where they're going to find danger and darkness lurking beneath the metropolitan veneer of wealth and technology.

Mark Wright says: "I took over as producer on this series from David Richardson who had already done a lot of development work with script editor Peter Anghelides. As possibly **K9 and Company's** biggest fan (I rewatch it every year at Christmas), I couldn't resist this one. The scripts from Tim Foley, Roland Moore and Simon Guerrier were already in a very advanced stage so it was a case of getting everybody together and booking the studio."

Talking of our leads, Mark describes their dynamic as: "Joyous, funny, playful. Emotional. Something very special happened on the first day when we had Sadie, Chris, John and Annette together for the first time. Chris and Sadie already have such a good bond after playing Sarah and Harry over the last few years, and that just extended naturally with the addition of John as K9 and Annette as Aunt Lavinia. Sometimes in studio you can have *too* much fun, and that can affect performances, but the dynamic between our leads behind the scenes really helped bring the performances to an extra level."



Above (l-r): Sadie Miller and Christopher Naylor

"Working with them all was such a highlight. I've known Annette for a few years, one of the most delightful souls to have in studio. Annette had worked with Mary Wimbush (the original Aunt Lavinia) in the past, so there was that extra dimension."

The series begins with *The Caller* by Tim Foley. Tim says: "I love writing for Sadie and the idea of a Sarah after her TV adventures appealed greatly. And I'm thrilled to have written some acerbic lines for one of the best Whoniverse characters ever – Aunt Lavinia. Let's hear more of her please! This series has been in development for a long time and its plans have changed a lot since I first came on board – I'm excited to see where it goes next."

Mark adds: "In *The Caller* we also have Graham Seed as a guest star. Mary played Graham's mother in *The Archers*, so it was quite emotional to sit with both Annette and Graham and watch Mary's scenes in *K9 and Company*."

*Union of the Snake* by Roland Moore is the next adventure. Roland says:

**I knew I wanted the snake in it. Is it the Mara? I'm not going to spoil that one...**

ROLAND MOORE

"Peter asked if I'd like to write for a new Big Finish series and when I said yes, he sent me the proposal which was all very well thought out and exciting. In terms of my specific brief, I had free rein, but it had to be 'the sort of story that TV episode *Robot* would have been if the Doctor wasn't around.'"

When *Doctor Who* fans see the word 'snake' attached to anything, they think of the Mara. Roland agrees: "*Union of the Snake* is a very 1980s reference (for those that don't know, it's the title of a song by Duran Duran) and it seemed the natural title for the story, once I knew I wanted the snake in it. Is it the Mara? I'm not going to spoil that one..."

"The adventure concerns a man who has made a vast fortune very quickly. Sarah is suspicious as it seems to involve the theft of alien tech. It's full of action, but at its heart it has a tragedy that motivates the story. The scope is pretty epic."

*Blood Type* by Simon Guerrier concludes the set. Simon tells *Vortex*: "I'm a big fan of Sarah, Harry and K9, what fun to put them all together. I'm ancient enough to have watched *K9 and Company* when it was broadcast. I remember as I wrote my storyline I wasn't sure how much to make it *K9 and Company*, how much *Sarah Jane Adventures* or whether it should be something else. That got settled later down the line and we adjusted my story to fit."

"My starting point was to do an adventure about Sarah Jane as a working journalist. My own freelance life is pretty wide-ranging – I'm a journalist and parliamentary reporter as well as writing sci-fi drama for Big Finish. So I was interested in what is actually involved in Sarah's day job and how does she balance it with her unpaid work poking into odd stuff involving aliens. She can't let on to the public that aliens exist, so she must have to frame what she writes around cover stories while also trying to give them enough spark and human interest to ensure she keeps getting work."

"But what if she gets found out? Or, worse, one of her innocuous stories leads to an alien being exposed?" **VORTEX**

## SMITH AND SULLIVAN REUNITED



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