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EDITORIAL

IG FINISH gets everywhere! As I've discovered in my day to day life in the last few weeks. For example, I went to do a restaurant review in Edinburgh as part of my day job (oh it's a hard life, but someone's got to do it!). My congenial host mentioned that the restaurant was like a TARDIS, and I suggested he keep Doctor Who references to a minimum or he'd start me off for several hours. He then replied he was a big Doctor Who fan.

Of course, it's a scientific fact that you can't be a big **Doctor Who** fan without being a fan of Big Finish too... and he agreed!
So, a quick chat later I had a new friend – and he loves *Vortex* too. What a lovely man!

Then, as I write today, April 2nd, I was in Glasgow and in the

Buchanan Galleries shopping centre, where I spotted a young couple. One was dressed akin to Jodie Whittaker's new incarnation (complete with bum bag), while her gentleman companion had a dark blue leather jacket, jeans and a satchel swung over his shoulder.

I couldn't resist – I had to go over and say hello. I think they were surprised that I especially knew the Big Finish Eighth Doctor look, but I assured them I knew a thing or two about the audios. And best of all, he had a replica Weta sonic screwdriver in his bag, which made me jealous. I WANT one of those! Sadly I didn't catch their names, but the pair of you... I salute you! Big Finish... taking over the

world, one city at a time...

VORTEX

COMINGSOON

LIVE WELL FOR EXCLUSIVE BLUE VINYL!

Big FINISH is set to hit
Britain's supermarkets for
the first time ever.
In an exclusive deal with

Sainsbury's, **Doctor Who**: Energy of the Daleks – with the Doctor facing off against his old foes – will be available on vinyl record.

From the 25th of May, Sainsbury's will be stocking a strictly limited pressing of 1,500 copies of *Energy of the Daleks* on blue 180gm heavyweight vinyl. They will be available in participating stores only.

A spokesperson from Sainsbury's said: "We're really excited to be

stocking something as iconic as the Doctor in our stores, so to have *Energy of the Daleks* in a limited run on blue vinyl is a massive treat for us."

Written by Nicholas Briggs, the Doctor (Tom Baker) along with his companion Leela (Louise Jameson) find themselves in the middle of London at the time of a new energy crisis – and, as ever, the Daleks are up to no good.

Big Finish executive producer Nick confirmed: "We're just thrilled that we'll be reaching a brand new audience for vinyl through our friends at Sainsbury's."



Previous Big Finish vinyl releases have included *The Light at the End, The Chimes of Midnight* and *Spare Parts.* Big Finish has released seven series of The Fourth Doctor Adventures starring Tom Baker—which are all available from the Big Finish website. **VORTEX**



SHE'S BACK, AND IT'S ABOUT TIME!
KENNY SMITH FINDS OUT ABOUT THE
RESURRECTION OF JENNY ON AUDIO...

FALL the characters who have appeared in Doctor Who since 2005, one character above all others has been crying out to have their story continued.

Jenny, created from the Doctor's DNA in TV episode *The Doctor's Daughter*, was played with memorable aplomb by Georgia Moffett. Nowadays, she's Georgia Tennant – and she is the Doctor's wife!

The actress admits she wasn't too sure about bringing the character back at first. Georgia

told Vortex: "I have to confess I was a little reluctant initially at the idea of bringing Jenny back. The conversations started a few years ago and I didn't feel like I knew what I'd be signing up for at that point. As I had only done one episode of the TV series, I didn't feel like I entirely owned the character.

"The very nature of her being born at the beginning of the episode meant she was a fairly undeveloped character and therefore the possibility of who she would become was very

wide. It wasn't until last year that I came to the realisation that this wasn't a scary thing but actually rather exciting.

"I needed to own it, and it became clear that the only way I would feel comfortable revisiting her was to be involved in the creation of her. So I asked to be associate producer and for Sean Biggerstaff to be my companion, and Big Finish agreed."

The series script editor is Matt Fitton, who takes up the story: "Jenny is one of those characters where you think they could have revisited her. It felt like things were set up so she would have more adventures and carry on the Doctor's legacy somehow.



in there too as the Big Finish stalwarts, to bring what we have to it. All the writers got together in London where we talked over the tone, and it's quite fun and energetic, almost comic strip adventures."

As Georgia mentioned, she requested that Sean Biggerstaff was cast as Jenny's companion, Noah.

She says: "Sean and I have remained great mates since working together in 2008.
He is one of the world's good guys. He would hate me to say that as it doesn't make him sound dark and mysterious!
He is lovely and brilliant and one of the funniest humans I know. Above all else, I wanted to enjoy the process of making Jenny and there were very few people I wanted to share a booth with for nine hours a day."
Sean tells Vortex: "Georgia

Sean tells *Vortex*: "Georgia and I have been friends for 10

"Initially, Georgia wasn't sure how Jenny could sustain a series of her own, so producer David Richardson sent her a few sample script pages I'd written aiming to capture Jenny's spirit – fast, slick, witty and joyous, with innocence thrown in too despite the space/time travelling – and a rough series outline.

"Once she took a look at the ideas Georgia could see the series had legs. We suggested she might like to write one, but she was happier to come on board as associate producer, and look over all of the storylines."

The writing team contains two names familiar to Big Finish devotees, and two newcomers.

Matt says: "Two of the writers we have actually came as suggestions from Georgia.

"Adrian wrote BBC Three comedy **White Van Man**, and Christian Brassington has written with Georgia before. Myself and John Dorney are

66 WHEN YOU'RE WORKING WITH BIG FINISH, IT ALWAYS FEELS LIKE YOU'RE ON A JOLLY WITH YOUR PALS. 99

SEAN BIGGERSTAFF



years this year. We met on an episode of Agatha Christie's Marple, which was shot in August 2008, I believe. It was an amazing cast – Julia McKenzie, Mark Williams, Richard Briers, Samantha Bond, Warren Clarke, Rik Mayall... Georgia and I were Frankie and Bobby, who appeared in the novel, and were the prototypes for the Tommy and Tuppence characters Christie went on to write a series about.

"We've tried to do things together a couple of times since, but nothing had really worked out. When the **Jenny** series came up, Georgia suggested me as her companion, which was great.



66 I THINK I'D SUM UP THE TONE AS 'KICK-ASS!' ??

CRISTIAN BRASSINGTON



I've done quite a few Big Finish things over the years, but this is the first one where I'm a regular.

"I've previously played fairly normal Earthlings, which is good fun, and I've also played the Rhuk and Sobek the crocodile, but being a regular is good.

"When you're working with Big Finish, it always feels like you're on a jolly with your pals. It's usually just for a day or two, but to be in a full series for a whole week, it's even more fun – you're being paid to hang out with your mates!

"I'd seen the TV episode with Jenny before, but I went back and had another gander at it."

HE SERIES begins with

Stolen Goods, written by
Matt Fitton.

Matt says: "It's always nice going into a new set-up with people who are familiar around each other, which you get when you go into studio with the Doctors and their companions. They've known each other for a long time, and it was great to have that quality there from the start with Georgia and Sean.

"The series starts with Jenny the way that she appears on TV, and we take it from there. She is flying around the universe in a ship that she doesn't quite know how to work, narrowly avoiding crashing it into a moon, and falls foul of a con being run by Garundel.

"I thought it would be good to bring him back as he's featured in a couple of Seventh Doctor stories, and I think he's the right kind of villain for a story with Jenny."

Sean adds: "It was weird starting off playing the character as he has no memory of experience, but quite quickly develops into someone with a sense of justice, and it was good fun playing his responses to his circumstances. He's a bit blasé in his reaction to danger, though.

"It's interesting when you've got these characters who are inexperienced in life, two totally different characters, and there are all these unanswered questions about where they came from."

Matt agrees: "Sean's character makes Jenny the one in the know, but at the same time, she's quite clueless herself – it's the innocent leading the innocent."

NOTHER NEW series creation makes their first appearance for Big Finish in *Prisoner of the Ood* by John Dorney. John says: "Writing for the Ood was one of the chief thrills when I was asked to be involved, but what I needed to do was come up with something new for them to do.

"You need to make sure they get red-eyed and attack people at some point in the story, because that's what people





know they do and would expect to happen, but they are a peaceful species too. They are usually pawns in someone else's game, and because of that, they are great monsters.

"There's a reason why they are one of the most popular and remembered monsters in Doctor Who, because they look amazing, and have that gorgeous voice, courtesy of Silas Carson.

"With a lot of the monsters, they can only do one thing, but there's so much there for the Ood." As this is the first Big Finish Ood

story, did John feel any pressure writing for the popular creature? He pauses, and says: "You

tend not to think of things like that when you're writing the script, and it's only

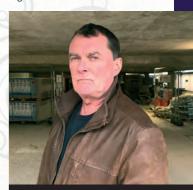
afterwards you realise that.

"The storyline actually started out as something for Classic Doctors, New Monsters, but I think the script benefits now because it's Jenny rather than the Doctor. It's actually been a long while since we first started thinking about using them."

John used a writer's privilege, for once, to put himself into the adventure.

He admits: "There's a part I wrote, and I actually felt it should be played by me. It's a fun little part. I don't want to spoil it, but I thought I'd write it and turn up on the day and do this character for free. I thought it would be strange if someone else played it... but I can't say why!"

DVENTURE THREE is Neon Reign by Christian Brassington. He said: "Georgia and I do a bit of writing together and when she told me



Above: Stuart Milligan

she was bringing Jenny back to life, she very generously asked if I'd like to write one of the episodes (I think Big Finish asked Georgia if she wanted to write an episode first then it was a bit, No, but I know a man who does!).

"I think I'd sum up the tone as 'Kick-Ass!' The series is going to be very exciting and a lot of fun. And it's great that we've

got a strong female character to lead us on these adventures.

"I think Neon Reign is about how ultimate power ultimately corrupts. It's about how we view and treat women. But mostly I hope it's an exciting adventure on a strange new world for the Big Finish fans."

Chris also admitted he enjoyed writing for Georgia and Sean.

He grins: "It was tremendous fun! Jenny is someone who doesn't take herself too seriously. And she has an ace sense of humour, so there's lots of play there. Sean's character has this childlike quality, an innocence, which is really lovely to write for. Though he did tell me off for making him sing in Mandarin. You'll have to wait to find out how that fits in to the series!"

Georgia adds: "One of the main things I wanted Jenny to be was full of humour. I wanted her to feel like she could be your mate, someone you knew or someone you could become – strong, courageous with a defined moral compass, but always ready to see the funny side. She doesn't know the Doctor, really, and she has developed her own personality and way of being in the universe. She isn't prepared to live in his shadow but rather embraces the legacy she has been dealt."

HE BOX set comes to a close with Zero Space by Adrian Poynton.

He reveals: "I've been good friends with Georgia for a while now since we worked on BBC Three's **White Van Man** together, and I just think she's just brilliant as both a person and an actor. So, when she finally agreed to Big Finish bringing Jenny back and asked me to write her an episode, how could I ever say no?

"Matt Fitton, who is just amazing by the way, was the architect of the rough set up for this box set, so he sent me





Below (I–r): Sean Biggerstaff and Georgia Tennant

an email telling me roughly where Jenny was now, post *The Doctor's Daughter*, who her sort-of-companion would be, the series villain and the type of tone he wanted to



go for in these adventures... and that was about it.

"Knowing the other locations he wanted episodes to take place in, the only other thing he asked was that I try to set my story on a space station. But other than that, I could do whatever I wanted with it. So I did. And I think it turned out really well! I'm very happy with this episode.

"My story is the box set finale. It's set on a space station hidden away in the middle of a vary rare anomaly called Zero Space. A bubble of space in the galaxy containing literally nothing... kind of like the TARDIS zero room (where I got it's name from). Jenny and Noah accidentally fly into it, discover the space station and literally come crashing



JENNY THE DOCTOR'S DAUGHTER

OUT IN JUNE

Download/CD

EXTRAS Bonus Disc

STOLEN GOODS by Matt Fitton

PRISONER OF THE OOD by John Dorney

NEON REIGN by Christian Brassington

ZERO SPACE by Adrian Poynton

Directed by: BARNABY EDWARDS

Starring:

GEORGIA TENNANT SEAN BIGGERSTAFF SIÂN PHILLIPS STUART MILLIGAN SARAH WOODWARD **CLARE CORBETT** ARABELLA WEIR **SILAS CARSON ROSALYN LANDOR OLIVIA DARNLEY** JOHN DORNEY **PIK-SEN LIM** ARINA II SARA HOUGHTON PAUL COURTENAY HYU **ADÈLE ANDERSON ANTHONY CALF**

through their hanger bay doors. What they discover and what happens then...well, you'll just have to listen and find out."

Adrian also had fun writing for the leads: "Obviously I've written for Georgia before and just love the way she performs. She's a naturally hilarious person so I really wanted to bring some more of that to Jenny's character."

The series has been directed by Barnaby Edwards. He recalled: "I first worked with Sean on Big Finish's *Shada* in 2003 – as an actor, not a director – and

must be something of a relief to him that this time around he's playing someone vaguely human!

"Georgia I've only admired from afar until now. This is the first time we've worked together and I couldn't have wished for a sassier, cleverer or funnier lead actress. She was a joy in every scene, instantly clicking with Sean to create a relationship which feels totally believable."

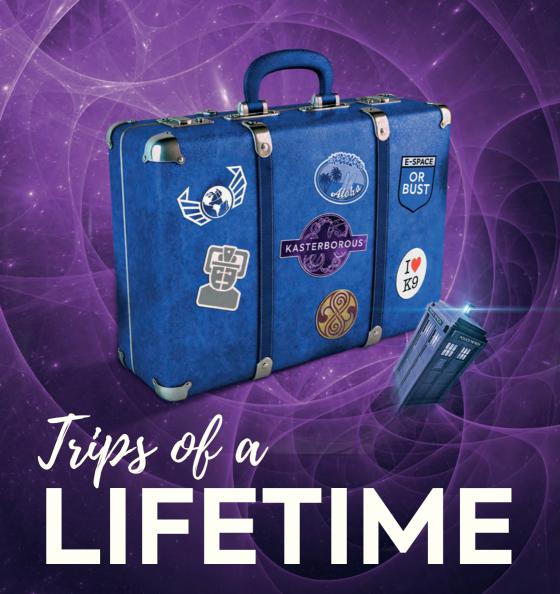
Georgia concludes: "I am terribly proud of Jenny, of the character we have all created. I feel like she is a woman girls and



66 OVER THE YEARS I'VE CAST SEAN AS CROAKING CROCODILES, RASPING ROOKS AND OTHER ASSORTED VOICE-WRECKING CHARACTERS. 99 BARNABY EDWARDS

we had such a fun time on that production that we've been friends ever since. Most people will know Sean as Oliver Wood in the Harry Potter films – charming, articulate, smooth-voiced – but over the years I've cast him as croaking crocodiles, rasping rooks and other assorted voice-wrecking characters. So it

boys can look up to. She is next in a long line of brilliant female characters from the **Who**niverse and I hope she will be around for a long time yet. I really did have the most wonderful time working with Big Finish making this show. I hope I get to do it until Jenny turns old and grey. And even a bit after that!" **VORTEX**



KENNY SMITH LOOKS AT THE SHORT BUT PERFECTLY FORMED MONTHLY ADDITIONS TO THE DOCTOR WHO RANGE...

IG FINISH has a huge number of audio plays being released each month, but it shouldn't be forgotten that not every tale features a large cast. The Short Trips range is now in its eighth

run, bringing together stories from all eras of **Doctor Who**, in a perfectly-packaged shorter form. Each tale is usually performed by a single reader who brings it to life, alongside top class music and sound design. Producer Ian Atkins says:
"I didn't really approach this season with any specific plan, other than to try and work with newer writers, and to go into studio with readers who hadn't been heard in the range much (or at all).

"We tend to record with some of the main **Doctor Who** actors in batches of two stories, so there were a few releases recorded with





those earlier in the range – i.e. Nicola Bryant and Carole Ann Ford. I like spacing these out so that you get as much variety as you can in tone, voice and reader. But it did mean a long wait for Mark Strickson fans!

"There were a few special oneoffs, such as Geoffrey Beevers writing and reading his take on a character he's very close to, and the chance to work with Miranda Raison was one I embraced – I've thought she was great since seeing her on Spooks, and love what the Main Range has done



66 I HAVE TO SAY, UNEXPECTED BUT QUITE AN HONOUR THAT NARVIN GETS TO HAVE HIS OWN SHORT TRIP. 99

SEÁN CARLSEN

with Mrs Constance Clarke, so it was a match made in Heaven.

"And working with Yee Jee Tso was fab – it's brilliant that



David Richardson enabled the Vault stories to give Big Finish a chance to work with Yee Jee, and his reading of Eddie Robson's tale is a laconic Bond film written by Raymond Chandler!"

HERE'S ANOTHER new name joining the roster of readers. Seán Carlsen plays Time Lord Narvin in Erasure, out now and written by original Big Finish producer Gary Russell. Gary is no stranger to Narvin, having helped create him for the Gallifrey spin-off series.

This adventure is set during the time that the Fourth Doctor was travelling with Adric. Here, CIA Sub-Coordinator Narvin leaves Gallifrey on a mission to investigate the planet Bellascon.

A delighted Seán tells Vortex:
"It was, I have to say, unexpected but quite an honour that Narvin gets to have his own Short Trip. It was wonderful to be involved and to work with Gary Russell again – honestly, it was a real joy.

"It was an interesting one to do as this pre-dates the first Gallifrey series, and although I can't say too much about this, it's the first time Narvin goes off Gallifrey. And he has his first encounter with the Doctor, but we know he's met him a few times over the years."

As he's performing the story it meant Seán had the chance

66 IT'S THE ONLY BIG FINISH RANGE THAT CAN GO TO LITERALLY ANY TIME IN THE SHOW'S HISTORY AND THAT'S IMMENSELY EXCITING. 99

IAN ATKINS

to dust off his Tom Baker impression. He grins: "I think we've all done impressions of Tom over the years! I thought long and hard about how to do this as I wanted to do enough to try and lift the Doctor off the page. I didn't do the full Jon Culshaw, but hopefully it's enough of a performance to capture his spirit. It's the same with doing Matthew Waterhouse as Adric.

"I really enjoyed the experience as it was a wonderful script. It's amazing, but Narvin has built up quite a following over the years. I've been invited to conventions, and it's only when you're there that you realise just how much people have enjoyed Gallifrey, and have been kind enough to say how much they've liked my work as Narvin."

Last year saw the Tenth and Eleventh Doctors encounter Jago & Litefoot in **Short Trip** form.

Ian adds: "To me, **Doctor Who** is *one* thing, so there's no real new series/classic series differentiation – indeed, given the character/emotional depth you can do with the **Short Trips**, then the whole 50 year history gets the same treatment in how deep the stories are (although the idea that the classic series never did character/emotion isn't very accurate, in my opinion).

"There are a few production differences to deal with, but as long as all eras





are represented with the same quality of story and performance, I'm very happy.

"I wanted the **Short Trips** to be heard – I think any producer who respects his writers has that intention at the top of his list – and when I first took the range on, some listeners tended to ignore the releases, so I worked to have it almost as one of those partworks, covering as many eras and actors as I could on top of those who'd already done the first year or so, while keeping the quality high.



"It's the only Big Finish range that can go to literally any time in the show's history and that's immensely exciting. We've also told some hugely important stories too, which I don't think people always expected. When we were recording, The Jago & Litefoot Revival, I was pinching myself that I was being allowed to do this. To be honest, that's been the vibe for me all along!" VORTEX

SHORT TRIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD NOW AT BIGFINISH.COM PRICED £2.99

VORTEXMAIL

BOOK BLAKE

I read with much interest in the October edition of Vortex Michael Parsons's inquiry about the possibility of a new Companion book. As a keen Blake's 7 fan who has thoroughly enjoyed Big Finish's new stories, I was wondering if you had considered producing a book devoted specifically to this range. There are now more Big Finish Blake's 7 plays than BBC Blake's 7 television episodes so I'm sure there would be no shortage of material for such a book.

ANDREW K SHENTON

Nick: Production of such a book would be quite costly and labour intensive, and we'd have to be sure that there was enough of a market for it. It's certainly a great idea that's surfaced several times in our regular discussions about content.

WHAT'S THE SCORE?

Just wanted to say a long overdue thank you for all that you do. Big Finish has been the main source of my entertainment for over eight years now and I've never enjoyed listening more. Every range has had brave and innovative storytelling. Particularly with the **Torchwood** range, which – like every Big Finish range – has taken everything good about the series and brought it to new heights. On that subject, are there any plans to make Blair Mowat's fantastic scores available as isolated pieces?

RYAN

Nick: Thanks so much for all you say, Ryan. I will make sure your thoughts are passed along, as I know it makes a huge difference to everyone involved in the

productions when they hear how much their work is loved. I'll speak to James Goss about Blair's music for Torchwood. We may be able to treat you to some of it in the Big Finish Podcast, as we did with Howard Carter's music (for The Last Adventure) a few weeks ago.

MR AND MRS?

With the return of Jenny: The Doctor's Daughter, let me just add my voice to the many who will be asking – or pleading – for a reunion between David and Georgia in any future series planned for everyone's favourite cloned Time Lord. I'm looking forward to the months ahead. Soon I'll need a TARDIS to hold my CD collection!

e ROD

Nick: Rod, there's no denying this is a great idea. It's all a question of logistics and persuading that very busy Mr Tennant.

SO LONG, SOPHIE?

Just been listening to The Sixth Doctor: The Last Adventure again and was struck by a thought. Have you ever thought of doing a definitive 'final' story for Ace? As with Colin Baker, this doesn't have to mean the end of Sophie Aldred's association with Big Finish, and would fix another glaring omission left by the cancellation of the original series. I think the character's more than earned a proper send-off - just hopefully not of the fatal kind, as in the Doctor Who Magazine strip...

SIMON DARLEY

Nick: Personally, I'm not all that keen on sealing off story

possibilities. And when we did that 'final' Sixth Doctor story, we did receive quite a lot of protests assuming we'd never work with Colin Baker again! I would never rule out a final Ace story, though. As long as we could make it clear we'd always want to continue to work with Sophie Aldred.

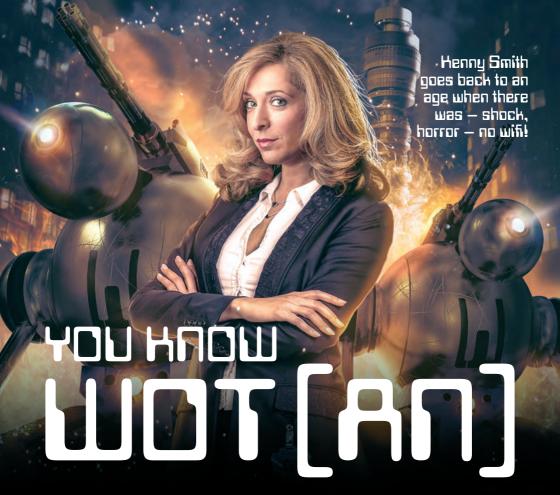


CROWD PLEASER

I am adoring **The Third Doctor Adventures** with Tim Treloar and Katy Manning. The stories are always brilliant, and just very pleasing as a fan. Daleks, Cybermen and the Monk! So in that vein, if you're looking for a story that can be unique but still pleasing to fans, and also minimises the role of UNIT, why not a return to Peladon? The Third Doctor, Jo, David Troughton and a bunch of Ice Warriors (and if not that then James Dreyfus's Master) would do very nicely in a story.

ALEX H

Nick: Nice idea, Alex. We'd have to think very carefully about a Peladon story. We wouldn't want to simply repeat what had been done before. But it's a lovely suggestion. VORTEX



NTELEVISION,
Torchwood One (in
London) and Torchwood
Three (in Cardiff) seemed
completely different entities –
different rules under different
leaders. And what have the clever
people at Big Finish done? Gone and
married them up perfectly.

We've already had a glimpse of life at Canary Wharf under Yvonne Hartman in Before the Fall, and now we're back in the early 2000s, as computer technology is advancing apace. But this time, something's wrong, and something old has worked its way into Torchwood One.

Tracy-Ann Oberman is back as Yvonne Hartman, with Gareth David-Lloyd as a pre-Cardiff Torchwood Ianto Jones. Oh, and WOTAN is back – an analogue menace in a digital world.

Producer James Goss says:
"I thought how perfect *The War Machines* with the First Doctor would be as something to go to. *The War Machines* was the first office-based **Doctor Who** story, and Torchwood One is very much about 'office life with aliens' so this seemed to be a good thing.

"Imagine WOTAN waking up after all these years and discovering the internet and modern working life – and Yvonne Hartman. There comes a point where WOTAN draws parallels between itself and Yvonne – both are excellent at using people to achieve their ends."

The War Machines is **Doctor**Who's most swinging sixties
London story – did James want
to capture some of that feel for
more recent times on audio?

He says: "There's a lot of London, especially London in the mid 2000s. There is the DLR, there are coffee shops and there is a concern about terrorism.

"In the first story, Yvonne looks at WOTAN's leftovers and decides to build a robotic police force that can survey people. It's not a bad idea, not per se."

The Law Machines has been written by Matt Fitton.

The Mayor of London is launching her bold new law and order initiative. The capital will



be kept safe from crime, from fear, from terrorists. The Law Machines are launching. What could possibly go wrong?

Matt says: "It's placed a little bit in the past, about the mid-2000s, so we're back at the beginning of wifi and Bluetooth, when everything is becoming interconnected. "Of course, Yvonne's attitude to it all is, if you've done nothing wrong, you've got nothing to fear. Of all the **Torchwood** characters, Yvonne is one of my favourites to write – she's actually brilliant at her job!"

If you've had a look through the cast list for this set, you'll have noticed that ₩□TĦ⊓ is back, playing

LINH WOTAN WAS CREATED TO LINH COMPUTERS AROUND THE WORLD INTO THE ONE NETWORK.

MATT FITTON

"When you look back to *The War Machines*, WOTAN was created to link computers around the world into the one network.

"Yvonne sees the potential in the designs WOTAN had, and left behind the plans to build the surveilance machines. Back in the mid-2000s, the rapid developments in CCTV and people being watched all the time was a massive issue.

himself once more. Tempting the homicidal machine back to the worlds of **Doctor Who** wasn't a problem for the production team.

James adds: "He's actually a massive fan of Big Finish. He's been running their website for years!"

N THE second story of the set, Blind Summit, James says: "We see how Yvonne first met and recruited



Ianto Jones. And who better to write about Ianto than the man who also brings him to life, Mr Gareth David-Lloyd."

Ianto Jones has just moved to London. He's broke, has no friends, no future. One day he loses the one thing he's been holding on to, and suddenly people around him are dying. Could a mysterious woman really offer him salvation?

Gareth, writing his second
Torchwood script, says: "It's
been great. I love getting back
under Ianto's skin – it's part of
my being now. I never thought,
when we started out, that I'd still
be playing him today. Even the
most successful TV shows only
last for seven or eight years, so to
still be Ianto some 12 years later,
is quite an achievement, really.

"It's great to have the chance to look into Ianto's background in **Torchwood One**, and what brought him to where we first met him on TV."

Gareth has been working on his own writing projects for a while now. He explained: "Being a fan of James Goss's work, I sent him a script for a project which I've just got off the ground, with the pilot version now recorded.

"Black River Meadow grew from an idea I had for a six-part horror drama set in the Welsh mountains. I didn't send it to that many people at first, just keeping it amongst some writer friends who I liked and respected.

"The main thing was it's a bit of a struggle to showcase the genre, tone and feel of it, but one of the ways you can do that for the likes of Amazon is to do a short film, and I thought, Why not do a short film on what it's like in this universe I'm creating?

"So I got together with another web producer to showcase the series on the web. This is going to be one of three – we crowdfunded this first one – and we're very, very happy with it. We're hoping to have it out there in June.

"James read the script, and then asked if I'd like to write something for Big Finish. The first thing I wrote, *The Last Beacon*, came out just this April – it did take a while to get Burn Gorman available to record it! They said it was a blast, so would I like to do another one, except this one was set pre-**Torchwood** Three?

"I had so much fun working on the first Torchwood One series, so I jumped at the chance. There's a very different dynamic between Ianto and Jack, and Ianto and Yvonne. They're very different characters. I suppose I'd sum it up as saying Yvonne is very, very British in the way she does things, while with Jack, he's far more American with his personality and attitude."

Gareth reveals the writing team were pretty much left to get on with their own tales, after being given the central theme for the set. He reveals: "Big Finish asked us, the writers, for our storylines and we came up with separate ideas and they had a through line that brought everything together, so everything is connected with machine technology and the dangers that go with it.

"There are subtle links between each story. They all stand up in their own right, though. When you think **Torchwood** started back in 2006, it's amazing how much things have changed. It's fun to look back in time and compare the differences between now and then.

"There's a scene where Ianto thinks he's coined the word 'selfie' for taking a digital self portrait on a phone. It's funny how back then no one would have known what it meant, but it's an every day word now."

Of the writing team, James adds they were chosen because of their: "Brilliance. Matt had done a great story for the first **Torchwood One** box set. Gareth had written the phenomenal *The Last Beacon*. And Tim Foley had just provided two highpoints of **Torchwood**: *Aliens Among Us* back to back.

"Also, one thing united them all – they'd all had terrible office jobs in the past and they all wanted revenge!"

HE SERIES concludes with 9 to 5 by Tim Foley, and James says: "In the final story, we examine that curse of the 2000s – temporary workers." It's Monday morning. Stacey loves Mondays. Stacey loves every





day. Stacey lives to work. She's a temp and she loves it. Only there's a man in the coffee queue who has a terrible warning for her. Stacey is going to die today.

Tim says: "It's the day in the life of an extraordinary temp worker. I think we've all felt like Stacey at some point in our careers, trapped in a cubicle and dreaming of something better – but Stacey is lucky enough and damned enough to have Torchwood crashing into her office."

Tim was delighted to wind the clock back to the mid-2000s.

He grins: "We had lots of discussions about how different



TORCHWOOD ONE MACHINES

OUT IN JULY

Download/CD
EXTRAS Interviews

THE LAW MACHINES by Matt Fitton

BLIND SUMMITby Gareth David-Lloyd

9 TO 5 by Tim Foley

Directed by: BARNABY EDWARDS

Starring

TRACY-ANN OBERMAN
GARETH DAVID-LLOYD
JANE ASHER
PATERSON JOSEPH
JAMES WILBY
ADJOA ANDOH
NIKY WARDLEY
DANIEL ANTHONY
TIM BENTINCK
TREVOR NEAL
CLAIRE WYATT
HELEN GOLDWYN
NICHOLAS PEGG
AND WOTAN

the workplace was back then. I've only ever known office environments in a post-2008-crash landscape, but wind the clock back to 2005 and there are too many jobs in a city running loose. It was fun getting into that mindset, and inevitably there's a sense of 'the good times won't last' hanging over the story.

"I was to write a workplace drama with a twist. I knew it was going to be the end of a box set, so there was the added pressure of going out on a high! The 'machine' in my story is the workplace – how it keeps its workers suppressed and how it shudders when another office culture, that of Torchwood, slips into the ranks."

One of the highlights of the job was writing for Yvonne and Ianto. Tim says: "I love these two. They're such a good duo because

THERE'S A
VERY DIFFERENT
DYNAMIC
BETWEEN IANTO
AND JACH, AND
IANTO AND
YUDDDE.

GARETH DAVID-LLOYD

they each push the other to be better (or worse!) than they are as individuals. That's something this story looks at. I wrote for a very different Yvonne in *Aliens Among Us*, so it was awesome to be writing for the original with her Ianto by her side."

VERSEEING THINGS in studio was Barnaby Edwards, who directed the three adventures.

He says: "I adore the mad world of **Torchwood**. And specifically, the mad world of Yvonne Hartman and Ianto Jones. Tracy-Ann and Gareth are an absolute dream to work with – their microphone technique is second to none and the subtleties and nuances they can bring to those characters is gobsmacking to behold.

"When you have those two as your leads and three cracking scripts, you really need to up your game on the casting front. So I was delighted to assemble a fine guest cast: Adjoa Andoh, Daniel Anthony, Niky Wardley, Paterson Joseph, James Wilby and – I still can't quite believe this – Jane Asher."

How did Barney enjoy recapturing the mood of the mid-2000s, with the rise of the wifi, Bluetooth, etc?

He smiles: "For me, the 2000s seem like yesterday – so it was a very short journey



Above: Tracy-Ann Oberman

back in time. It was huge fun imagining how a certain megalomaniacal computer from the 1960s might react to those new technologies however..." YORTEX



KENNY SMITH DISCOVERS THE NEW BOX SET FEATURING DARK SHADOWS' STAR-CROSSED LOVERS

Quentin Collins and Maggie Evans – two complex characters with a fascinating, intertwined relationship in the world of **Dark Shadows**.

N TELEVISION, in the parallel time world of 1970, Maggie was the second wife of Quentin Collins, but this new box set of four tales in the Big Finish audio series builds on the close relationship between the pair in Maggie & Quentin – The Lovers' Refrain.

Speaking to *Vortex* from her home in Southern California, Kathryn Leigh Scott, who plays Maggie, tells us she adores returning to Collinwood.

She laughs: "Love it! For members of the original cast, it's a huge pleasure to reunite in a recording booth and play our characters in new dramas. It's also a joy to know that after 50-some years we're attracting new fans to the show 'that kids ran home from school to watch'!

"The scripts are written and produced by a merry band of young, fearless Brits who put an entirely different spin on our Gothic romance... it's a highly dysfunctional Downton Abbey/Dark Shadows

mashup that's fun, thrilling and entirely unpredictable."

This new release places Maggie and Quentin front and centre – what inspired **Dark Shadows** producers David Darlington and Joseph Lidster to give them their own spin-off?

Joe reveals: "The idea came from Kathryn herself. A couple of years ago, she came over to London and myself and David met up with her for a drink. We chatted about the audios and asked her if she had anything she'd personally like to do.

"Kathryn said that she'd love to work more with David Selby





- citing our ongoing adventures with Jerry Lacy and Lara Parker as Tony and Cassandra as an example. The problem we faced was that Maggie and Quentin don't actually interact that much in the television series.

"We then remembered that in the audio drama Return to Collinwood, the two characters had become a couple. For those unfamiliar with Return to Collinwood, it's an audio drama that was released in

2003 before Big Finish gained the licence to the series.

"Return to Collinwood was also set in 2003 – and we had decided that all our stories would be based before then, allowing us to seed the storylines and relationships established in that story. But we thought that with The Lovers' Refrain it would be interesting to explore Maggie and Quentin's relationship after Return to Collinwood.

"Both characters are obviously

older and have gained a lot more life experience – Maggie is now a widowed nurse who runs the local Sanitarium and Quentin has been through a loving marriage

66 This box set has given us a great opportunity to explore what it's like to have a second great love affair in your life. 99

JOSEPH LIDSTER



and settled at Collinwood.

"This box set has given us a great opportunity to explore what it's like to have a second great love affair in your life. They've both been through so much, so what is it now that brings them together? A lot of praise has to go to script editor Alan Flanagan who really worked hard to make the series something special.

"These are four stories about love and growing old. They're about accepting your past isn't something you can get away from. They're really quite beautiful and poetic but also feature the gothic horror that's so integral to the series. I don't think Big Finish has released anything quite like this before."

AVID ADDS: "This is where working with Joe can be at its most interesting! It would probably have been less hassle just to produce something set in or around the original 1960s continuity, throwing the characters together in a way that perhaps didn't fit with the ethos or feel of the show at that time.

"But Joe's head just doesn't work that way. Where I'm far more worried about the practicalities of getting things done, Joe agonises over the 'reality' of it, over whether it's both 'new and exciting' while still 'feeling like Dark Shadows'. He won't pass an idea till it almost physically excites him... so it took a while for Joe and Alan to develop a framework for the writers that was better than 'good enough' - we ended up making the first run of Tony & Cassandra in the interim! But though that can have its frustrations, it's much more rewarding, I think, to not just be making 'another series like the last one' - now that we've nearly got there, anyway...!"

What is it about the characters that makes them so interesting?

Joe responds: "Quentin's brilliance is obvious – in the 1890s he was a rich playboy who had multiple affairs until a gypsy put a curse on him that turned him into a werewolf. An evil warlock then commissioned a portrait of him that kept the curse at bay and made him immortal. He spent decades travelling the world before returning to his home, Collinwood, in 1969.

"He's a fantastic morally dubious character but, mostly because of the wonderful David Selby's performance, he's a character you can't wait to spend time with.



"Maggie's appeal is less obvious. When the series began, she worked in a café and had a steady boyfriend and alcoholic father. As **Dark Shadows** embraced its supernatural side, however, she

Kathryn was delighted to be working with David Selby again, and reveals: "David and I are great friends (we had lunch together today and talk on the phone all the time) and love working together.

66 They're four very different writers and they've written four very different stories. **99** JOSEPH LIDSTER

became a target for the vampire, Barnabas Collins. She eventually moved into Collinwood to work as a governess and, in many ways, was the moral centre of the show. She's one of the few pure and good characters in **Dark Shadows** – until we took her down a dark path in *Bloodlust*!

"Kathryn Leigh Scott is a truly wonderful actress (who, like David, went on to have an amazing career after the show) and I think it's down to her that Maggie – who could have been quite a generic character – became the heart of **Dark Shadows**. So, Maggie & Quentin – The Lovers' Refrain stars two of the greatest actors from the show – and in this series, set in the early 2000s, they're playing older, if not necessarily wiser, versions of their popular characters."

"We spark off each other so whatever is on the page takes on new life with our interaction and probably goes in directions the writer hadn't anticipated... but that's the creative, spontaneous fun of collaboration."

LAN COMMISSIONED the writers for the four stories set after Return to Collinwood: The Girl Beneath the Water by Lila Whelan; The Sand That Speaks His Name by Mark Thomas Passmore; The Hollow Winds That Beckon by Cody Schell; and The Paper to the Flame by Alan himself. Joe says: "I worked with Alan in selecting our writers after requesting he write the series finale himself. Alan'd heard great things about Lila Whelan – especially her horror writing – so



DARK SHADOWS MAGGIE & QUENTIN: THE LOVERS' REFRAIN

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THE GIRL BENEATH THE WATER by Lila Whelan

THE SAND THAT SPEAKS HIS NAME by Mark Thomas Passmore

THE HOLLOW WINDS THAT BECKON by Cody Schell

THE PAPER TO THE FLAME by Alan Flanagan

Directed by:
DAVID DARLINGTON,
JOSEPH LIDSTER

Starring:
KATHRYN LEIGH SCOTT
DAVID SELBY
CLARK ALEXANDER
JOHNNY MYERS
BRENDAN O'ROURKE ZARA
SYMES
DAISY TORMÉ

we sought her out and she couldn't wait to get involved. Mark Thomas Passmore is an American writer and Dark Shadows fan who has written for us a few times. He established the Tony and Cassandra dynamic so we knew he was fantastic at exploring the relationship between two very different characters - but often in a fun, fast-paced adventure. Cody Schell, another American Dark Shadows fan, wrote the amazing The Flip Side for us - a terrifyingly dark intense character study so we knew he would nicely contrast with Mark's writing.

"They're four very different writers and they've written four very different stories. Lila's is a dark claustrophobic piece about families and love; Mark's is a romp through New York - only in Dark Shadows could you encounter a Golem while buying a wedding ring; Cody's is influenced by TV series Lost - Maggie and Quentin trapped on an island with a strange woman played by the ever-brilliant Daisy Tormé, battling the ghost of a fisherman; and Alan's series finale is a terrifying adventure set in abandoned town that's constantly burning."

David adds: "I love having brainstorming meetings with Alan and Joe – whenever four or five of us get together, there's always far more ideas flying around than we'll ever be able to dream of doing anything with, and it's a buzzy, interesting conversation and great fun – until the next day, when you realize you've now created all this work that has to be done!

"This time round, while we are using a few people we've used before, it's good that there's someone less established in the mix. I wasn't familiar with Lila's work before she came onto **Dark Shadows**, but partly from experience I trust both Joe and Alan to know who is likely to be a good fit for the feel of the show. It's also great, I think, that



rather than asking Mark to write another *Tony & Cassandra* story, we're stretching him in a different direction – by now Mark could probably write for Jerry Lacy and Lara Parker in his sleep... but where's the fun in that?!"

Despite **Dark Shadows** being over half a century old, Kathryn is delighted there are still more stories for Big Finish to tell with Maggie – and the other character she plays, Josette.

Kathryn explains: "Maggie has her own voice and it's deep inside me. She blossomed out of a favourite Carl Sandburg poem about a gal who 'beat her hands against the bars of a small town' and dreamed of a different life down the railroad tracks... she's a dreamer who pursues her yearnings and I just follow where she leads me.

"Maggie is one of the most intriguing roles I've played... and Josette is the embodiment of a doomed existence Maggie mustn't succumb to... so there's a lovely conflict there for the Big Finish team to work with!" YORTEX

LISTENAGAIN





VOYAGE TO VENUS VOYAGE TO THE NEW WORLD

RELEASED NOVEMBER 2014

HOSE OF us who have followed the adventures of Jago & Litefoot since the beginning are still mourning the end of the range after the sad passing of Trevor Baxter.

But happily we still have so many box sets of their escapades to treasure, not forgetting several additional outings. Two of those outings, released under the banner of *The Voyages of Jago & Litefoot*, saw them join the Sixth Doctor for some adventures in time and space. The first of these was *Voyage to Venus*, written by Jonathan Morris.

Producer David Richardson recalls: "My brief for Henry Gordon Jago and George Litefoot's first foray into the far-flung reaches of infinity was Jules Verne. I wanted that feel of Victoriana in outer space, so Jonny went away and came back with this lovely piece of outer space 'steampunk'. It brings the tone of Jago & Litefoot into Doctor Who – wickedly funny and endearing."

Jonny continues: "The planet Venus seemed the perfect

destination for a couple of reasons. Firstly, it wouldn't feel right to feature Litefoot and Jago in an out-and-out modern science fiction adventure. No, they should have an adventure with a Victorian sensibility, reflecting the concerns of that time such as colonialism, class, female emancipation and eugenics; and informed by the science fiction of that time; HG Wells and Jules Verne, as well as slightly later authors such as Edgar Rice Burroughs, CS Lewis and Olaf Stapledon.

"But it wouldn't be steampunk; those authors wouldn't have considered their work to be steampunk but based on the very latest scientific knowledge, so I decided to follow suit and draw my inspiration from New Scientist rather than brass rivets."

David adds: "As originally recorded, Jago and Litefoot's voyages started and ended with Venus – the second CD's cliffhanger originally sat on the first CD. But our plans changed

so we wrote a new cliffhanger which tied into the New World..."

Voyage to the New World was written by Matthew Sweet, after his initial idea involving Neanderthals was rejected. Matthew explains: "For my next idea, I thought about the early colonies. I was quite surprised it had never been done before by **Doctor Who**, although there have been various other sci-fi treatments of it over the years. There's a film about the colonists being attacked by the ghosts of the Viking discoverers of America.

"I didn't know much about it, apart from *Pocahontas* and Terrence Malick's film *The New World.* I went and looked at the written resources and the governor's diary kept by the government, and all you learn about it is what's in the diary. Although I added bits here and there, I tried to use as much of the original testimony as possible.

"I went to the British Museum about eight years ago when they were holding an exhibition about this moment in American history. There was a painting done by an ex-governor of Roanoke, John White, who had returned to Britain, then went back to find out what was happening there. That had all of the original material and was a meeting of alien worlds, between the Native Americans and the British – although maybe not as dramatic as the first meeting between humans and Martians!"

David adds: "My only regret is that we didn't do more – a whole series of adventures with the Doctor, Jago and Litefoot travelling together... Wouldn't it have been fantastic? But, alas, we can't do everything and it was time for Henry and George to go home." VORTEX

COMINGSC

MAY 2018

■ DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES:

THE LURE OF THE NOMAD

(238 SIXTH DOCTOR)

■ DW • FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: SERIES 7B

(7B. FOURTH DOCTOR AND LEELA, BOX SET)

■ DW • FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE SHADOW OF LONDON DLO

(7.5. FOURTH DOCTOR AND LEELA)

■ DW • FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE BAD PENNY DLO

(7.6, FOURTH DOCTOR AND LEELA)

■ DW • FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: KILL THE DOCTOR! DLO

(7.7, FOURTH DOCTOR AND LEELA) (7.8 FOURTH DOCTOR AND LEFLA)

■ DW • FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE AGE OF SUTEKH DLO

■ DW • SHORT TRIPS:

TRAP FOR FOOLS DLO (8.5. FIFTH DOCTOR AND TURLOUGH)

■ JAGO & LITEFOOT: JAGO & LITEFOOT FOREVER (14, BOX SET)

■ UNIT - THE NEW SERIES: CYBER REALITY (6)

■ STAR COPS: MOTHER EARTH PART 1 (BOX SET)

■ TORCHWOOD: WE ALWAYS GET OUT ALIVE (21)

■ BIG FINISH ORIGINALS: CICERO: SERIES 1 DLO

IUNF 2018

■ DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: IRON BRIGHT (239 SIXTH DOCTOR)

■ DW • THE COMPANION CHRONICLES: THE SECOND DOCTOR: VOLUME TWO (BOX SET)

■ DW • IENNY - THE DOCTOR'S DALIGHTER

■ DW • SHORT TRIPS: THE DARKENED EARTH DLO (8.6. SIXTH DOCTOR AND CONSTANCE)

■ TORCHWOOD: GOODBYE PICCADILLY (22)

■ DARK SHADOWS: MAGGIE & QUENTIN - THE LOVERS' REFRAIN

JULY 2018

(240, SIXTH DOCTOR)

■ DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: HOUR OF THE CYBERMEN

■ DW • THE FIRST DOCTOR ADVENTURES: VOLUME TWO (BOX SET)

■ DW • THE EIGHTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE TIME WAR: SERIES TWO (BOX SET)

■ DW • SHORT TRIPS: A SMALL SEMBLANCE OF HOME DLO

(8.7 FIRST DOCTOR IAN BARRARA AND SUSAN)

■ TORCHWOOD: INSTANT KARMA (23)

■ TORCHWOOD ONE: MACHINES (BOX SET)

■ CALLAN: VOLUME ONE (BOX SET)

■ BIG FINISH ORIGINALS: JEREMIAH BOURNE IN TIME DLO

AUGUST 2018

■ DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: RED PLANETS (241, SEVENTH DOCTOR, ACE AND MEL.)

■ DW • THE DIARY OF RIVER SONG:

SERIES 4 (BOX SET)

■ DW • SHORT TRIPS: I AM THE MASTER DLO (8.8, THE MASTER)

■ BERNICE SUMMERFIELD: TREASURY (BOX SET)

■ THE AVENGERS: TOO MANY TARGETS

■ TORCHWOOD: DEADBEAT ESCAPE (24)

SEPTEMBER 2018

■ DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: THE DISPOSSESSED (242 SEVENTH

■ DW • THE EARLY ADVENTURES: THE DALEK OCCUPATION OF WINTER (5.1, FIRST DOCTOR)

■ DW • SHORT TRIPS: THE MISTPUDDLE MURDERS DLO (8.9. FIFTH DOCTOR, NYSSA AND TEGAN)

DW • LADY CHRISTINA (BOX SET)

■ BERNICE SUMMERFIELD: THE STORY SO FAR VOLUME 1 (BOX SET)

■ BERNICE SUMMERFIELD: THE STORY SO FAR VOLUME 2 (BOX SET)

■ BIG FINISH ORIGINALS: SHILLING & SIXPENCE INVESTIGATE DLO

OCTOBER 2018

■ DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: THE QUANTUM POSSIBILITY ENGINE (243 SEVENTH DOCTOR, ACE AND MEL)

■ DW • THE EARLY ADVENTURES: AN IDEAL WORLD (5.2. FIRST DOCTOR) ■ DW • THE FIGHTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: RAVENOUS 2 (BOX SET)

■ DW • ELEVENTH DOCTOR CHRONICLES (BOX SET)

■ DW • SHORT TRIPS: THE DEVIL'S FOOTPRINTS DLO (8.10. SEVENTH DOCTOR AND MEL.)

■ BIG FINISH ORIGINALS: BLIND TERROR: THE GODS OF FROST

NOVEMBER 2018

■ DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: WARLOCK'S CROSS

(244, SEVENTH DOCTOR, ACE AND MEL)

■ DW • THE EARLY ADVENTURES: **ENTANGLEMENT** (5.3. FIRST DOCTOR)

■ DW • SHORT TRIPS: THE SIEGE OF BIG BEN DLO

(8.10 META-CRISIS DOCTOR JACKIE TVI ER)

■ UNIT - THE NEW SERIES: TBA (7)

■ SURVIVORS: SERIES 8 (BOX SET)

DECEMBER 2018

■ DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: TRA (245)

■ DW • THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: TBA (246)

■ DW • THE EARLY ADVENTURES: THE CRASH OF THE UK-201 (5.4 FIRST DOCTOR)

■ DW • SHORT TRIPS: FLIGHT INTO HULL! DLO (8.11, META-CRISIS DOCTOR, JACKIE TYLER)

■ BERNICE SUMMERFIELD: IN TIME (NOVEL FROOK AND AUDIOROOK)

■ STAR COPS: MOTHER EARTH PART 2 (BOX SET)

DLO = DOWNLOAD ONLY DW = DOCTOR WHO

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