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THE TIME WAR 2

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EDITORIAL

ACK IN the mists of time (OK, it was December 2014!), through my then day job, I was invited down to London for the press screening of the **Doctor Who** television special *Last Christmas*.

Various people connected to the show were invited along, and I was able to have a long chat with Andrew Cartmel mainly about our cats rather than Doctor Who. Steven Moffat, Peter Capaldi and Jenna Coleman were there too... along with a guest star of note from Peter's first series. And there was Frank Skinner, standing on his own. So, ever the bold journalist, I went up and said hello to him, and we started chatting (about football, I will be honest, discussing West Bromwich Albion and Aberdeen in particular). I was

very quickly taken by how down-to-earth he was, and before too long the conversation turned to Big Finish.

And my word, Frank is a real and proper fan! He knows his stuff. This isn't someone who's heard a couple of plays and half-remembered them. He is a real enthusiast.

So, for this issue, it was a pleasure to speak with Frank once again, discussing his new Big Finish starring role in **Callan**, playing Lonely. I've only ever seen a couple of episodes on video, but it was a series my parents always loved (mainly because of Russell Hunter, the original Lonely, I reckon).

Frank's also a big fan of *Vortex*, which was lovely to hear – I'm relieved to know it won't be heading to **Room 101** anytime soon! **VORTEX**

COMINGSOON

IG FINISH is going on the record again – and this time it's with the Tenth Doctor. Following on from the recent news that *Energy of the Daleks* is being released as a vinyl edition for Sainsburys, Big Finish has teamed up for another exclusive deal, this time with high street retailer HMV.

Doctor Who: *Infamy of the Zaross,* starring David Tennant and Billie Piper, will be available for the first time on vinyl record from Saturday, 16 June.

HMV will be stocking a strictly limited pressing of *Infamy of the Zaross* on yellow 180GM heavyweight vinyl. This will be available in participating stores only, limited to 750 units.

A spokesperson from HMV says: "We're delighted to welcome **Doctor Who** back on vinyl in time for Father's Day. It's just what the Doctor ordered!"

As well as David and Billie, Camille Coduri also features in *Infamy of the Zaross* as Jackie Tyler.



Writer John Dorney adds: "I'm delighted to see *Infamy of the Zaross* on vinyl, especially in HMV. I've still got my Gran's old His Master's Voice record player in my house. Quite a prized bit of furniture, which has such a store of memories for me..." **VeRTEX** Kenny Smith prepares for the return of a British TV classic on audio...

THE SHOTS...

HRILLERS AND spy stories have been hugely popular fare with book readers, TV viewers and cinema goers for well over half a century. Iames Bond's quips and the

lighter side of international crime fighting in **The Man from U.N.C.L.E.** became a staple of the 1960s, but in 1967 the darker side of the genre took centre stage in ITV's **Callan** which starred Edward Woodward.

Having similar responsibilities to an MI5 operative, David Callan took a darker approach to espionage using the most ruthless and lethal techniques to get the job done. Four series were produced on television between 1967 and 1972, plus a cinema film released in 1974 and a return to TV in 1981. Originally created by James Mitchell, **Callan** is now back on audio with Big Finish. Adapted from James's *Sunday Express* short stories by his son Peter Mitchell, four new adventures will expand the themes explored in the television show.

Succeeding Woodward as the title character is Ben Miles, who starred in Steven Moffat's **Coupling**, while his sidekick Lonely, originally played by Russell Hunter, is brought to life by Frank Skinner.

Producer David Richardson explains: "Actually the idea of doing **Callan** was brought to us by Robert Fairclough, who had written a guide to the TV series. He put us in touch with Peter Mitchell, who was the son of the series' creator James Mitchell, and we got talking. And what enjoyable conversations they were! We just clicked, I think, in our shared passion for his father's work.

"Nicholas Briggs, myself and Peter met for lunch next to London Waterloo one day, and Peter kindly agreed to the idea of us doing audio adaptations of his father's **Callan** short stories. I thought they'd be perfect – they were just the right length to expand into 50 minute episodes.

"We agreed that Peter would write the adaptations himself – after warning him that being a first time writer at Big Finish can involve lots of painful notes, rewrites, more notes, more rewrites – and yet the scripts came in and were very polished. I think a couple of



Above (1-r): Ben Miles and Frank Skinner



them needed fleshing out a little to hit the right length, but they were stunning pieces of work. Peter hit the ground running, and then did a marathon!"

Peter has adapted File on a Deadly Shot, File on a Classy Club, File on an Awesome Amateur and File on a Harassed Hunter, and says: "I encountered Big Finish through a good mate of mine. Rob Fairclough is a big Doctor Who fan who also (along with Mike Kenwood) wrote the definitive tome on the making

of the Callan TV series - The Callan File, Rob suggested that Big Finish might be interested in looking at a Callan project. Producer David Richardson and I got in touch and we had lunch with executive producer Nick Briggs. We had a good old chat about the possibilities and know that he had an apartment in Spain and most of the short stories were written while he was on holiday there. So I imagined him sitting on his balcony soaking up the sun - pen in hand. I felt extraordinarily close to him during the entire process."

Developing short stories into full dramas was something that Peter found tough to do, and explains: "It was a bit of a challenge. Each drama had to be 60 minutes but some of the stories were much shorter than that. I tried to keep any additional material totally in keeping with the twists and turns of a typical Callan plot.

"What made life much easier was the fact that my dad had a range of regular, well-defined characters that were always waiting in the wings to add texture as well as sub-plots. This gave me plenty of options. I shared them with David and John and we agreed a way forward. I was very pleased with the result and I hope Callan fans will agree.

"I was thrilled that Big Finish wanted to develop Callan for audio, but I was over the moon



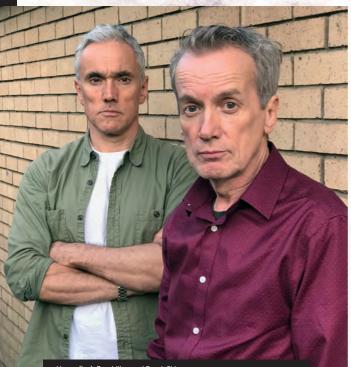
agreed to examine the short stories for potential adaptation.

"I wasn't really familiar with the work of Big Finish so David sent me some existing dramas -Doctor Who and The Avengers. I'd never written for audio before - my experience is in television and print - but David and script editor John Dorney were very patient and supportive with me.

"It was a wonderful experience. I read and re-read the stories and found myself listening to my dad's voice while I was doing it. I

to be invited to write them I had absolutely no hesitation in agreeing to do them - it was a total pleasure and it was a new experience for me. I had a ball doing them."

HE CHARACTER of Lonely became as well-known as the show's leading man, with the small-time thief with body odour problems making Russell Hunter into a TV star. Now. the character is being portrayed by Frank Skinner.



Above (I-r): Ben Miles and Frank Skinner



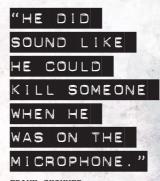
David says: "I can't remember who suggested Ben Miles, but I was very keen to work with Ben again as we'd loved working with him on our adaptation of HG Wells's The Time Machine. He's just so brilliant, and so easy to work with. We suggested Ben and Frank to Peter and he gave the thumbs up, so we then approached both actors - and thankfully they both said yes!"

Speaking to Vortex, Frank says: "Nick Briggs called me up about six months before it was confirmed, saying, 'We might have the rights to do Callan, would you be interested in playing Lonely?'

"I was keen to do it and thought if I said no, I would never hear from Big Finish again! I was really chuffed about it, to play a character called Lonely.

"I watched Callan when I was a kid, but I haven't gone back and re-watched it again. I went by what I remembered, I didn't swot up on it. I remembered Lonely, but we hadn't decided if I would do it in my normal accent or do a specific 1960s Cockney, which is very different from 21st century Cockney. I felt it had to be done in the 60s Cockney.

"The original Lonely, Russell Hunter, was Glaswegian, and when he played him, I



FRANK SKINNER

remember his accent going a bit north of the border at times!

"The other thing I really remember about Callan was that it was massive. It was one of those TV series that everybody would be talking about the next day.

"I'm sure there will be a lot of people who haven't heard of it nowadays, but it had one of the best opening sequences, with a swinging lightbulb which then explodes. It's got a very lo-fi 60s feel to it, but it's so good.

"We're doing these short stories, which is something Big Finish has always been very good at finding things that have been forgotten about and then taking them and doing something new and full with them, giving them the star treatment. This is recycling at its best!

"These are **Callan** stories that appeared in the Daily Express



VOLUME ONE

CALLAN

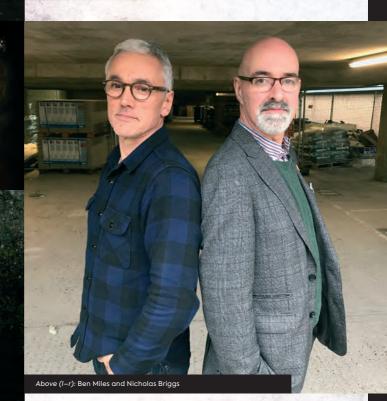
RELEASED JULY 2018 Download/CD Extras Interviews Director Ken Bentley Cast Ben Miles. Frank Skinner. Nicholas Briggs, Jane Slavin

David Callan works for The Section, a top-secret counterespionage organisation. He's a killer, a trained assassin. and the best at what he does But that doesn't mean he has to like it.

With the aid of the burglar Lonely; fellow operative Meres; and Section secretary Liz, Callan fulfils the orders of departmental head Hunter and finds himself in very murky waters.

Murder, betrayal and model soldiers. It's all in a day's work for Callan.

Four series of the original television series were produced between 1967 and 1972, plus a cinema film released in 1974 and a TV comeback in 1981.



REWARDING ' 5 SO CHATTING FRANK ΤO ABOUT BIG FINISH. ΗE LOVES OUR AUDIOS ... "

DAVID RICHARDSON

and I suppose most people would think they had been lost forever, but then suddenly we've got people turning up and showing an interest in them."

Peter adds: "I thought the casting was inspired. I knew that Ben was a Callan fan and I had great respect for him as an actor – a tremendous choice. The idea of casting Frank as Lonely took me completely by surprise but the more I thought about it, the more I was convinced he was absolutely right. That

Callan/Lonely relationship is special and the casting is absolutely crucial. Brilliant call."

Joining Ben and Frank in studio are Jane Slavin, who plays Section Secretary Liz, and Nicholas Briggs who plays the Head of the Section

Frank adds: "Working with Ben was great. He's really good as Callan - he's got that coldness from the original but he's found a way of making it work, and can occasionally be quite nice to Lonely - but not too nice!



Above (I-r): Jane Slavin and Ben Miles



"He did sound like he could kill someone when he was on the microphone – he was great!

"I have to say, I loved doing it. I would love to do more – it would be brilliant if this could run and run."

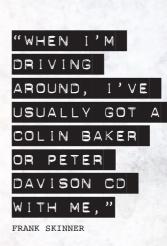
David agrees: "The studio sessions were a blast. Working with Ben, Frank, Nick and Jane, and with Ken directing, you know you're going to get a beautiful production and spend the day laughing. And it's so rewarding chatting to Frank about Big Finish. He loves our audios – I remember he came along praising **Doctor Who**: *Time in Office*, which he'd just listened to!"

Frank laughs: "Twe done a Tom Baker, and I did *Dark Eyes 2* with Paul McGann, and I subscribe to the Big Finish **Doctor Who** stories. When I did my one with Tom, I was delighted to meet writer Andrew Smith and got to talk to him about *Full Circle*. I remember at the end, I was a bit embarrassed asking Tom to sign my script for me, but he was really nice about it!

"When I'm driving around, I've usually got a Colin Baker or Peter Davison CD with me, and I still get a real buzz from listening to them.

"As a **Doctor Who** fan, Big Finish has been the centre of the universe for me, for so many years. When people find Big Finish, they tend to stick with it like I have. I'm a total fan boy!"

NFORTUNATELY FOR Peter, he was unable to hear his adaptations



being brought to life. He sighs: "David invited me down to London for the last day of the recordings. So I set off early one morning from my home in Northumberland only to have the power steering fail on the car just as I pulled into the car park at Newcastle Central Station. I couldn't physically park the vehicle, so I missed the train. I was so disappointed to have missed out.

"But I'm really looking forward to listening to the finished product. I've heard some clips and they are absolutely first class. I worked in TV for many years and can be a fairly tough judge but so far, I'm incredibly impressed and can't wait to hear the completed episodes."

Could more **Callan** follow?

Peter says: "I sincerely hope so. I think this has the potential to be a really strong team and for me, the experience has been nothing but positive. We all work to the same goal which is to create the best product we possibly can. We collaborate in a spirit of openness with utter respect for the originals. I couldn't ask for a better production company to be involved with. The Callan brand is in safe hands with Big Finish, I know my father would be delighted to know that, even after all this time. David Callan lives on." VORTEX

VORTEXMAIL

SEVENTH HEAVEN

Just overdosed on all three box sets of **Blake's 7**: *Crossfire* over the last week. Awesome stuff! Felt as if you managed to insert an entire extra season into the TV canon. For me, the standouts were the stories by Paul Darrow and Una McCormack but overall it was never less than fantastic. Hope that there will be more **B7** in the future.

• Michael Evans Nick: Ooooh, there will, Michael, there will!



CLASSIC CONUNDRUM

I love your audiobooks and am a huge fan of your **Doctor Who**, **Blake's 7** and **Avengers** ranges. I live in America and am strictly a download only customer. I love the new Chibnall **Who** logo on your forthcoming **DW** releases, but was wondering if you could include the alternate covers with the classic TV logos as part of the download release package? Thanks for *Ravenous*, *Crossfire Part 3* and the upcoming *Too Many Targets*!

Joseph Coker Nick: After I read your email, Joseph, I added this point to the agenda of our next big Big Finish meeting, and am happy to report we're now doing this. Sue Cowley in the production office tells me she's added the archive logo covers to the download zips dating back to January this year. Nice one!

A FIFTH ELEMENT

Nick: Richard, there are no plans for this because I feel that we previously mined the virtually non-existent narrative gap between Planet of Fire and The Caves of Androzani beyond all credibility. Peri clearly arrives on Androzani wearing the same clothes she wore in Planet of Fire... It was a fun thing to do, but I think we've stretched the point enough now. Peri will be back with the Sixth Doctor and she's also featured in the **Short Trips** range.

MASTER PLANS

I want to start by thanking you all for the fantastic work you do. I recently purchased (among other things) **The First Doctor Adventures** Volume One and have already finished listening to *The Destination Wars*. While I still think the voices of the First Doctor, Susan, Barbara and Ian sound very different from the original actors, I absolutely loved the story. James Dreyfus was especially wonderful. His incarnation of the Master was perfectly portrayed. Dreyfus has the absolute best voice for the Master. But I have a question about his incarnation. Was the Dreyfus Master intended to be the First Master? Are we hearing him as he originally was before he ever regenerated? Or is that intentionally left unanswered and open for interpretation?

► Tate Henvey Nick: The latter, Tate, the latter. I like unanswered questions!



FIRST DEGREE

Any chance of the First Doctor meeting the Cybermen? After all, he seemed at least aware of them in *The Tenth Planet*. Speaking of Cybermen, I've often wondered what would happen if they met up with Davros. Always thought it'd be interesting...

Monty

Nick: I wouldn't rule it out. I'm not aware that the First Doctor expressed any prior knowledge of the Cybermen in The Tenth Planet. I'm not sure of what kind of story would emerge if Davros were to meet the Cybermen. Not part of our current plans. But... just imagine... Mwahahaaaa! VORTEX

Kenny Smith steps back in time as comedy hero Nigel Planer's new series is finally realised...

P CR SEVERAL years Nigel Planer has had an idea sitting in the back of his mind. The actor, known for playing Neil in **The Young Ones, Nicholas Craig: The Naked Actor** and Vorgenson in **Doctor Who Live**!, had created a character who can travel through time using only the power of his mind.

And now, this fantasy comedy-drama has taken form in Jeremiah Bourne in Time, which is being released next month as one of the new **Big Finish Originals** range launched earlier this year to celebrate the company's 20th anniversary.

Nigel tells *Vortex*: "I've had *Jeremiah Bourne in Time* in my head for a few years now. It's been through various shapes and forms. I wrote it originally as a book, but later felt it would be best suited to an audio drama.

"I've worked for Big Finish a few times as an actor and always enjoyed it. I was working on *The First Men in the Moon* for them, and I mentioned it to David Richardson, the producer, who picked up on it immediately."

David confirms: "We were recording our audio adaptation of *The First Men in the Moon* last year, and had a quick break. Over a cuppa in the green room, Nigel told me about this audio series he was writing, and asked if I'd be interested in reading it.

"I asked him to email the scripts to me, which he did... and I loved it. Jeremiah Bourne is funny and exciting and warm and... I kept coming back to the word 'delightful'. I found it absolutely delightful. I suggested the project to Nicholas Briggs and Jason Haigh-Ellery (this was before we had an official **Big Finish Originals** range) and they liked the idea and gave the thumbs up."

Nigel continues: "I'm interested in the idea of genetic memory, the possibility that things might have a sort of 'morphic resonance'. The freaky idea that it might be possible to have unconscious memories of things you've never actually experienced. You know what it's like when you smell something and it sets you off, and brings back memories from your childhood? Or





Above (I–r): Sophie Thompson, Nigel Planer, Sebastian Armesto, Tim Bentinck and Annette Badland

sometimes you see someone and you think you remember their face?

"Well, in Jeremiah Bourne in Time we've taken that idea a bit further, so Jeremiah accidentally transports himself back in time as he starts to have memories that aren't his. There's no time machine involved. And he doesn't travel in space – just in time. He stays in exactly the same place, but finds himself... then!

"When I was younger, I used to be really good at remembering a lot of long numbers, like bank accounts and passports etc, but now, with the advent of iTechnology, I don't even think I know either of my sons' mobile phone numbers because all I have to do is tap a screen. Well, for Jeremiah Bourne in Time, I imagined a time in the I IMAGINED A TIME IN THE FUTURE WHEN THERE'S BEEN A DIGITAL MELTDOWN AND ALL DATA HAS BEEN LOST.

NIGEL PLANER

future when there's been a digital meltdown and all data has been lost. Or even two or three digital meltdowns, Digi 1, Digi 2 and Digi 3. In those circumstances, people

BIG FINISH ORIGINALS

with big memories would find themselves at a distinct advantage and might end up in control.

"People like black cab drivers before satnav who had to take years to learn every single road in the town [London]. They called it 'The Knowledge'. Well after a Digi meltdown, people like that might form an elite class that survives through its super-memory."

And now the series has taken shape. Jeremiah Bourne is a boy with a remarkable gift. He can travel in time. Not by using a time machine, or stepping through a dimensional portal. It just happens to him, as though by accident. One minute he's in the present day, the next, he's a hundred years in the past, standing in the London of 1910.

Jeremiah has two questions; how did he get there - and how can he get back? On his quest for the answers, he enlists the help of Phyllis Stokes of The Society for Theosophical Research and her equally eccentric brother, Roger Allcot Standish, magistrate, spiritualist and dedicated nudist. He encounters the sadistic Mr and Mrs Grout and the ruthless Ed Viney, thief, gang member and slitter of throats. And he arouses the disapproval of Clementina Quentinbloom, the head of a home for 'Fallen Girls', by befriending Daisy Wallace, a girl ahead of her time.

LTHOUGH BEST known for his acting work, Nigel has several previous writing credits. David says: "Nigel asked if we had a script editor who was especially good at plotting, as he wanted some steering on that front. I thought of Jonathan Morris, who was very keen to become involved, and then pretty much left Nigel and Jonny together to shape the series into what it is now (which is delightful!)." Nigel adds: "I have written a couple of radio plays before so I'd had a bit of practice with audio drama, but I was very lucky with Big Finish to be working with script editor Jonny Morris. Jonny really knows how this kind of

JEREMIAH BOURNE

adventure story works, structurally. He's done a lot of Doctor Who and other sci-fi things. I listened and learned.

"He also helped in terms of the stage directions. For example, you might write something like, 'Jeremiah's in the room with Phyllis Stokes', so Jonny would ask me, 'How do we know that?' It gets you thinking about how you would convey the story only through what people hear."

Jonny says: "I was very thrilled, because - obviously - I am a massive fan of Nigel's work, not just The Young Ones and the alternative comedy stuff, but his Nicholas Craig shows. I even saw him in We Will Rock You. But once the process began that was all put aside, because working with Nigel was just like working with any other writer. He was extremely receptive to suggestions, even when they meant more work, and not at all precious. Nigel had already spent some time developing



Above: Nigel Planer



Above (I-r): Sophie Thompson, Nigel Planer, Sebastian Armesto, Tim McInnerny and Helen Goldwyn



Above (I–r): Annette Badland and Tim Bentinck

EVERYBODY JUST JOINED IN. AND **EVERYONE** WANTED TO **BE THE VOICE OF DRYDEN** THE PARROT. NIGEL PLANER

the idea, he already had all the characters worked out and so on. My role was to use my extensive audio-based sci-fi storytelling experience to pull it all together into a strong, logical story. So I helped develop the plot and how it approached the 'rules' of time travel stories. After that, as Nigel delivered the drafts, it was a normal script-editing process of checking, 'Wouldn't character X be worried

about Y at this point? Can we have a reason why they don't just do Z?""

Jeremiah Bourne in Time has a cast that any radio play, theatre production or TV show would be envious of. It features a host of British acting greats, including Celia Imrie, Tim McInnerny, Christopher Ryan, Siobhan Redmond and Sophie Thompson.

Nigel says: "Casting was really good fun. I was lucky to get a lot of mates interested in it. Sophie Thompson, Chris Ryan, Tim McInnerny, Celia Imrie. I've heard the first edits and they are just phenomenal. They bring it off the page in a way that I could never have imagined. And some are playing multiple roles.

"Celia, for instance, who you would expect to be playing someone posh like Clementina Quentinbloom (which she does brilliantly), is also playing old Mrs Tandy. Everybody just joined in. And everyone wanted to be the voice of Dryden the parrot. We had a 'best parrot' competition, but, you know, listening to the edit, I can't tell who won!"

The titular character is played by Sebastian Armesto, and director Barnaby Edwards says: "There's a special thrill to a new project. You're creating everything from scratch-the feel of the story, its pacing, its tone, its characters, its humour. You're the one setting the precedents, determining the rights and wrongs of this brave new world. That's simultaneously exciting and daunting.

"I'm delighted to say that Nigel was a huge help all along the way. From the outset, he told me

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NISS PLANER + 10005 THOMPSON + CALLA IMRIE + THE MCINNERNY + DIRATING ARMESTO



JEREMIAH BOURNE

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Extras Interviews
Director Barnaby Edwards
Cast Sebastian Armesto, Nigel Planer, Sophie Thompson, Tim McInnerny

> 'You're the boss' and he let me cast and direct and sound design everything as I wanted to – but he was a wonderful sounding board and always happy to offer an insightful suggestion when I was hovering between possibilities.

"In terms of casting I wanted actors who would 'get' the brilliance of Nigel's scripts: their humour, their pathos, their period quirkiness. I knew I wanted Nigel as the icy Henry Davenant Hythe and he suggested Sophie Thompson (with whom I'd always wanted to work) for the eccentric Phyllis, so I based the rest of the casting on those two roles. I often do this as it helps give an audio drama a unified - and unique - tone. There are plenty of great actors out there, but it's working out how they'll operate in combination with each other that's the tricky part of casting.

"Anyway, that's why there are lots of other actors who, regardless of their long and successful careers in TV, film and theatre, also happened to have starred in hit 1980s 'alternative comedy' TV shows: Tim McInnerny, Celia Imrie, Siobhan Redmond, Christopher Ryan, Annette Badland and so on. For the younger cast members, I sought out similarly fresh and quickwitted minds with immaculate "It was great fun, and I think the end result is rather special. It's very colourful, vivid and funny, and a little bit outrageous. There's also a magical **The Box of Delights** quality to it. It's such a strong idea it has the potential to go even further. It could be a TV series or a film! There is certainly scope for a second series. So I hope this is just the beginning, and having developed such a good working relationship with Nigel, it would be nice to keep going!" Nigel



Above (I-r): Nigel Planer, Sophie Thompson, and Tim McInnerny

comic timing, foremost among them the gloriously mercurial Sebastian Armesto who turns in a superb central performance as our reluctant time-traveller. I've known Seb for nearly two decades – before we worked together on **Doctor Who** TV episode *Bad Wolf* in 2005 – and it was his voice I heard in my head as I first read the scripts.

"I know one shouldn't have favourites, but this cast were really special. I can rarely remember enjoying a recording more. And I'm delighted to say that this spirit of fun has translated into the finished drama – the comedy and inventiveness of the cast effortlessly carry us through this extraordinary time-hopping rollercoaster of an adventure. Here's hoping we do a sequel!" *Jeremiah Bourne in Time* is a four-hour release, and Jonny adds: concludes: "I'm really hoping people will like it – I've already worked out a storyline for series two. It won't necessarily be set in 1910 like the first series; there are lots of other areas to explore. I'm walking through Blackfriars right now, which is where Jeremiah lives.

"The history comes up at you from everywhere. Some of these roads have been here for hundreds of years. There are bits of the city, still visible now, that are over a thousand years old - a wall here, a stone there. Blackfriars Bridge, for instance, is over 250 years old. The traffic I'm hearing today, would disappear, as I drift to, say, 400 years ago, and I can hear horses and carriages and street vendors' calls. We could go to the 18th century, the 16th, the 15th... back to Roman times. There are so many opportunities." VORTEX

Kenny Smith finds the Eighth Doctor and Bliss are...

Paul McGann's incarnation, accompanied by his new companion Bliss (Rakhee Thakrar), will face four more adventures with high stakes, as the Daleks and Time Lords battle for eternity in The Eighth Doctor: The Time War 2.

Jacqueline Pearce ensures that Gallifrey stands once more when she returns as Cardinal Ollistra, with Nicholas Briggs again voicing the Daleks.

Producer David Richardson says: "I was thrilled that the first Time War box set went down

"This second release sees us opening up the world, exploring the character of Bliss more, delving into her background."

HE LORDS of Terror by Jonathan Morris opens the set. Jonny says his initial outline was: "Just to write a dramatic, character-led story. I was very keen to build a story around a series of escalating moral dilemmas and to put the Doctor in a situation where he is pushed to the brink. I think all these stories

are steps on the way towards the Doctor we saw in the TV episode, The Night of the Doctor where, of course, he decides he must finally join the Time War and become the War Doctor."

How did Jonny find writing about the Time War, given what was previously mentioned about it in the television story?

He explains: "Well, it's not based on any of the references to it on television. I felt it was important

DOCTOR WHO THE TIME WAR 2

happened to change the course of its history, turning it into a world deliberately resembling Airstrip One from *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (I took inspiration from the works of George Orwell, using it as a theme to tie it all together). And, of course, the question is, who has done this – and why?"

Jonny previously wrote for the Eighth Doctor, always full of life and energy, during his adventures with Lucie Miller.

He continues: "I think Paul McGann is great at playing the Doctor when he is forced to make tough – impossible – moral choices. Where he is forced to question his own principles. Many years ago I wrote an audio story for the Eighth Doctor called *Deimos/The Resurrection of Mars* where I built a plot around creating those situations, and with *The Lords of Terror* I've taken it another step further.

"All drama is essentially about putting your characters in situations where they have to make heartbreaking, life-changing choices, where the characters are defined by which way they jump. So what I have tried to do with this is create a situation where you don't know which way the Doctor will go..."

S THE Time Lord becomes more embroiled and desperate in the temporal conflict, they look to use all of the potential assets at their disposal including the Twelve. Previously the Eleven played by Mark Bonnar in *Doom Coalition* and *Ravenous*, this next incarnation is played by Julia McKenzie.

David explains: "We've brought in the Twelve, a very different successor to the Eleven, who is a significant presence in the last three stories. And we find the Doctor being dragged, against his will, into the turmoil of the war that will ultimately define his future. And there are Daleks. Lots and lots of them!"

Above (I–r): Jon Culshaw and Rakhee Thakrar



Above: Julia McKenzie

to keep it grounded within a realistic situation, rather than make it about a war played out in multiple dimensions. We can do that further down the line!

"But what I have done, and have had great fun doing, is to explicitly tie the Time War to the Doctor's ALL DRAMA IS ESSENTIALLY ABOUT PUTTING YOUR CHARACTERS IN SITUATIONS WHERE THEY HAVE TO MAKE HEARTBREAKING, LIFE-CHANGING CHOICES.

JONATHAN MORRIS

mission in the TV episode, *Genesis* of the Daleks; that his mission to avert the creation of the Daleks was because the Time Lords had foreseen the Time War and were trying to prevent it. Of course, the Doctor didn't avert the creation of the Daleks, so it could be argued that the Time War is all his fault...

"The story begins with the Doctor taking Bliss back home only to find that her home planet has changed almost beyond recognition. Something has

THE TIME WAR 2

In the second story of this set, the Daleks are reunited with their old servants in *Planet of the Ogrons*, written by Guy Adams, who has also penned the third story, *In the Garden of Death*.

Guy says: "There are very few times in my life when while looking at ways to improve something, I haven't thought, 'It needs more Margaret Rutherford.' Naturally, the Dame is immortal and yet inconveniently impossible to hire, so while I approached the character of the Twelve with her in mind I was painfully aware we were unlikely to get her...

"No matter! Look who we got instead! I mean, there are very

THERE ARE VERY FEW TIMES IN MY LIFE WHEN, WHILE LOOKING AT WAYS TO IMPROVE Something, I haven't Thought, It needs More Julia Mckenzie!

GUY ADAMS

few times in my life when, while looking at ways to improve something, I haven't thought, 'It needs more Julia McKenzie!' Everything needs more Julia McKenzie, one of our finest, most charismatic actors. I am already stood outside the studio waiting to offer her cups of tea and eternal servitude."

David adds: "We knew we wanted to look to the future of the Eleven in these *Time War* stories, and bring in the next incarnation. It was the brilliant minds of Matt Fitton and Guy who devised this new, Margaret Rutherford-esque take on the character. A sweet old lady with a dozen personalities inside her head, and most (but not all) of



Above (I–r): Nikki Amuka-Bird, Christopher Naylor, Amanda Root, Simon Slater, Rahkee Thakrar, Jonathan Morris and Rakie Ayola



them evil. Irresistible. And then when Ken Bentley suggested Julia McKenzie, it all came together brilliantly. Julia is magnificent."

Ken grins: "Julia McKenzie was the first actress that sprang to mind when I saw the character breakdown for the Twelve. She's such an accomplished actress, loves audio, and I knew she'd relish the opportunity to play a villain."

HE TIME War 2 concludes with Jonah by Timothy X Atack. He explains: "Jonah is set in the aftermath of a terrible Dalek invasion where no-one quite understands why they've invaded. The action takes place on a submarine. As the story opens we discover that the Daleks are searching the peculiar oceans of this backwater world for something mysterious and dangerous, and our heroes think they're tailing them, spying on them - only for the tables to quickly turn. It's got depth charges, tense moments of near-silence, all the things you'd expect from a submariner's story, and it also asks the urgent question: do Time Lords have sea shanties?"

Tim admits that he took some inspiration from a favourite film of his, 1981's *Das Boot*, set on a WWII German U-boat.

He says: "One of my favourite war movies is *Das Boot*, so I thought it was a great idea to have Paul's Eighth Doctor as an extremely reluctant commander, trapped in a tin can, facing the kind of decisions that eventually make him the warrior his future persona becomes.



DOCTOR WHO THE TIME WAR 2

 RELEASED JULY 2018
 CD/Download
 Extras Bonus Disc
 Director Ken Bentley
 Cast Paul McGann, Rakhee Thakrar, Nicholas Briggs,

Jacqueline Pearce, Julia McKenzie, Nikki Amuka-Bird

THE LORDS OF TERROR by Jonathan Morris

PLANET OF THE OGRONS by Guy Adams

IN THE GARDEN OF DEATH by Guy Adams

JONAH by Timothy X Atack

FOR THE DOCTOR, THE WORST IS YET TO COME. TIMOTHY X ATACK

"I think the Time War probably has as many detours, phoney wars, tragedies and minor victories as any major conflict and most likely, we're just getting started telling those stories.

"The difficulty is always in finding ideas that are redolent of a reality-rending bloodbath somehow speaks of relatable decisions on a personal scale."

Tim also enjoyed having the chance to write for the Doctor in a tense situation.

He adds: "One of the common maxims for drama writers is to make life difficult for your protagonists, then make it worse, then make it impossible. I think us *Time War* storytellers are pacing ourselves at the moment – the conflict is already cataclysmic but for the Doctor, the worst is yet to come.

"While he's still very definitely the Eighth incarnation we know and love, the pre-echoes are



Above (I-r): Tania Rodrigues, Surinder Duhra and Anya Chalotra

between two equally matched enemies, while also keeping it a) intelligible and b) fun, because this is Doctor Who after all. The way I'm focussed on doing it is in making sure that in the end you're writing about people and their problems. "Even if those problems happen to be terrifying and cosmos-changing, you make sure it

present, the clues are there as to what he will become that night on Karn. There are moments in Jonah where I hope you see it... where the Doctor's future is laid bare, and he faces a soul-shaking premonition of the terrors ahead..." Director Ken concludes: "The Time War is always an entertaining range to record. The Daleks are the only character we record with a live voice effect, and I never get tired of seeing all the faces light up when the actors get to work alongside the Daleks for the first time!" VORTEX Kenny Smith discovers that David Bradley's second box set as the Doctor features stories of...

THE FIRST ORDER

POLICE THE BOX

0

RESH from the success of his return to the role as the First Doctor on television and audio, David Bradley is back in the TARDIS again next month.

His acclaimed portrayal of the original incarnation of our favourite Time Lord led to widespread praise, especially for his Big Finish debut in **The First Doctor Adventures** Volume One.

Now, he will return for two more stories, alongside Jamie Glover as Ian Chesterton, Jemma Powell as Barbara Wright and Claudia Grant as Susan Foreman, his co-stars from the 2013 William Hartnell biopic, **An Adventure in Space and Time**.

This new release will feature

two stories which feel totally at home in that first season of **Doctor Who**, one being scientific and the other a historical, with *The Invention of Death* by John Dorney, and *The Barbarians and the Samurai* by Andrew Smith.

Producer David Richardson tells Vortex: "We knew we were going to be recording the first two First Doctor box sets back to back, and (though it actually turned out not to be the case) we initially thought we might be short of time to get the scripts together.

"So I went for writers who had a huge amount of experience at Big Finish – Matt Fitton and Guy Adams on Volume One, John and Andrew on Volume Two. We all know each other so well that they know the kind of things that Nick and I are looking for, and I knew they'd deliver excellent work to schedule.

"Which, of course they all did. Like the first box set, *Volume Two* offers two stories that are very authentic to the period. One futuristic sci-fi, the other an adventure-filled historical."

The Invention of Death by John Dorney opens the set, and it's not the kind of story that you would expect. Vortex doesn't want to spoil the surprise of what the actual story is about, but it's one that fans of harder sci-fi will enjoy.

John was delighted to be writing for the First Doctor, and reveals: "I know there's often quite a clamour for the full-cast plays from the



Above (I–r): John Dorney, Michelle Morris, Jemma Powell, David Bradley, Nicholas Briggs, Claudia Grant, Christopher Naylor and Tracy Wiles



fanbase, but from my point of view as a writer, it doesn't feel much different from doing **The Companion Chronicles**. You're still trying to craft lines, it's just a different way of writing.

"It's an exciting thing to be asked to work on, as it's something new.

"I've loved David Bradley for 20 years! I remember seeing him in *The Alchemist* in the 1990s, so it's a bit of a dream come true to write for him in a full-cast First Doctor story.

"I've been watching the first couple of seasons of **Doctor Who** quite a lot, and you can see there's a lot of ambition there. Look at The Sensorites and The Web Planet – they're trying to bring an alien civilisation to life, doing whole alien worlds in a small studio. There are so many alien worlds in those early stories, with some of them not connected to Earth at all – and no Earth colonies.

"So rather than setting it on Earth or a colony, I felt it would be more interesting to take it somewhere else which would be more exciting. I wanted to do something really extreme, something a bit more hard sci-fi than what we would usually do. "This isn't a full-on adventure story – it's a slightly more slow burner of a story than we would do for the more recent Doctors."

s tended to happen in those first couple of seasons of **Doctor Who**, if the TARDIS materialised somewhere futuristic in one story, then the chances were that it would go back in time – and back to Earth – for the next adventure.

And that's exactly what we have with *The Barbarians and the Samurai* by Andrew Smith, which takes the TARDIS to a country that it has rarely visited in any of

I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING REALLY EXTREME, SOMETHING A BIT MORE HARD SCI-FI... John Dorney

Doctor Who's various forms of audios, novels and comic strips.

Andrew explains: "It was a labour of love, really. It's an area of history I've had a keen interest in since the early 1980s after reading James Clavell's novel, *Shogun*. I even learned a bit of the Japanese language.

"I've a book on the history of modern Japan going back to the 18th century that I used as research, and I read some others as well.

"This is a story I've always wanted to tell. Back around 1982/83, I wrote a storyline called *The Dark Samurai* which I submitted to Eric Saward, the script editor of Doctor Who, which wasn't taken up (Eric said it would have been too expensive). I've taken some

THE FIRST DOCTOR

elements from that – a few characters and the setting, with British sailors supplying guns – but *The Barbarians* is a very different story. For one thing, *The Dark Samurai* was a sci-fi story, and this is a 'pure' historical.

"When David asked me to write it, along with Matt, John and Guy for the other stories in this range, it was suggested there could be a historical for the First Doctor. Guy came back



Naylor, Susan Hingley, Andrew Wincott and Dan Li

with his idea for *The Great White Hurricane*, and I suggested this 18th century Japanese story.

"Later on at a social event with Matt, the script editor on these, I told him I was toying with the idea of making it parthistorical, part-science fiction, and he said I could – but then on the journey home I decided to make it a 'pure historical' as I love the realism of them.

"Since there are no science

fiction trappings, I think it makes the jeopardy and the characters feel more real."

By having a historical, its very nature meant that Andrew had to research the time period in which the story was set – and it turned out to be more extensive than he'd planned. After all, who thinks about the interior decoration of Japanese buildings in the 18th century? Well, Andrew did for a start...! He reveals: "The amount of research I had to do was much more than I'd had to do for any other story. It seemed that on almost every page I had to research something, such as what the environment would be like at that time, and even things like what would be on the floor. I actually spent four hours reading up on floor coverings in feudal Japan! So you know, for most places

YOU LEARN SO MUCH FROM DOING THE RESEARCH — I THINK IT'S REALLY GOOD FUN.

ANDREW SMITH

they used (and still use) tatami mats, which are even laid out in special configurations for certain auspicious occasions.

"Simple everyday things like doors are different too – sliding doors rather than hinged, for the most part. And what implements would you find in a Japanese feudal kitchen? I looked into all of this, not just for realism in the dialogue, but to help the sound designer.

"It's a great thing, with **Doctor Who** having an educational side. You learn so much from doing the research – I think it's really good fun."

To make sure he captured the authentic feel of the era, Andrew got a proper insight into the regular cast and the way in which historicals were handled by watching **Doctor Who** episodes from 1964. Although he knew he was writing for the **An Adventure in Space and Time** cast, Andrew was conscious of capturing the -DOCTOR WHO

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DOCTOR WHO THE FIRST DOCTOR ADVENTURES

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RELEASED JULY 2018
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 Director Nicholas Briggs
 Cast David Bradley,
 Claudia Grant, Jemma
 Powell, Jamie Glover

THE INVENTION OF DEATH by John Dorney

THE BARBARIANS AND THE SAMURAI by Andrew Smith voices of the original TARDIS crew. Andrew says: "I did have the original crew in mind when I wrote *The Barbarians*. I went back to view *The Aztecs* for research but ended up doing a William Hartnell **Doctor Who** watch and carried on with the rest of the series! It's really interesting to see it in sequence for the very first time (although I was around back then, my first **Doctor Who** memories are of Patrick Troughton). the Doctor and Susan, with their family connection – it's such a diverse range of characters.

"People talk about the crowded TARDIS in the 80s, but this team of the 60s was just fantastic. They were all such distinct, well-defined characters."

Back as Susan is Claudia Grant, who tells *Vortex*: "After I did **An Adventure in Time and Space**, I didn't actually think too much about it again so I was delighted when Big Finish asked me to



Above (I–r): Jamie Glover, Claudia Grant, David Bradley and Jemma Powell

"I steeped myself in that era, particularly with that initial four in the TARDIS and the dynamics between them. With Ian, you have a man of action, and Barbara is the font of knowledge who knows they have arrived during the 200 years of seclusion for Japan, when foreigners were immediately put under the death penalty. You could expect to be killed if you were caught. "Barbara susses it out early on, that they are in the period of 'sakoku', when Japan was in isolation - and they need to get out of there. "They have all got their roles to play. You've got

come back with the others.

"We had such a good time in 2013 so it was great to see David, Jamie and Jemma again.

"It was great fun in studio and they were all really good stories, but my favourite was definitely the Japanese one. It was so well written and really interesting to do."

David Richardson adds: "We had such a happy time on this. Everyone really bonded – David was just so lovely and easy and excellent, and he adores Jemma, Claudia and Jamie. And they are just fantastic, there was a real feeling of friendship forged on this and I'm really looking forward to doing more – which I very much hope we will...!" VORTEX

LISTENAGAIN



pre-Davros Daleks, up to their old tricks. The scourge of the universe, turning up like a virus that can never really be eradicated, and causing major havoc.

"So I went for old-school Daleks hatching an evil plan, just like it was in the 1960s. As for doing something new with them, it's all about good writing. bringing the words to life. Wendy Padbury revisiting Zoe – brilliant. And Nicholas Briggs doing the Daleks – I got to see the ring modulator in action, up close!"

As a new range, the series one writers were still testing the water with the format of **The Companion Chronicles**, with an actor and a second voice.

THE SCOURGE OF THE UNIVERSE, TURNING UP LIKE A VIRUS THAT CAN NEVER REALLY BE ERADICATED...

PATRICK CHAPMAN

Rob Shearman reinvented them brilliantly when he brought them back for the TV series. And the Moffat/Gatiss Daleks are old-school again, re-established

FEAR OF THE DALEKS RELEASED JANUARY 2007

AUNCHING A new Big Finish range has always been exciting. And if you've got Daleks and Cybermen in there, it really grabs the fans' attention. Turn back the clock to 2007 and we had *Fear of the Daleks* as the debut Second Doctor story

in **The Companion Chronicles**. Written by Patrick Chapman, he said: "I've always loved **Doctor Who** and grew up with the Daleks, as everyone has, so it was a labour of love.

"It's always difficult to try and do something new with the Daleks. With *Fear of the Daleks*, I was trying to do something old with them as well. These are as a universal threat, not having to explain themselves, or their escape from the last time the Doctor wiped them out.

"It was fantastic to get to write dialogue for the Daleks, and to try and devise a plot intended to be very much of the Second Doctor's era but with a few modern twists. I particularly enjoyed subverting a well-known Dalek saying. Instead of, 'My vision is impaired, I cannot see', I wrote, 'My consciousness is impaired, I cannot think.' That was a hoot!

"However the most enjoyable part of the experience was being allowed to sit in on the recording and hear the actors Patrick explained: "These plays are set up as a hybrid form. They're half way between a talking book and a full-cast play, and that made it fun to write.

"You have to be careful about how you write exposition so that it doesn't come across as stagy or artificial. It's got to be visual writing in a narrative format while having the character sound natural. There's a mixture of both 'show' and 'tell' that has to be balanced properly. The second voice did add to the texture of the play, and as that second voice was Nick doing the Daleks, it ended up being several characters - individual Daleks – rather than just Zoe and one other."

Producer and director Mark J Thompson added: "Patrick wrote for the Doctor and Zoe really, really well. And Nick Briggs, I have to say, did an absolutely fantastic job of providing the three Dalek voices in this." **VORTEX**

Fear of the Daleks is available now on CD and download.

COMINGSOON

JUNE 2018

- DW THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES IRON BRIGHT (239, SIXTH DOCTOR)
- DW THE COMPANION CHRONICLES: THE SECOND DOCTOR: VOLUME TWO (BOX SET)
- DW JENNY THE DOCTOR'S DAUGHTER (BOX SET)
- 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

- DW THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: HOUR OF THE CYBERMEN (240, SIXTH DOCTOR)
- 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, BARBARA 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: 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 DOCTOR, ACE AND MEL)

- 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 EIGHTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: RAVENOUS 2 (BOX SET)
- DW ELEVENTH DOCTOR CHRONICLES (BOX SET)
- DW SHORT TRIPS: THE DEVIL'S FOOTPRINTS DLO (810 SEVENTH DOCTOR AND MEL)
- BIG FINISH ORIGINALS: BLIND TERROR: THE GODS OF FROST DLO

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 (810.META-CRISIS DOCTOR, JACKIE TYLER)
- UNIT THE NEW SERIES: TBA (7)
- SURVIVORS: SERIES 8 (BOX SET)

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- DW THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: MUSE OF FIRE
- (245, SEVENTH DOCTOR, MEL, ACE AND IRIS)
 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 HULLI DLO (8.11,META-CRISIS DOCTOR, JACKIE TYLER)
- BERNICE SUMMERFIELD: IN TIME (NOVEL EBOOK AND AUDIOBOOK)
- STAR COPS: MOTHER EARTH PART 2 (BOX SET)

JANUARY 2019

- DW THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: TBA (247)
- DW THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: SERIES 8A (8.A. FOURTH DOCTOR AND ANN KELSO)
- DW THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE SINESTRAN KILL DLO (8.1, FOURTH DOCTOR AND ANN KELSO)
- DW THE FOURTH DOCTOR
 ADVENTURES: THE ENCHANTRESS OF
 NUMBERS DEG
 (8.2 FOURTH DOCTOR AND ANN KELSO)
- DW THE FOURTH DOCTOR
 ADVENTURES: PLANET OF THE DRASHIGS
 DICO
 (8.3 FOURTH DOCTOR AND ANN KELSO)
- DW THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: THE FALSE GUARDIAN DLO
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THE TIME WAR

THE EIGHTH DOCTOR BATTLES FOR SURVIVAL IN THE TIME WAR!