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TORCHWOOD ONE LATTER DAYS YVONNE, IANTO AND... DAVE

BERNICE SUMMERFIELD

WINNING **STORIES** THE NEW ADVENTURES VOLUME FIVE!

# RELATIVE DIMENSIONS ROSE TYLER DISCOVERS A MULTIVERSE OF POSSIBILITIES!

PLUS THE DIARY OF RIVER SONG DOCTOR WHO: THE LOST STORIES TORCHWOOD, SHAKEN NOT STIRRED

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# COMING SOON



## EDITORIAL



## DOCTOR WHO THE **LOST** STORIES

**HE DOCTOR** Who: The Lost Stories range makes a welcome return later this vear bringing two scripts written in the 1980s to life - performed by the casts as originally intended. Nightmare Country sees Peter Davison's Fifth Doctor with companions Tegan (Janet Fielding) and Turlough (Mark Strickson) in an adventure written by Stephen Gallagher, who crafted the television episodes Warriors' Gate and Terminus. The Doctor awakens on a planet of relics, a dead world, a hostile world... he has no memory of who he is, or how he got to be there. And Colin Baker and Nicola Bryant reprise their TV roles as the Sixth Doctor and Peri in The Ultimate Evil. written by Wally K Daly. The Doctor and Peri's holiday plans on the planet Tranquela go awry

when they cross paths with the slimy super-salesman Mordant and his scheme to start a war using a hate ray. Producer David Richardson savs: "The original intention was to make audio productions of all of the episodes that would have been television season 23, and although The Nightmare Fair and Mission to Magnus were adapted and released on audio in 2009, at the time we were unable to secure The Ultimate Evil. Wind forward to 2019 and we now have Wallv adapting his own script. "Stephen Gallagher's Nightmare Country was brought to me by Guy Adams who has script edited Stephen's audio adaptation, and it's a wonderful piece of season 21 mindblowing fantasy. How brilliant to be able to launch them both in The Lost Stories tenth anniversary year!" **VORTEX** 

S IT REALLY more than 14 years since we first met Rose Tyler? It's hard to believe that Rose has been a part of our lives for so long, helping and healing a battle-scarred Ninth Doctor to become a better man, and then becoming the best friend of the happy-go-lucky Tenth Doctor. Russell T Davies's superb creation was given life and vigour by actor Billie Piper - so it's a real pleasure to welcome her back to the part with Big Finish. One of my favourite Doctor Who TV episodes of all time ever is Turn Left, when poor Donna Noble encounters the mysterious woman who we know is Rose. We learn why we've been seeing glimpses of her in previous stories, as the walls of reality are breaking down. And this is where we find Rose in her new audio series, Rose Tyler: The Dimension Cannon, Trapped on Pete's world, she is trying to find her way home and locate the Doctor – and she's not alone. I look forward to hearing more of Jackie and Pete Tyler, but I also have a real soft spot for Clive, the poor fan of the Doctor killed off in TV episode Rose by an Auton. Without the Doctor to obsess over, just what will pique Rose's interest in Pete's world? **VORTEX** 



# from the ashes

### BILLIE PIPER TRAVELS ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE IN A NEW **DOCTOR WHO** SPIN-OFF...

#### THE DIMENSION CANNON

Released: September 2019
 Format: CD/Download

## BGFN.SH/CLIVE

OSE TYLER has her own Doctor Who spin-off series - at long last – in Big Finish's new audio range, Rose Tyler: The Dimension Cannon. It's been ten years or so since Russell T Davies revealed that he had been thinking of creating a programme in which Billie Piper would take the lead in a series provisionally named **Rose Tyler: Earth Defence**, however he chose not to proceed with it.

Big Finish producer David Richardson tells us the story: "The Dimension Cannon started life as something else. Last year I approached Russell T Davies with the idea of bringing his un-made TV spin-off **Rose Tyler: Earth Defence** to audio. He embraced it, and to my delight and surprise – considering he's one of the busiest and most successful people in entertainment – he offered to be involved, reading and noting the pitches and synopses. "This was an amazing opportunity  to have Russell guiding us develop a series that had only ever reached its early stages before.
 However the further we got into the project – and we worked through several full storylines – the more it didn't seem to gel.

"And then Russell said, T know, let's do something different. **Rose Tyler**: *The Dimension Cannon*. Rose travelling through different parallel universes to find the Doctor'. Wham! The whole thing gelled right there and then.

"Up until that point Matt Fitton and I had been struggling to find the series's identity, whereas here we instantly became fired up with ideas and situations and dramatic

The Rise of the Cybermen and Pete's World, and there are certain points at which we can see things have changed. It's the same with *Turn Left*, we can extrapolate from the world where Donna found herself.

"When we create these other worlds, sometimes it's the big things that are different, sometimes the small things. It can be as simple as one or two people being absent that can change how everyone's lives have turned out."

> **E RETURN** to the Tylers – and Clive – in *The Endless Night* by Jonathan Morris. Jonny says of his

brief: "It evolved. It started as a fairly loose idea; to tell stories about Rose travelling across parallel worlds using the Dimension Cannon, meeting alternative versions of Jackie, Pete and Clive. As I understand it a lot of it came from Russell – and he was happy to bring back Clive from TV episode *Rose*.

"For this adventure I was asked to set things up by telling the story of the first successful dimension trip. There was then a bit of back and forth between me and script editor Matt Fitton trying to pin down the 'rules' of the series: would there be other Doctors in these parallel universes, for instance? I went away and came up with an idea and sent Matt a 700word train-of-thought outline.

"This became a one-page synopsis which was sent to Russell for his comments. Thankfully he liked it but had several notes on specific plot points which I completely ignored. I'm joking! I followed them all to the letter – you don't ignore notes from Russell! Basically he pointed out areas where I'd taken the easy way out and suggested ways of making the situation more dramatic.

"More discussions with Matt followed to nail down the rules of dimension-hopping – we were both keen to make them clear and simple. I decided that, for the sake of telling good stories, the Dimension Cannon's limitations would place a time window on Rose's trips, and that she shouldn't be able to pop back and forth between universes or bring people along with her. "I put together a second

(1 – r): Camille Coduri and Billie Piper

## SOMETIMES IT'S THE **BIG THINGS** THAT ARE DIFFERENT, SOMETIMES THE SMALL THINGS...

MATT FITTON

potential. We had Billie and Camille on board, plus Shaun Dingwall – returning to the role of Pete Tyler for the first time since TV episode *Doomsday* in 2006. I said to Russell, 'How would you feel about bringing in Mark Benton as Clive Finch, but Clive from a parallel world, one where he wasn't killed by Autons?' Russell loved that, and so there we had our ensemble cast for the box set."

Matt adds: "The story of the development of this series shows how interested Russell T Davies still is in Rose: he wanted to tell adventures that understood her and showed Rose at her absolute best. It was worth taking the time to get it right.

"In the end it's about these characters, the family in different alternative universes, and how it impacts on Rose and her having to jump from world to world to find the Doctor.

"We took the lead from the way the alternative realities were presented in the TV series, from



## © [ROSE] DOESN'T REALISE THAT HE'S AN ALTERNATIVE VERSION OF HERSELF AND SHE FANCIES HIM AT FIRST! MATT FITTON

synopsis which Russell was happy with (he had a couple of small notes, again, just making the plotting tighter), and off I went and wrote the script."

In summing up the tale, Jonny says: "Scientists in Pete's World have developed a device called a Dimension Cannon, which can create a temporary way into parallel universes. Rose volunteers to go on the first mission – she's on a quest to find the Doctor. But he only exists in one parallel universe so it's going to take a lot of trial and error before they find the right one.

"On this first trip Rose discovers a world much like her own except that it's one where her parents had split up and never had a daughter. Rose seeks out the only man who will know if there is a Doctor in this universe – Clive. Then something happens, an event so cataclysmic that it brings Jackie and Pete back together, and Rose has to make an impossible decision..."

In writing for some well-defined and popular characters there will inevitably be an air of expectation about the first script. But Jonny says he feels: "No pressure. I did what I did with the novel adaptation, *Damaged Goods*. I tried to write in Russell's 'voice' as much as possible. I mean I'll fail, I'll fall far short, it will end up being my voice, but you have to shoot for the moon! As prep I re-watched *Rose*, and read the novelisation to get those characters' voices into my head – which was no hardship.

"And I'm very proud of this script: I think it's one of my best ones. Maybe it was Russell's influence, I don't know, but it just



flowed incredibly easily and turned out extremely well. And I know that with such a great cast it's going to be one heck of a story!"

> he Flood by Lisa McMullin sees Rose arrive on another world, a world without a Rose but with a twist...

there might be no Rose Tyler, but there is a Rob Tyler! Matt laughs: "When she meets Rob Tyler she doesn't realise that he's an alternative version of herself and she fancies him at first! The story felt right and Lisa's done a good job with it."

Director Helen Goldwyn adds: "The dynamic between Billie and Joe Jameson, who plays the male parallel





version of Rose, was great. It was good fun letting him come in and have to emulate Rose's mannerisms!"

Lisa says her brief involved: "Rose and the Tylers making holes in the universe using the Dimension Cannon on a mission to find the Doctor before all of space and time collapses. It's a fairly bleak set up as each world they visit is on the brink of collapse/extinction in some way. So the brief was to plunge Rose and Clive into a dying alternative London, decide how it's dying, and have them encounter alternative versions of themselves and their families as they try to find the Doctor.

"Rose and Clive punch through a hole into a London that is



drowning – the rain won't stop. Technological development is outlawed and there are riots on the streets. The Prime Minister is hiding the truth about climate change from the population and Rose and Clive are there to expose her deception with the help of various alternative family members. On the way Clive has a little romance, and Rose falls for a familiar stranger before realising there are several excellent reasons why that won't work."

Lisa had great fun writing for the regulars: "I loved it – they're just my kind of characters: down to earth, speaking their minds, with warmth and humour.

### Then add a dash of heartbreak to all of them. It was a treat."

**HOST MACHINES** by AK Benedict is the third story in the box set.

Matt explains: "Ghost Machines is a strange and spooky one. Pete decides it's time he takes a trip through the Dimension Cannon and he chooses one of the worst possible trips he could make!

"Pete and Rose arrive in a world where technology has taken a macabre and strange turn, and find that the Pete Tyler on this world is a very different kind of entrepreneur – but like the Pete of Pete's World, he's extremely successful. But he's also very recently deceased so they find themselves at his mansion – which is more of a gothic castle – and meet the widowed Jackie. As they look for connections to the Doctor they become part of someone else's plot, and at the same time the world is starting to see a catastrophic breakdown of technology beginning



to get underway; one that could mean the end of everything.

"It's a dark and emotional story which I thought would suit AK's writing. During the course of it Pete and Rose have to look at their relationship and think about what it means to be father and daughter, separated by dimensions, and work out where their loyalties lie."

The events conclude in *The Last Party on Earth* by Matt Fitton. Matt says: "The last one of this set is probably the closest we have to Rose's normal world, and the threat is something rather incidental to the character drama that gets played out on the Powell Estate.

## THE CONCEPT WAS 'A LOVE STORY AT THE END OF THE WORLD', BETWEEN TWO YOUNG MEN WITH DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS.

MATT FITTON



"The concept was 'a love story at the end of the world', between two young men with diverse backgrounds. Ilooked around at what characters there were – it made sense to pick a couple from the **Rose** novelisation – so there's some background of Rose already knowing them in her world and knowing they should be together, but if you haven't read the book it won't matter.

"We have Rose and Jackie at the centre of the story and so I looked

for ways to affect them, including a long-lost character from the past to see how they deal with that. In making this a story about love and loss – and finding out what's really important in life – I'm trying to emulate the themes Russell himself returns to time and again."

He din Go we

HE STORIES were directed by Helen Goldwyn: "I thought they were an exceptional set of scripts. The adventures are all about relationships and the choices people make. We consider the potential we have in us to become something more (or less) than we are – there are so many things we encounter in our lives which define us. Every time Rose encounters different versions of the people she knows you can see how they have become this incarnation.

"It was really lovely on the first day of recording, it was more like a family reunion as the cast hadn't seen each other all together for some time. They fell very quickly into that family-type dynamic, sitting on the sofa and catching up with each other's personal lives – nothing to do with careers, just family. The whole recording was very natural."

Helen was also delighted to work with composer Joe Kraemer whose CV includes blockbuster films Jack Reacher and Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation.

She explains: "It's a privilege to collaborate with Joe Kraemer. He's very easy to work with and has no idea how elevated he is as a professional composer.

"Everything he does is so high status, but he puts the same level of care and focus into Big Finish as he does with his Hollywood films.

"His work always sounds amazing and there's something about his orchestrations that are especially great. We're very fortunate to have Joe and many other fantastic composers at Big Finish."

AVID CONCLUDES: "I love this series. I mentioned identity earlier and it really feels unique to the Big Finish catalogue. This is a **Doctor Who** spin-off that's principally about characters.

"It's not about monsters and aliens. There are plenty of threats and lots of thrills. But primarily it's about the end of the world (in four very different ways) and how characters react to that. It's not always pretty but sometimes it's beautiful. And Russell's help with the story development was invaluable – he got us to this really interesting and special place. I'm so hugely grateful to him." **VORTEX** 

# WRITE TO: FEEDBACK@BIGFINISH.COM USING VORTEX MAIL AS THE SUBJECT



#### **BIG LOVE FOR BIG FINISH**

This is hopefully an easy one, a message I'm sending just to say thank you. I started collecting Big Finish in 2013 though my interest began a little earlier, especially with the potential of telling the Eighth Doctor's story properly. I looked on and waited for a 'jumping on point' and bought the 50th anniversary special The Light at the End which I loved, particularly for McGann's interactions with Tom Baker's Doctor. The Eighth Doctor is the Doctor, along with Doctor Six who I feel you want to love but whose output on screen makes it a little difficult, at no fault of the actors involved. I jumped on the praise of **Dark Eyes** and fell in love with it and Paul's Doctor. I love Colin's Doctor too. Five years later and I'm near completing my collection. spinoffs and all – I've one Iris Wildthyme and a handful of The Monthly Adventures and then I have them all. My favourite Doctor of all time across all media: Paul McGann. I want to thank you today for all of it. Every Doctor. Every companion. All of Doctor Who is forever enriched by the work you do and have done and your content has been consistently great for 20 years now. I was going to save this message for when I finished the back catalogue

(planned for September, save any big announcements) but today seemed more appropriate. The one mistake I made early on was to buy **Dark Eyes 2** (my third purchase) from Amazon, leaving a rather important hole in the digital collection. Today, through (yet another) fantastic sale, that hole has been filled. It feels like it's gone full circle. Thank you so much Big Finish. Keep it up. **Andrew McKinnon** 

Nick: Andrew, thanks so much for such a lovely message. We're very grateful for your enthusiastic report. I'm lucky enough to be able to say this often but it really does make a huge difference to us all at Big Finish when we receive a heartwarmingly positive message such as yours.



#### WAR TIME

Just wondering if you have any plans for Derek Jacobi to perform a dramatic reading bringing his War Master face-to-face with the War Doctor? Done from the Master's point of view, I would love to hear his thoughts on this particular incarnation of the Doctor, and the extremes he was willing to go to. Though it is sadly impossible to achieve this as a full-cast production, I would still love to have it in some form... Simon Darley

Nick: It's a lovely idea, Simon. No concrete plans at the moment but it's the sort of thing we talk about a lot at our planning meetings.

#### TIME TO GO HOLMES?

What's happening with the Sherlock Holmes range? @daddygorge

Nick: We'll be going into production with another series later this year. Scripts are nearly finished. I'm really looking forward to it!

#### DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENTS?

Will River have any chance of meeting the First, Second, Third or Tenth Doctors at Big Finish? @BigFinishReviews Nick: Just imagine! I don't see why not. We'll be making some plans...

#### TIME AND CRIME

Any chance of **Crime Traveller** with Chloe Annett? John Dorney and Jonathan Morris in particular could work wonders with the timey-wimeyness! **Korl Williams** 

**Nick**: No plans for that I'm afraid, Karl. Well, not that afraid... but quite a bit afraid...

#### **MORE MONSTERS**

Will we be getting **Classic Doctors**, **New Monsters 3**? I would like to see the Doctor meet the Krillitane. **Matthew Vernon** 

Nick: We certainly are planning some new Classic Doctors, New Monsters. No details available yet though, Matthew. But the first two releases have proved very popular, and we like to give you more of what is popular! VORTEX

# SUMMERFIELD OF DREAMS

**BERNICE SUMMERFIELD** IS BACK IN HER OWN UNIVERSE FOR VOLUME FIVE OF THE NEW ADVENTURES – AND THEY'VE ALL BEEN WRITTEN BY COMPETITION WINNERS!

### THE NEW ADVENTURES OF BERNICE SUMMERFIELD

Released: September 2019
 Format: CD/Download

## BGFN.SH/BURIED

**ONG-TERM** Big Finish fans will remember that way back in 2004 producer Gary Russell decided to try something new with the **Doctor Who** range where each of the monthly releases would be written by an author new to Big Finish. Fast forward 15 years to 2019 and the current producer of the **Bernice Summerfield** range, James Goss, has done something similar. Benny is back in four brand new adventures – accompanied by a Time Lord you could bring home to meet your mother, played by David Warner. The authors in this box set are all new to Big Finish, and are all women.

In Volumes Three and Four of **The New Adventures of Bernice Summerfield**, the archaeologist was trapped in a dying universe with the Doctor. However he wasn't any of the incarnations she knew – this was the Doctor first introduced in 2003's *Sympathy for the Devil*, an alternate Third Doctor as part of the **Doctor Who Unbound** range. He took Bernice into his TARDIS in the hope she would anchor him to her world but they were drawn back into his dying one.

At the end of the fourth series the Doctor and Benny were able to escape as the Doctor saved the other universe, but now he finds himself in our more familiar reality.

Producer James says: "Last year we ran a **Bernice Summerfield** short story competition and we were so impressed by the finalists that we asked all of them if they wanted to write an episode for the next box set. And luckily they said yes coming up with a set of very different, fresh ideas."

#### ISA BOWERMAN,

celebrating 21 years acting as Benny this year, says: "I love working with James Goss and our director Scott Handcock.

We have a great team. "I wasn't really told much about

what would be happening in this volume beforehand, I rather like to be surprised! This series acts as a sort of breathing space: we're back in Bernice's world but of course

a great set of scripts by four new voices into the studio."

The set opens with Pride of the Lampian by Alyson Leeds, where Benny finds the last relic of a lost civilisation - one that the Doctor is worried may have never existed.

Alvson savs: "I discovered the Big Finish audios in the mid 2000s and was looking for recommendations for some non-The Monthly Adventures audios: a friend suggested I try Bernice Summerfield and lent me Love and War as an introduction. I became an instant fan of Benny. Benny's a character that packs a punch; she's smart, confident, capable - and unlike some companions she doesn't become 'less' in the presence of the Doctor. So when offered the chance to write an adventure for Benny, the answer was only ever going to be, 'Yes, please!'

"The brief was to come up with a story in which Benny takes the lead



**66** THE ADVANTAGE OF BERNICE AS A CHARACTER IS THAT SHE WORKS WELL WITH ALL OF THE DOCTORS.

Above: David Warner Below (I-r): David Warner, Julia Deakin, Lisa Bowerman, Laura Aikman and Richard Lumsden

it's the wrong one for the Doctor, the implications of which will be fully realised in the future.

"We've got four new writers and their scripts all deal with really interesting ideas in pretty much standalone, separate adventures. There's one that's not just an adventure but is about how Bernice sees herself, her position in the world, and how her ego might hinder her judgement. There's one which I can't say much about without giving too much away, and another where she finds herself having an unusual relationship with the Doctor which is hilarious!

"And then there's one about alternative realities which is interesting, it has an echo of the character in Russell T Davies' recent Years and Years who wants to live in an alternative world, and it deals with the need to take ourselves out of the world around us... but are we just kidding ourselves?"



**HE NEW** authors were paired up with established Big Finish writers as mentors. James continues: "Everyone worked very hard to bring



JAMES GOSS

(this Doctor is her companion after all), where she can show this new Doctor something of our universe, get into a few scraps and generally have fun. Stories showcasing Benny's skills as an archaeologist were encouraged, and as a geeky historian I definitely wanted to pursue something in that vein. I came up with three pitches all of which James loved, and after some debate we settled on the one that we thought would fly best - archives, mysterious artefacts, a 'lost' civilisation and a looming threat; plenty for an archaeologist to get her teeth into!"

Alyson's mentor was Scott Handock, and she says: "Before this I'd only written prose which is quite a solitary process, so having someone there to lead me through the stages of scriptwriting and offer advice was a godsend. I must admit I was a little daunted at the thought of someone with Scott's **Who** pedigree looking over my (very rough!) work. Scott was marvellous, though. He was nothing but encouraging, happy to answer any questions regarding the writing process or story details, and reassuring when I got a little anxious that things weren't going to plan."

HE SECOND story of the set is *Clear History* by Doris V Sutherland where Bernice and the Doctor visit Civitas-G, a world of virtual reality. As an archaeologist Benny is faced with a question: in a place where reality itself can be reshaped, where does that leave history? As it (I–r): David Warner, Julia Deakin, Lisa Bowerman, Laura Aikman and Richard Lumsden

happens, it turns out that someone somewhere has been re-writing the history of Civitas-G. To get to the bottom of the mystery the two heroes team up with Zeta, a girl who fell between the cracks and now exists as a bug in the system.

Doris tells Vortex: "The whole idea that Benny is an archaeologist of the future appeals to me; there are a lot of interesting stories to tell from that starting point – and her sardonic personality sweetens the deal. I think she's an inspired character and I'm very pleased to be writing for her.

"James gave me a fairly free rein in coming up with an idea. I pitched a few possible stories themed around archaeology in a science fiction setting, and James let me choose which one to go with.

"Once I decided on *Clear History* with its virtual reality background, James gave me a lot of guidance on avoiding the clichés that come with VR like you find in 1990s cyberpunk films. We worked together to shape the story into what, I hope, feels like a fresh, contemporary take on the theme."

Working on her first script, Doris was paired with mentor Una McCormack. Doris explains: "Una was great to work with. She has a lot more experience than me and offered plenty of advice on what works and what doesn't work in audio drama but at the same time I felt as though we were on the same page throughout the project. In our conversations we traded reference points ranging from McCoy-era Who to modern Hugo-winning science fiction to the subcultures of the Internet, and it was clear that she shared my vision of how the story should end up."

skills doing a job she loves the most and archaeology has always been something I've been interested in.

"I would describe Dead and Breakfast as Benny and the Doctor as a married couple, getting a feel of normal, married life whilst living in a town that is full of paranoia and has too many secrets with too many outdated laws. It features a cyborg, a sheriff and a boy who are all thrown into an unlikely adventure as they try to find out the truth of a long lost dead queen and themselves."



Doris adds: "I'm very happy. I feel flattered to have been chosen to write an episode of Benny's exploits, and I hope my story goes down well with her listeners."



EAD AND Breakfast, the third adventure by April McCaffrey, sees Bernice and the Doctor trapped on a planet where people who are unusual have a habit of dving... April says: "I've been a Benny fan since 2012/2013

roughly: once a Benny fan, always a Benny fan! "James wanted Benny to be

showing off her expertise as an archaeologist as that is one of Benny's strong traits as a character. I can never get enough stories of Benny where she shows off her

As her mentor, April worked with a former Bernice producer. She explains: "Simon Guerrier was my mentor for this project and he was extremely patient and kind in dealing with my wacky ideas for this story. The only writing I have ever done before this was fan fiction so it was a great learning curve for me to do it professionally, and Simon very kindly taught me the ins and outs of writing for Big Finish. It was great working with him. It also goes to show that fan fiction can help people pursue their dreams as a writer."

HE SET concludes with Burrowed Time by Lani Woodward. Centuries ago the Byrinthians were wiped out, apart from one underground

train which is still travelling the tunnels of this long-dead world. With a passenger on board. James says: "Burrowed Time is a really inventive script – and it will ring a bell with anvone who's ever been stuck on a delayed train. The premise is what happens to the train if that delay goes on for a thousand years? And what if that delay is all that remains of a civilisation? Just an apologetic series of automated messages and the ghost of the passengers' frustrations...." Lisa adds: "The Doctor has

**W**I'VE BEEN A **BENNY FAN** SINCE 2012/ 2013 ROUGHLY: **ONCE A BENNY** FAN, ALWAYS A **BENNY FAN** 

various traits that, no matter how jolly or grumpy he is, there's a consistency to the character regardless of his or her physical form. I've said it before but the advantage of Bernice as a character is that she works well with all of the Doctors. Obviously, there's a few of them which she hasn't yet met, but there's no reason in the world why she couldn't interact with every one of them. It's extraordinary, and it's a mark of her personality that she seems to be able to get on with all of them.

"Benny works particularly well with this Doctor, Mr Grumpy (!) and bursts his bubble every so often. David Warner loves Big Finish, especially these Doctor Whos, and the stories in this set are wonderful. James has said that in a way Bernice is there to keep him in line; not to be in charge but to remind him of who he is and what he stands for. It's very important in this set as he is a fish out of water to a certain extent." VORTEX



### CLASSIC STORIES FROM THE **BERNICE SUMMERFIELD** BACK CATALOGUE ARE BEING GIVEN A NEW LEASE OF LIFE...

#### BERNICE SUMMERFIELD THE SQUIRE'S CRYSTAL

Released: October 2019
 Format: Download





Back in the early days of Big Finish, producer Gary Russell established a format for the first year's releases of **Bernice Summerfield** in which there would be an audio adventure followed by a printed escapade – and they would alternate in the release schedule each year with an ongoing narrative combined within the two forms of media.

However this resulted in some confusion not just for listeners and readers who didn't follow what was happening across the two formats, but for the cast as well. Lisa Bowerman, who plays Benny in the audio plays, admitted her surprise on discovering her character was pregnant in an audio tale when she hadn't been, or, erm, had the opportunity to be, in the previous one!

While the audio stories have remained in print over the years, the books have sold out, and now they are highly sought after by fans of the archaeologist. In order to help resolve this dilemma, Big Finish decided to bring them back to reformatted life with Lisa Bowerman narrating the printed words in the form of audiobooks.

The Benny archive has been excavated a couple of times already. The first release in this new audiobook range, *Professor Bernice Summerfield* and the Doomsday Manuscript by Justin Richards, was released in March, followed in April by *Professor Bernice Summerfield* and the Gods of the Underworld written by Stephen Cole.

But that's not the end of the range as there are three more lined up for release in the months ahead.

In October we can look forward to *The Squire's Crystal* with *The Infernal Nexus* being released in January 2020 and *The Glass Prison* in March a couple of months after.

Producing the range is Xanna Eve Chown, who says: "Audiobooks are having a bit of a 'moment' right now, and Big Finish has quite a few titles in the back catalogue that are not on audio yet. So, as well as looking into developing an audiobook range



of new writing with dramas like **The Omega Factor**, we wanted to bring some of the older titles back into the public eye.

"These Benny 'first five' were the perfect place to start. Some of them are very hard to find if you want to buy a physical copy (although we did bring a couple into the modern world as eBooks fairly recently). The books have storylines that are vital to the 'Benny story', especially as they deal with the strange circumstances that lead up to the birth of her son Peter. I think



## I LOVE THEM ALL! THEY NEED TO BE OUT THERE AND AVAILABLE FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY.

XANNA EVE CHOWN

Lisa gets asked about them a lot and whether they could be made available on audio. So – long story short – we did it for the listeners.

"Seriously, they are cracking adventures, the lot of them. I love them all! They need to be out there and available for everyone to enjoy. Lisa was excited to revisit these earlier stories too. It's interesting to see how the character of Benny has developed."

HE GOOD news for Benny fans is that all five of the books have been recorded, brought to life by the incomparable Lisa Bowerman. Xanna confirms: "Lisa is narrating them all – and she has already done them! She managed to record all five books in January and early February, which is an epic achievement and she should be given a medal.

"It takes two pretty long days in studio to narrate each book – they were all recorded at Audio Sorcery in Wadhurst with the lovely Paul Midcalf."

Lisa, whose audiobook work will be known to listeners from her 2015 reading of Paul Cornell's New Adventure, *Human Nature*, admits there's a big difference between recording a normal full-cast Bernice story, and these full length original novels.

"Audiobooks are generally much harder work than the more usual Big Finish audio drama recording. I think most people would think



### I ENTERTAIN MYSELF BY DOING FUNNY VOICES WHEN NARRATING – ESPECIALLY AS THERE'S 50 ZILLION DIFFERENT ALIENS TO DO!

LISA BOWERMAN

turning up and reading is fairly straightforward and a bit of fun – but reading aloud is very different from reading to yourself.

"When you read a book on your own you generally skim over some words because you instinctively get the gist of them, but when you're narrating you need to bring out every nuance. It's a storytelling performance and it takes a lot longer to read, especially as you have to give it so much more concentration.

"I entertain myself by doing funny voices when narrating – especially as there's 50 zillion different aliens to do! Then after a while you come to regret it, especially if the character comes back in another book and you need to go back and remember if you performed it with a Yorkshire or London accent! I often have to check with the editor which accent I've done for a particular character!

"You really need to do your preparation beforehand, and have the different voices worked out before you go into studio.

"And when I'm in studio, it's important to try to be comfortable – a lot has to do with the position you are sitting in. I tend to use an iPad when I'm doing audiobooks. I have to lean forward to read it and have a cushion behind my back on the chair. Although you're sitting, you actually use a lot of physical energy and by the end of the day, you are completely exhausted!

"These Bernice audiobooks each take around a day and a half, or a couple of days, to do. Some of the writing can be quite complex with long sentences, and because it's science fiction there can be weird and wonderful alien names to get your tongue and teeth around which can bog you down – you need to get the flow of the sentence.

"There's a temptation to go with a very steady, methodical pace to avoid making mistakes, but as a listener I've always found that quite frustrating. I like to vary the pace and give a bit of energy to the words and characters when needed."

For those who haven't heard any of the releases yet there's a little bonus for listeners at the end of each adventure. Xanna explains: "I've really enjoyed recording the extras with Lisa to go with the audiobooks.

"Because there are five books we didn't want to have five 'straight' interviews as extras. So we sourced some fan questions for one, had a guest interviewer for another, and then went a bit mad with the other three.

"There's an extra, where Lisa reads out reviews from the internet for these five early books. Then I concocted a slightly random quiz and poor Lisa had to answer questions about how much a copy of *Infernal Nexus* would cost on eBay and other things of great importance – she did very well! And on one of the extras Lisa takes part in an online personality quiz which made me giggle a lot!" **VORTEX** 

The paperback version of Bernice Summerfield and the Gods of the Underworld (released in February 2001) is also available from Big Finish at just £2.99 – while stocks last.

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#### **TORCHWOOD ONE** LATTER DAYS

Released: September 2019 Format: CD/Download

#### **ORDER NOW AT: BGFN.SH/DAVE**

HEY'RE BACK and it's all about the team (unless you're Yvonne Hartman and then it's very much all about you !) ...

We return to Canary Wharf in London to meet the team at Torchwood One for a third box set of adventures in Latter Days. Tracy-Ann Oberman is back in the heels and business suit of Yvonne Hartman, and Gareth David-Lloyd reprises his role as Ianto Jones.

In this box set of three tales we meet Yvonne's mother; see Torchwood through the eyes of one of its cleaners; and Ianto finds himself trapped inside the retirement plans of Tommy - the head of Alien Acquisitions.

The set opens with Retirement Plan which was written by Ianto himself, actor Gareth David-Lloyd, and features a character we first met in box set one - only now, Tommy is retiring. But there's something very wrong in the idyll of El Cielo, and it's going to kill Ianto. There are spies, guns and snowmobiles, a secret base - and definitely piranhas!

ELOVE

Gareth says: "I'm a bit more familiar writing for the characters than I was the first time around when I had to go back over the first series of Torchwood One. I did some more research on Yvonne's character for this one, but I know her and the others much better this time.

"I wasn't given too much of a

play, do you ever consider giving yourself all the best lines? Gareth laughs: "Ianto always gets a couple of nice dry one-liners, though there wasn't any temptation to give myself the best lines – I definitely wanted to make the story about Tommy. Ianto has some fun interjections but Tim has got such great comic timing I wanted to utilise that as best as I could."

**MYSTERIOUS FORCE** is wiping out Torchwood in *Locker 15*, by Matt Fitton, the second story in this set,

and the only person who can save London is a cleaner called Dave.

Matt explains: "The **Torchwood One** stories are all about office life, in a way. I just wanted to look at how Yvonne runs things, and

> IANTO AND YVONNE GET TRAPPED IN A JAMES BOND WORLD – IT'S A BIT RISQUÉ. GARETH DAVID-LLOYD

what it is like working there for her. Yvonne likes to know her staff but she can be incredibly ruthless, to get the job done.

"The first box set was about the new person coming in to work at Torchwood and seeing it through her eyes; volume two was about business as usual and the day to day work. Series three is about what happens when you retire, and we've various stories about people coming to the end of their Torchwood working lives and their different ways of leaving.

"In Locker 15 they uncover a problem in the offices of Torchwood One and need the help of an old employee who used to be a cleaner and has been retired for a few years, as he might know something about what's going on."

Although **Torchwood** as a series features fantastical ideas, there's

(I–r): Derek Griffiths, Gareth David-Lloyd, Tracy-Ann Oberman, Ony Uhiara

detailed brief – just that it was all to do with retirement – and that was it!

"The central character in this one is Tommy played brilliantly by Tim Bentinck who was in the first series of **Torchwood One**.

"Unfortunately, death is the way most people leave Torchwood – either that, or they are retconned! But Tommy has some ideas about retirement within the constraints of working for Torchwood and he's planning an alternative. He's been secretly pottering away on his own retirement dream but he needs lanto's help to realise it."

As well as writing the adventure, Gareth is enjoying playing a different facet to lanto's character, having established himself as a firm favourite with listeners through his work at Torchwood Three in Cardiff.

He confirms: "It was great fun

to play a different, more innocent side to Ianto in the first series, and to come back and write for him has been a great pleasure.

"The whole idea of Ianto living out his fantasies as a secret agent has been in my head for some time. Ianto and Yvonne get trapped in a James Bond world – it's a bit risqué.

"When I was writing there were some moments where I thought Tracy-Ann will either love me or hate me for this - the reasons for which will become evident!

"Yvonne is a great character. At least you know when you work for Torchwood that you are sort of being looked after by Yvonne – as long as you do exactly what she says! She can be very unforgiving if you stray from her agenda."

When you're writing a script that features the character you

#### TORCHWOOD ONE LATTER DAYS

always been an element of the real world to it. As the original publicity for the television series said, it's **The X Files** meets **This Life**.

Matt explains: "Even though Torchwood are dealing with weird and wonderful aliens you've got to remember they still have an office to run – with people to empty the bins, refill the paper tray and fix the photocopier. Would someone who has done that at Torchwood need to be retconned when they leave, and what would the longer term effects of that be?

"Just what happens when someone retires from Torchwood? There's a high mortality rate among its agents, but what about the cleaner? That's when we meet Dave Cook, who Yvonne and Ianto find in a care home, and they try to prise information from his memory.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE RETIRES FROM TORCHWOOD? THERE'S A HIGH MORTALITY RATE AMONG ITS AGENTS, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CLEANER?

MATT FITTON

"In the past, we've likened **Torchwood One** to the TV series **Archer** which features a dysfunctional group of spies – here we have a dysfunctional office, which just happens to be full of alien hunters."

HE EVENTS of the Torchwood team's domestic lives come to the forefront in *The Rockery* by Tim Foley. Anne Hartman has retired to the



(I–r): Ony Uhiara, Derek Griffiths, Tracy-Ann Oberman, Gareth David-Lloyd

country, which comes as a surprise to her daughter. Has Yvonne met a problem even she can't solve?

Tim says: "This is probably the first **Torchwood** story I've pitched completely from scratch. I was watching the recording of 9 to 5 (from the previous box set) and Tracy-Ann squared up magnificently against Jane Asher. Yvonne's dynamic with a figure that was older and equal to her was so electric. So I got in touch with James Goss and asked, 'Are we ever going to meet Yvonne's mother?' Hint hint hint. He got in touch with Russell T Davies who really liked the idea, and then we found ourselves working out how we could meet Anne Hartman, what she was like and what she'd think of the daughter she'd raised. It turns out that the themes worked really well for the next **Torchwood One** box set, so I leapt at the chance to write it!

"Yvonne's mother has retired early and Yvonne isn't happy about it. Anne Hartman moves to the countryside and we see Yvonne



bouncing back and forth between her life in the city and her mother's new life in Shropshire. It's a story of a strained relationship, with love and pain and things unsaid and strange plants at the bottom of the garden."

For Tim, expanding on Yvonne's personal life was something of a joy.

He says: "This is somebody retiring who has never known Torchwood... and never wishes to know it. It would be very easy to write a character that was effectively Yvonne senior, but we found it far more interesting to imagine Yvonne as her father's daughter (I obliquely referred to Yvonne's dad in a previous **Torchwood** story since we decided he's mentioned as working in security in a certain 1970s **Doctor Who**!).

"Who, then, is Anne? I'm really excited for listeners to meet her. Unlike her husband and her daughter, Anne has always tried to live a quiet life. But with Yvonne back in the picture, there's hardly going to be much of that..."

Tracy-Ann adds: "There's so much love for Yvonne. Whenever I'm on tour, people bring her up and say how much they love her in Big Finish."

Matt Fitton and producer James Goss have previously told Vortex that their writing for **Torchwood One** has been partly inspired by bad office jobs they've held in the past. Has there been anything from Tim's own working life that's fed in to this story?

He reveals: "I mainly work in theatre, and this script is the most play-like I've written for Big Finish (that's something James Goss noted as well, I think he called me out for using act breaks!). It's three characters navigating what it means to be human; it'd work well on stage. I adore the fact that **Torchwood** as a show can be this flexible. Some days I get to write about the end of the world, and on other days I get to write about a lonely woman tending to her rockery. When I retire myself, it's a time I'll look upon very fondly!"

> ASKED WITH bringing the trio of tales to life was director Barnaby Edwards, who tells *Vortex* what he

#### TORCHWOOD ONE LATTER DAYS

thinks makes **Torchwood One** so special: "We only got a glimpse of Yvonne Hartman on television before she met her well-deserved cybernetic fate. And yet those brief minutes during which she lit up the screen with her ruthless, camp, solipsistic effulgence were enough to make us thirst for more. Similarly, we never got as much Ianto as that character merited.

> I GET TO WRITE ABOUT **THE END OF THE WORLD**, AND ON OTHER DAYS I GET TO WRITE ABOUT A LONELY WOMAN TENDING TO HER ROCKERY. TIM FOLEY

"So, for me, what makes the **Torchwood One** adventures so special is expanding our knowledge of Yvonne, the black widow spider who is the master brain at the centre of Torchwood's web, and Ianto, the loyal puppy who is very much the heart of Torchwood."

Barney – who also directed the first two box sets of this series – particularly enjoys working with the series' two main leads. He says: "Tracy-Ann and Gareth are two of my favourite performers. The partnering of cynical Yvonne with the exuberant, innocent and utterly loveable Ianto is what makes these stories such a joy to direct. They're the best double act around."

And were there plenty of memorable moments during the recording days? Barney grins: "Many, actually. Hearing lanto's James Bond fantasies, finding out what makes Tommy (Torchwood's Q, played by the brilliant Tim Bentinck) tick, and – of course – meeting the only woman more terrifying than Yvonne Hartman: her mother!" VORTEX

# **EXAMPLE ACCESS CODE: STORIES**



S PORTRAYED on the television, Steven Moffat's creation is brought to vivacious, vibrant and indeed sometimes violent life by Alex Kingston in **The Diary of River Song**, a range of audio adventures detailing what the Doctor's wife gets up to when he isn't around to rein in her more homicidal tendancies.

The sixth box set of **The Diary of River Song** is set for release this month – would producer David Richardson have believed at Series One that she would still be going strong now?

He grins: "In a word... yes! And that's purely down to how amazing and wellloved the character is, and the endless potential to tell stories with her. What I didn't know before we recorded box set one was how myself, director Ken Bentley, script editor Matt Fitton... all of us... would absolutely love working with Alex.

"Every day that we've recorded with her – and there have been a lot – has been special. She's so down to earth, humane,

## THE DIARY OF **RIVER SONG** SERIES ONE

RIVER SONG HAS ONLY BEEN PART OF THE BIG FINISH DOCTOR WHO WORLD FOR A HANDFUL OF YEARS BUT IT FEELS LIKE SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN AROUND.

interested in everyone and everything around her, and totally invested in the material and what we're doing with the series. A wonderful human being."

The Boundless Sea by Jenny T Colgan opens Series One, as River crosses paths with British Consul Bertie Potts – leading to a secret buried in a lost tomb...

Jenny tells us more: "When we learned that Rory and Amy were River's parents I had just had a baby myself so I had a real empathy for the character; and it was then that Big Finish said, 'Do you want to have a shot at a play?' It was a very easy, 'Yes, please!' Big Finish were very, very kind to let me have the first episode – it was a massive thrill and very unexpected."

Justin Richards wrote the second story of the set, *I Went to a Marvellous Party*, where River is invited to an exclusive gathering – and there's a murder.

He says: "For my story, I was given a good set-up: River turns up at a party and at the end could I tie it in with what happens at the start of the next one. That meant I had quite a bit of leeway in what I could do, and I felt a murder mystery would be fun."

James Goss wrote the third episode, *Signs*, where River meets a handsome timetravelling stranger with a connection to her future: her husband, Mr Song.

James says: "Writing a twohanded love story that takes place during the solving of an ancient mystery set across the universe turned out to be surprisingly easy, actually."

The Rulers of the Universe by Matt Fitton concludes the volume (and set the trend for subsequent releases) with River meeting an earlier incarnation of her husband – in this case the Eighth Doctor.

Matt says: "It was a real challenge to try and fit them together, but you get to play with the moment and enjoy the interplay, hopefully without messing up the storyline and future continuity. I think I managed to pull it off!" **VORTEX** 

THE DIARY OF RIVER SONG: SERIES ONE IS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD NOW AT THE SPECIAL PRICE OF £14.99



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"If I get a parking ticket, There is always a parallel universe where I didn't. On the other hand, there is yet another universe where my car was stolen."

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#### AUGUST 2019

- DW THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: Emissary of the Daleks (254. SIXTH DOCTOR AND PERI)
- DW THE EIGHTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: Time War 3 (BOX SET)
- DW THE DIARY OF RIVER SONG: Series 6 (BOX SET)
- DW SHORT TRIPS: #HarrySullivan (9.08) DLO
- BIG FINISH ORIGINALS: Transference DLO
- TORCHWOOD: The Hope (30)
- THE CONFESSIONS OF DORIAN GRAY: The Lost Confessions DLO

#### SEPTEMBER 2019

- DW THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: Harry Houdini's War (255, SIXTH DOCTOR AND PERI)
- DW THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: Tartarus
   (256 FIFTH DOCTOR NYSSA AND TEGAN)
- DW ROSE TYLER: The Dimension Cannon (BOX SET)
- DW THE COMPANION CHRONICLES: The First Doctor: Volume 3 (BOX SET)
- DW THE NEW ADVENTURES OF BERNICE SUMMERFIELD: Buried Memories (BOX SET: VOL 5)
- DW SHORT TRIPS: Dead Media (9.09) DLO
- TORCHWOOD ONE: Latter Days (BOX SET)
- TORCHWOOD: The Vigil (31)

#### **OCTOBER 2019**

- DW THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: Interstitial/Feast of Fear (257, FIFTH DOCTOR TEGAN NYSSA AND MARC)
- DW THE EIGHTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: Ravenous 4 (BOX SET)
- DW THE PATERNOSTER GANG: Heritage 2 (BOX SET)
- DW SHORT TRIPS: The Second Oldest Question (9.10) DLO
- TORCHWOOD: Smashed (32)
- BERNICE SUMMERFIELD:
- The Squire's Crystal (AUDIOBOOK) DLO
  DARK SHADOWS:
  The Tony & Cassandra Mysteries
  (VOLUME 3)

#### **NOVEMBER 2019**

- DW THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: Warzone/Conversion (258, FIFTH DOCTOR, TEGAN, NYSSA AND MARC)
- DW THE LOST STORIES: Nightmare Country (5.1 FIFTH DOCTOR, TEGAN AND TURLOUGH)
- DW THE LOST STORIES: The Ultimate Evil (52 SIXTH DOCTOR AND PERI)
- DW THE EARLY ADVENTURES: The Home Guard (6.1, SECOND DOCTOR)
- DW THE EARLY ADVENTURES: Daughter of the Gods (6.2, FIRST DOCTOR AND SECOND DOCTOR)
- DW SHORT TRIPS: Hall of the Ten Thousand (9.11) DLO
- TORCHWOOD: TBA (33)
- BLAKE'S 7: Restoration Part 2 (BOX SET)
- THE PRISONER: Volume 3 (BOX SET)

#### DECEMBER 2019

- DW THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: Blood on Santa's Claw (259, TBA)
- DW THE WAR MASTER: Anti-Genesis (BOX SET)
- DW THE ROBOTS: Volume 1 (BOX SET)
- DW SHORT TRIPS: Peace in our Time (9.12) DLO
- TORCHWOOD: TBA (34)

#### JANUARY 2020

- DW THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES: Dark Universe (260, TBA)
- DW THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: Series 9: Volume 1 (BOX SET)
- DW THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: Purgatory 12 (9.1) DLO
- DW THE FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURES: Chase the Night (9.2) DLO
- DW SHORT TRIPS: TBA (10.1) DLO
- DW THE DIARY OF RIVER SONG Series 7 (BOX SET)
- BERNICE SUMMERFIELD:
- The Infernal Nexus (AUDIOBOOK) DLO TORCHWOOD: TBA (35)
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  ADAM ADAMANT LIVES!:
- A Vintage Year for Scoundrels (BOX SET)

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