

# InterMission • A Very Special Tenth

The 2003 release of the *Doctor Who Tenth Anniversary Special* facsimile edition was for me one of the highlights of what was a fantastic anniversary year. In fact it was only surpassed by my involvement with the production team on the UK Gold anniversary shows; they contacted me through my website, the *Doctor Who Cuttings Archive*, and asked me to help in sourcing clips and providing suitable newspaper and *Radio Times* cuttings for the excellent linking documentaries shown over the weekend. However, there's something about the *Tenth Anniversary Special* that's, well, special!

My enthusiasm for the facsimile was so great that a few months later I contacted Ralph Montagu, the man responsible for the new edition, with an eye to writing a piece for the *Cuttings Archive* on the recreation of the magazine. Ralph kindly agreed and gave me an enormous amount of help and the result, which can be seen online at <http://www.cuttingsarchive.org.uk/10ann-repr.htm>, includes information about the original edition of the magazine as well as a great deal of never before revealed 'behind the scenes' detail on the creation of the 2003 magazine with its subtle differences to the original.

Perhaps it was the fact that we had reached the forty year milestone that jogged my memory or perhaps it was just simple nostalgia but the anniversary last year got me thinking about how much has changed in the last thirty years, and particularly how much has changed since the release of that original ground breaking publication.

One of the things fans tend to crave is information about the object of their fanaticism, nowadays that's not a problem – every existing episode has been released on VHS (with many of the missing ones on audio) and now there are the superb BBC DVD releases. It's worth noting that these are probably, thanks to the wonderful efforts of the Restoration Team, the best vintage TV releases on DVD you'll find anywhere. There are any number of books about the series, even the ones that are out of print are usually available on eBay.

You can pop into your local newsagent once a month and pick up *Doctor Who Magazine* and read about the past, and future, of the series in the minutest detail. We are spoilt, probably more spoilt than any other group of fans that you care to name. The years since the 'classic' series' death in 1989 have actually been very good to us in a strange sort of way – we've been able to take stock of, and research to an excessive degree, the 'classic' series. As a result we've seen any number of in-depth analyses of the series, from the early years and its creation to the controversies of the 1980s and the brief TV Movie 'spring' in 1996 we have it all in books, videos/DVD's and magazines.

Anyone with a bit of memory and the ability to read can pass themselves off as something of an expert in *Doctor Who*, certainly to any member of the non-fan community who wants to know about "the one with the giant maggots" or "the one with the lizards in the sea and the Master". We've become drunk on information and the Internet has encouraged this, and upped our expectations, by offering us instant access to news about the new series or information and lists about 'classic' *Who* from anywhere in the world. It is nowadays difficult to remember a time when this was not the case.

Think back to when *Doctor Who* was last aired as an ongoing TV series in 1989, what we knew about the early years of the series was often inaccurate and was set to be re-examined and corrected over the subsequent decade but we knew many of the basic facts.

There were a very few video releases available and the majority of fans had never seen anything but these so had little knowledge, apart from what they'd read in *DWM* and fanzines, about the vast majority of old stories. Much of what we knew about the then current series was filtered through the programme's Producer and *DWM* or came from *DWB*, the fanzine equivalent of *The Sun* newspaper – sensational, vitriolic and only interested in 'facts' that backed up its own prejudices.



There was no internet, there were no online forums, for that matter there were no mechanisms for fans to discuss, debate and pass on information on an informal basis at all. Fandom was split and confused, with the series heading towards cancellation and fans along for the trip but rather confused about what was happening. When we remembered how 'good' the series used to be we were told the memory cheats and most couldn't argue – we didn't have the knowledge, we didn't have the access to videos or books that we now have.

Now let's wind the clock back further, back to a time when the series was unquestionably popular but when we had even less information about it, back to the early 1970s. The series had been running for ten years in 1973, even then a very long time for a TV programme, and had become part of the BBC furniture, we took it for granted.

*Doctor Who* had clawed its way into the 1970s and might well have been cancelled but instead had survived and prospered. Okay, the Pertwee era did get a bit too cosy and complacent at times but that would make what was to come with

Tom Baker all the more exciting and 'different'. That however was the future, in the here and now of 1973 there was only the Doctor (Pertwee, of course), the Brig and UNIT and the newly arrived Sarah "I'm easily spooked and I don't like creepies" Jane Smith. At the time I knew the series had been around for a while but knew very little else.

Of course there were the Target books, pretty much the only source of information about older stories we had for years. The Target series was invaluable, even if what was in the books was sometimes quite different to what had been seen on screen, watching stories on video was a dream, it was sci-fi, but reading about the Doctor's adventures was where it was at. It was even possible to glean information from these books about previous Doctors and that was exciting!

Initially I had been rather puzzled that there were no pictures of Jon Pertwee on the cover of, for example, *Doctor Who and the Crusaders* and discovered, to my surprise, that there had been 'other Doctors'. The novelisations contained a short note inside the cover under the title of "THE CHANGING FACE OF DOCTOR WHO" which enlightened me:

"The cover illustration and others contained within this book portray the first DOCTOR WHO whose physical appearance was later transformed when he discarded his worn-out body in favour of a new one."



Programmes for 15 December

**BBC1**



Peter Brookes

Into the past – to find the future. The redoubtable Dr Who returns with a new assistant, journalist Sarah Jane Smith, and Lethbridge Stewart to fight The Time Warrior in not-so-merrie England: 5.10

**5.10 Colour: New series**  
**Dr Who**

starring Jon Pertwee in *The Time Warrior*. A four-part story by ROBERT HOLMES  
1: An alien ship crash-lands near a medieval castle. Soon the combination of primitive ferocity and advanced technology faces the Doctor with a terrifying problem.

- Irongron.....DAVID DAKER
- Bloodaxe.....JOHN J. CARNEY
- Meg.....SHEILA FAY
- Linx.....KEVIN LINDSAY
- Dr Who.....JON PERTWEE
- Brigadier Lethbridge Stewart  
NICHOLAS COURTNEY
- Professor Rubeish.DONALD FELMEAR
- Sarah Jane.....ELISABETH SLADEN
- Eleanor.....JUNE BROWN
- Edward of Wessex.....ALAN ROWE
- Eric.....GORDON PITT
- Hal.....JEREMY BULLOCH

Incidental music by DUDLEY SIMPSON  
Script editor TERRANCE DICKS  
Designer KEITH CHEETHAM  
Producer BARRY LETTS  
Director ALAN BROMLY  
Who's Who: pages 6 and 7  
The RADIO TIMES Dr Who Special  
- 68, full colour, action-packed  
pages - is on sale now, price  
30p from booksellers



That was the first time I had read any factual commentary on the series and it came as something of a revelation to me, but it was only the first of many.

In 1972 Target brought out *The Making of Doctor Who*, written by script writer Malcolm Hulke and Script Editor Terrence Dicks, which unfortunately I missed until the later Tom Baker era edition. It was a good book for its time and would have given me a lot of information I was desperate for but I never found it – these were the days before lists of merchandise releases and specialist shops. However what I didn't miss was the *Tenth Anniversary Special*. Not withstanding a good few inaccuracies and mistakes such as using early Hartnell episode titles as story titles, this magazine set the standard for years to come both in terms of information and design.

I well remember the visceral thrill I had when I read in the *Radio Times* that the BBC had released "The *Radio Times Doctor Who Special* – 68 full colour action packed pages". Being an avid reader of *Radio Times* listings, I kid you not – these were about the only source of information about the series at the time – meant that I quickly found out about the Special unlike *The Making of...*

After badgering my parents for a while I got my hands on a copy and sat down to avidly read this revelatory publication – it's difficult nowadays to relate quite how incredible it was at the time to read about the early years of the programme and to actually see photographs from early episodes to boot! The layout of the magazine was like nothing I'd seen before – it was fresh, in colour (even many of the black and white images were tinted) and had striking images on almost every page. There were interviews with cast and crew (at last I could put faces to the names on the end credits), a year by year synopsis of every televised story, a new Dalek story by Terry Nation and, wonder of wonders, official BBC plans for building your very own Dalek – that was something I started planning immediately (still haven't got round to it!).

*The Tenth Anniversary Special* was nothing short of revelatory – from it I learnt that *Doctor Who* had been around for ten years, I don't think it really sank in before I read this magazine. I learnt who the

assistants had been and read interviews with them. I saw pictures of wonderful monsters I'd never heard of before – from Sensorites to Zarbi and from Yeti to Ice Warriors. I was reminded of the thrills and scares I'd had since I started watching the series in 1971 and, most shockingly of all, I saw a picture of the Brigadier without his moustache!

The Special covered not only the past but the future also with a guide to the 1973/4 run of stories from *The Time Warrior* to *Planet of the Spiders*. That was truly remarkable at the time, and it's easy to forget this nowadays when we can map the course of the 2005 season months in advance and have behind the scenes photographs published online almost as soon as they are taken.

I must have bought my copy around about the time that *The Time Warrior* was airing because I remember Elizabeth Sladen being very new and I clearly remember being enthralled by the photograph of her in the special, cowering by the castle wall as Lynx stood menacingly above her in the background. I remember sitting in front of the TV looking for that precise scene when the story was on.

I also clearly remember reading the short synopses for the rest of the season and trying to guess what was going to happen in more detail – *Invasion of the Dinosaurs* sounded great, I liked dinosaurs, but when it aired the trick of calling the first episode simply *Invasion* so as not to give away the fact dinosaurs were to appear was lost on me, as it must have been for thousands of others who bought and read the special! The Daleks were coming back after that – great, I always loved the Daleks. Then it was off to Peladon, I remembered thoroughly enjoying *The Curse of Peladon* so that was another one to look forward to.

Then I came to the final story of the season *Planet of the Spiders*, the synopsis was quite basic but it mentioned Jo Grant – was she coming back I wondered? It also mentioned giant spiders – urch creepy... what it didn't mention was what was going to happen to the Doctor... that came as a complete surprise and just when I thought I knew what was going on!

It's probably true to say that I didn't have the same foreknowledge about a season of *Doctor Who* until the late 70s and early 80s when *Doctor Who Weekly* began but by then the world was a different place, *Doctor Who* was a different programme, I was older and the memory was definitely starting to cheat...

*Roger Anderson*