

12/69

Doctor Who at 50

A year long celebration of Doctor Who at BFI Southbank. Includes a special preview of Mark Gatiss' new TV drama An Adventure In Space And Time and a newly colour restored screening of The Mind of Evil, starring Jon Pertwee



Throughout 2013 **BFI Southbank** will celebrate the 50th anniversary of one of British television's most beloved and long running series, **Doctor Who**. Throughout the year we will be spending each month in the company of a different Doctor, from **William Hartnell** to **Matt Smith**, with a screening of a classic story followed by **Q&As** with those who have been involved in the show both on and off the screen. The March instalment will be an **exclusive first look screening** of the beautifully **colour restored** story **The Mind of Evil** (BBC, 1971) starring the third Doctor **Jon Pertwee**. In November the climax of the year's celebrations will include a **special preview** of **An Adventure In Space And Time**, a new drama written by **Mark Gatiss** to celebrate the anniversary.

Caroline Skinner, Executive Producer of Doctor Who says "To be doing this enormous and exciting project with the BFI is just a dream come true. We're delighted that in this 50th year for the show we have such brilliant support from the BFI for our celebration of *Doctor Who's* cultural heritage. Some of the stories we're going to show are thrilling, surprising, funny and just plain classic TV. Enjoy, everyone!"

Justin Johnson, BFI Programmer says “The BFI is very proud of our long relationship with both the BBC and the *Doctor Who* production team. We are delighted to be playing complete stories featuring each incarnation of The Doctor, supported by Q&As with special guests. As well as the TV work, we also plan to play newly digitally restored versions of the Peter Cushing films, courtesy of Studio Canal. This is the perfect opportunity for old fans and new to come and learn about the genesis of the show and its continuing journey”.

First appearing on the BBC on 23 November 1963, *Doctor Who* gradually crept into public consciousness, with the first appearance of the Doctor's greatest nemesis, The Daleks, cementing it as one of the most imaginative and popular series in the history of British television. Past anniversaries of *Doctor Who* have been celebrated with special stories including ***The Three Doctors*** (BBC, 1973) and ***The Five Doctors*** (BBC, 1983) for the 10th and 20th anniversaries respectively. The landmark 50th anniversary will be marked by *An Adventure In Space And Time*, by Mark Gatiss, which will tell the story of the genesis of *Doctor Who*. This special one-off 90-minute drama will look at the many personalities involved in bringing the series to life and will be previewed exclusively at BFI Southbank in November 2013.

Throughout 2013 BFI Southbank will also screen a different classic story each month, focusing on each of the eleven Doctors in chronological order. It is anticipated that those involved with the various incarnations of the series will introduce these special one-off events and take part in **Q&As** about their time on the show throughout the year. This year-long series will begin with a screening of the first ever adventure of *Doctor Who* ***An Unearthly Child*** (BBC, 1963). William Hartnell played the titular character in the opening story, during which we are introduced to the fantastic time machine – The TARDIS (or Time and Relative Dimension in Space). Also introduced are the first of the Doctor's human companions, Ian and Barbara, who unwittingly find themselves whisked out of their time period and stranded in the far-distant Earth past.

By 1966 it became apparent that the ailing health of William Hartnell was becoming very problematic and so producers came up with the unique idea of *regeneration*, by which an old or wounded Doctor could die and then return in a new body (conveniently allowing for the subsequent re-castings throughout the show's history). Thus began the life of the Second Doctor, **Patrick Troughton**, whom we will celebrate with a screening of ***Tomb of the Cybermen*** (BBC, 1967). The huge success of the Daleks altered the thinking behind *Doctor Who*, compelling writers and producers to unleash all manner of alien creatures on the viewing public. The Cybermen were the most popular of these, and appeared over ten times in the classic series. *Tomb of the Cybermen* is the story that most fans would cite as their high point; truly atmospheric, it features elements which haunted many of the Cybermen stories to come, and it delivers some key strands within the over-arching mythology.

With Jon Pertwee, the Third Doctor, the world of *Doctor Who* moved into colour but due to a number of recordings being wiped, *The Mind of Evil* has only previously been available in black and white. In March BFI Southbank will exclusively present a beautifully colour restored presentation of this classic story. Episode one of the story does not carry sufficient information to make colour recovery possible so it has been 'colourised' but episodes two to six have been fully 'colour restored'. This work has been a labour of love for the BBC restoration team and will be screened

only weeks after it has been completed, a real treat for *Doctor Who* fans everywhere. The story finds Jon Pertwee's Doctor exiled by the Time Lords to earth and working with UNIT against his nemesis The Master.

Further events in the series and special guests will be confirmed in due course, with classic episodes from all the subsequent Doctors appearing in chronological order – **Tom Baker, Peter Davison, Colin Baker, Sylvester McCoy, Paul McGann, Christopher Eccleston, David Tennant and Matt Smith.**

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Confirmed screenings taking place in the series:

William Hartnell

The First Doctor: An Unearthly Child

BBC 1963. Dir Waris Hussein. With William Hartnell, Carole Ann Ford, Jacqueline Hill, William Russell. 100min. U

William Hartnell created the role of the time-travelling adventurer known only as The Doctor when the show first materialised in 1963. In this opening story we are introduced to the fantastic time machine – The TARDIS – and to the first of the Doctor's human companions, Ian and Barbara, as they unwittingly find themselves whisked out of their time period and stranded in the far-distant Earth past.

Guest to be confirmed: please check on bfi.org.uk nearer the time of the event

Sat 12 Jan 15:30 NFT1

Patrick Troughton

Doctor Who: Tomb of the Cybermen

BBC 1967. Dir Morris Barry. With Patrick Troughton, Frazer Hines, Deborah Watling. 100min

The huge success of the Daleks had altered the fortunes and thinking behind *Doctor Who*, propelling writers and producers to unleash all manner of alien creatures in an attempt to create other fearful but hugely popular monsters. The Cybermen were the most successful of the pursuing pack and appeared over ten times in the classic series but it is this story, *Tomb of the Cybermen*, that most fans would cite as their high point. Truly atmospheric, it features elements within its plot which haunted many of the Cybermen stories to come, and it delivers some key strands within the over-arching mythology. It also of course features the second Doctor, Patrick Troughton, who had successfully taken over the reins and reinvented the character as a mischievous and witty soul with unexpected steel beneath the surface bonhomie.

Guest to be confirmed: please check on bfi.org.uk nearer the time of the event

Sat 9 Feb 14.30 NFT1

Jon Pertwee

Dr Who: The Mind of Evil (Part One)

BBC 1971 Dir Timothy Combe. With Jon Pertwee, Katy Manning, John Levene

Eps 1-4 (Ep 1 colourised, Eps 2-4 colour restored)

Don Houghton's script combines a machine that (allegedly) sucks the evil from criminal minds, a World peace conference, a mind parasite, a nerve gas missile and the Doctor's nemesis The Master in a complex but enjoyable story from the Dr Who/UNIT period.

Dr Who: The Mind of Evil (Part Two)

BBC 1971 Dir Timothy Combe. With Roger Delgado, Nicholas Courtney, Richard Franklin

Eps 5-6 (colour restored) + on-stage discussion

Following the final two episodes from this adventure we will mount an on-stage event looking at the Pertwee period and in particular at the fantastic 'colour recovery' process that means we will be screening this adventure in its original colour format – unseen in this state for many years.

Date and Time TBC

Please check BFI website for updates regarding special guests attending this screening

NOTES TO EDITORS:

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- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £10.00, concs £6.75 Members pay £1.50 less on any ticket. Website www.bfi.org.uk/southbank

Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment

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Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

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***** PICTURE DESK *****

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