A timely look at the Timelords

FIRST SCREENED in the wake of the Kennedy assassination, Doctor Who still has amazing staying power.

BBC Video have released a vast number of intergalactic adventures on home video, featuring all seven faces of the enigmatic Timelord, as well as an array of classic tea-time monsters.

The first Doctor was William Hartnell. At first BBC Video were rather reluctant to release any of these creaky black and white episodes, fearing they wouldn't sell nearly as well as the all-colour exploits of most popular Doc, Tom Baker. Despite these misgivings, the release of tapes like The Daleks proved runaway best-sellers. Other classic Hartnell stories on video are the part have left BBC Video with a vast range of stories. This month sees his first ever adventure, Robot (from 1974), out on video.

Also new from the BBC this month are the first episodes of Z-Cars. Celebrating its 50th anniversary this month, Z-Cars was a 50-minute police series broadcast live. It ran for more than 800 episodes, until September 1978. The series launched careers for Stratford Johns, Frank Windsor, James Ellis and Brian Blessed.

Although a bit slow compared to the modern equivalent, The Bill, the first episode of Z-Cars (Four of a Kind), which details the setting up of the squad, is a unique document of British life in the early Sixties.

The other two episodes on the tape (Handle With Care, Friday Night)
classic Hartnell stories on video are the very first episodes, An Unearthly Child, historical adventure with The Aztecs, and the return of the pepper-pot aliens in The Dalek Invasion of Earth.

Second Doctor Patrick Troughton hasn't fared so well on home video release. In a crazy move during the Seventies, the BBC wiped many of the original episodes, not realising what an asset archive television was to become. Of the Troughton tales released, The Mind Robber is a surreal classic which sees the Doctor doing battle with the likes of Cyrano de Bergerac! Jon Pertwee was the third Doctor and the first to be transmitted in colour episodes, many of which (including two Dalek adventures) are now available.

Tom Baker is the Doctor everyone remembers and his seven years in the role have been celebrated with various releases. One cannot help but wonder what the future holds for Doctor Who on video.

Not to be outdone, the team investigating a haul of unsafe explosives, and dealing with rowdy Friday night activities, like drunk driving and pub brawling.

All tapes retail at £10.99.

NEW THIS MONTH FROM BBC VIDEO:
- Dr Who: Robot (BBCV4714, 99 minutes).
- Dr Who: The Caves of Androzani (BBCV4713, 101 minutes).
- Z-Cars (BBCV4715, 140 minutes).
- Rosemary Conley's Whole Body Programme 2 (BBCV4706, 62 minutes). Exercise tape for those who want to try to stick to New Year resolutions. The tape contains three 20-minute exercise programmes to be carried out three times a week. Phew!

- Fitness Wins (BBCV4754, 65 minutes). Tough exercises and work-out for men developed by the professionals — the Army. Again, this is a three-times-a-week regime split into two levels, so no shirking at the back there!
- Pallas (BBCV4706, 62 minutes). Although screened by Channel 4 over Christmas, this Noel Gay Television production has found its way onto video. The format is old footage redubbed with funny voices, but this time the footage exclusively features the Royal Family caught up in soap-like escapades. Those involved do not expect knighthoods!

NEXT WEEK: The month's sporting videos.

COMPETITION

WE HAVE TEN sets of THREE classic Doctor Who adventures to give away, thanks to BBC Video. The first ten names out of the hat correctly answering the question below will win copies of:
- Planet of the Spiders, starring Jon Pertwee in his final adventure in 1973
- Robot, starring Tom Baker in his first adventure made in 1974
- The Caves of Androzani, starring Peter Davison in his final tale from 1983.

All you do is answer this question:
- Who played the Doctor in the two Doctor Who movies made during the Sixties?

The first ten correct answers received by Friday win a triple pack of Doctor Who adventures. Send your entry to: Video Competition, Weekend Extra, PO Box 106, Evening News, 20 North Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1YT.

STAR SPOT

Kim Basinger, who stars alongside Alec Baldwin in Too Hot To Handle, a romantic comedy now available for rent.

YOU CAN see more of Kim Basinger, sometimes a LOT more, in the following videos for rental:
- 9½ Weeks brought Kim Basinger's "attractions" to everyone's notice, particularly co-star Mickey Rourke, who subjects her to a variety of offbeat "intimate moments."
- Batman saw Ms Basinger attempt to flesh out the part of cartoon character photographer Vicki Vale, by getting Michael Keaton's superhero character into bed.
- My Stepmother Is An Alien features Kim in the title role coming to Earth, complete with talking handbag, and blowing the socks off an ever more rotund Dan Ackroyd and, as it's

SHOP WATCH

C & A VIDEO, run by Charles and April Fife, compilers of this month's rental chart, is a popular local video rental shop, well known for its range of Filmhouse-type art films, as well as for catering to a general audience. After nine years, the shop boasts nearly 7000 regular customers, many from outwith its immediate vicinity in Broughton Street.

C & A Video get in two or three copies of the latest releases as soon as they're available, both blockbusters and less well-known titles, adding continually to its stock of about 1500 titles, which includes a small selection of children's titles.

Kim, finding out all about how Earthings make love...
- Blind Date was a sign of things to come and should have warned Disney that Too Hot To Handle was a bad idea. Basinger is teamed up with Bruce Willis in this feeble comedy by Blake Edwards. It revealed Ms Basinger's woeful lack of comic ability.