The Doctor Is On

Peaking After 51 Years on TV, 'Dr. Who' Trots Out a New Lead Actor.

By Michael Hewitt

E
or IL, the Doctor is in great shape.
Saturday night, "Dr. Who," officially wel-
comes Peter Capaldi to the lead role on the
series, an event being broadcast world-
wide, including here on NBC America, that
is expected to draw tens of millions of viewers.
It's a remarkable achievement for a show that
began life in B.B.C. as a children's program and
spent nearly 50 years in limbo.
But today, well into the 21st century, "Dr. Who"
is enjoying a new peak of popularity.
The show concerns an alien known as the Doc-
tor who takes the title, there is no Dr. Who, a "Time
Lord" from the planet Gallifrey who travels
through space and time in a vehicle known as a
TARDIS, which is displayed as a British police
box.
As with most aliens heroes, the Doctor has a
popular affection for the people of Earth, and

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THE WATCHER

Predicting the Emmys, sort of

We have a lot of questions heading into
Monday's Primetime Emmy
Awards broadcast on NBC.
Will Matthew McConaughey be-
come the first person to win a lead ac-
tor Oscar and Emmy in the same year?
Can "Modern Family" win its re-
newing fifth straight trophy?
Do the voters actually watch serialized
shows?
As is typical for the Emmys, we can expect
the tropheis to be handed out to a mix of de-
serving winners and those with hard-
working publicity agents.
For every low-rated-but-high-quality
show that captures a well-earned award, there is a movie star taking
home a prize just for agreeing to do tel-
vision.
Given the Emmys' consistently mixed record, they are a hard batch of
awards to predict. Nonetheless, I'll

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**Peter Capaldi** (with Jama Coleman) is the latest actor to play benevolent alien the Doctor on "Dr. Who," a series that is as strong as ever after 51 years, numerous actors in the lead role and a lengthy hiatus.

**THE DOCTOR IS IN**

The actors who have played the Doctor on television over the years, Peter Cushing played the character in two movies in the 1960s, but not in colour in the official role.

William Hartnell, 1963-66: The initial Doctor was a gruff but kindly old man with surprising strength and wit.

Patrick Troughton, 1966-69: The decision to let Troughton give the Doctor a very different personality paved the way for the show to retain itself effectively.

Jon Pertwee, 1970-74: A suave and author- itative version of the Doctor had more than a little dose of James Bond.

Tom Baker, 1975-81: The longest running and by far most popular of the early series, Baker helped expand the adult audience.

Peter Davison, 1982-84: Already a popular actor in the U.S., Davison was asked to replace the beloved Baker and make the character a bit more serious.


Sylvester McCoy, 1987-91: The last Doctor of the original run, and the most overtly comic.


Christopher Eccleston, 2005: The first Doctor of the revival dressed in a black leather jacket and ramshackle wardrobe. Eccleston lasted just one season, but he successfully rescued the series.

David Tennant, 2005: Tore through some of the goofiness to the character. The second-longest run, after Baker’s.

Matt Smith, 2010-13: The producers had an actor in mind, but Smith blew them away at his audition.

John Hurt, 2013: Hurt was introduced as a "test" incarnation of the Doctor in the 2013 "Snowmen" Christmas special. He would have been the ninth incarnation.

**THE TIME MOLDERS**

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