Out of this world

Peter Capaldi and Jenna Coleman touch down for more thrilling adventures in Doctor Who
Like any couple, the Time Lord and his companion Clara have certainly had their ups and downs. But they've battled monsters, and survived cohabiting in a police box to arrive at a new stage in their relationship.

As the ninth series begins, they'll be united more than ever in their fight against dark forces in the universe.

"I think the Doctor and Clara are really having a good time," says Peter Capaldi, 57, who returns for a second series as the man himself.

"They've had some conflicts and challenges, but generally if you can weather the storms, you often find that your relationship is much stronger. That's certainly the case with them. They are deeply bonded."

"They're a proper team," agrees Jenna Coleman, 29, who plays Clara.

"There's an ease between them, a shorthand, and she is becoming more and more like him. I think they've always been a lot more similar than perhaps other Doctors and their companions have been."

The time travellers are constantly challenged, especially in today's opener. At the end of the last series we saw the shocking death of Danny Pink (Clara's teacher boyfriend) and the parting of ways between her and the Doctor. The first episode begins with the skies over Earth having been frozen by a mysterious alien force, and Clara desperately needing her friend.

"It's a fabulous episode," says Peter. "The story is going to take us across the universe to all types of dark, terrifying and funny places with lots of old favourites."

There's also a scary return of the Daleks, who arrive from different decades to battle with the Doctor, but the situation becomes so desperate Clara has to contact her greatest enemy, Missy (aka The Master played by Michelle Gomez). They then have to work together to find the Doctor.

"The dynamic between Missy and Clara takes on a whole new shape, and not one I had imagined," reveals Michelle, 49. "It all makes for slightly unnerving viewing."

This series will also see our heroes battle terrifying ghosts, visit Viking villages and explore underwater bases. It's going to be out of this world.