Who's Who?

Doctor Who's twentieth anniversary is celebrated by 'The Five Doctors' who again face their enemy The Master in a special feature-length story on BBC1. Inside: companions in space . . . a Who Who's Who
TWENTY YEARS ago this week, the longest-running science-fiction show in the world began its incredible existence. On 23 November 1963 the imaginations of young and old alike were captured by Doctor Who’s unique first episode, ‘An Unearthly Child’, during which two schoolteachers became curious as to why a pupil of theirs seemed to know more science and history than she should and followed her home one night to a spooky, mysterious London junkyard at 76 Totters Lane. Obstructed by an argumentative old man, they eventually pushed their way into an old police telephone box and found themselves abducted into the space-time vortex, unable for the next two years to return back to the London of their time. The old man was, of course, the enigmatic Doctor, and the schoolgirl was his granddaughter, who travelled with him on a journey that could encompass anywhere or any time throughout infinity or creation.

Now, 20 years later, the programme is more popular than ever, with a huge following all over the world which is now exceeding that of the cult US TV show Star Trek. This week the BBC is celebrating this amazing British institution with a special 90-minute feature-length story called ‘The Five Doctors’. During its run Doctor Who has built up an amazing legend of characters and villains, and a wide variety will be cropping up during this week’s extravaganza. To the programme’s thousands of aficionados, all the guest characters in ‘The Five Doctors’ will be well known. For the uninitiated, however, we’re going to explain here what part in the history of Doctor Who they have played.

Susan Foreman was the first Doctor’s granddaughter. The Doctor, tired of the discipline and order of his home world, Gallifrey, stole a Tardis and fled, taking Susan along with him. The Tardis he stole was faulty and erratic and the Doctor and Susan never knew where they would land next. The series began with the Doctor and Susan on 20th-century Earth, but we learned they had landed on many, many planets between leaving Gallifrey and landing. Susan joined a school, and after two of her schoolteachers had...
invaded London, rising up from the sewers. The third Doctor became UNIT’s scientific adviser, and became very close to the Brigadier. The fourth Doctor began his life with the Brigadier but slowly moved away from UNIT. The fifth Doctor met the Brigadier years after he had retired from UNIT and two versions of the old soldier, one from 1977 and one from 1983, met—with almost cataclysmic results. Interestingly enough, Nicholas Courtney, who plays the Brigadier, also worked with the first Doctor, but in a quite different role, that of space security agent Bret Vyon. He is the only actor to have played alongside all five doctors.

Jamie McCrimmon was the companion who appeared longest in the series. The second Doctor met him at the battle of Culloden in 1746 when the Jacobites were fighting the Redcoats, and Jamie stayed with the Doctor until the Time Lords finally caught up with him and put him on trial for interfering in the affairs of the Universe. With his memory wiped so he could remember only his first adventure with the Doctor, Jamie was sent back to his own time.

Zoe Herriot was a brilliant astrophysicist who joined the Richard Hurndall as the first Doctor with Carole Ann Ford

Third Doctor Jon Pertwee and companion Elisabeth Sladen

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Sarah Jane Smith met the third Doctor when she stowed away on board the Tardis after masquerading as her own aunt, Lavinia Smith, the famous virologist. She was present when the Doctor regenerated into his fourth incarnation, and only left him because events did not allow her to be taken to Gallifrey for the Presidential Resignation day. The Doctor never forgot Sarah Jane however, and sent her a K-9 Mark III as a present. Actress Elisabeth Sladen became Sarah Jane Smith once again in the Doctor Who spin-off programme K-9 and Company in 1981.

Liz Shaw joined the third Doctor as his assistant during the first year of his exile on Earth. Overshadowed by his brilliant scientific mind, she returned to Cambridge after a year to conduct her own researches.

Captain Mike Yates was second in command at UNIT during the era of the third Doctor. After getting involved with the third Doctor and Jamie after the Space Wheel on which she was based was attacked by Cybermen and Cybermats. Like Jamie, Zoe was also returned to her own time by the Time Lords with only the memory of her first adventure with the Doctor.

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with a group of crack-pots who were trying to roll
time back to an earlier Golden
Age, destroying humanity in
the process, he was discharged.
Mike made the ultimate mis-
take of pulling a gun on the
Brigadier, Sergeant Benton and
the Doctor. He later made amends
by alerting UNIT to
some evil men in a monastery
who were using Tibetan powers
to draw the giant spiders of
Metebelis III to Earth.
Romana, played by Lalla
Ward, travelled with the fourth
Doctor. She was in fact Romana
Mark II, having regenerated
from her first incarnation
during the opening scene of 'Destiny of the Daleks'. Romana
is an affectionate abbreviation for 'Romanadvoratrelundar'.
She was an acolyte of the Time
Lords who was sent to help the
Doctor during the quest for the
Key to Time by the White
Guardian, who appeared to her
disguised as the President of
the Time Lords. Romana
remained in E-Space (the nega-
tive universe) with K-9 Mark II
to help the Tharils, a race of
lion people, right the injustice
of their universe.
K-9 is a mobile computer
shaped like a dog, and there
have been three versions. The
first was built by Professor
Marius while he was stationed
on the Bi-Al foundation, located
in the asteroid belt, in AD 5000.
He bequeathed it to the fourth
Doctor and Leela. When Leela
remained on Gallifrey to marry
Doctor and Leela. When Leela
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of their universe.
Tegan Jovanka is one of the
two current companions travel-
ling with the fifth Doctor. She
joined the fourth Doctor when
she wandered into a police tele-
phone box on the Barnet bypass
in North London, and was
present when the Doctor's arch
enemy, The Master, caused him
to fall off the top of a radio
telescope and regenerate into
his fifth incarnation. This bossy
Australian has captured the
hearts of fans everywhere.
Turlough is the other current
companion, a man of mystery.
We don't know exactly who he
is or where he comes from.
He was used by the evil Black
Guardian as a pawn to kill the
Doctor, but eventually made
the right choice between good
and evil.
The High Council of the Time
Lords, one of the most import-
ant collections of beings in
the Universe, consists of five
people: the Castellan, the Chan-
cellor, the Cardinal, a Counci-
lor and, most importantly, the
President of all the Time Lords.
The current President is Borusa
and 'The Five Doctors' is the
fourth story to feature this
fascinating character. We first
met him in 'The Deadly
Assassin' when he was leader
of the Cardinals, the judiciary
section of Gallifrey. Borusa had
been the Doctor's teacher at the
Time Lord academy. When he
and the Doctor next met, in
'The Invasion of Time',
Cardinal Borusa had become
Chancellor Borusa, and was
Acting President until the
Doctor himself returned to
Gallifrey to claim the presi-
dency in a bid to outwit the
Vardan and Sontaran invasions
of his home planet. In 'Arc of
Infinity' Borusa had already
become the President and was
forced into condemning the
Doctor to death to prevent
Omega using him to cross over
into the world of real matter.
Borusa is still the President
and one of the most important
beings in Time Lord history.
The Doctors: William Hartnell,
the first actor to play the
Doctor, sadly died in 1975. His
portrayal was of an eccentric,
absent-minded old man with a
heart of gold, but crotchety and
irascible on the surface.
Hartnell's part in the story of
'The Five Doctors' will be
played by Richard Hurndall,
who has brilliantly interpreted
the part. Patrick Troughton,
the second Doctor, is back with
a vengeance this week, comical
on the surface but with an
infinite wisdom beneath his
clove exterior. Jon Pertwee,
the third Doctor, relies again
on his gadgets and his Edward-
lian roadster, Bessie. Tom
Baker, the fourth Doctor, is as
eccentric as ever with his bulg-
ing eyes, wide grin and long
scarf. Peter Davison, the fifth
Doctor, appears with his
current companions.
Regular viewers of the series
will remember that at the end
of the last story, 'The King's
Demons', the Doctor, Tegan
and Turlough were heading for
the Eye of Orion for a well-
deserved rest. It is here, in this
exotic location, that 'The Five
Doctors' begins. Whether they
get their holiday remains to be
seen, as the greatest Doctor
Who adventure of all time un-
folds. •