WHO'S THE MAN?

DOCTOR WHO STAR MATT SMITH REVEALS ALL AS TV'S BIGGEST MYSTERY IS SOLVED
DOCTOR WHO special!

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE?

As Doctor Who fans await tonight's highly anticipated series finale, Matt Smith has some reassuring words about his own future...

WORDS PAUL SIMPER

Or devotees of the Time Lord, this is promising to be one hell of a Saturday night. Sci-fi fans around the globe have waited patiently – half a century, to be precise – for the moment when one of TV's longest-running mysteries is solved: Doctor who? Now that moment may be upon us as a huge secret about the Time Lord is set to be revealed, along with the true identity of the Doctor's latest companion, Clara Oswin Oswald – who has been everything from a Victorian governess to a Dalek.

Yet as important as these revelations are, there is an even bigger, more pressing concern: the future of the show's leading man, Matt Smith. And as TV Magazine joins Matt on set, we're thrilled to declare he's going nowhere just yet.

"I'm on a break for a couple of months while I'm in Detroit making How to Catch a Monster (he plays the lead role in Ryan Gosling's directorial debut)," explains Matt, who's played the eleventh incarnation of the Time Lord since 2010. "We come back and shoot the Christmas special over the summer, then we go on to the next series, which will either start filming at the end of this year or at the start of 2014."

So unless he's lying through his teeth, fans can look forward to another full series of Matt next year, as well as the bumper treat of the 50th anniversary 3D special, with his much-loved predecessor David Tennant, this November.

Shrugging off rumours that he's quitting, the actor is good-natured about the speculation.

"People are always going to ask because they care about the show," says Matt, who admits he'd love to direct an episode of Doctor Who.

"But I take it year by year. And this year is going to be the biggest one in the show's history."

Matt admits "the aim" is to make Doctor Who's 50th anniversary even bigger than the celebrations for James Bond's half-century last year.

It'd be a notable achievement for someone who was made to feel – like Daniel Craig as Bond – that he was the wrong man for the job when it was announced he'd play the Doctor.

"We both came into our roles at similar times and got frosty receptions," he recalls. "That's not what James Bond is. He can't be the Doctor; he's too young!" But BAFTA-nominee Matt has triumphed over Daleks, Cybermen and the critics.

DOCTOR FEEL GOOD?

He laughs as he recalls the life-changing moment when he landed the coveted gig.

"Shortly after receiving the good news, he was sitting in a pub with his mum when he found himself on the receiving end of a lecture from a lady who claimed to know the creator of the Daleks."

"She said: 'Don't screw it up!'" he remembers. "I said: 'I'll try not to!'"

"I HAVE A STRANGE RELATIONSHIP WITH MY DOCTOR WHO ACTION FIGURE – WHERE AM I SUPPOSED TO PUT IT?" MATT

Mommy's boy: Matt with his mother Lynne
There's a pause as he reflects on the magnitude of it all.
"Doing the show is such a weird experience," he says. "I was thinking about this the other day when I saw my face on one of those sticker books."
Matt appears on millions of stickers, a piece of merchandise around the world. There are posters, mugs, satchels and dressing-gowns. He even has his own action figure.
"I've realised I have quite a strange relationship with my action figure," he admits. "I've got one, but where do you put it? I just gave it to my mum."
He quite fancies a blue TARDIS dressing-gown, however, having discovered that Jenna-Louise Coleman (Clara) has given one to her grandad.
"Is it wrong that I want one of those?" he asks. "I gave Rich [Game of Thrones actor Richard Madden, who's Jenna-Louise's boyfriend] a Tom Baker dressing-gown that I'd been given. I thought: I can't wear this. What are people going to think if I answer the door in it?"
Of course, the most famous Doctor Who toy of them all is the Sonic Screwdriver – and the trusty tool is among the hot topics of conversation whenever members of the public spot Matt in the street.
"Some kids freeze when they see you," he says. "But that's what's wonderful. Because Doctor Who is watched by children. One of the directors once brought his kids to watch the film and these three children just came and hugged my legs and I was like: This is the best hug I've ever had! because it was so genuine.
"Kids want to know about the Sonic, or the TARDIS, and they're all cool questions. It's not boring adult questions like: Who's your girlfriend? Who are you dating? Who cares?"
At the age of 30, Matt's the youngest actor to have played the Doctor, and the question of age is one that fans love to pick over. Would it be interesting for the next Doctor to be older?
"Could they get any younger? [Laughs.] I don't know [if they'll go older]. It's a tough old show to make. There's a lot of running around and filming for nine months of the year. But I just think whichever they get – whenever they get them – they'll just have the best actor."
And with that he's gone – back to the TARDIS with the Doctor's greatest secret still intact. Well, until Saturday night that is.
Watch it! Doctor Who Saturday 7pm BBC1