

Torchwood is back for a new, alien-busting series, jumping channels from BBC3 to BBC2. Who better to give the lowdown on what to expect than Captain Jack himself, John Barrowman?

What's new for series two?

Last year we were walking; this year we're running. The audience wants to know more about the characters, their pasts, where they've come from, how they ended up in Torchwood. And you're gonna find all that out. We've found our feet: last year we were doing scripts that were individual storylines; this year we have a bit of a through-line.

Has Captain Jack changed?

You'll get a lot more humour from Jack, like you got in series one of *Doctor Who*. Jack has resolved his issues with the Doctor, so he comes back to Torchwood a different man. He's more light-hearted, but he's still determined to keep the planet safe from alien evil.

What will we learn about him?

Well, you already know that he's the Face of Boe [from last year's *Doctor Who* finale], so you'll find out more about where he came from and how he got into Torchwood.

Is James Marsters, who was Spike in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and is Captain John in episode one, the antithesis of Jack?

They're very much alike as they used to be partners, in more ways than one. John is like Jack when he first came into *Doctor Who*: self-oriented, out to get what he needs to survive. Eventually, he turns a corner. Jack needs a nemesis, really. ▷

WHY'S THE FOP WITH CAPTAIN JACK?

James Marsters guest stars as unreformed Time Agent Captain John alongside John Barrowman's Captain Jack. "Captain John is just unrepentant evil, which is such fun to play," says Marsters. "His jacket's from the Napoleonic wars. The snakeskin sword's from Korea (I think he had to kill someone for that). The boots are from Italy c1640 and the gun holsters are from the American West. If you have a cool costume it affects you – you walk around feeling cool."



SEX PISTOLS

As Torchwood returns, what else lies ahead for Captain Jack and his team? An unreformed Prince Charming? John Barrowman has the answers



TORCHWOOD

PRIMEVAL

Who's watching? Last year its 9.00pm slot made it adults-only, but now it'll also get an earlier repeat, edited to make it OK for younger viewers to watch. Series one kicked off on a record high for BBC3 of nearly 2.4 million.

The team Captain Jack Harkness (John Barrowman) leads (above, from left) feisty Gwen Cooper (Eve Myles), efficient Ianto Jones (Gareth David-Lloyd), cocky Owen Harper (Burn Gorman) and geeky "Tosh" Sato (Naoko Mori).

The set-up Torchwood is a crack outfit that battles mostly unfriendly aliens, popping up in modern-day Cardiff through a space/time "rift".

The style Slick, sexy, urban thrills, as the team boldly hurtles through an alien underworld.

When's it on? *Torchwood* and *Torchwood Declassified* are on Wednesdays BBC2. The edited version of episode one goes out on Wednesday 23 January at 7.00pm, episode two is on Thursday 24, also at 7.00pm, and subsequent episodes will be at the same time every Thursday.



BASE JUMPING
John Barrowman and James Marsters are filmed against a green screen for their descent into the Torchwood Hub, before the background is added

◁ **So he's the Master to your Doctor?**
Well, he's not as prominent as the Master.

Tell us a bit about your fellow team members this series.

Gwen is more confident and in control of who she is. Owen is reliable but confused. Toshiko is focused but full of unrequited love. And Ianto is a slave to routine, but his role is much bigger.

Do the relationships between the main characters change?

They develop even more. You see more into their relationships and how they deal with one another. The episodes are actually quite touching.

And Freema Agyeman joins *Torchwood* as Martha Jones...

In episode five or six, she comes in as a member of UNIT [United Nations Intelligence Taskforce from *Doctor Who*]. Obviously Jack has a past... sorry, a future with her, where he and the Doctor had both put all their trust in her, and became prisoners in order for her to go out and save the planet. So she comes in and plays a very big role.

Is she the same Martha we saw in *Doctor Who*?

Oh, she's grown up. After that whole incident with the Master, she's much more mature. Much more confident.

Who's watching? Occupying the Saturday early-evening slot on ITV1 (just like *Doctor Who*), it's firmly targeted at a family audience – though the tendency of Hannah Spearritt's character to walk around in her pants may be why dads watch. A monster 6.7 million watched the first episode.

The team Prof Nick Cutter (Douglas Henshall, second right) commands (from left) sassy Abby Maitland (Hannah Spearritt), nerdy Connor Temple (Andrew-Lee Potts) and ladies' man Stephen Hart (James Murray).

The set-up A band of boffins combat mostly bloodthirsty dinosaurs that are popping up in modern-day Britain via "anomalies" – holes in time. Mysteriously, Cutter's missing wife Helen slips in and out of anomalies, too.

The style Fast-paced, family-friendly thrills, with action sometimes taking the place of logic.

When's it on? Saturdays ITV1.



RAPTOR ADAPTER
Crewmen paint a foam-rubber dummy dinosaur (left); the version below contains a mechanism to make it "breathe"



As Jack and Martha have both been the Doctor's companions, is there any rivalry?

No, not at all. We don't look at it that way – we're there to assist each other. The thing is, Jack always goes back to *Doctor Who* when the Doctor can't handle it [laughs]. Tell David Tennant that, because it'll really wind him up!

Nick Griffiths

LINKS

www.radiotimes.com/torchwood
www.radiotimes.com/primeval