

Television

Daleks herald attack on new season

By **ROBIN STRINGER**

AUTUMN, fruitful season of new television, is supposedly with us. An announcement on the front of this week's *Radio Times* says so.

The weekend, however, except for music-lovers, seemed very much hung over from the past . . . but not all apparitions from the past are unwelcome.

Dr Who (BBC-1), who is, of course, of the past, present and future, returned on Saturday to lift the spirits in a new series. For an old, old, old man, he does wear well and in his case familiarity tends to breed affection.

Still in the title role, Tom Baker seems the possessor of an even longer scarf, if that is possible, and an even more nonchalant outlook on life in the face of galaxy-shattering events.

Confronted on an unknown and inhospitable planet with the arrival of an alien spacecraft of inter-galactic range and time-warp capability which drills itself into the ground and which is staffed by a strong race of beings (looking pretty sharp in figure-hugging white quilting) can one really be that nonchalant? If you are Dr Who, you can.

Others are more easily impressed. Poor Romana, newly incarnated by Lalla Ward now also equipped with a long scarf that's always getting in the way, was not at all taken by some of her experiences.

By the end, she found herself in a time honoured role, horror-struck and backed against the wall by who else but the Daleks. It bodes well.