Doctor Who
Saturday 6.15pm BBC1

**MATT SMITH**

At first glance, it could be easy to picture Matt Smith as he throws shapes for the RT photographer. It’s clear there’s something different about the Doctor. It’s not just the wind machine rearranging his floppy locks nor comely new co-star Jenna-Louise Coleman at his side, but rather that he appears to have bulked up and broadened out. Once the photos are finished, he concedes, “Since I’ve been back in London, I’ve been going to the gym three times a week. It makes me feel much better about my life, I have to say. It’s just good for my mind.”

Could it also be on his mind that he’ll soon be starring in the US movie How to Catch a Monster, directed by Ryan Gosling, renowned for his chiselled physique? Has he seen Gosling’s celebrated six-pack? “No, I haven’t seen his abs yet,” he laughs, “but as soon as I do, Radio Times will be first to know.” Surely, they’re both in competition for the hearts of teens around the world? “Oh, he wins, mate.”

Smith completed filming series seven of Who last year, but soon he’ll be back in Cardiff to shoot the 50th anniversary special, about which he is customarily tight-lipped. He’s spent the hiatus directing a Sky Arts drama, Cargese, which suggests he’s keeping at least one eye on a future directing career? “I’d definitely drive,” he writes. “It’s all in the whimpering action,” giggles Jenna-Louise Coleman, the new companion was baking a soufflé (in last September’s Asylum of the Daleks).

As for scary monsters, wait for the [Luther].”

The beauty of the latest episodes is admirably straightforward: “A load of new places to explode things, new places to visit and new places to explore. The characters? Could Clara, a bona fide genius, be the dynamic between the pair, I ask Smith? “I think she’s really clever all the time. But what’s on the radio. The music this one listens to... No, no, no, no. She doesn’t share my musical tastes. She’ll hate me for saying that. That will really annoy her.” In the past he’s dismissed his taste as “low-level pop” while his iPod features Alt-J and Jessie Ware.

Smith and Coleman were head boy and girl in their school days, Jenna got better A-levels than Matt - straight As. “Exams just tell you how good you are at passing exams,” says Smith. “No, I mean, no,” he laughs. “There’d be no show. He’s cleverer. He allows her to think she’s really clever all the time. But this is a man of over a thousand years with a complex neurostructure, two hearts and the mind of a robot dog.”

Confronted with recent criticism that the Whoniverse is dishing out short rations in this golden anniversary year, he replies, as if personally wounded, “But I think there’s only so much you can shoot. There’s a Christmas special and eight episodes, there’s the 50th anniversary, and on top of that you’ve got Mark Gatiss writing a script [An Adventure in Space and Time about Who’s origins], plus you’ve got live events, things taking place around the world simultaneously. There’s only so many you can make each year without compromising the quality. It will be everything that it needs to be, the anniversary. And in November there will be a right old party.”

He’s similarly engaged when confronted with another recent criticism that the show has become too complex for children. “No, I think we have to give children more credit. Children are always going to engage with the story in a slightly different way to adults, but I tell you this, I bet you they pay more attention. What are we meant to do? Just dumb everything down? The science is mad and complicated and brilliant. It’s Doctor Who! It’s too easy, what’s the point?”

Having said that, Smith’s summary of the new episodes is admirably straightforward: “A load of new places to explode things, new places to visit and people we may or may not have seen before.”

Simple enough for any adult.

**JENNA-LOUISE COLEMAN**

One of the many unexpected talents required of the new companion was being a soufflé (in last September’s Asylum of the Daleks). “It’s all in the whimpering action,” giggles Jenna-Louise Coleman, who seems to have come to terms with the particular demands of the show. “I’d been doing period dramas for two years before, working with cameras when you’re constantly running, that’s a new experience. "Mine and Matt’s dynamic is challenging," she says. "Matt describes it as a dance, but to me it’s such a ping-pong kind of dynamic." The 26-year-old, who’s dating Game of Thrones star Richard Madden (Robb Stark), believes that Smith is a bigger diva than herself. "He demands sweets at certain times of the day and Diet Coke while I do all the whipping action." The new companion was baking a soufflé (in last September’s Asylum of the Daleks). “It’s all in the whimpering action,” giggles Jenna-Louise Coleman, who seems to have come to terms with the particular demands of the show. "I’d been doing period dramas for two years before, working with cameras when you’re constantly running, that’s a new experience. "Mine and Matt’s dynamic is challenging," she says. "Matt describes it as a dance, but to me it’s such a ping-pong kind of dynamic." The 26-year-old, who’s dating Game of Thrones star Richard Madden (Robb Stark), believes that Smith is a bigger diva than herself. "He demands sweets at certain times of the day and Diet Coke while I do all the whipping action.""
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The Doctor is a man of secrets. He's been with us for nearly 50 years, but how little we know about him! Why did he set sail to see the universe in the first place? What happened to his family that sent him on his way? Even the show's title is a reminder that he hasn't got round to introducing himself yet...

Eight new episodes are coming your way right now. But before you even start, just remember this - the Doctor doesn't tell you everything, and you might be in for a shock. When last seen at Christmas, the Doctor faced a mystery. Clara, the beautiful barmaid-turned-governess who died helping him defeat the Great Intelligence in The Snowmen, turned out to be one and the same as Oswin Oswald, who'd saved his life at the cost of her own in Asylum of the Daleks. Somehow, he has encountered the same person in two very different times and places. He doesn't know how; he doesn't understand who she is, but one thing he's sure of - he isn't done with the impossible girl just yet.

THE Doctor returns to contemporary London and finds himself meeting Clara Oswald for the third time - he's been searching the universe for her, but will she even know who he is? There's still much about his past he doesn't know; he doesn't understand who she is, but one thing he's sure of - he isn't done with the impossible girl just yet.

The Rings of Akhaten

Written by Neil Cross Directed by Farren Blackburn

In New York, shooting The Angels Take Manhattan (episode 5 last year), Marcus Wilson, Caroline Skinner and I were a bit worried. We had two foreign shoots for the first part of series seven, covering three episodes, and nothing lined up for this second run. "Let's go to outer space," we thought. Not actual outer space, but a world created in our studios to make you really feel you're out there. There's a tendency for the Doctor to promise unworthy wonders to his companions, and then get them trapped inside it, but this is one of mine.

The Bells of St John

Executive producers
Steven Moffat and Caroline Skinner
Series producer
Marcus Wilson
Written by Steven Moffat
Directed by Cahn McCarthy
Guest star
Celia Imrie (Miss Kizlet)

Every sat on a train, with a laptop, and watched all those wireless base stations appear and disappear on your screen? We live in a teeming ocean of wi-fi. The air is a soup of data, and don't you ever worry if you haven't worried so far, you might be about to start. Because here's a gentle warning - sometimes you might see some strange alien symbols appear in your wi-fi menu. Don't click on them. Just don't click. Because that means there's a Spoonhead really close. The Doctor returns to contemporary London and finds himself meeting Clara Oswald for the third time - he's been searching the universe for her, but will she even know who he is? There's still much about his past he doesn't know; he doesn't understand who she is, but one thing he's sure of - he isn't done with the impossible girl just yet.

Shattering

The Mummy awakens on Akhaten

The Crimson Horror

Written by Mark Gatiss
Directed by Saul Mettelstein
Guest stars
Diana Riggs (Mrs Gillyflower), Rachael Stirling (Ada), Neve Mcintosh (Vlasta), Dan Sturdy (Stray), Catrin Stewart (L Sammy)

Ever since we introduced Vastra, Jenny and Strax in A Good Man Goes To War (2011), people have been asking to see them again. And, of course, they've already been in The Snowmen at Christmas, but I thought it was time to start a story from their point of view - to see them tackle a case of their own, and stumble across the Doctor's path, quite accidentally. Didn't quite know what to do with that idea, but I knew I wanted something insane, terrifying and Victorian - I have no idea why Mark Gatiss sprang to mind.

Mark, of course, is never content with just writing a show; he's had to cast it too. For the first time ever, at Mark's suggestion, mother and daughter Diana Riggs and Rachael Stirling, appear together!