TIME LORD’S A-LEAVING

THERE’S AN ADVENTURE WITH THREE DOCTORS ON CHRISTMAS DAY!

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**WHO'S LEAVING WHO**

**THE WHITE STUFF**

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We've known Peter Capaldi is on his way out of Doctor Who for quite some time now. In fact, the 12th Doctor was last seen hanging on to life and refusing to regenerate only to step outside of the TARDIS and bump into the first Doctor.

That's where Christmas special Twice Upon A Time picks up, and David Bradley, who plays the original Doctor, says it was extra special to be involved in Peter's final outing. The last episode written by outgoing show boss Steven Moffat.

"It was clear it was going to be a celebration of the work Peter has done over the last three years, and Steven had written over the last decade or so, as well as being special because it's this year's Christmas episode," David says.

The episode sees the return of Pearl Mackie as the Doctor's companion, Bill, plus an appearance from Sherlock star Mark Gatiss as a First World War soldier. They're together in a battle against the enchanted glass people.

"It's not just a Christmas special! It's also the end of Steven's era, and Peter's," Mark says. "It's got two Doctors interacting, two TARDISes, Bill is back, and a very interesting new threat. There's lots of snow, lots of laughs and lots of tears and we get to meet the 13th Doctor!"

Jodie Whittaker plays the 13th Doctor, and Pearl says the moment we see her arrive is the cherry on a very exciting cake.

"Doctor Who is so ill, but it has humanity to it," she says. "It has human relationships, with the added excitement of the monsters, amazing sets and wonders of time and space. This episode has all of that in a really big adventure for all ages - plus the regeneration!"

**Call The Midwife, Christmas Day, 5.30pm, BBC1**

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**KILLER CHRISTMAS**

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The idea of Blackadder as a bobby or Mr Bean in a beret is still a tricky one for us to get our heads around, but Rowan Atkinson's Maigret has been a huge hit with viewers.

The French detective from the 1950s is back once again this Christmas, and he's going to be interrupting your festive merrymaking with a big slice of murder most horrid.

This time, in Maigret in Montmartre, he's investigating the death of a showgirl from a seedy club, and Rowan says the Parisian underworld is not Maigret's natural home.

"He's a surprisingly upright and decent man," Rowan says. "And yet he is constantly dealing in the murk of Parisian low life."

"It's the effect it has on him. He is drawn to it because he seeks justice and truth. But at the same time, it's not a world in which you would expect him to feel comfortable."

"It's a constant dichotomy. He's drawn in and yet he doesn't feel comfortable there. You sense his uncertainty. He certainly doesn't relish that world. He doesn't embrace it. But at the same time he knows you have to, to a certain extent, in order to find out what's going on."

The film has a wintry setting, and Rowan reveals that it was so cold when they were filming in Budapest in January they had to change the story to suit.

"Someone is almost killed by another character in one scene," he recalls. "They were down by a lake where, in the script, it was supposed to be an attempt at murder by drowning. But because it was -12°C that night the lake was frozen solid and we had to devise a new method to almost do away with the character."

Rowan is happy to part of the Christmas TV schedules though, and says that he's a fan of a long break - not least because he's got a second celebration to look forward to!

"I like the idea of a long Christmas," he says. "I like the idea of a Christmas that starts on Christmas Day and ends, in fact by chance, on my birthday on January 6. They are the 12 days of Christmas."

**Maigret in Montmartre, Christmas Eve, 8.30pm, ITV**

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**SISTER ACT**

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You might think a book written in 1868 would have been long forgotten by now, but not Little Women. Louise May Alcott's novel about sisters Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy is still well-loved the world over, and now it has become a three-part drama for Christmas.

Maya Thurman-Hawke, daughter of Hollywood stars Uma Thurman and Ethan Hawke, stars as Jo, and the 19-year-old says she was a huge fan of the book, which made getting into character easier.

"I read the book maybe 10 times in my childhood," she reveals. "I was a big fan."

"As far as getting into character, I have always thought I have a lot in common with Jo. The reason I read the book so many times when I was young was because I was so inspired by Jo's rigor and her pride. I really struggled with reading and writing - I was dyslexic, and it really inspired me to move through school and life in a different way."

Maya stars alongside Anne Ewby, Willa Fitzgerald and Kathryn Newton as sisters Beth, Meg and Amy respectively, and she says they bonded on set.

"Working with them, and Jonah Hauer-King who plays Laurie, was probably one of the most wonderful ensemble experiences I've ever had," she says.

"We all came from different personal backgrounds and levels of experience, but we were all open to learning from each other. We had a lot of fun working together and a lot of fun not working!"

The cast also includes Michael Gambon, Angela Lansbury and Emily Watson. Emily, who plays matriarch Marmee, says she's looking forward to watching at Christmas.

"I probably will, which will be a first for me," she says. "It's my first tory before the watershed, let's put it that way."

"All the things I've done, there's been little I've been able to show the children. They were on set, because we were filming through the summer holiday. They played with the kittens and had lunch with the girls. They feel involved."

**Little Women, Boxing Day, 8pm, BBC1**