



**DOCTOR WHO**  
WATCH

#### PEOPLES OF THE UNIVERSE

"The idea was to have as much variety as possible," says prosthetics ace Neill Gorton. "So we just made the Ambassadors from the City State of Binding Light these simple rubber masks that can be slipped on. It's a lot of effort for a background alien, but that's what gives the show the texture, the depth."

# Origin of species

Episode two of the new *Doctor Who* gave the backroom boys and girls a greater challenge than usual

**F**or Saturday's episode, the brief in the script was a gleaming platform in space," explains *Doctor Who* producer Phil Collinson. "It should look like a very expensive boutique hotel that had been built for

the hoi polloi of the galaxy. And ambassadors are gathering there to watch the natural end of the Earth. We thought, 'How are we going to do that?' We eventually settled on a place called the Temple of Peace in Cardiff,

a big old marble hall, and dressed that. It looks magnificent because it has a fantastic look all of its own. I genuinely think we haven't seen outer space done like that before. "There was a major turning point

when I turned up on location. We had something like eight species of alien walking around and a huge interactive lighting rig and a green screen. I stood there, looked around and thought, 'We can do this - we can pull it off!'"

#### A SEVERE CASE OF THE BLUES

"The blue ambassador had a beautiful costume and skull cap," says make-up artist Davy Jones, "but it was hired, so if I'd got anything on that costume I would have been hung, drawn and quartered! So it was a case of picking a make-up that stayed on. This was like a pax paint, which is a medical-grade glue with an acrylic paint mixed up and applied to the skin. It's very flexible. You'd put it on at six in the morning and still be filming at eight at night and your only worry is that you only have two hours to get it off. But these days there are great removers; he didn't have any skin problems. Years ago you got everything off with a wire brush."



#### COMPLETELY BARKING

Changing Yasmin Bannerman into Jabe the "Tree Queen" was a lengthy process, as Neill Gorton explains: "We had to take a cast of the actress's head, and of her torso, because she has a very low-cut dress. There are seven sections to go on altogether. It took about two hours every morning to glue her into it and blend it in. And because it's so delicate the prosthetic gets ruined at the end of the day. We had to make 11 sets of prosthetics, plus spares." Costume designer Lucinda Wright had a similar challenge with the costume (right): "We had to make three dresses: one for Yasmin, one for the stuntwoman and one for..." Sorry, we can't reveal why - you'll have to watch on Saturday!

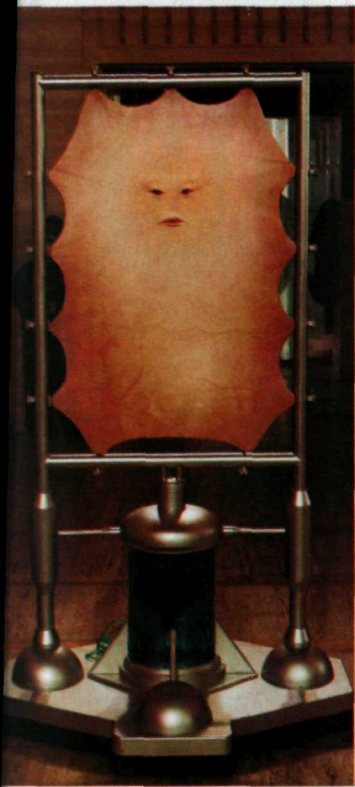


#### BO SELECTOR

This 4ft-high disembodied alien began with a line of script that read: "The face of Bo enters, a giant face suspended in a tank." Neill Gorton says, "I did a doodle, which [writer and executive producer] Russell T Davies really liked and said, 'Great - make it.' It was a giant sculpture cast in a stiff rubber. We made mechanical eyes and rubber eyelids that are radio-controlled so he can blink and look around."

Turn over for more *Doctor Who*...

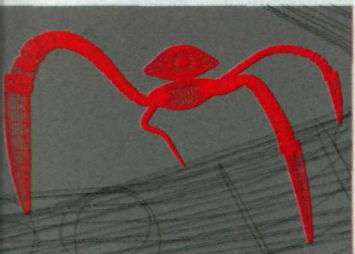




## FACE OFF

"Lady Cassandra [voiced by Zoë Wanamaker] is the last human, says visual effects supervisor Will Cohen of CGI house the Mill. "She's had 700 plastic-surgery operations and all that's left is a stretched piece of skin on a frame. We started work on 15 December. One guy made the model first – that took about six weeks – another guy did the animation, someone else lit and rendered all the animation into the scene, and another guy had to composite her [mixing it into the live action]. So that's four people.

"We videoed Zoe when she was recording her lines for reference, then it took two months to lip-sync it. Plus another month of lighting, rendering and compositing. The character is on for four minutes of screen time."



## SPIDERS FROM MARS?

"Russell T Davies's scripts are very visual, which is one of the things that's helped us enormously, so these spiders are well described in the script," says Will Cohen. "One of the references that everyone kept pointing to was a Philippe Starck lemon squeezer. And our matte painter Alex Fort came up with a spider design everyone liked.

"Every week my opinion changes on what the best thing that we've done is, and at the moment as I'm seeing the spider shots come off the computers I'm just thinking, 'That's really good work, I'm proud of those.'"

## FACT FILE

### WHAT IS IT?

The Quatermass Experiment

### WHO'S IN IT?

Jason Flemyng

### WHEN'S IT ON?

Saturday BBC4



## ART AND CRAFT

A designer's sketch for the 2005 Quatermass Experiment, and below, the original series in 1953

# Mass hysteria

Discover why reviving science-fiction classic *Quatermass* will be an exercise in terror in more senses than one ...

**B**ernard Quatermass is back. More than 50 years since the original sci-fi chiller appeared on the BBC, and 26 years since the fourth and last series, actor Jason Flemyng is taking the lead – and what's more, he's doing it in a live TV production.

BBC4 is broadcasting a two-hour dramatisation of the first story, *The Quatermass Experiment*. "The main thrill of the gig is that it's a live recording," says Flemyng. "I was in the States and I saw a live *ER*, which I thought was fantastic, and you can't believe they can actually do it." He admits to being daunted, however. "I wake up at four in the morning and go halfway through a speech, then have to go to my study and look up how it finishes before I can sleep!"

The story is straightforward enough: Professor Quatermass launches a rocket with three astronauts on board,

and when it comes back only one of them is alive, and he's brought something nasty with him. It's been commissioned as part of BBC4's TV *on Trial* season, during which viewers have voted on their favourite TV decade.

Executive producer Richard Fell says, "It seemed a great opportunity to remount a television classic, which is now lost [only two of the original six episodes remain]. I think it will be as compelling and thrilling for the modern television audience as it was for the original. The fact it's live will hopefully increase the tension and thrilling nature of the audience's experience." The eight-strong cast, which also includes David Tennant



"The fact it's live will hopefully increase the tension!"



## GUINEA PIGS

Among the courageous cast taking part in BBC4's live *Quatermass Experiment* are (left to right) Jason Flemyng, Mark Gatiss and David "Casanova" Tennant

and Mark Gatiss, has been rehearsing for just three weeks.

Creator of *Quatermass* Nigel Kneale, who's now nearly 83, says of the first series back in 1953: "I remember vividly working frantically in the middle of the night at Alexandra Palace with my girlfriend to make the monster. It was a very simple thing, made mostly of twigs and stuff like that. It was just in time – the next day we went on the air!" **Guy Clapperton**