Capaldi tops Christmas TV ratings

PETER Capaldi’s debut as the Time Lord was watched by more than ten million viewers as Doctor Who secured Christmas Day’s highest TV audience.

While sitcom Mrs Brown’s Boys secured the largest average audience overall at 9.4 million, an extra two million tuned in for the final few minutes of Doctor Who to see Matt Smith regenerate into Capaldi.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3
Just what the Doctor ordered - 10m viewers

Extra fans tune in at last minute to see arrival of new Time Lord

STEPHEN MCGINTY

The arrival of Peter Capaldi in Doctor Who secured Christmas Day's highest television viewing figure, with more than ten million switching on BBC1 for the Scottish actor's first appearance as the Time Lord.

While 8.3 million watched Doctor Who from start to finish, they were joined by the last few minutes by an extra two million who switched on just to see Matt Smith regenerate into Capaldi.

In a surprising twist, the top-rated programme on Christmas Day was the sitcom Mrs Brown's Boys which drew an audience of 9.4 million viewers.

EastEnders from the soaps traditional spot at the top of the festive tree.

To add insult to injury, the regulars of Albert Square were also trumped by Coronation Street which secured 8.3 million viewers for the first time since 2006, far outstripping its rival on BBC1. It was the first time since the advent of a three-channel TV landscape, it is simply impossible for Christmas ratings to be anything but equal.

The result was a ratings battle which pitted the Doctor Who Christmas special against the Christmas special of Coronation Street.

In the battle of the bubbles, BBC1 had won the storyline with the soap's audience but lost out on the audience with the children's programmes. It is a welcome return for the show with the stories and the return of Janine Butcher for murder and the arrival of the new Queen Vic landlord Mick Carter played by Danny Dyer.

The BBC took six of the top ten places, but the Queen's Christmas Broadcast missed out at the top of the list. BBC1's audience figure for the annual address is traditionally figures in the upper ten but this year 2.7 million meant it was only the number 17th most-watched programme of the day.

Danny Dyer. Yet the show lost 1.6 million viewers compared with last year's performance.

However, it was Coronation Street which had a little more to celebrate than the soap's audience, claiming joint second spot in the viewing league. The Doctor Who special which saw the Doctor age 300 years and include a brief return for Karen Gillan as Amy Pond on the last day of 2013.

The BBC took six of the top ten places, but the Queen's Christmas broadcast missed out at the top of the list. BBC1's audience figure for the annual address traditionally figures in the upper ten but this year 2.7 million meant it was only the number 17th most-watched programme of the day.

Danny Dyer. Yet the show lost 1.6 million viewers compared with last year's performance.

However, it was Coronation Street which had a little more to celebrate than the soap's audience, claiming joint second spot in the viewing league. The Doctor Who special which saw the Doctor age 300 years and include a brief return for Karen Gillan as Amy Pond on the last day of 2013.