WHOS THE BOSS

Two villainous machines and a time-traveling phone booth were on hand for this week's cover shoot, which spotlights iconic pieces of the Doctor Who-verse. (That'd be a Cyberman, a Dalek, and the TARDIS, respectively.) But photographer Ian Derry says the "brilliant" chemistry between Matt Smith, as the bow-tied Time Lord, and Jenna-Louise Coleman, who plays the new companion, was the real star: "[They were] probably the best two I've photographed in a long time."

—Adam Carlson

ON THE COVERS

Jenna-Louise Coleman and Matt Smith photographed exclusively for EW by Ian Derry on March 4, 2013, in London.

WARDROBE STYLIST: LESLIE KLYBA. HAIR AND MAKEUP: MEG HEDLEY. PROPS: THE CYBERMAN'S ARMS; AMETHYST BOW-TIE; ROYAL BLUE JACKET; WHITE SHIRT; TARDIS; CLASSIC DOCTOR WHO BADGE; STARDUST PATINA; BLUE MARBLEridor; HEARTY TUNIC; MILLENIUM FX.

Jenna-Louise Coleman and Matt Smith

Photograph by IAN DERRY

DOCTOR DUO

Get twice the Time Lord with our collector's covers featuring the Doctor with a Cyberman and his companion. Buy either (or both!) at ew.com/doctorwhocovers.
HOME IS WHERE THE TARDIS IS

How will DOCTOR WHO, which has been thrilling (and terrifying) fans with intergalactic adventures since 1963, celebrate the big 5-0? With new monsters, a new companion, and the return of some old foes. PLUS Peter Jackson pays tribute to the Time Lord.

For the uninitiated, the TARDIS is the spaceship (disguised as a phone box) that transports the Doctor through space and time.
S THE MONA LISA is to art lovers and the Stanley Cup is to hockey nuts, so the TARDIS is to fans of the long-running science-fiction show Doctor Who. Since Who debuted on the U.K.'s BBC network in the fall of 1963, this time-traveling spaceship—which is, famously, bigger on the inside than its exterior would suggest—has transported the series' alien hero to a vast array of locales where he has battled a variety of monsters. While the Doctor's ability to physically regenerate has allowed 11 actors of different shapes and sizes to play the part on TV, the TARDIS still resembles a blue, '50s-era British police phone box. Over time it has become a bona fide sci-fi icon, with its distinctive design replicated on toys, T-shirts, towels, and even teapots (did we mention this is a British show?).

Alas, in real life, and specifically on this overcast morning in the summer of 2012, the TARDIS looks rather, well, crappy. Situated at the end of an alley in the small Welsh village of Llantrisant, the ship is—predictably, yet still somehow disappointingly—the same size inside that its outward dimensions indicate. And as the interior walls of this clearly made-from-wood prop haven't even been painted, the structure seems more toolshed than time-travel vehicle. Also: It's missing one of its door handles. Which is why the current Doctor, Matt Smith, and his Who costar Jenna-Louise Coleman have stopped shooting as various crew members shout out the same refrain: "The handle came off the TARDIS!"

"The handle came off the TARDIS!"
"The handle came off the TARDIS!"
"The handle came off the TARDIS!"

Ultimately, the case of the TARDIS' unglued handle proves to be one of the Doctor's less incident-packed adventures, and Smith and Coleman are soon back at work. They're in the midst of filming the second half of the 2012-13 season, which premieres on BBC America March 30 at 8 p.m. and kicks off Doctor Who's 50th-anniversary year. Expectations are high among fans around the world that the show will commemorate this milestone in momentous style. In short, the Who crew has bigger things to worry about than errant handles—not least of which is ensuring the time traveler has a future as well as a storied past. "I think Doctor Who can do another 50 years," says executive producer Steven Moffat. "But I'm very, very concerned about not ending it."

At a Manhattan restaurant, five months after EW's visit to the Doctor Who set, Matt Smith is looking a little like one of his Time Lord character's many monstery foes, the lizardlike Sea Devils. Which is to say, he's green around the gills. You could blame his sickly pallor on jet lag, as Smith flew into New York a couple of days ago, after wrapping the 2012-13 season. Or you could blame it on the previous night's party at the BBC America offices, during which Smith, Coleman, Moffat, and Moffat's fellow exec producer Caroline Skinner delighted the troops by forming a conga line on the dance floor. Regardless, Smith's worse-for-wearness is not preventing him from attacking a filet mignon as plump as the actor is willowy while enthusing about the eight upcoming episodes of Doctor Who. "We've got a great alien-planet episode," he reveals. "We've got a great horror-movie episode, -O March 29, 2013 EW.COM | 35
The Time Lord did not win over the audience with his first two adventures, "The Aztecs" and "The Web of Fear," but his subsequent performances and the quality of the stories he was given made him a fan favorite. The Doctor's companions, such as Susan Foreman (Carole Ann Ford), also contributed to the show's success. Ford's portrayal was so well-received that she was given a recurring role as the Doctor's granddaughter. Ford's performance was so convincing that it was rumored that she was related to the Doctor, even though this was never confirmed on screen.

The show's popularity continued to grow, with new monsters and settings introduced regularly. "The Aztecs" featured the Cybermen, a race of androids created by a secret society, while "The Web of Fear" introduced the Ice Warriors, a group of frost giants from the planet Glaucus. The Doctor's adventures were filled with excitement and danger, as he battled against villains such as the Daleks, who were known for their extermination-crazed behavior.

As the show grew in popularity, the Doctor's companions also became fan favorites. Sarah Jane Smith (Elisabeth Sladen) was a particular favorite, with her character being one of the first to be given a career after the show. She was known for her intelligence and bravery, and her relationship with the Doctor was a key part of the show's appeal.

Despite the show's success, there were also challenges to overcome. The Doctor's adventures were often dark and沉重, with themes such as death and destruction woven throughout. This was especially true in episodes such as "The Deadly Hands of Kandra," in which the Doctor and his companions were pitted against a group of creatures who were able to pass through solid objects.

The Doctor's adventures continued to evolve over the years, with new monsters and settings introduced regularly. The show's popularity continued to grow, and it remained a beloved part of British television culture for decades. The Doctor's legacy lives on, with his adventures continuing to be enjoyed by fans around the world.
PAUL McGANN
1996
Doctor data Many fans warmed to McGann's human-seeming Time Lord in the 1996 TV movie Doctor Who. But the actor proved to be a one-off after the movie's broadcast on Fox was crushed in the ratings by an episode of Roseanne. McGann's Doctor would continue in a series of audio-only adventures, however. Did you know? The other actors considered to lead the TV movie included Buffy the Vampire Slayer's Anthony Head, Monty Python's Michael Palin, and comedian Billy Connolly.

CHRISTOPHER ECCLESTON
2005
Doctor data When Eccleston signed on for the relaunched Who, he'd already made a name for himself in film (28 Days Later, The Others). Most memorable companions Rose Tyler (Billie Piper) and the omnisexual Capt. Jack Harkness (John Barrowman). New monsters battled Criminal clan the Silurians. Best adventure "The Empty Child"/"The Doctor Dances"; Kids' faces grow gas masks in a chilling World War II-set two-parter. Did you know? As a kid, Eccleston was not a fan of the show. "He seemed like an authority figure," he said in 2005. "I felt a bit patronized by him."

DAVID TENNANT
2005-10
Doctor data While Whovians liked Eccleston just fine, they loved Tennant's cheeky yet steely depiction of the Doctor. Most memorable companions Rose and Jack, Donna Noble (future Office star Catherine Tate), and Martha Jones (Freema Agyeman). It was also Tennant's Doctor who first met the mysterious River Song (Alex Kingston). New monsters battled Fanged living statues the Weeping Angels. Best adventure "Blink"; Did we mention the fanged living statues? Did you know? Born David McDonald, the actor chose "Tennant" after reading an article about the Neil Tennant-fronted Pet Shop Boys.

MATT SMITH
2010-present
Doctor data At 27, Smith was the youngest actor to debut in the role. Most memorable companions The feisty Amy Pond (Karen Gillan), her beau Rory (Arthur Darvill), and newbie Clara (Jenna-Louise Coleman). New monsters battled The (deliberately) unmemorable the Silence. Best adventure "The Doctor's Wife"; The TARDIS' consciousness is placed in the body of a woman in this instant classic penned by Neil Gaiman. Did you know? Smith was on course to become a professional soccer player before a back injury set him on the path to Who-ville.

Sinister Wi-Fi
Exec producer Steven Moffat says the March 30 episode concerns "something in the Wi-Fi." So...wireless routers attack? Says Moffat, "It's a new thing to make scary."

An Ice Warrior
The Doctor also deals with a member of the Ice Warrior race (far right), reptilian humanoids who debuted on the show back in 1967. "Of course, we're locked in a submarine with one," says star Matt Smith with a laugh.

The TARDIS Takes Center Stage
Another episode will focus on the Doctor's incredible time-traveling spacecraft. "They journey to the center of the TARDIS," says Moffat, adding, "In, of course, circumstances of great terror and fear."

Cybermen and (Maybe) Daleks
While the Doctor's second-most famous metallic foes, the Cybermen, will appear this season, Moffat is cagier about whether the Daleks will also return: "Wait and see." Whatever This Thing Is!
Below, you can see one of the season's new beasts. Uh, what exactly is it? "It's a scary monster," says Moffat. "That's all you're getting from me!"

use the restroom. If I don't come back, call the ambulance"—and longer-term. Over the decades, actors have played the Doctor for varying amounts of time: In the '70s and early '80s, Tom Baker occupied the TARDIS for seven seasons, while Christopher Eccleston left the show after just one. But on average the Doctor's incarnations have lasted around three years—at least in Earth time—and Smith will achieve that milestone at the end of the current season. The actor says he'll return to Who duties in April to film the 50th-anniversary spectacle and will also appear in this year's special Christmas show. But while Coleman will definitely be back for the next full season of Doctor Who, Smith is vague about whether he will be joining her: "Who knows?" he says. "It's one of those jobs that I take moment by moment." Last month it was announced that Ryan Gosling had cast Smith alongside Christina Hendricks in his directorial debut, How to Catch a Monster. Is the Drive star a big Doctor Who fan? "He mentioned in the audition a speech where I'm getting cross with all these Dalek spaceships," says Smith. "I don't know to what extent he's seen anything else, but I know he's seen that."

Moffat, who also heads up the BBC's wildly popular Sherlock, admits that, statistically speaking, he himself is more likely nearer the end of his Who tenure than the beginning. "I just take it a year at a time," he says. "It's knackering work. I think the feeling of it being done for you is quite unambiguous when it suddenly arrives. I've stopped writing other shows before, and you just want to leave—not that you hate it, but just I'm done."

For now, however, Moffat seems more than happy plotting new adventures for the Doctor—and trying to avoid even more disappointing TARDIS encounters than the one endured by EW. "There's a worse thing you can see, which I really can't bear," he sighs. "When the TARDIS is in the storeroom, it's not kept as a police box, it's kept as a series of panels. It's stacked. I've almost given an order that this shouldn't happen. You think, 'I don't want to see that.'"