THE DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU NOW...

Peter Capaldi on the role of a lifetime

PLUS

NICK NAIRN’S TASTY RECIPES

Turn your dream home into a reality
Showbiz parties are fun but hard work

Willem this week seems to have flown by. I'm feeling a bit fed up because the weather definitely has a more autumnal feel and I've had to resort to jackets and even, horror of horrors, trousers.

The sun was definitely shining on my good friend Ross King this week, though.

He's written a book with a mutual friend of ours, Shari Low, and this week they had the launch of the book at a very glitzy showbiz bash in London's Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

It shows just how many friends Ross has made in the business over the years because they all came out to support him.

The current Good Morning Britain team were represented by Susanna Reid who I hadn't met before but thought was a lovely lady and Inverurie boy, Richard Arnold. Eamonn and Ruth turned up from This Morning, they are always such fun and Ross's old friends Paul Daniels, Debbie McGee, Paul Coia, Debbie Greenwood, Bobby Davro and Clare Sweeney were just a few of the showbiz contingent who turned up. Carol Vorderman and myself were head- ing out for dinner that night so we went along to support Ross and Shari on our way.

Carol was such a hit in her red strapless number that we were bombarded by paparazzi and she was in most of the papers the next day. It was all great publicity for Ross's book and I really hope it does brilliantly.

Ross is an example of someone who is as much a businessman as a TV and radio presenter. What a great idea to write a raunchy little novel about Hollywood when he sees first-hand all that happens there. Of course the novel is fictional but his ideas are based on lots of facts he has acquired over the years.

I'm looking forward to reading it but I would prefer to do so on a sun lounger which is the only time I seem to relax enough to actually read a book.

The rest of my week was a return to normal with a very long day at The Voice and lots of singing teaching.

These little showbiz parties are such fun though, I step in and out of that world which probably means I don't take it for granted. I couldn't imagine going to these things a couple of times every week like lots of them do. It's hard work making sure your hair is blow-dried, your nails aren't chipped and you have a camera-ready outfit to hand. I suppose that's a way of life for some people but sitting here in my jeans and T-shirt and a pony tail I'm glad I'm a showbiz visitor not a resident!

Have a good weekend.

Yvie x

As TV roles go, taking on Doctor Who comes with a certain degree of expectation. But, as 12th Doctor Peter Capaldi tells YL, it's a job he's been training for since childhood
THE TARDIS HAS A NEW DOCTOR AT THE HELM

As someone who spent his childhood glued to the Time Lord's adventures, becoming the new Doctor was a bit of a scoop for Peter Capaldi. In fact, in some ways he felt over-qualified.

"I had to be very patient on set, because there were always very nice prop guys telling me how to work the Tardis, and I was like, 'I know how to work the Tardis, I've known for a very long time how to work the Tardis. Probably longer than you, so you don't need to tell me,'" he jokes.

Today, we meet in an underwhelming and stickily-hot meeting room in the production offices of the Cardiff studio, where the much-adored programme is filmed. Just a minute's walk away stands the very Tardis the Glaswegian actor is chatting about.

"I'm constantly amazed that it's real," says Capaldi, 56, who lives in London with his wife, actress and producer Elaine Collins, and their teenage daughter, Cece.

"I wake up in the morning and I go, 'I'm Doctor Who? I'm playing Doctor Who? I'm Doctor Who?' It's a huge privilege and hugely exciting, and it's funny, because I've known the show since I was a kid."

Although he hasn't consistently watched the series as an adult, it has always been part of his life.

"I grew up in the Sixties, so I grew up with Doctor Who and The Beatles and Sunday Night At The London Palladium, school milk and bronchitis and snog and all this stuff, so it's part of my DNA."

"So although one goes away, the prodigal son returns."

While this prodigal son is oblique and polite, there are still moments when he ruminates over the right word, his eyes locked on yours, you momentarily expect Capaldi to launch into a foul-mouthed (and fiercely funny) tirade, as per his The Thick Of It character Malcolm Tucker.

He's often stopped by fans of the satirical comedy, who ask him to swear at them. That probably won't happen with Doctor Who, but Capaldi, who studied art and was lead singer in a punk-rock band during his younger years, is aware that this role will likely escalate his global appeal.

Viewers will have to wait until the new series kicks off tonight, to find out what the new Doctor is like, but Capaldi will reveal that he is a "slightly more mysterious figure", who "struggles to find himself."

What we do know is that he will arrive in Victorian London, to find dinosaurs in the Thames and a spate of deadly spontaneous combustions.

Previous Doctor, Matt Smith, made his departure in last year's 50th anniversary special, where Capaldi made his first appearance. But his companion Clara, played by Jenna Coleman, remains, and the first episode of the new series sees the two finding their way with their friendship amid an alien conspiracy.

Whether his performance and the storylines are enough to win over the show's throng of fans is something Capaldi is feeling philosophical about.

"You do your best," reasons the actor, who also played Cardinal Richelieu in BBC1's family action series The Musketeers earlier this year. "I don't know whether everyone else will like it or not. It goes out to the world, so we'll see what happens."

Mindful that taking on such a popular character will mean aggrieving some fans - somewhere in the Whoniverse - Capaldi has a clever way of putting things in perspective.

"I think the nice thing about Doctor Who is whether people like it or don't like it, somewhere, someone loves you and will always love you - and the more everyone hates you, the more they'll love you," he says with a wry smile.

"He was my Doctor Who, they'll say."

EXTRA TIME - FIVE DOCTOR WHO RECORDS

1 The 50th anniversary special, The Day Of The Doctor, set the record as the world's largest simulcast of a TV drama, when it was shown in 94 countries at the same time.

2 Doctor Who is the longest running sci-fi series, according to the Guinness World Records. It first aired in 1963.

3 The waitress outfit Kylie Minogue wore in the 2007 Christmas special fetched £3,120 at auction.

4 Tom Baker, who took up the role of the Doctor in 1974, holds the record for most episodes. He starred in 133.

5 There are a lot of passionate Doctor Who fans out there. Doncaster's Rob Hull owns the world's largest Dalek collection which, as of 2011, stood at over 571 models strong.

The Press and Journal | Saturday, August 23, 2014 15