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WESTERN GAL
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Doctor Who hits AMERICA
The Time Lord is back, but way out West in a Stetson – Matt Smith shares his US diary exclusively with RT. But first – hold your horses – who's that in jeans? Karen Gillan tells us why she's wearing the trousers.

Doctor Who
Saturday 6.00pm BBC1, BBC1 HD

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You'd think filming in the desert would be hot, but at night, temperatures fell below freezing. "We were all 'thermalled' up and I had on one pair of trousers and four tops! Then the sun would come up, making it blistering hot and we'd peel off the layers," laughs Gillan.

Troublemakers? Yup, for some fans of Amy Pond that's the bad news. In the opening episodes of the new series, Amy will forsake her traditional micro-mini in favour of sensible trews and her high heels for trainers.

"It's true," giggles Gillan. "I quite like the idea that she's getting a little bit more tomboyish as she becomes more of an action girl."

Then, of course, she's married. Not that this will change her, she insists. "I hate it when people settle down into a rut when they marry and get all subdued and a bit more boring. I was determined that that would never happen to her."

Trouble over at Pond? The new series marks a new start for the character Gillan simply calls "Pond." As the Doctor rebooted the universe at the end of the last series, Pond's been given the life that she should have had," she reasons. "The life where she wasn't sat down by psychiatrists telling her she's crazy. She was obviously a broken person. She's generally a bit more settled now."

Pond may be more settled, but Karen Gillan can still be thrown by the twists and turns of the story. "Everything's so important and precise in Steven Moffat's scripts. There are a couple of throwaway lines in the opening two-parter, which I thought were just a couple of funny gags but turn out to be one of the most important things that Amy's ever said. And I didn't know that at the time!"

But where else would she get the chance to swash her buckle playing an intergalactic pirate as she does in "a full-on fight with no stunt double" in episode three of this series?

"I'm wearing a miniskirt in that one," she reassures, "with some ridiculous pink tights, so I'm like a pink-tighted pirate! I love that so much."

A final thought. Who wears the metaphorical trousers on set? Has Matt Smith ever requested a cup of tea from the Doctor's "assistant"?

"Actually, he did try that the other day," she laughs dismissively. "He didn't get one."

Enough said.

John Naughton
Read our preview and see more shots from the new series at radiotimes.com/doctor-who

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Arthur Darvill, because I had to in LA. He's such a huge fan.

As the day winds on and we bemoan our black stately cars kicking up the dusty desert in a chase. It's such a wonderful step for Doctor Who to have this type of location. It gives us the scale of a movie. This is where Forrest Gump stopped running, where Indiana Jones found the Temple of Doom, and now where the Doctor faces his darkest hour.

But for now - I'm sprawled on the bonnet of the coolest car [a bright red 1959 Edsel Villager Station Wagon], wearing a Stetson. Yeah, the Doctor is always leaning, it's such a Doctor thing to do, so I thought, "A car this cool? I have to lie on it!" To my surprise, they just say his teeth are chattering, but he looks fine.

As the day winds on and we bemoon our jetlag, I'm excited about this afternoon. Karen is being chased by a helicopter, and we have big

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