



# This week RadioTimes



ON YOUR MARKS  
Usain Bolt  
page 34

## From the editor



Sunday nights are different at my house. As darkness falls, there's usually a tetchy quest to get chores done in readiness for a hectic week ahead. Then a little window opens for what the Danes call "hygge" when I take a hot bath and eat soup in pyjamas before relaxing in front of the television.

There are countless books from fashionable lifestyle gurus this Christmas trying to explain what "hygge" is. Roughly, it's about taking pleasure from simple things, like lighting candles at dinner and feeling calm and cosy with family.

Sunday-night television is the essence of "hygge". Dramas like *Balderk* and *Victoria* let our minds wander back to the past. *Cosygrove* takes us for a stroll - from the security of our sofa. Best of all there's *Planet Earth II*. More than ten million of us are tuning in each week. The breathtaking wonders of nature revealed to the soothing tones of Sir David Attenborough. Life doesn't get much better than that.

Ben Preston [KEditor@radiotimes.com](mailto:KEditor@radiotimes.com)



WIN THIS!

A DRAWING BY  
PETER CAPALDI

For details, see page 13



HELEN GEORGE

The Call the Midwife star is a *Forensic* fan - see page 31

### ON THE COVER

#### Doctor Who 10

Peter Capaldi on feeling his age, international stardom - and why the Doctor is like Santa

#### 11 Christmas crackers 14

TV editor Alison Graham picks the best programmes coming our way

#### Tim Roth 20

From *Reservoir Dogs* to *Killing Place*, he's made his name playing seriously damaged men

#### TV quiz shows 26

We all love a quiz - but how well do you know your television quiz shows?

#### Strictly 29

Our columnists Ed Balls and Judge Rinder

#### My big break 30

Greg Wise, Helen George, Anna Maxwell Martin and Trevor Eve reflect on the highs and lows of their careers

#### Usain Bolt 34

The world's fastest man reveals the 9.58 moments that changed his life

#### Black v White 37

Adrian Chiles recalls a football match where players were picked according to the colour of their skin

#### Eddie Mair 125

The high wind that almost finished Tomasz Schaefermaker's career

### ALSO THIS WEEK

Viewpoint Justin Webb 9

Discover TV The best of catchup TV 50

Soaps This week in Soapland 73

Puzzles Your brain teasers 153

Feedback You have your say 158

Imelda Staunton Watching TV with Caron 162

## Film 38

### David Oyelowo

His new film *A United Kingdom* tells a remarkable true-life story



## Television 49

### Alison Graham

Forget *Tobacco* and *Hardy*, give me a crime thriller any day...



## Radio 122



### Friends reunited

Peter Allen and Jane Garvey are back together on Radio 5 Live

## Your RT 145

### Eat it!

Two delicious cake recipes from Marcus Wareing

### Read it!

The best Christmas books for children



# Look Who's coming!

In an exclusive interview, Peter Capaldi talks the Tardis and Time Lords. Plus, TV editor Alison Graham picks her festive favourites on page 14

THE RT INTERVIEW BY ZOE WILLIAMS

**P**ETER CAPALDI is striding around the Tardis set in the Cardiff studios, frowning like a head whose eyes isn't working. "I can't turn the lights on because we don't have any electricity here today," he says, apologising for the lack of technical support that means we are peering at each other in semi-darkness inside television's most famous time machine. "So you don't really get a sense of what the Tardis is. It's quite cosy. Quite mouldy and warm. People are always happy to film here. It's not like being in *Midsomer Murders*, is it? There isn't another programme in Britain in which you get to roam around 21st-century Venus."

At the age of 58, the incumbent Doctor brought something quite new to the role, an element that the younger Tlles fan would's even remember, growing up with David Tennant and Matt Smith – a subtle, grown-up demeanour that some people might call grumpiness. When he talks about his Who, Capaldi is anything but cranky, always almost smiling, on the brim of some joke that he sometimes tells and sometimes chooses not to.

How does it feel to be an old Who after a string of young ones? "Surely you mean older? The Doctors I grew up with were not young. To me, Doctor Who was not a young man. Ideally, I'm older than any of those, except for William Hartnell."

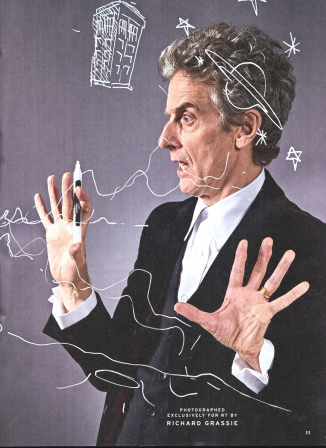
The Tardis itself hasn't changed very much since Matt Smith's time. There's a stack of Marshall lamps, a nod to the idiosyncrasy of Capaldi's Doctor being made into guitars, and the odd piece of 60s furniture, but "I think it cost so much that it would have been a nice use of taxpayers' money to get rid of Matt's and replace it with mine".

As a brand, the show is so successful, internationally, that surely no amount of Tardis-hauling could break its bank? "It's complicated: it is a brand, so it has to be said. But the actual spirit of it is quite personal and small. So you have to look after that a bit, but also go and be a salesman for it. I go on tours with the show, and if you go to South Korea, Australia or South America... In Mexico, the fans were just so wonderful, and passionate, and... Latin!"

The intensity and spread of international fanbases took a bit of getting used to. "I found it hard at first. You walk on stage and it is



**WIN**  
this original  
artwork by  
Peter  
Capaldi



PHOTOGRAPHED  
EXCLUSIVELY FOR RT BY  
RICHARD GRASSIE

< makes people go crazy, not because you're real, because you're Doctor Who. When you see little kids, that's fantastic. A wee bit like being a mythical character, like the Wizard of Oz or Santa Claus."

**F**AMOUSLY, WHEN PETER CAPALDI WAS announced in the role, a fan letter came to light that he'd written to RT in 1974 aged 15. It seemed like a perfect alignment of the stars, the ultimate alignment of the stars, that an actor could become the hero of his youth. It annoys him a bit now. "It makes it sound as if I spent my life, my career, grieving that I wasn't the Doctor. Which is not the case," he says stoutly. "As a kid I loved the Doctor, but as a teenager I moved on, and discovered sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll like everybody else!"

As a graduate of the Glasgow School of Art, Capaldi honed skills that he retains to this day, as shown in his artwork for this very feature (see right).

The role of the Doctor is such a consuming one that it's easy to forget what he was famous for before: that splenetic, hyper-intelligent energy he brought to the screen, most memorably in the BBC's painfully good satire, *The Thick of It*. Yet it's not as though he's moved into "family entertainment" as such.

Doctor Who has become more and more cerebral, or certainly, less and less easy to explain to a nine-year-old, unless you're really concentrat-

## 'I loved Doctor Who - then I discovered sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll'

ing. "The thing about Doctor Who is the constitution of the audience. It covers a huge age range, so you have to entertain little kids and you have to entertain hipsters and students, and middle-aged men who should know better.

"So sometimes there is a kind of metaphysical and intellectual aspect to it, which is more to the fore than other times. But generally we just blow up monsters. There are some moments when you feel, that's a little bit silly, or that's a bit marshy or whatever, but then you realise, that's for children. You would be a fool not to play to them, because it's their show."

The studio is empty of action but Capaldi is speeding down the obligatory Doctor Who corridor then spins round to show how he injured his knee last year. "When I first had lunch with Matt Smith, he arrived on crutches. I said, 'What happened?' and he said, 'This show, this show.' I thought, 'My God, he's 34, and he still injured himself!'"

Apart from its global appeal, the other

## WIN! an original drawing by Peter Capaldi

Peter Capaldi has been known to doodle a Dalek but never like this! And now one reader can win this original piece of artwork created and signed by the Doctor himself exclusively for this Radio Times photoshoot. The original is drawn on a 1m<sup>2</sup> piece of perspex and autographed by Peter Capaldi.

**TO ENTER** Answer the question below then look out for three more questions, one hidden in each of the next three issues of RT. Once you have all four answers, you will also need to work out the link between them all. Details of how to enter will be printed, along with the final question, in the Christmas Radio Times.

## Q1 Which character, played by Alex Kingston, returned to Doctor Who in last year's Christmas special?

For full terms and conditions see [radio-times.com/doctorwhotimes](http://radio-times.com/doctorwhotimes)

strange thing about Doctor Who, the telly Holy Grail, is how long it has lasted. Obviously, the regeneration helps - "Any show would be thrilled with the opportunity to get rid of the leading man or woman and replace them with someone else." The creative vision regenerates, too - Steven Moffat will leave left by 2018, to be replaced by Chris Chibnall, creator of *Bessie* & *Barbara*.

**W**HEN THAT, THERE'S something special about the Doctor. "If you'd said to anyone 12 years ago, 'Doctor Who is going to come back, and it's going to be this international smash,' you'd have said, 'You're kidding. How can the world embrace this thing we've already given up on?' With cardboard sets and rubbery models and overacting?"

Capaldi sees the love for Doctor Who as a proxy affection for Britishness, because he's such a British hero - he has no superpowers, no incredible strength. He isn't square-jawed or six-packed. All he has is a screwdriver, like Super-DIY-Dad.

He seems to spend a lot of time thinking, which is the opposite of what heroism is

supposed to be about. "I'm sure he gets the Guardian," Capaldi says. "That's how he seems to me. He's always been someone who gets the Guardian. There are some parts of the universe where it's harder to get hold of."

Capaldi has a metaphysical, also psychological explanation of the Doctor's appeal: "It's one of the nice things about the show, it's not encouraging in the publicity, but it is quite... sad. This death motif... A lot of the young people I meet who love it, they tend to feel slightly outside, not part of the gang, in a way, it's a show for not-cool people, which now has suddenly become for cool people as well. People's relationship with the show is very personal."

Then he drops this bombshell. "He's really not human at all. That's what I believe. Who you see is what he has chosen to present, because that's the only way that humans can understand him and what he is." But... but how can he understand the human condition, if he has no human traits? I protest, my faith momentarily shattered. "The truth is," says Peter Capaldi, "he comprehends it too much. His problem is that he sort of knows everything. That makes life quite hard."

# ALISON GRAHAM'S FESTIVE PICKS

# 1

## Doctor Who

BBC1

Doctor Who will be a big part of the fun on Christmas Day with Peter Capaldi, and Matt Lucas returning to his role as Nardole, River Song's former assistant, writes TV editor Alison Graham. Apparently, the Christmas special, *The Return of Doctor Mysterio*, will have a superhero theme... who is that masked man?



## Maigret's Dead Man

ITV

ITV had a hit this year with an adaptation of one of Georges Simenon's fine crime stories. I worried it was a bit creaky, but audiences took quiet, clever Chief Inspector Jules Maigret (played by Rowan Atkinson) to their hearts in droves.

Here, police pull out all the stops after a series of murderous attacks on farms in Picandy. Apart from Maigret, who is preoccupied by the killing of an anonymous Parisian.

# 3

## Inside No 9: The Devil at Christmas

BBC2

Steve Pemberton and Reece Shearsmith's fantastically twisted, bleak and scary tales are perfect for cutting through the marzipan sweetness of Christmas. If you need a break from goodwill to absolutely everybody, then this is surely for you. Rula Lanioka and Jessica Raine star with Pemberton as the guests at an alpine chalet, who learn from a local man (Shearsmith) of the legend of "The Devil of Christmas". Good children are rewarded, but the bad are punished by the demon. So who's been naughty and who's been nice?



## The Great Christmas Bake Off

BBC1

There's added poignancy to these two Christmas specials as the gang (including Paul Hollywood) do what they do best, together for the very last time. The low point of my television year was the BBC's loss of *The Great British Bake Off*. It was dismantled overnight and will be resurrected by Channel 4, though of course without its key regulars Mel and Sue, and Mary Berry.



# 4

