

# DOCTOR WHO



Above: Maureen O'Brien who now plays the part of Vicki, a young girl who joined *Dr. Who* when he and his friends set out on their adventures.

## Spotlight on this top TV series

**E**VERY time I see *Dr. Who* on television, the characters in the series seem to be confronted with some new and terrifying monster!

That's why when our Editor said to me "Let's do a feature on *Dr. Who*!" I tried to change the subject. But she wasn't going to be put off! "I've had lots of letters asking about the people and the programme, so go and find out about it, Moira!" she ordered.

Quaking from the tip of my pencil to the toes of my Cathy Gale boots, I set off for the BBC Television Centre in Shepherd's Bush, London.

There they were! The Menopteras and Zarbises! The latest monsters *Dr. Who* and his fellow travellers in time and space have to face in their latest exploit on The Web Planet, Vortis.

As I cowered in the corner of the studio, *Dr. Who*—played by William Hartnell—explained to me that the Menopteras were good monsters anyway, and inside both the Menopteras and Zarbises are the men who played the parts of the Daleks! Well! Of course I didn't really think they were monsters!

I found that William Hartnell was rather like *Dr. Who* in real life. He is a kindly sort of grandfather figure, and one of the cast told me in



Together with Vicki and *Dr. Who*, Ian (right) and Barbara (left) return to the time and space ship, the Tardis, at the end of each adventure. They set out into the unknown in an attempt to return to the present age. Ian is played by William Russell, and Barbara by Jacqueline Hill.



**Our reporter MOIRA sets out on another exciting interview.**

confidence that, like *Dr. Who*, he hasn't a very good memory!

If you don't watch the programme I must tell you that *Dr. Who* is the forgetful, muddled, professor who invented a Time machine which looks a bit like a police box from the outside. When you get inside, it is huge, with lots of control panels and switches.

Being muddled and forgetful, *Dr. Who* one day pressed the wrong set of controls and transported himself and his companions out of the present age, and since then he has been trying to get back again. Every time he tries, he either goes too far into the past (Roman times) or too far into the future (that was when the Daleks came in). This time, by making another mistake, he has taken his friends Barbara, Ian, and Vicki—an English girl they found on another planet they visited—to The Web Planet.

I got the opportunity to talk to the girl who plays the part of Vicki. Twenty-one-year-old Maureen O'Brien is the newest member of the *Dr. Who* cast, and she told how she got the part.

"I was working in a theatre when I heard that the job was available," she told me. "So I decided to come to the BBC to try for it. There were quite a few girls at the audition and we all read for the producer. She told me if I was wanted they would send for me to do a camera test. Quite a few weeks later they did send for me. That was when I had the camera test, and they told me I'd got the part!"

So that's how a thrilled Maureen joined William Hartnell, William Russell and Jacqueline Hill, who have all been with the series from the beginning.

William Russell has appeared in lots of TV plays, including one you may remember called *June Eyre*.

After chatting to the cast, I left the monsters behind me and made for home. But when I excitedly told my mother I'd seen *Dr. Who*, all she said was "who?"



Above: *Dr. Who*, the kindly professor, played by William Hartnell.



Above and below: Some of the monsters that Vicki meets!



Above: The most successful monster—The Dalek. Created by Terry Nation (left) and Raymond Cusick.

