

Doctor Who: The Missing Episodes



While the destruction of the original videotape recordings of the first six years of the show means that fans are unable to enjoy the stories in their original format, the work carried out by the **Doctor Who Restoration Team** prior to every DVD or video release means that the very best quality copies are available to buy.

Where possible, new prints are taken from the existing telerecording negatives (or the best existing prints where negatives don't exist), and these are then cleaned up as far as possible using the latest technology.

The development of VidFIRE – a process that effectively re-creates the video look of the original transmissions – has meant that the team are now able to restore the episodes to as close to their original format as is currently possible.

The soundtrack to each episode is also cleaned up and, in some cases, is actually replaced with that of the off-air audio recordings when they are superior.

As far as the missing stories are concerned, in November 2004 BBC Worldwide issued the **Lost in Time** collection which gathered together the eighteen 'orphaned' episodes which currently exist in the archives.

The 3-DVD set also included the numerous surviving clips from the lost stories (including all those returned from Australia in the late 1990s), an

Sadly, while fans of *Star Trek*, or *Lost in Space*, or *The Prisoner* are able to enjoy all of the episodes of their favourite series whenever they wish, fans of 1960s *Doctor Who* (and many other British television programmes from the mid-twentieth century) aren't as fortunate.

To understand how this situation has arisen it's first necessary to look at the way television of the period was produced in the UK.

To cut a long story short, by the start of the 1960s pre-recorded television programmes in the UK were made on one of two formats – videotape or film.

While the 1950s had seen the popularity of television soar, the fact that videotape was only in development and film was expensive meant that many programmes were transmitted live with occasional pre-filmed sections inserted into the broadcast – sometimes so locations could be used, sometimes to allow actors to move from one set to another. The live nature of the programmes meant that repeats were often nothing of the sort, instead they were actually a second performance of the script.

With the invention of a commercial videotape system, the perils of live broadcasting (including actors forgetting their lines, and even actors dropping dead in the studio!) could mostly be avoided. The use of videotape meant that programmes could now be edited, although even this was frowned upon as, at that time, the tapes were extremely expensive and editing meant that they had to be physically cut – something that prevented them from being re-used in the future.

From the outset *Doctor Who* was designed to be a twenty-five minute videotaped series. Why twenty-five minutes? Well, that's a rather handy length if you think you can sell it abroad to a commercial channel who will want to include around five minutes of adverts!

However, as has already been mentioned, videotape was expensive and during the 1960s not all countries would have been able to broadcast from it. Therefore, for sales to foreign countries, the BBC made 16mm telerecordings of the episodes which would be broadcastable in any country, regardless of their transmission system or ability to use videotape. Basically, telerecordings were film copies that were made by using a special system that enabled a 16mm or 35mm film camera to be to be synchronized with a television picture. Needless to say, it was a little more complicated than that, but it worked well.

For *Doctor Who*, this meant that the BBC was able to sell 16mm telerecordings of many of the William Hartnell and Patrick Troughton stories to countries all around the world, with the added advantage that film copies were relatively cheap to duplicate and

Doctor Who: The Missing Episodes

updated version of the **Missing Years** documentary, the soundtracks to the missing episodes of **The Crusade** and **The Moonbase**, and cast and crew commentaries on six of the episodes.

The full list of episodes included is as follows:

The Crusade

Episodes 1 and 3

The Daleks' Master Plan

Episodes 2, 5 and 10

The Celestial Toymaker

Episode 4

The Underwater Menace

Episode 3

The Moonbase

Episodes 2 and 4

The Faceless Ones

Episodes 1 and 3

The Evil of the Daleks

Episode 2

The Abominable Snowmen

Episode 2

The Enemy of the World

Episode 3

The Web of Fear

Episode 1

The Wheel in Space

Episodes 3 and 6

The Space Pirates

Episode 2

Full details of the work carried out by the **Restoration Team** can be found on their website, which also details their work on restoring the 1950s **Quatermass** serials for DVD, and features a lively message board.

www.restoration-team.co.uk/

send out. The nature of the contracts signed by these countries meant that when the rights to screen the stories in question expired, the 16mm prints would either be returned to the BBC, passed along to a broadcaster in another country that had bought the rights to screen the story, or be destroyed by the broadcaster holding them.

And now for the bit that may seem strange to modern viewers. The BBC subsequently destroyed, or recorded over, every single videotaped episode of **Doctor Who** starring William Hartnell and Patrick Troughton that had been produced between 1963 and 1969.

They also wiped a large number of the colour episodes starring Jon Pertwee, but thanks so some amazing luck these still all exist in one form or another, although not all are in colour. More on those later.

Sadly for modern fans of **Doctor Who**, and even just fans of television from that era in general, the wiping of programmes wasn't an uncommon occurrence. Television, at the time, was largely considered ephemeral. Here today, gone tomorrow, with another packed schedule already planned for next week. What repeats there were took place relatively soon after transmission, maybe only a year or two later. Contracts with the actors and the unions generally prevented older programmes from being repeated, and once overseas sales had dried up, or even when the period to offer them for sale had expired, the programmes were nothing more than cans or tapes filling up shelves that could be used more profitably for something else. Hence tapes were wiped, telerecordings were destroyed after being returned and much of the BBC's output was lost, seemingly forever.

By the start of the home-video era in the mid-to-late 1970s (which also coincided with the birth of organized **Doctor Who** fandom on a large scale), the BBC archives were in a depleted state. Of the Hartnell and Troughton eras, only a handful of episodes had been retained as examples of the series. Luckily, legendary **Doctor Who** fan Ian Levine was, by the late 1970s, attempting to acquire as many episodes of the series as he could, and thanks to a fortuitous visit to the BBC managed to prevent the destruction of a number of early stories (including *The Daleks*) – the telerecordings of which

had been returned from overseas and which were destined for either the incinerator or a skip...

As the 1980s dawned, the importance of these older programmes was being realised, and with the BBC now being required to maintain an archive of their output, the search for missing programmes intensified.

As well as the original telerecordings negatives for many **Doctor Who** stories, which had been discovered at BBC Enterprises in the late-1970s, episodes eventually arrived back from all over the globe. Telerecordings came back from Nigeria, turned up at car boot sales, were discovered in the basement of churches, and 525-line videotape conversions of several Jon Pertwee stories were returned from Canada. Even though the quality wasn't as good as the original 625-line videotapes, it was a still a significant step up from black and white 16mm telerecordings.

Doctor Who: The Missing Episodes

By the start of the 1990s 114 episodes were still missing, with a further 23 Pertwee episodes only being held as black and white telerecordings, although, in the case of the latter, off-air domestic recordings of *Doctor Who and the Silurians*, *The Ambassadors of Death*, *The Terror of the Autons* and *The Daemons* did exist. It was from these off-air tapes that the Doctor Who Restoration Team (see sidebar) were able to extract the colour signal and combine it with the existing telerecordings to produce broadcastable colour versions of all but *The Ambassadors of Death* – the off-air colour recording for this story was only useable on two episodes.

With the return of *The Tomb of the Cybermen* from Hong Kong in late 1991, the first episode of *The Crusade* from New Zealand in 1999, and the handing in of the second episode of *The Daleks' Master Plan* by an ex-BBC employee in 2003, the total number of missing episodes of **Doctor Who** currently stands at 108.

Miraculously, all of these episodes *do* exist as off-air audio recordings, having been recorded onto reel-to-reel audio tape by fans of the series back in the 1960s, either via microphones or by wiring the recorder directly to their television sets. While the quality of the recordings varies greatly, they are good enough to have enabled BBC Enterprises (and latterly its successor, BBC Worldwide) to release all of the missing episodes on cassette or CD with linking narration from one of the main cast members to fill in the more visual sections.

While the audio recordings are obviously the most important existing elements of the missing episodes, we can also gain some idea of what many of the programmes looked like thanks to the efforts of a man named John Cura who developed a system that allowed him to take photographs of television programmes. These 'telesnaps' were bought by actors and directors in the 1950s and 1960s as examples of their work, and luckily they exist for the majority of missing **Doctor Who** episodes – and some of the existing ones!

With an increasing demand for accurate information about the series in the late 1980s and early 1990s, it's not surprising that the telesnaps were seen as being worthy of publication. First up to bat was the **DWB** fanzine which published the telesnaps to several stories, and, with the discovery of telesnaps for many other missing stories, the official **Doctor Who Magazine** (DWM), along with its sister publication **Doctor Who Classic Comics** (DWCC), took up the task. More recently, the BBC's official **Doctor Who** website has found another use for the telesnaps by putting up online photonovels of the missing stories.

The following pages give details of all the currently missing episodes of the series, as well as details of where the relevant telesnaps (if they exist) can be found. As stated above, all of the "missing episodes" have been released on CD by BBC Worldwide and these can easily be bought from the usual online retailers.

Doctor Who: The Missing Episodes

STORY TITLE	NO. OF EPISODES	MISSING EPISODES	TELESNAP AVAILABILITY
Season One 42 Episodes 9 Missing			
Marco Polo	7	(1) The Roof of the World (2) The Singing Sands (3) Five Hundred Eyes (4) The Wall of Lies (5) Rider from Shang-Tu (6) Mighty Kublai Khan (7) Assassin at Peking	a) DWM 342 – 347 ¹
The Reign of Terror	6	(4) The Tyrant of France (5) A Bargain of Necessity	-
Season Two 39 Episodes 2 Missing			
The Crusade	4	(2) The Knight of Jaffa (4) The Warlords	a) DWM 280 ² b) BBC Website
Season Three 45 Episodes 29 Missing			
Galaxy 4	4	(1) Four Hundred Dawns (2) Trap of Steel (3) Airlock (4) The Exploding Planet	-
Mission to the Unknown	1	(1) Mission to the Unknown	-
The Myth Makers	4	(1) Temple of Secrets (2) Small Prophet, Quick Return (3) Death of a Spy (4) Horse of Destruction	-
The Daleks' Master Plan	12	(1) The Nightmare Begins (3) Devil's Planet (4) The Traitors (6) Coronas of The Sun (7) The Feast of Steven (8) Volcano (9) Golden Death (11) The Abandoned Planet (12) Destruction of Time	-
The Massacre	4	(1) War of God (2) The Sea Beggar (3) Priest of Death (4) Bell of Doom	-
The Celestial Toymaker	4	(1) The Celestial Toyroom (2) The Hall of Dolls (3) The Dancing Floor	-
The Savages	4	ALL	a) DWB 101 b) BBC Website
Season Four: First Doctor Stories 8 Episodes 5 Missing			
The Smugglers	4	ALL	a) DWM 217 b) BBC Website
The Tenth Planet	4	Episode 4	a) DWM 207 ³ b) Nothing at the End of the Lane 2 ⁴

¹ No telesnaps are known to exist for the fourth episode, *The Wall of Lies*, which was directed by John Crockett, although records indicate that they were taken. A brief recap of this episode was therefore provided in issue 345 of *Doctor Who Magazine* along with the telesnaps to *Rider from Shang-Tu*.

² The telesnaps of the two missing episodes of *The Crusade* were printed to tie-in with the release on video of *The Lion*, the first episode of *The Crusade*, which had been re-discovered in New Zealand earlier that year.

³ The telesnaps for the final episode of *The Tenth Planet* were the first to be printed in *Doctor Who Magazine* after the discovery of a large cache of them in the BBC's Written Archive Centre. Unfortunately, they were presented in a hard-to-follow format which had the explanations for the images on one page, with the images themselves on the next two.

⁴ Issue 2 of the *Nothing at the End of the Lane* fanzine included a set of colourised telesnaps for Episode 4 of *The Tenth Planet*.

Doctor Who: The Missing Episodes

STORY TITLE	NO. OF EPISODES	MISSING EPISODES	TELESNAP AVAILABILITY
Season Four: Second Doctor Stories 35 Episodes 29 Missing			
The Power of the Daleks	6	ALL	a) DWB 54 ⁵ b) Power of the Daleks Photonovel c) DWB Compendium d) BBC Website
The Highlanders	4	ALL	a) DWB 89 – 92 b) DWM 233 – 236 c) BBC Website
The Underwater Menace	4	Episode 1 Episode 2 Episode 4	a) DWM 220 – 223 b) BBC Website
The Moonbase	4	Episode 1 Episode 3	a) DWB 85 ⁶ b) BBC Website
The Macra Terror	4	ALL	a) DWM 251 – 254 b) BBC Website
The Faceless Ones	6	Episode 2 Episode 4 Episode 5 Episode 6	a) DWM 260 – 264, 266 b) BBC Website
The Evil of the Daleks	7	Episode 1 Episode 3 Episode 4 Episode 5 Episode 6 Episode 7	a) DWM 237 – 243
Season Five 40 Episodes 27 Missing			
The Abominable Snowman	6	Episode One Episode Three Episode Four Episode Five Episode Six	a) DWM 224 – 229 b) BBC Website
The Ice Warriors	6	TWO THREE	a) DWCC 24 – 26 ⁷ b) DWM 217 – 219 c) BBC Website
The Enemy of the World	6	Episode 1 Episode 2 Episode 4 Episode 5 Episode 6	a) DWM 273 – 277 ⁸ b) BBC Website

⁵ The *Power of the Daleks Photonovel* was first published with issue 54 of the *Doctor Who Bulletin* (DWB) fanzine. It proved so popular that it was later reprinted with a different cover and was subsequently included as part of the *DWB Compendium* which reprinted the best of the first 100 issues.

⁶ Issue 85 of the *DreamWatch Bulletin* (DWB) fanzine included a special photonovel of *The Moonbase*, which included telesnaps to all four episodes of the story. The telesnaps to the two missing episode were subsequently reprinted in the *DWB Compendium* which reprinted the best of the first 100 issues.

⁷ The final story to be spread across *Doctor Who Classic Comics* and *Doctor Who Magazine* – issue 27 of *Classic Comics* was the final one published.

⁸ Telesnaps aren't known to exist for the fourth episode of *The Enemy of the World* so a brief recap of that episode was therefore provided in issue 276 alongside the telesnaps to episode five.

Doctor Who: The Missing Episodes

STORY TITLE	NO. OF EPISODES	MISSING EPISODES	TELESNAP AVAILABILITY
Season Five – continued			
The Web of Fear	6	Episode 2 Episode 3 Episode 4 Episode 5 Episode 6	a) DWCC 18 – 20 ⁹ DWM 211 – 213 b) BBC Website
Fury from the Deep	6	ALL	a) DWCC 15 – 17 ¹⁰ DWM 208 – 210 b) BBC Website
The Wheel in Space	6	Episode 1 Episode 2 Episode 4 Episode 5	a) DWCC 21 – 23 DWM 214 – 216 b) BBC Website
Season Six 44 Episodes 7 Missing			
The Invasion	8	Episode One Episode Four	-
The Space Pirates	6	Episode One Episode Three Episode Four Episode Five Episode Six	-

⁹ The second story to be spread across *Doctor Who Classic Comics* and *Doctor Who Magazine*, but the first to be laid out with each image having a caption next to it to explain what was happening.

¹⁰ *Fury from the Deep* was the first story to have a complete set of telesnaps published by Marvel. However, in a rather cynical marketing ploy, the episodes alternated between *Doctor Who Classic Comics* and its sister publication *Doctor Who Magazine*. As with the publication of the telesnaps for *The Tenth Planet* episode four, the telesnaps themselves were spread over three pages, with descriptions of each image on the first and the images on the second and third.