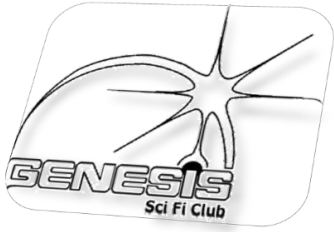


THE  
**GENESIS**

**MATRIX**  
*(ReBooted)*



The Magazine Of  
Genesis Sci-Fi  
September 2013



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**September 2013**

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—  
KEEP CALM  
BOB KNOWS HIS BOMBS

# GOLD CHANNEL

Hello all, welcome to September at Genesis.

Another month another front piece, first I would like to thank Jeremy for writing last month's front piece, (*Oh, no, you've given it away!* – *Ghost Writing Ed*) and secondly to thank Mark for a very enjoyable space-opera-ey programme, myself for the quiz and OJ for the video vote. The idea of a vote for one of a trilogy was novel and the winning vote for *Tremors 2* (I had seen the first film and my casting vote was for 2) went over as a great success, we only lost two people for the film but then gained Jeremy and Louise.

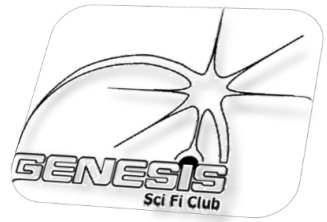
This month sees Paul Belsey writing the programme and so far I have not seen the list but know it is going to be an awesome one.

Being semi-retired as I am seems to mean I have to work longer and harder than before, not only do I work to pay bills but I also have to work hard at my new career. This meant that on Wednesday last week I had to take two pupils on mock driving tests!! Yes, me, judging noobie drivers to see if they are good enough to be allowed on the road by themselves. I will say I would have passed them both and after I debriefed them my instructor sat in the back explained all the points I had missed and why I had missed them. A good learning experience for me and a chance for them to see what it is like to have a stranger who barely speaks sitting next to them marking their driving.

We hopefully now have a list of meeting dates for next year which may or may not be in the magazine today, and if not they will be circulating on a list somewhere in the room (it's a fairly safe bet it will be somewhere in the vicinity of Matt). So now we need you to volunteer to pick the programs and run the quizzes. So over to you, folk, I have a pen with me today and the last thing you want is me in possession of a piece of paper with blank spaces in one hand and a pen in the other!

That's all for now, so to infinity and beyond....

**PRus**



## *Club Events For Your Diary*



### **ArmadaCon 25—15th, 16th and 17th November 2013 at Future Inn, Plymouth.**

This is **ArmadaCon's** 25th Anniversary year; guests already announced include Doctor Who make-up supervisor / guru Neil Gorton, and the weekend will also feature the filming of the ArmadaCon 25th anniversary short film.

Find out more at [www.armadacon.org](http://www.armadacon.org).

### **Cinema Trips**

Films being released over the next few months which we may be going to see...

- > *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (November)*
- > *The Hobbit: Part 2—The Desolation Of Smaug (13th December)*

### **MEETING DATES FOR 2013.....**

	<b>Pub</b>	<b>Book Club</b>	<b>Main meeting</b>	<b>Program/ Quiz</b>
October	10th October	12th October	20th October	Matthew Greet
October / November	31st October	9th November	10th November	The Committee
December	5th December	7th December	15th December	Robert Green

*Pub meetings are at the Queen's College Arms on the A340 between Basingstoke and Tadley until further notice.*

*The Genesis Book Club is at South Ham Library, Basingstoke, on the dates listed above, from 10.00 am to mid-day.*

*The club's on-line discussion board is open for business; you'll find it at our website, [www.genesis-sf.org](http://www.genesis-sf.org)*



## **BEN AFFLECK CAST AS BRUCE WAYNE / BATMAN FOR SUPERHERO CROSSOVER**

Ben Affleck has been cast as Batman in a forthcoming *Man of Steel* sequel, bringing together the two superheroes in one film for the first time.

The 41-year-old will star opposite British actor Henry Cavill, who will reprise his role as Superman from the most recent film.

Director Zack Snyder revealed the big screen superhero mash-up at a comic convention in San Diego last month. Production is expected to begin next year for release in the summer of 2015.

"We knew we needed an extraordinary actor to take on one of DC Comics' most enduringly popular super heroes, and Ben Affleck certainly fits that bill and then some," Warner Bros President Greg Silverman said in a statement.

Snyder, who also directed *Man of Steel*, said in a statement that Mr Affleck will provide an "interesting counter-balance" to 31-year old Cavill's Clark Kent.

"(Affleck) has the acting chops to create a layered portrayal of a man who is older and

wiser than Clark Kent and bears the scars of a seasoned crime fighter, but retain the charm that the world sees in billionaire Bruce Wayne," said Snyder. "I can't wait to work with him."

The sequel - which has yet to be given a title - will reunite *Man of Steel* stars Amy Adams (Lois Lane), Laurence Fishburne (Perry White) and Diane Lane (Martha Kent). Christian Bale most recently played Batman in director Christopher Nolan's *Dark Knight* trilogy. Michael Keaton, Val Kilmer and George Clooney have also donned the black mask and cape in previous Batman films.

Ben Affleck's film *Argo*, which he starred in and directed, won an Academy Award for best picture earlier this year. The superhero genre is not new to Mr Affleck, who previously starred as the blind hero in the 2003 *Daredevil* film based on the Marvel Comics.

Batman and Superman are part of DC Comics universe, which is part of the Warner Bros Entertainment division. Revenues from the latest films featuring Superman and Batman have exceeded \$1bn (£655m) in recent years.

Source: [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)

## **23RD NOVEMBER WILL BE THE DAY OF THE DOCTOR**

The BBC has finally revealed the title of the 50th Anniversary Special episode of *Doctor Who*—the 75 minute episode, to be broadcast on 23rd November, will be titled *Day of the Doctor*.

Some spoilers for the episode do exist on-line, and can be found with relatively little effort, but they will not be revealed here.

Other commemorative programs include

**DOCTOR WHO**  
**FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING**

*An Adventure In Time And Space*, a docu-drama exploring the origins of the series starring David Bradley as William Hartnell, a special *Culture Show* exploring the cultural impact of the series, a 90 minute Radio 2 documentary *Who Is The Doctor?*, and *Doctor Who: The Ultimate Guide*, plus a showing of the first story from 1963 on BBC Four, in a special restored form.

Source: [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)



## VOYAGER 1 PROBE GOES INTERSTELLAR

The *Voyager 1* spacecraft has become the first manmade object to leave the Solar System.

Scientists say the probe's instruments indicate it has moved beyond the bubble of hot gas from our Sun and is now moving in the space between the stars.

Launched in 1977, *Voyager* was sent initially to study the outer planets, but then just kept on going. Today, the veteran NASA mission is almost 19 billion km (12 billion miles) from home a distance is so vast that it takes 17 hours now for a radio signal sent from *Voyager* to reach receivers here on Earth.

"This is really a key milestone that we'd been hoping we would reach when we started this project over 40 years ago - that we would get a spacecraft into interstellar space," said Prof Ed Stone, the chief scientist on the venture. "Scientifically it's a major milestone, but also historically - this is one of those journeys of exploration like circumnavigating the globe for the first time or having a footprint on the Moon for the first time. This is the first time we've begun to explore the space between the stars," he told BBC News.

Sensors on *Voyager* had been indicating for some time that its local environment had changed. The data that finally convinced the mission team to call the jump to interstellar space came from the probe's Plasma Wave Science (PWS) instrument. This can measure the density of charged particles in *Voyager's* vicinity. Readings taken in April/May this year and October/November last year revealed a near-100-fold jump in the number of protons occupying every cubic metre of space.

Scientists have long theorised such a spike would eventually be observed if *Voyager* could get beyond the influence of the magnetic fields and particle wind that billow from the surface of the Sun. When the *Voyager* team put the new data together with information from the other instruments onboard, they calculated the moment of escape to have occurred on or about 25 August, 2012. This conclusion is contained in a report published by the journal *Science*.

"This is big; it's really impressive - the first human-made object to make it out into

interstellar space," said Prof Don Garnett from the University of Iowa and the principal investigator on the PWS.

On 25 August, 2012, *Voyager 1* was some 121 Astronomical Units away. That is, 121 times the separation between the Earth and the Sun. Breaching the boundary, known technically as the heliopause, was, said the English Astronomer Royal, Prof Sir Martin Rees, a remarkable achievement: "It's utterly astonishing that this fragile artefact, based on 1970s technology, can signal its presence from this immense distance."

Although now embedded in the gas, dust and magnetic fields from other stars, *Voyager* still feels a gravitational tug from the Sun, just as some comets do that lie even further out in space. But to all intents and purposes, it has left what most people would define as the Solar System. It is now in a completely new domain.

*Voyager 1* departed Earth on 5 September 1977, a few days after its sister spacecraft, *Voyager 2*, their primary objective to survey the planets Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune - a task they completed in 1989.

They were then steered towards deep space. It is expected that their plutonium power sources will stop supplying electricity in about 10 years, at which point their instruments and their 20W transmitters will die. *Voyager 1* will not approach another star for nearly 40,000 years, even though it is moving at 45km/s (100,000mph).

"*Voyager 1* will be in orbit around the centre of our galaxy with all its stars for billions of years," said Prof Stone.

The probe's work is not quite done, however. For as long as they have working instruments, scientists will want to sample the new environment. The new region through which *Voyager* is now flying was generated and sculpted by big stars that exploded millions of years ago. There is indirect evidence and models to describe the conditions in this medium, but *Voyager* can now measure them for real and report back.

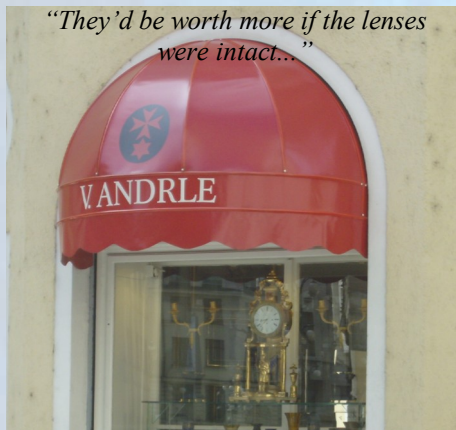
Source: [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)



*Some of the Editors  
holiday snaps from the  
Czech Republic....*



*"Everybody remember where we parked!"*



*"They'd be worth more if the lenses  
were intact..."*



*"What does it mean, 'exact  
change?'"*



*"Sounds like the god-damn Spanish Inquisition...!"*





Peter Capaldi was filming in Prague when he found out he'd got the Doctor Who gig. The decor in the underground stations (left) should have been something of a portents.

Below: The Dalek's latest plan for universal conquest, ie, opening a shop in central Europe, was given away when one of them got a bit carried away when choosing a name for the shop....



How a portrait of William T (not for Tiberius) came to be on a street portrait stall on the Charles Bridge, we'll never know. The hair is also a bit of a mystery.



Had the Dark Knight Trilogy been made in the Czech Republic, this is what the Tumbler would have looked like.....



"There's always a bigger fish..."



I'm not going to completely fill this double page with silly stuff. Prague is actually a lovely city...  
Photos By Jeremy Ogden

Which incarnation fought in the Time War? What was The Cartmel Master-Plan? Who are Big Finish Productions, and how have they influenced the series since it came back in 2005? Some, more or fewer of these questions may be answered in.....

# DOCTOR WHO



*Time Lords—Born or Loomed?*

Doctorwhotv.co.uk guest contributor Alessandro attempts to reconcile the Time Lines...

Before the episode *The Sound of Drums* first aired on June 23rd 2007, most of if not all of *Wilderness Years* fans had accepted as a fact that the Doctor was nothing but a reincarnation of an individual known as *The Other*, who lived sometime in Rassilon's days and contributed with him and Omega to produce the powerful device called *The Hand of Omega*, which granted the Time Lords a perpetual power source thanks to the creation of the *Eye of Harmony* (*I'd heard this vaguely before but it still falls into the 'news to me' category* - Ed). The Other was later loomed, i.e. he committed suicide by throwing himself in one of the looms which had been invented by the Time Lords to procreate despite the Pythia's



curse, just to be reborn centuries later in the Time Lord renegade known as the Doctor. In case you don't know, the concept was born during the last novels from the *Virgin New Adventures* range, when it was stated that a prophetess called the Pythia, who ruled Gallifrey before Rassilon's rise to power, cursed the Time Lords with infertility before her defeat. The Looms provided a way to create new Time Lords in a way similar to Jenny, the so-called "Doctor's Daughter" from the eponymous TV story.

Now, *The Sound of Drums* and *A Good*

*Man Goes To War* openly contradict this concept, as the Doctor has his own cot and the Master appears in a flashback as a child, while the novel *Lungbarrow* shows the Time Lords being woven as full adults from the Looms.

*Lungbarrow* also contradicts the rest of the tie-in stories. The *BBC Books Eighth Doctor Adventures* clearly show that Flavia was the Lady President in *The Eight Doctors*, and they also claim that the Doctor had a mother called Penelope Gate. The problem would be easy to solve if the *Big Finish* range didn't show us that the Doctor met companions from the BBC Books and Virgin *New Adventures* characters such Fitz and Bernice Summerfield,

showing that the novels and audiobooks are part of the same continuity. Considering how RTD valued the audios as genuine Doctor Who history, and how the BBC even broadcast them on BBC7, the matter just can't be set aside and forgotten.

So, how could the *Virgin New Adventures* be saved and harmonized with the rest of the expanded Whoniverse? Here's my solution to the problem - or, if you like, my modest proposal (hope J. Swift doesn't take any offence for this stolen expression).



## A Possible Solution: Grandfather Paradox

The *Eighth Doctor Adventures* show the Doctor being involved in one of the most complex and fascinating story arcs in the Whoniverse: the Faction Paradox menace. The latter is some sort of a sect trying to wreck havoc in history by the voluntary production of paradoxes. Their leader is found to be a former Shada prisoner called Grandfather Paradox. According to the few recordings in the novels, GP lived in Rassilon's days and was the first Time Lord who had the



courage to violate the First Law of Time in the most outrageous way, i.e. killing his own grandfather. Being stuck in a suspended condition between existence and non-existence, Grandfather Paradox became a living paradox (hence the nickname). The Time Lords feared him (the Doctor's fear and disgust for Jack by the Tenth Doctor comes to mind) and, rather than killing him, they sealed him on Shada. Centuries later, Romanadvoratrelundar was released from E-Space by the Seventh Doctor and won the elections on Gallifrey. The new Lady President soon fell a victim of the Carnival Queen and involuntarily signed an edict to release hundreds of prisoners from Shada – including Grandfather Paradox (*Christmas on a Rational Planet*), who immediately ascended the hierarchy of Faction Paradox, being a paradox incarnate.

Now, we know that Grandfather Paradox was trying to manipulate the Doctor, resulting in his timeline being rewritten. By the time of the final confrontation between the Eighth and Grandfather Paradox (*The Ancestors Cell*), both had

lost one arm; the Doctor was becoming similar to GP; and the Doctor claimed to remember two different origins for himself (one being loomed, the other being naturally born) and two different current Lady Presidents, Romana and Flavia.

So, here's my theory: Grandfather Paradox is the original version of the Other...

### Split timelines

In the original version of history, the Other lived in an early-Time Lord society where the Pythia died or was defeated without any possibility to curse the Time Lords. Natural birth continued as always on the planet until the Doctor was born. The Other had grown insane and possibly wanted to pervert history, and he did so by breaking the First Law of Time and killing his grandfather. As we said, he was put in the Shada prisons. Centuries later, the Doctor was naturally born; he somehow found the Hand of Omega and left Gallifrey with Susan. His peregrinations led the Doctor, now in his seventh incarnation, to save Romana II from E-Space. The Doctor's actions in *Christmas on a Rational Planet* and Romana's presidency led to the release of Grandfather Paradox from prison.

We might suppose that Grandfather Paradox simply wanted to rewrite Time Lord history. In the *Faction Paradox* novels and audiobooks, mostly written by Lawrence Miles (who invented the concept), we can see a whole new timeline where the Gallifreyans are called "The Houses" and are completely different from the original version of history. The Looms are still present in this version of the universe. I consider this timeline *the result of Grandfather*

*Paradox's plans in case he managed to turn the Doctor into himself.* We might presume he chose to become the Doctor just because it was he who made possible his release from Shada; had he changed the past in such a way that the Doctor was never born, the paradox would have led him back to prison. Forever. Turning the Doctor into himself (or the other way round, if you like) made it possible for Grandfather Paradox to "release himself from prison" in a circular, timey-wimey way not unlike the Eleventh Doctor's escape from the Pandorica (*The Big Bang*).

But how was he supposed to do that? I believe that the paradox he originally created had made foretelling the future impossible, as there were now two separate timelines, one where GP lived, and another one where he never existed.

Indeed, *Lungbarrow* clearly states that the Pythia's premonitory powers had become useless, leading to her defeat by Rassilon and the following Curse. This turned out to form the *Lungbarrow* timeline, where the Looms had been invented to reproduce the Time Lords. The Other, rather than becoming "Grandfather Paradox", just loomed himself and became the Doctor centuries or even millennia later, being woven in the House of Lungbarrow as one of many Cousins. This story, of course, collided with the original version of history, involving "our" Eighth Doctor. Grandfather Paradox wanted to change the Doctor into himself, so he altered his bio-data within the Loom. The Doctor's eighth incarnation started to remodel himself on GP's persona, but since both timelines were still "real" although impossible to coexist, the Doctor experienced double memories of his past.



When the Eighth Doctor managed to defeat Faction Paradox, history rewrote itself in a more stable version where the *Lungbarrow* events (both in the past and in the Seventh Doctor's era) never took place. Romana still was the Lady President of Gallifrey rather than Flavia, but the Doctor was naturally born from Penelope Gate (whom I believe to be a Time Lady who hid from the Time Lords using a Chameleon Arch, providing a solution to the "half-human on my mother's side" question, but that's something for another article, I guess). (*Indeed it was—Ed*)

As for the Seventh Doctor, he presumably lived his last adventures as narrated in the *Big Finish* audios, where he appears to travel alone in the 1996 TARDIS version.

In the end, when history was rebooted and Gallifrey restored in the aftermath of

*The Gallifrey Chronicles*, the incident in Lungbarrow left no trace at all either in the new Big Finish timeline; still, the Hand of Omega may have remembered this missed/aborted link between the Doctor and the Other, explaining how the device was well-disposed to follow the Doctor's directives in *Remembrance of the Daleks*. Nevertheless, the aborted timeline is as necessary as the Year-That-*Never-Was* in *The Sound of Drums/Last of the Time Lords* from the TV series.

I must say that my head still hurts after finding this possible solution. Which means that I'm either crazy (who would waste an hour to write such a long speculation on a work of fiction?) or that I'm a real Whovian. Or maybe both. After all, isn't the Doctor himself a mad man (in a box)?

Source: [www.doctorwhotv.co.uk](http://www.doctorwhotv.co.uk)



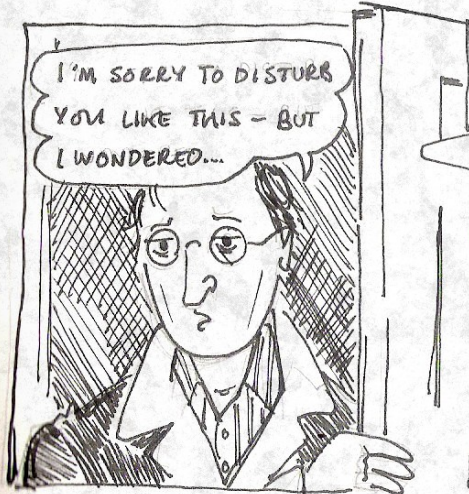
# RASA



COMRADE PIECH, ... WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP SO LATE?

KNOCK  
KNOCK

YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO BED -



I'M SORRY TO DISTURB YOU LIKE THIS - BUT I WONDERED...



YOUR ACCUSATIONS AGAINST DR. CHISLENKO.



YOU MUST HAVE SOME REASON FOR THIS?



I DO... BUT IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN...

PLEASE TRY.

by Louise Stanley



# FRESH PERSPECTIVES

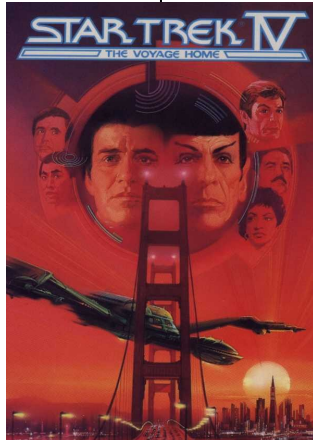
## Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home

*What does it mean, 'exact change'? - Spock*

The title to this excellent slice of the Star Trek pie is a little misleading. The crew, still effectively renegade at the end of *The Search for Spock*, take a detour in time to save Earth from a sinister probe ionising the atmosphere in the 23rd century, and end up in the 20th century – very conveniently in the time at which the film was made! – searching for the solution. Which is...

...whales. Humpback whales. Whose song is the only thing that can reassure the probe and get it to leave Earth alone (yeah, it's the sort of story that sounds like it really ought to be about sharks, as in *jumping sharks*, but even Kirk admits it's a crazy plan, and since they're travelling in Klingon flea-trap, armed only with a pair of antique spectacles and a Federation library card, they don't really have a lot of choice. So let me finish). And *nuclear wessels*, courtesy of Chekov. But I'm getting ahead of myself here. The problem for Earth is that these whales are extinct and so the gang must find a way of getting a specimen to the 23rd century.

This is a hilarious film, quite far removed from the erudite seriousness of much of the *Trek* franchise, and I enjoyed the way it played out without a major battle for ascendancy, even at the climax of the film. Instead, Kirk takes a genuinely peaceful approach to researching acquiring his maguffins, and there are opportunities for some excellent misunderstandings as the crew make their madcap way through San Francisco in 1986, with an assortment of colourful metaphors. Some of it is utterly predictable – the marine biologists are running out of money and the humpback whales, George and Gracie, who is *very pregnant*, are to be released into the wild just at the start of the whaling season.



The wild-eyed cetacean biologist, Gillian Taylor, is up against the evil bean-counters, including a particularly insensitive colleague called Bob, and Kirk has to convince her to trust him as to his intentions, largely through schmoozing her with pizza at a nice restaurant, where he helpfully informs her that he's not from Outer Space, he's from

*Kirk's attempts to break up a cadet review were fruitless...*

Iowa, and 'only works in Outer Space'.

But there are a lot of light touches that stops the film being *Star Trek: Free Willy*. Spock's swimming with the whales is a neat touch; his communion with them through telepathy is heart-warming; despite his often cold demeanour, he really cares about the future - in his recent scene, we see him being re-trained after his brush with mortality, possibly on some 23rd century version of Wikipedia, and he drops the hint that 'humpback whales are extinct', showing us that the law of conservation of detail is alive and kicking. (Anton Chekhov - the Russian playwright -

once said: 'If you say in the first chapter that there is a rifle hanging on the wall, in the second or third chapter it absolutely must go off. If it's not going to be fired, it shouldn't be hanging there.') I guess this is when 'Save the Whales' could be played unironically, but obviously the deeper message of the film continues to be one of grave importance.

The film progresses in a haze of bon mots, cheesy subplots such as the adventures of Chekov looking for a new power source for their 'wessel'...sorry I mean 'vessel', and other mayhem caused directly by the clash of cultures. The point at which one expects Chekov to be booked as a spy is brushed aside with a laugh - even



they think he's somewhat ... mentally deficient. I get the impression they wanted to make something cheaply and cheerfully, and it certainly works well to keep the viewer's attention.

I'm going to give it four out of five plutos; it is a little cheesy and contrived, but it doesn't suffer overly much for it and it delivers a few moments of classic comedy to keep it from becoming far too ponderous a story.



The really nice thing is that, like when Marty McFly in *Back to the Future* was quite happy to swap his initially crappy existence in the wastelands of small-

town America for a better life where his father was a famous sci-fi author, so is Gillian Taylor not overly bothered about going forward to the future with Kirk. The thing that had me thinking was 'did they violate the Prime Directive by interfering with a culture without FTL travel?', but that's a bit pedantic of me.



Go watch this film again. I doubt we will get a remake of it, so it's a moment of Trek history that doesn't take itself too seriously and is all the better for it.

But don't forget to remember where you parked, and use exact change only.

**Louise Stanley**



# The Oracle

## LIVE ORACLE

### The Sublime:

I've recently been working through the first season of Big Finish *Doctor Who* audio adventures to feature the Eighth Doctor and Lucie Miller, played by Paul McGann and Sheriden Smith, a series commissioned for broadcast on BBC7 (now Radio 4 Extra) in 2006. I think this is the third time I've listened to the complete series, and I have to say it improves with time. The writing is terrific, the casting is brilliant, with guest stars such as Nigel Havers, Clare Buckfield, Bernard Cribbins, Roy Marsden, Caterina Olsen, Ian McNiece, Owen Brenman, Anita Dobson and many others, and the production values are as polished and professional as anything Big Finish have ever produced. Oh, and the in-jokes, many of them referring to the Doctor's hair – spot on every time. In fact I have been enjoying them so much I've moved on to the second series, and the third series is winging it's way to me from Big Finish Towers as I type. Long Live Big Finish!



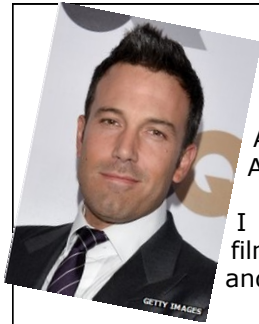
### The Ridiculous

Two words. Ben. Affleck. Two more words. As. Batman. The piece of casting for which the face-palm was invented.

As they might say in *South Park*, "Oh my God, they cast Ben Affleck as Bruce Wayne/ Batman! You B@t@rds!"

I mean, really? He was quite good in *Armageddon*, which as films go was entertaining while managing to be gloriously stupid, and *Paycheck* was a much under-rated film, but this is the actor who Bill Bailey once described as 'having the gormless look of someone who's just realised he *may* have left the back door unlocked', and who I've developed a possibly irrational aversion to, mainly due to my viewing of the film *Changing Lanes*, one of the most hateful films I've ever seen, a Friday evening I will *never* get back as a result, and a major reason why film critics should *never* be trusted. Ever. And they've gone and cast him as Bruce Wayne / Batman in the upcoming *Superman / Batman* crossover film. For goodness sake spare us the agony! Give Christian Bale his (alleged) \$50 million *pay-check* (see what I did there?) to come back as the Dark Knight, and make Affleck keep the promise he made in 2003 to never make another superhero film!

However, he has at least managed at some point in his life to ditch 'gormless' and progress on to 'smug', as evidenced by this picture. Although he may revert to type if he ever discovers that he's not being paid as much as Christian Bale was (allegedly) offered.







### Something I've Learned:

My attempt to watch 'the whole of *Doctor Who* before David Tennant leaves' (stop chuckling at the back) has now reached the second half, in fact the fourth series, of the Jon Pertwee era. As a result the last complete story I had watched at the time of writing was *The Time Monster*. I'd never seen this story before – believe me, if I had I would have remembered it. Because what I have

learned this month is that *The Time Monster* is absolutely, 100%, utterly and completely *insane*. Mad as a box of frogs.

It has UNIT, it has The Master, it has a bizarre scene where a couple of scientists celebrate a great achievement by dancing around a lab, it has Sergeant Benton, regressing to an infant, it has Atlantis – the city, not the space shuttle - it has Swallowfield Park and House (that's just up the road from here, by the way), and it has Darth Vader as a Minotaur. No, really, David Prowse, pre-*Star Wars*, as the great beast from Greek mythology. Completely, utterly, barking, raving *mad*.

### Something I've Learned While Typing Something I've Learned.

How to spell the word 'minotaur'. I'm sorry to say my first attempt, coupled with a slip of the finger on the keyboard, branded the actor who played Darth Vader as a back-bench Conservative MP.

**Jeremy Ogden**



By  
*Louise Stanley*



LOUISE STANLEY 25.05.13

# **RAINBOW FLASH GORDON**