

GE NEWS

Vol 4 , Issue 23 2011

WOMEN TALK SCI FI



DOCTOR WHO SPECIAL EDITION



Caroline John



In Memoriam



Colin Baker
and
John Leeson



H.G. Wells



Gallifrey 22 Report

Doctor Who Competition
It's bigger on the inside



K9 just because we like him!



The Third Doctor's first companion.

Caroline John



Caroline John played the third Doctor's (Jon Pertwee) first companion Liz Shaw. She started on Doctor Who in 1970 with Jon Pertwee's first story 'The Spearhead from Space' and left after the story 'Inferno'. Liz Shaw was a scientist and worked with the Doctor at UNIT. Caroline reprised her Liz Shaw role with a cameo in the anniversary episode 'The Five Doctors' and she also appeared in the special episode 'Dimensions in Time' which was part of the BBC's annual Children in Need appeal. She again played Liz Shaw in the P.R.O.B.E stories written by Mark Gatiss. In these stories Liz Shaw is an investigator for the P.R.O.B.E organisation. Caroline John has also lent her voice to the Big Finish Productions based on Doctor Who.

How did you become involved in the acting profession?
I went to drama school – The Central School of Speech and Drama

What do you remember about the audition process you went through for the role of Liz Shaw?

I had been working with Sir Laurence Olivier's Company at the N.T. – so I just had a nice interview with Derrick Sherwin and Peter Poryaut.

What words come to mind to describe working with Jon Pertwee and Nicholas Courtney?

Good working actors – Jon was very mindful of being a father figure to us all.

Were you able to make suggestions of how you felt the Liz Shaw character should develop?

I wanted her to be more the scientist – but short skirts were order of the day.

Why do you think that the Doctor Who story still continues to excite people today?

A good escape and rollicking brilliant stories and acting.

While you were playing Liz Shaw did you have any idea that your character would still be remembered over 40 years later?

No.

What are some of the things you were proud of while portraying the character of Liz Shaw?

My thoughts came through clearly.

Which of the Doctor Who stories did you enjoy working on and why?

I relished each story.

Were there other aspects of Liz Shaw that you feel you did not have the chance to develop? If so what were they?

I think the companions today have more screen time than we did back then, to go a little deeper into their backgrounds.

Why did you leave Doctor Who?

I was pregnant with my eldest son.

Are you still involved in the acting world?

Yes, I do a lot of audio work and stage. Not many new plays with older women in TV nowadays.



Fun fact: a large swathe of Aussie Doctor Who fans are, by default, also fans of The Goodies (and vice versa). This barmy, action-packed comedy hit was paired with Doctor Who on weekday afternoons, by our beloved ABC, for what seemed like forever to a generation of 70s and 80s kids. They were the premier Brit-TV double act, which is one reason why we at the *Goodies Podcast* flew from Perth to Los Angeles for *Gallifrey 22* – possibly the world's greatest Doctor Who convention – for three days and four nights of time-tastic partying.

Also, anyone following the Eighth Doctor's adventures at Big Finish will know that The Goodies' mad scientist Graeme Garden co-stars in the latest audio series as The Meddling Monk, and we were primed to chat with his assistant (well, also the Doctor's assistant - it's complicated!) Lucie Miller, aka Sheridan Smith, at the con. Ms Smith cancelled at the last minute. But with Peter Davison (the 5th Doctor), Janet Fielding (Tegan), Matthew Waterhouse (Adric) and the lovely Sarah Sutton (Nyssa) still headlining, there was little to worry about and much to do.



Once you've marked out which guest panels, star signings, comps & social events you're targeting in the Gally program, you find that the short walks between them can be as startling as the events themselves. Cosplayers pervade the corridors; this year we had sexy Movellans (Destiny of the Daleks), Voc Robots (Robots of Death), stunning home-crafted Daleks of every kind, Weeping Angels and Doctors galore. And it's true that celeb-spotters at Gally often see convention guests mixing it with the paying punters. Guys like Frazer Hines (Jamie McCrimmon, companion of the 2nd Doctor) and John Levene (Sgt Benton) were omnipresent social butterflies. The headlining 1980s companions like Ms Sutton and Ms Fielding could often be spied at a signing table in the dealers room (when not zipping between panel appearances), so if you fancied a chat and wanted to buy a signed pic, there was much fun to be had. It was fantastic to see them go the extra mile – John Leeson seemed to have a blast recording K-9 voice messages onto fan's phones when politely requested to. And with so many people at Gally (more each year) the dealers room was your best bet for autographs. The other option - scheduled free signing sessions – was strained by the ratio of demand. Many punters missed out on snatching a quick hello and a scribble, and the queues were longish even with the ticket system that improved things immensely in recent years.



Checkout the Goodies Podcast [here](http://goodiespodcast.libsyn.com/)
<http://goodiespodcast.libsyn.com/>

The business of Gally itself – the panels – mostly ran in three streams, taking up the entire convention floor of the hotel this year. Anyone not interested in something like the Who writers panel had at least 2 other options (directors panel? Fanfic? Yelling about Torchwood?) to sit in on interviews and ask questions. With a show that's been around for 48 years in all sorts of media - TV, books, audio, comics, toys and probably a lot else – there was plenty to get to. Major highlights for us were the live commentaries, the Peter Davison solo interview (invaded by a manic Janet Fielding who spent much time arguing with PD about the current state of Australian cricket), the podcast recordings of Podshock and Radio Free Skaro, meeting the stars, Doctor Who, and Lobbycon.



Lobbycon is the true gem of Gallifrey for many fans, as they traditionally take over the lobby of the LAX Marriott on Saturday night and drink/eat/chat until early morning. This year it seemed to be Lobbycon from the Wednesday night until the following Monday night; it just peaked on Saturday evening. We'll say no more about the revelries – what happens at Lobbycon stays at Lobbycon (unless you're caught on tape by one of the legion of merry-making podcasters on hand).

There was so much we left out (both at the con and in writing about it): the incredible Who crafts, the ever-running video room, the banquet, the disco, pics with Tardis Tara's police box, and a ton more. But that's the beautiful dilemma at the heart (or two hearts) of the Gallifrey con: no matter what form or era of Doctor Who turns you on, it's represented in spades. There's simply too much to enjoy, and a lot of fine friendly people to distract you from doing it. All aboard for Gallifrey 2013 to celebrate the 50th anniversary!

[Listen to what Geoff says about the con in Ep 40 of our podcast!](#)

DOCTOR WHO COMPETITION

NOT ONE PRIZE BUT TWO.

A COMPETITIONS THAT'S BIGGER ON THE INSIDE

Competition close date 15 August 2011



In this issue of GE we have not one but two competitions for you to win some incredible prizes!

To celebrate the contribution of Elizabeth Sladen and Nicholas Courtney to the world of Doctor Who the prize is the newly released Planet of the Spiders DVD courtesy of our wonderful friend and GE News E-zine and Women Talk Sci Fi podcast supporter Warren Jenkins.

Thanks Warren

Our second competition prize is an autograph from Tom Golding of the Doctor Who episode "The Last of the Time Lords" featuring the 10th Doctor and the Master together. From our friend and supporter Andrew Nathan from Flaming Star Collectables who has many rare autographs contact him at flamingstarcollectables@optusnet.com.au

Thanks Andrew

Competition 1 (DVD)

Tell us the name of the first Doctor Who story that Sarah Jane Smith Appears in? The first one picked from the hat will win!

Competition 2 (Autograph)

Tell us in 25 words or less why you would like to own a TARDIS?

Answer by clicking on the link to send email to competition@genews-ezine.com



From Science Fiction to Science Fact!



H.G. Wells

H.G. Wells is another Science Fiction writer who has had some of his predictions about the future come true. Herbert George Wells was born in 1866. Along with Jules Verne and Hugo Gernsback, Wells has been referred to as 'The Father of Science Fiction'.

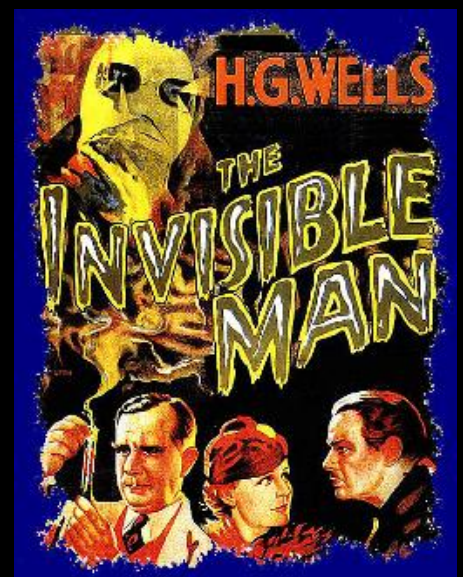
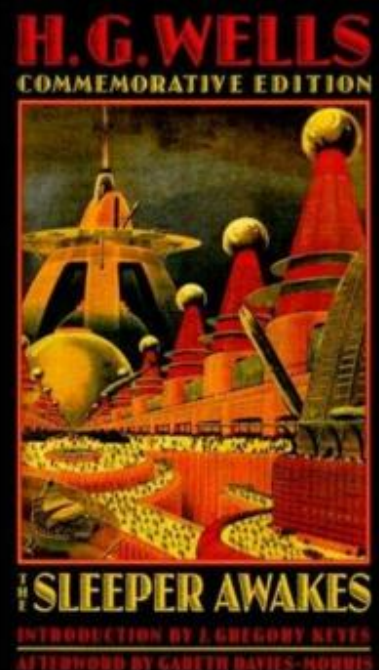
His book *The Sleeper Awakes* written in 1899 is about a man who sleeps for two hundred and three years, waking up in a London he does not recognise. Due to the compound interest on his bank accounts he becomes the richest man in the world. In this novel Wells predicted a number of technological devices that have become a reality, like the air conditioner, video cassette recorder, automatic doors, portable TV sets and armed aircraft.

In 1893 he wrote *The Invisible Man*. The Science Fiction concept of invisibility is one that has been part of many a science and fantasy story e.g. Harry Potter and the invisibility cloak, the Romulan and Klingon cloaking devices on Star Trek.



In February this year Scientists from the University of Birmingham were able to make a paper clip invisible due to a naturally forming crystal called calcite. 'By placing the crystals over an object it 'bounces' light around it rendering it totally invisible to the naked eye.'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/science-news/8296338/Invisibility-cloak-enters-the-real-world.html>



Researchers in Scotland's University of St Andrews are developing a new material that can bend light around itself so that it cannot be seen in the visual spectrum. The material is made up of meta-atoms that have been around for a while but the Scottish scientists have made a breakthrough in the development of a 'flexible film' that uses meta-atoms that is not as rigid as the metamaterials that exist. This means that an invisibility cloak is not impossible.

<http://www.theatlanticwire.com/technology/2010/11/invisibility-cloak-closer-to-reality-sort-of/18510/>



The character of H.G. Wells has also turned up in a number of Sci Fi films and TV series most notably The Time Machine a 1960s movie based on Well's book of the same name where Rod Taylor played H.G. Wells.

In the Doctor Who episode Timelash starring 6th Doctor Colin Baker we find out that the writings of a certain 'George' was influenced by a meeting with a strange time travelling Doctor with a blue box!! Most recently it is revealed that H.G. Wells in Warehouse 13 is in fact a woman (Jaime Murray) by the name of Helena G. Wells who had given her brother Charles all the ideas for writing all the novels under the pen name of H.G. Wells!! Is it a case of Science Fact becomes Science Fiction!

In Memoriam

Gone but Not Forgotten!

A tribute to Nicholas Courtney and Elisabeth Sladen by Eugenia Stopyra



This year we have lost two actors who helped to make Doctor Who a great show during the 70s, that is Nicholas Courtney aka Brigadier Alistair Gordon Lethbridge Stewart and Elisabeth Sladen, Sarah Jane Smith.

Nicholas had a long association with Doctor Who first appearing with William Hartnell (the First Doctor) in the 1965 story 'The Dalek's Masterplan'. His role as Lethbridge Stewart began in 1968 when he had the rank of Colonel in 'The Web of Fear' with Patrick Troughton and then his character was promoted to Brigadier in another Patrick Troughton story 'The Invasion'.



His role as Brigadier came into its own when the third Doctor Jon Pertwee came on the scene as the scientific advisor to UNIT (United Nations Intelligence Taskforce now called Unified Intelligence Taskforce) that was headed by one Lethbridge Stewart.

"Jenkins, chap with the wings there, 5 rounds rapid". (Brigadier: The Daemons)



In total Nicholas Courtney appeared in 107 Doctor Who episodes alongside five doctors, 6 if you count Richard Hurndall who played the First Doctor in 'The Five Doctors', plus Big Finish stories, DVD commentaries, Red Nose specials and Doctor Who documentaries. His last appearance in the Doctor Who world was in the 2008 episode of *The Sarah Jane Adventures* 'Enemy of the Bane' it was intended that he would work with David Tennant in the 'Wedding of Sarah Jane' but he was recovering from a stroke at that time.

I loved the way Nicholas portrayed this character. The Brigadier was well organised, respected by his team and someone you could trust in a crisis. He gave his all to UNIT and even though he found the Doctor very frustrating at times, he supported this strange Timelord in all that he did.

"Just once, I wish we would encounter an alien menace that wasn't immune to bullets." (Brigadier: Robot)



Nicholas was very proud to be associated with Doctor Who attending many conventions and sharing stories about his time on set. There is no doubt that his contribution to the Doctor Who world has been enormous.

"The Doctor Splendid chap all of them". (Brigadier: The Five Doctors)

Liz Sladen was 27 years old when she joined the Doctor Who team as Sarah Jane Smith in 'The Time Warrior' with Jon Pertwee and Nicholas Courtney. From the first episode you could tell that Sarah Jane was a no nonsense, 70s liberated woman who took travelling in time and space meeting strange creatures and aliens in her stride which endeared her to many Whovians, including me.



Liz appeared in 81 classic Who episodes and 4 new Who. Her appearance in the David Tennant's episode 'School Reunion' (one of my favourites) sparked a second more successful spin off *The Sarah Jane Adventures* the first being *K9 and Company*. During her time in the Who universe she also had appeared with five of the Doctors, Jon Pertwee, Tom Baker, Peter Davison, David Tennant and Matt Smith.

As a young child and teenager many of the Doctor's companions had an influence on me, starting with Zoe, the astrophysicist who sometimes out smarted the Doctor, to Liz Shaw the Cambridge professor and then Sarah Jane the feisty, strong willed reporter. They showed me that women could be intelligent, independent individuals. I wanted to travel with the Doctor just as they did and wear pyjama stripped overalls just like Sarah Jane!!



Liz Sladen left the show in 1981 but never left Doctor Who being involved in many Big Finish stories, attending conventions, narrating BBC audio about Doctor Who, numerous DVD commentaries and documentaries.

Her death was a shock to many of us, but her time as Sarah Jane Smith investigative reporter will live on as long as Doctor Who is part of our lives.

THE DOCTOR AND HIS DOG



Finally, in Adelaide we had a Doctor Who Convention and what a convention it was, brought to us by our good friends Jason and Darren from Gifts for the Geek www.giftsforthegeek.com.au. Being in Adelaide it meant that we didn't have to get up at some unearthly hour to catch a plane interstate!!

The guests were the amazing Colin Baker, the 6th Doctor and John Leeson who has been the voice of K9 for over 25 years. With plenty of interest from Doctor Who fans



the convention was just about a full house with some of the fans more than excited to see a Doctor in Adelaide. With the general order of how a convention is run the first order of the day was to get your photograph taken with Colin and John in time for the autograph session later in the day.

After a short break it was Colin on the stage and this is a man with the gift of the gab. He had the audience in laughter telling them about his time on the set and his thoughts about the end of his time with the show. He even tweeted whilst he was on the stage!! If you want to follow his tweets you can find him as *@SawbonesHex*. Why SawbonesHex? You will just have to wait and listen to an upcoming podcast on Women Talk Sci Fi www.womentalkscifi.com where he explains what the handle means. Colin's love for the show past and present is evident. He enjoys watching the rebooted series and is a strong supporter of Matt Smith's talent.

We are also Head Writers for [Trekki Central Magazine](http://TrekkiCentralMagazine) and you can catch our work at Trekki Central as well as some wonderful interviews from both corporate and fan-based film makers.

John Leeson then came onto the stage. He commented that even though he has played K9 and is still playing K9 he is not recognised at all! In fact, at a Doctor Who Convention in the United States he came second in a contest to impersonate K9! The American audience laughed and cheered when it was revealed who he really was. If you want to hear more of the stories John told, catch John on our [Podcast 41 of Women Talk Sci Fi podcast](#). The time went much too quickly before it was time for the Q&A to finish but wait.....there was more!! Colin came back on stage and then both Colin and John spent another half hour telling more stories about Doctor Who. Even though they had never worked together they have developed a

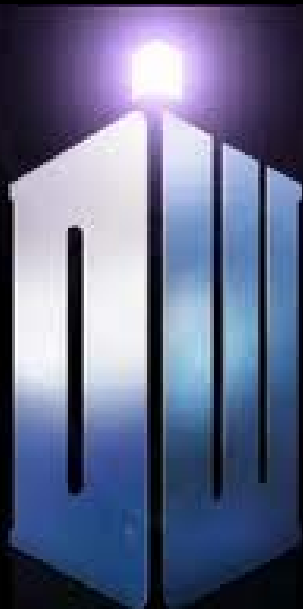


friendship over time as they keep meeting at different conventions around the world.

The day ended with the autograph session and for some lucky attendees a sound byte from K9 to add to the message ring tone of their phone.

It was a real pleasure meeting John and Colin. The memory of this convention will be with us for a long time to come. It is not every day that you get to meet the Doctor and his Dog!



The Doctor Who logo, featuring the words "DOCTOR WHO" in a stylized, metallic, blue font with a glowing effect.

Eugenia

You know sometimes you can get too much of a good thing and I think that is what is happening with Doctor Who at the moment. The series has become too clever for itself! A friend of mine summed up the first part of Series 6 really well, it is like being somewhere and then seeing something out of the corner of your eye, you know you saw it, but you can't quite put your finger on what it was! Yes, I've watched the episodes but I don't understand what is REALLY going on and that is frustrating me, but it is a frustration that borders on the annoying not the adrenalin rush of a great story like 'Blink' or 'The Empty Child'. If Moffat's idea is to stimulate discussion, then he has succeeded but I feel it is at the detriment of losing new viewers to Series 6 and loyal young viewers who are finding these stories frightening and confusing. Matt Smith is playing his part brilliantly but the shine of Amy and Rory in the Tardis is beginning to tarnish. So as I wait for the second half of the series to begin in September it is back to my shelf of Doctor Who DVDs for a recharge (or is regeneration?) of Pertwee, Tennant and occasional Baker stories.

Gerri

It is always with great anticipation that my family awaits a new season of Doctor Who and this one was no exception. This show is one that we all watch and then discuss! What is the theme for the season, where have we seen the creatures before, does any particular episode meet the enjoyment that we gained from our favourite episodes. So does the 6th season of Dr Who meet our expectations? Well yes and no! There were complex plot lines, characters out of their normal behaviour patterns and what was it with Rory who follows Amy around like a puppy on a leash, then leaves her behind to go and look for a woman who he only met minutes before? Why? Some episodes were excellent and in particular "The Doctor's Wife" I loved that one and confirmed that the TARDIS is a thinking, feeling, sentient being! The "Day of the Moon" conclusion to "The Impossible Astronaut" also brought us an interesting new alien and in good old Doctor Who tradition something to make you think about! But (and I hate starting sentences with a 'but') one comment that was made about the last episode after watching was "...well that went over my head!" So, roll on the second part of the season maybe it will all make sense then!

Women Scientists that you might not have heard about!

Lei-Tzu
2700 BCE

Si Ling Chi ~ Lady of the Silk Worm

Si Ling Chi was the creator of silk. A Chinese empress she was having tea in the garden when a silk worm cocoon fell into her tea. Watching it unravel and finding that the thread was very fine she wanted to make a gown of it. She then spent many years developing the processes that today are still complicated even with the use of modern machinery.

The secret of silk was only known to the Chinese for 3000 years with many resorting to smuggling it into other countries. Si Ling Chi not only had to develop the process of taking the thread from the cocoon but also the science of farming the silkworms a process called sericulture.

En Hedu'Anna
2354 BCE

Astronomer Priestess of the Moon Goddess

En Hedu'Anna is the first female name to be recorded in technical history. She is the daughter of Sargon who went on to establish the Sargonian Dynasty about 4000 years ago. She was appointed as the Chief Astronomer Priestess of the Moon Goddess. Her birth name is not known but En Hedu'Anna means "Ornament of Heaven". Whilst there are no technical writings found from her, there are poems that she has left as her legacy. The most famous Exultation of Inanna.

Astronomy and mathematics follow a continuous line from Sumeria to modern times as the sciences began there. She is the last in a long of women's names that are lost to us and the first in a long line who have followed her in this field.

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