



The Wall of Lies



Number 111

Newsletter established 1991, club formed June first 1980

The newsletter of the South Australian Doctor Who Fan Club Inc., also known as **SFSA**

FINAL

Adelaide, March--April 2008

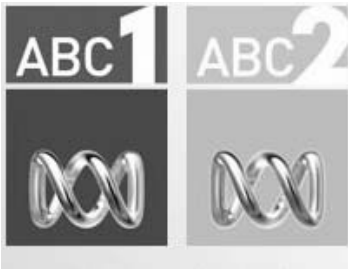
WEATHER: Late heat

Free

ABC brands itself, moo!

by staff writers

Will shuffling the deckchairs save the Titanic?



An Australian Broadcasting Corporation leak of the new television logos shocked parametric equation fans by leaving the Lissajous curve absent. When they were revealed at the launch on February 8 it was back, but the broadcast watermark versions changed a week later. Perhaps in line with Mark Scott's editorial policy and the ABC Board's composition they have become more transparent and shifted heavily to the far right.

But which one was the evil twin?

ABC hopes the changed branding will express its embrace of new media, nod to multiculturalism and increasingly bi-polar disposition.

Doctor Who tapes lost

by staff writers

Even today episodes can go missing.

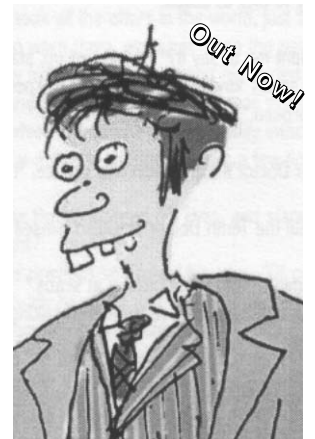
Mystery surrounds the fate of *Doctor Who* screening tapes for 2008, with the ABC and British Broadcasting Corporation disagreeing over who has them.

The BBC report they arrived in the first week of January, and were sent at this time. ABC say they had not received the tapes by time of publication in March.

This recalls the loss of viewing film prints of *The Daleks' Master Plan* in 1966, with the unaired Australian copies including some of the most sought after missing episodes. Three episodes have been recovered, with the other nine and teaser *Mission to the Unknown* probably gone for good.

In that case the film prints were unique, while today the tapes will require very little effort to replace.

☐ Continued Page 2



Chameleon Factor # 80



SFSA magazine # 21/22



Cheney not a crook either, page 2.

It's Paradise, page 4.





Doctor Who tapes lost

□ from Page 1

ABC has elected to use its single repeat rights for the first new series of *Doctor Who* on digital only ABC2. It does not collect ratings for its digital services. The Australian Communications and Media Authority assumed in 2005 that digital uptake would reach 46% this year, however *The Sydney Morning Herald* puts it at a more conservative 30%. The analog switch off has been delayed twice and is now due to occur between 2010 (the cities) and 2012 (the country).

ABC plans to run through the series one repeats to May, then broadcast *Voyage of the Damned* followed by series four as part of their annual Christmas in July promotion. As per last year they regard the Christmas special if it were the first episode of the new series.

Despite not having a premiere date, Network TEN's is licensed to broadcast *Torchwood* series two from March 2008. They have the rights to one repeat and have now confirmed these and series two will be broadcast in high definition digital only, their intended format for science fiction series.



The WR 104 disc spins like a pinwheel.

Sky Watch

Gamma ray death shower

Preservation Issues

White House gap embarrasses again

by staff writers

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The White House announced in February that they are still looking for Vice President Dick Cheney's emails for the week from September 30, 2003, the week the Justice Department's probe into the Plame affair began.

Valerie Plame had her status as a CIA employee revealed to the media by Lewis Libby, Karl Rove, Richard Armitage and possibly other White House figures. Libby received 30 months and the affair has left a question of corruption over the administration. Steven McDevitt, a former White House technician, revealed to Congress how poorly the system had been archived, claiming over 1,000 days worth of email was missing from January 2003 to August 2005.

Some historians regard the last half century of computing as resulting in a modern dark age when even if records are kept they may be technically unreadable within years.

WR 104 is a binary star, both candidate supernovae. One of these is a Wolf Rayet or collapsar star and potential source for a gamma radiation burst. Additionally the star's axis of rotation is up to only 16° offset from Earth, effectively pointing towards us. The current theory for GRBs is that of collapsars, where the core turns into a black hole and the rest of the mass radiates as it is sucked in. The method of burst is only partly understood as the model is not entirely consistent with observation.

The first interstellar gamma ray burst detected was in 1974 by the Vela satellites, intended to monitor terrestrial nuclear explosions. In 1995 Stephen Thorsett published his theory that a nearby burst could be dangerous, and in 2005 scientists at the University of Kansas and NASA speculated that the Ordovician-Silurian extinction 440 million years ago may have been such an event. While there is no evidence, the theory has a burst from within 6,000 light years showering the Earth for as little as ten seconds and damaging the ozone layer. A GRB from a neighbouring star such as Alpha Centauri would vaporise the Earth, however the culprit supernova would achieve this anyway.

The same event is occurring on a larger scale in the galactic cluster 3C321. A supermassive black hole in the centre of a large galaxy is causing a jet of particles and energy to shoot millions of light years from the core at right angles to the disc. A satellite galaxy has swung into the flow, effectively receiving a death ray.



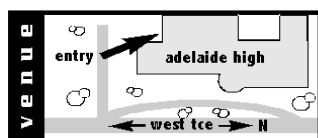
meetings

sfsa: a general science fiction club,
incorporating the **SA Doctor Who Fan Club Inc.**

1ST MEETING FOR NEW AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS FREE!

time: 3pm - 10pm **dates:** 3rd Saturday of every month **15/3, 19/4, 17/5**
cost: entry fees (to cover room hire): **\$3.00** (members) **\$4.00** (non-members)

General Meetings take place on the 3rd Saturday of every month at **Adelaide High School, West Tce, Adelaide** (except for a special December meeting). We view videos, play games and enjoy the company of others who share the same interests. **Monthly "Pub" Meetings** and **regular movie outings** are also frequently held. For info, please contact the club or check out our website on www.sfsa.org.au



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Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that the contents of the newsletter is accurate at the time of printing, SFSA cannot accept any liability for inaccuracies that may appear. Meeting details are subject to change at short notice.

**Doctor Who on ABC-2
8:30 PM Friday**

February- May 2008

Series one (repeats)

- ~ Rose 29/2/2008
- ~ The End of the World 7/3/08
- ~ The Unquiet Dead 14/3/08
- ~ Aliens of London 21/3/08
- ~ World War Three 28/3/08
- ~ Dalek 4/4/08
- ~ The Long Game 11/4/08
- ~ Father's Day 18/4/08
- ~The Empty Child 25/4/08
- ~ The Doctor Dances 2/5/08
- ~ Boom Town 9/5/08
- ~ Bad Wolf 16/5/08
- ~ The Parting of the Ways
23/5/08

Check local or daily listings.

Fandom

Double Gammas

The Australian Doctor Who Fan Award

Nominations close March 31st

Details at www.sfsa.org.au.

Club

Publications

Chameleon Factor # 81
Theme: Our Doctor Who year book.

SFSA # 23
Theme: Things we have rejected until now!

Membership

Annual membership rates are \$15. This entitles you to one year's subscription to the club's publications: bimonthly *The Wall of Lies* and *SFSA* magazine, and the *Doctor Who* themed yearbook *Chameleon Factor*. Also included are discounted entry fees to SFSA meetings, and discounts at various stores around Adelaide.

Discounts

Pulp Fiction
10% off comics and graphic novels

Events

March 15 General meeting 3 to 10pm
Venue: Adelaide High School
Cost: \$3 members/\$4 others

April 5 Pub meeting 5.00pm
Venue: The Buckingham Arms

April 19 General meeting 3 to 10pm
Venue: Adelaide High School
Cost: \$3 members/\$4 others

May 3 Pub meeting 5.00pm
Venue: The Buckingham Arms

May 17 General meeting 3 to 10pm
Venue: Adelaide High School
Cost: \$3 members/\$4 others



Panel from Tim Howe's *The Master's Dalek Plan*, *Chameleon Factor* 41.

The Wall of Lies

Issue 51 February/March 98

It Won't Be Cheap...

Gallifrey 98, a *Doctor Who* convention held in the US in February, has yielded an insight into the chances of the show's return to the screen. Attendees asked Stephen Cole, the BBC Worldwide employee in charge of all their *Doctor Who* merchandise, if the rumours that quite a few production houses were interested in acquiring the rights to produce new *Doctor Who* were true. Cole replied in the affirmative and added that nothing could be done about any of those bids until Universal Television's rights expired at the end of the last year.

The oft-made suggestion that the show return to its low budget origins was dismissed as unlikely by Cole, and he said that BBC Worldwide considers the show has too much profit potential for them to enter a deal to make new episodes on a shoestring budget.

Stephen Cole also told the audience at Gallifrey 98 that if a new series were to be made, BBC Worldwide would probably insist that the show target a more "family" audience that some of the novels of the recent past.

The question of whether or not Paul McGann would return to the role of the Doctor seems to have been answered. Although previous claims that "fan attention, particularly female" had put McGann off were countered when he met with a group of fans in February. McGann told UK paper *The Independent* in March that he considered his time in the role was over. "I gave it my best shot," he said, "Now I'm going to move over and someone else will take it on. Lucky them."



24th Season review

Subscription due if a red dot appears in this box

Marc Hudson

JNT's 7th (!) season as producer is a mixed bag. We have the adequate Sylvester McCoy smoothly introduced in a story which unfortunately had scientific impossibilities at its core and 'scientific' jargon and doubletalk quickly delivered as the Rani's motive. Not good enough Pip and Jane. Kate O'Mara however, was excellent – as Mel.

Supporting characters were bland and oh-so predictable, the lighting dark and the sets effects and locales what we're come to expect.

But 'Time and the Rani' is an all time classic compared to...to IT! Clues: It had a psychotic architect, a pool bound lobster, homicidal grannies from *Arsenic and Old Lace*, a failed Dalek, Kangs (squealing pubescent girls), missing tweenies, a yo-yo lift, endlessly numbered caretakers and most of all a lamppost holding 3 year old's excuse for Rambo. Him. The Thing. Pex AAAAAAARGH! Not one aspect of this infantile mishmash worked, and I can only speak for the first episode and some assorted 'scenes'. This is not *'Doctor Who'*, people, this is puerile vomit. Why weren't the perpetrators of this lined up and shot? How did it see the light of day?



Front cover of Chameleon Factor 41.

Enough said. Glossing over 'Delta and the Bannermen' which I'm told and believe – is dreadful, a cash in on 50s/60s nostalgia, we come to the surprisingly good (relatively speaking) 'Dragonfire'.

If some one explains how Ace got to Ice World I'll ignore the fact it was a blatant *Aliens* and Hand of Fear ripoff with other borrowed bits tacked on. As tele-drama goes it had its moments. Glitz wasn't up to much but Cain, his treacherous servants and Ace made it all enjoyable. In fact I think Cain was great and his demise the best ever. Suicide was perfectly logical. Not bad!

Mel's departure was badly staged and acted, but who's complaining? She (the stand stock-still screamer) went, didn't she? And don't come back! Bonnie Langford's talents were wasted as Mel. Ace will hopefully be a better companion but the leap at the end was a little disconcerting. Not ANOTHER airhead?

At least the season finished on a relativity high note, for the first time in aeons and if Mr. McCoy can lower his voice an octave or two (no more ferrets Sylvester!!) he may have a long and successful run as our favourite Time Lord. Here's hoping.

But this will only happen if, as rumoured (again), JNT leaves and we get 26 episode seasons. 14 ones make no impact.

And the sets and lighting from story to story must look different!

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