

# DOCTOR WHO

## THE WEB PLANET

### CHAPTER POINTS

1. PART ONE: The Web Planet
2. Some Strange Phenomenon
3. A Bit Medieval
4. Perfectly Simple Explanation
5. Noises Are Messages
6. End Credits
7. PART TWO: The Zarbi
8. Who Are You?
9. Strange Lights
10. Organic Matter
11. Smash The Crystals
12. End Credits
13. PART THREE: Escape To Danger
14. Crater Of Needles
15. Going To Find Barbara
16. A Recording Compound
17. How Far?
18. End Credits
19. PART FOUR: Crater Of Needles
20. My Calculations Are Complete
21. The Spearhead
22. You Will Be Dealt With
23. It Is Too Late
24. End Credits
25. PART FIVE: The Invasion
26. A Temple Of Light
27. We Have No Choice
28. A Mock Attack
29. We Go Up
30. End Credits
31. PART SIX: The Centre
32. We Must Succeed
33. Aliens In Control
34. Escape Is Impossible
35. The Light Is Good
36. End Credits



### Playing Your DVD

If you experience any video or audio problems with this DVD, please check that your DVD player and television are properly connected in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions. Before inserting the DVD into your DVD player, please check that the surface of the DVD is clean and free from scratches.

BBC  
VIDEO

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Although *Doctor Who's* first season had been well received by the viewing public, it was really only the iconic Daleks that had captured children's imaginations. For the show's second season, a rematch with the Daleks was planned early on, but still the production team hoped that they could achieve the same degree of popularity with other alien creatures.

When writer Bill Strutton was a young child, he witnessed a fierce fight between rival factions of ants, only to be badly bitten by both protagonists when he tried to intervene. Inspired by this recollection, he suggested a story about battling insect factions to the *Doctor Who* production team, who straight away hoped that the idea might provide them with an alien race that could match the Daleks for popularity.

The Web Planet was a truly brave and bold move for the series. Strutton's story of a battle between insects on a far-off alien planet was an idea that less-confident production teams would have perhaps passed on, but the idea was approached with vigor and enthusiasm. For the first – and only – time in *Doctor Who's* history the only human characters in the story were the regular cast. Every other character seen on-screen was alien. And what a selection of aliens Strutton came up with! Zarbi, Menoptera, Optera, Venom Grubs and the mysterious Animus.

One of the main limiting factors for the story at the time was the requirement to record an episode a week. Sets and costumes which were new and shiny for the first week tended to quickly deteriorate after being taken down or put away, then reused and re-set a number of times. This became all too apparent with the Zarbi props, as they got more and more fragile and creakier as the weeks progressed. It also meant that when members of the regular cast were given time off to go on holiday, their characters tended to vanish from the narrative for weeks at a time – as does Jacqueline Hill's Barbara in the third episode of this tale.

THE WILLIAM HARTNELL YEARS 1963-1966

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VIDEO

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### COMMENTARY BY

WILLIAM RUSSELL, VERITY LAMBERT, RICHARD MARTIN AND MARTIN JARVIS, MODERATED BY GARY RUSSELL



Before *Doctor Who*, William Russell was best known for his portrayal of Sir Lancelot in the TV series *The Adventures of Sir Lancelot* (1956/7). Russell's portrayal of Chemistry teacher Ian Chesterton proved an ideal foil for William Hartnell's Doctor, and his time with the series stretched from the first episode, *An Unearthly Child*, in 1963 through to the Dalek story *The Chase* in 1965. After leaving *Doctor Who*, Russell found himself in constant demand on stage and screen, appearing in productions as diverse as *Coronation Street* and Royal Shakespeare Company plays.



Verity Lambert was chosen by BBC Head of Drama, Sydney Newman, to be *Doctor Who*'s first producer, after she had worked with him as a production secretary on *Armchair Theatre* at ABC. After working for two years on *Doctor Who*, she moved on to produce *Adam Adamant Lives!* Leaving the BBC for freelance work, she became either producer or executive producer on a number of British TV's most significant and acclaimed programmes. Her credits include *The Naked Civil Servant*, *Rock Follies*, *Quatermass, Minder*, *The Flame Trees of Thika*, *GBH*, *Sleepers*, *Boys from the Bush*, *Eldorado* and *Jonathan Creek*. She was awarded the OBE in January 2002 in recognition of her services to film and television.



Richard Martin began his TV career as an actor, before moving into directing in the 1960s. Along with Christopher Barry, he co-directed the Daleks for their first on-screen appearance in *The Daleks* (1963), which made him an ideal choice to direct *The Dalek Invasion of Earth*, their second TV adventure. He would return to *Doctor Who* to direct the Daleks a third time in *The Chase* (1965), and was also behind the camera for the story *The Web Planet* (1965). Away from *Doctor Who*, his directing work for television has included episodes of *Thirty Minute Theatre* and *Elizabeth R*.



Martin Jarvis perhaps best known for his role in the 1970s sitcom *Rings on Their Fingers*. This established him as a familiar TV favourite, and bought him roles in programmes such as *Enemy at the Door* and *Juliet Bravo*. As his film and TV work progressed, he also got more involved in radio and spoken word productions, forming a production company specialising in this medium with his wife, actress Rosalind Ayres. However, his first TV role as an actor saw him dressed as a giant moth in the *Doctor Who* story *The Web*

*Planet*, a part that he still holds with a lot of affection. He would return to the series to play Butler in the Jon Pertwee story *Invasion of the Dinosaurs* (1974), and the Governor of Varos in the Colin Baker story *Vengeance on Varos* (1985). Martin Jarvis was awarded an OBE in 2000 in recognition of his services to acting.

Gary Russell has written a number of *Doctor Who* books, was one-time editor of *Doctor Who Magazine*, and is one of the main driving forces behind Big Finish, who produce a regular series of *Doctor Who* audio plays.

### TALES OF ISOP

Many of the original cast and crew recall the making of this story. Featuring contributions from William Russell (Ian), Maureen O'Brien (Vicki), Martin Jarvis (Hilio), Verity Lambert (Producer), Richard Martin (Director), John Wood (Designer) and Sonia Markham (Make-up).

### THE LAIR OF ZARBI SUPREMO

William Russell reads the short story from the first *Doctor Who Annual*, which sees the Doctor return to face the Zarbi on Vortis.

### THE DOCTOR WHO ANNUAL

In the 1960s and 70s, the *Doctor Who Annual* was published every year in time for the Christmas market, and made an excellent stocking-filler! Now many of the early annuals are collectors' items. The first ever *Doctor Who Annual* from 1965 is presented on this DVD in its entirety. (DVD-ROM only – to be viewed on PC / Mac)

### SPANISH SOUNDTRACK

*Doctor Who* was widely sold abroad in the 1960s – often dubbed into a foreign language. The final episode of this story is presented with an option to view it with a Spanish soundtrack. (With thanks to Colin Young)

### GIVE-A-SHOW SLIDES

A popular toy of the 1960s and 70s was the Chad Valley Give-a-Show Projector, where images from cartoon slides could be projected onto a wall or screen. A set of *Doctor Who* slides was released in 1965, based on *The Web Planet*, and are reproduced on this DVD. (With thanks to Colin Young)

### PRODUCTION SUBTITLES

Subtitles provide the viewer with cast details, script development and other information related to the production of *The Web Planet*. This gives the viewer further insight into the making of this adventure.

### PHOTO GALLERY

A selection of rare and previously unpublished photographs from the recording of *The Web Planet* are included.



THIS DVD CONTAINS SEVERAL SPECIAL BONUS FEATURES

