

doctor who the complete history

Doctor Who: The Complete History

Doctor Who, the iconic British science fiction television series, has captivated audiences since its initial broadcast on November 23, 1963. Created by the BBC, it has become a cultural phenomenon, leaving an indelible mark on television history and science fiction storytelling. With its unique premise of time travel, a vast array of characters, and imaginative narratives, Doctor Who has transcended generations, appealing to viewers of all ages. This article delves into the complete history of Doctor Who, exploring its inception, evolution, key characters, and cultural impact.

The Birth of Doctor Who

Doctor Who was born out of a desire for a family-friendly science fiction program that would captivate children and adults alike. The original concept was developed by Sydney Newman, C. E. Webber, and Donald Wilson. Key points in the creation of the show include:

1. Conceptualization: Initially, the idea was to create a program that would educate viewers about history and science through time travel.
2. The TARDIS: The Doctor's time machine, the TARDIS (Time and Relative Dimension in Space), was designed to resemble a British police box, an easily recognizable symbol of 1960s Britain.
3. Casting the First Doctor: William Hartnell was cast as the First Doctor, a gruff yet kind-hearted Time Lord with a mysterious background.

The show premiered with "An Unearthly Child," introducing viewers to the Doctor, his granddaughter Susan, and her teachers, Ian and Barbara. The pilot set the stage for what would become a groundbreaking series.

The Early Years (1963-1989)

The classic era of Doctor Who spanned from 1963 to 1989, a period characterized by remarkable storytelling and the introduction of various beloved characters.

The First Doctor to the Fourth Doctor

- William Hartnell (First Doctor): Hartnell's portrayal established the Doctor as a complex character, combining wisdom with eccentricity. He ran for 26 episodes before regenerating into the Second Doctor.
- Patrick Troughton (Second Doctor): Troughton's Doctor was more playful and comedic but still carried a sense of gravity. He introduced new companions and a more diverse range of stories.

- Jon Pertwee (Third Doctor): Pertwee's era saw the Doctor becoming more action-oriented, often working with the military organization UNIT. His tenure included iconic stories like "The Daemons."
- Tom Baker (Fourth Doctor): Baker's flamboyant style and iconic scarf made him a favorite among fans. His run included some of the most beloved episodes, such as "Genesis of the Daleks."

The Companion Phenomenon

The Doctor's companions play a crucial role in the series, helping to ground the fantastical elements and providing a relatable perspective for viewers. Some notable companions from the classic era include:

- Sarah Jane Smith (Elisabeth Sladen): One of the most beloved companions, she later starred in her own spin-off series.
- Leela (Louise Jameson): A warrior woman from a primitive society who brought a different dynamic to the show.
- Romana (Mary Tamm and Lalla Ward): A Time Lady who traveled with the Fourth Doctor, showcasing intelligence and resourcefulness.

The Wilderness Years (1990-2004)

After the show's cancellation in 1989, Doctor Who entered a period known as the "Wilderness Years." Despite a lack of regular programming, the franchise continued to thrive through various media:

- Novelizations: A series of novels expanded on the Doctor Who universe, allowing fans to explore new stories.
- Audio Dramas: Productions by Big Finish Productions brought back classic Doctors and companions in original audio adventures.
- Television Movie (1996): A TV movie starring Paul McGann as the Eighth Doctor attempted to revive the series but failed to gain sufficient traction.

During this time, the fan base remained active, and the show's legacy continued to grow.

The New Era (2005-Present)

In 2005, Doctor Who was successfully revived by showrunner Russell T Davies, bringing the series into the modern era with updated production values and storytelling methods.