

SAVE THE DOCTOR!

Britian's longest running science fiction series - DOCTOR WHO - is in danger of being cancelled. DOCTOR WHO currently runs on PBS in this country - Georgia Public TV in this area.

Please write a POLITE letter to one of the following people expressing your interest in the show NOT being cancelled. International postage is 44 cents for one-half ounce.

Sponsored by EUREKA! a DR WHO fanzine.

Michael Grade
Controller of Programming BBC
White City
London W12, England

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Alisdair Milne
Director General, BBC
White City
London W12, England

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EUREKA!

VOL 1, NO. 2

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This zine is devoted to DOCTOR WHO, the longest running British SF series.

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NOTE: any unsigned articles are by editor

EUREKA! is a fanzine devoted to DOCTOR WHO. Since the Doctor doesn't keep a schedule, neither will this fanzine...it will come out when it comes out. EUREKA! is available by editor's whim or the usual (a letter of comment or a zine in trade) or a self-addressed, stamped (business-size, please. I can't stuff this zine in a little personal-size one very-well!) envelope for as long as EUREKA! is light enough for one stamp (first class), no subscriptions. Contributions are gratefully accepted, but not necessarily used. I am looking for original articles and illos on any aspect of DOCTOR WHO. No poetry (other than limerics) or fan fiction, please. I am also looking for reviews of WHOcons, products, books, etc. Articles longer than one page single spaced (or two pages double spaced) or hand-written will NOT be considered unless prior arrangements have been made with the editor.

ADVENTURE IN WHODOM

I've been a fan for years. Not years and years, but years, and not simply a DOCTOR WHO fan, but a science fiction fan, who dove into the miasma of fandom with typer and hopes in hand. DOCTOR WHO was a childhood memory; I had no idea the Doctor was still around. So I was an SF fan who wrote magazines, a clubzine, a gazette and participated in clubs and conventions throughout the South.

I've slowed my fan activities to a trickle in recent years (another story), but I'm still interested in Good Times and SMOFFing now and again.

I've also never been one to sit around and hope that things will eventually be done. To that end, I decided to Do Something when I heard my favorite TV show was in trouble.

The first hint that something was wrong was voiced during the local Festival '95 PBS fund raising. During a break, one of the members of Terminus Tardis (the Atlanta affiliation of the Companions of DOCTOR WHO) made a small announcement about the BBC's plans to put the Doctor on hiatus for 18 months and then decide if the show would continue.

I was floored by the announcement.

Later that week I received TWO DOCTOR WHO publications (both on the same day, no less) that repeated the information and addresses of the BBC people in England. I wanted to do more than just write a letter; I decided to start a local campaign (a la SAVE STAR TREK and SAVE LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE) and reach fans who may not have seen the announcement or have copies of the addresses.

Despite the idea striking on finals week, I put together a flier with the info and multiple copies of the addresses for distribution in the community.

The first place I put up fliers was my college - Chattanooga State. I spent a morning stapling them on bulletin boards and dropping a few by the local PBS station.

The next week classes resumed and I forgot to check on my fliers to see if they had been (a) taken down, (b) noticed and addresses were missing, or (c) ignored. After a quick look around one building, I noticed all three options had been exercised at different boards, but one flier had a choice I hadn't expected - it had a message of its own in it!

The message was that a DOCTOR WHO club was planning to form, a Chattanooga branch of Atlanta's Terminus Tardis, no less! A name and phone number were given for those interested in more info.

Intrigued, I copied down the name and number penciled on the flier and decided to give the person a call. It could be something interesting.

As it turns out, but was interesting, but not in the way I anticipated.

Later that afternoon, I dialed the number and talked to the person who had put the message on my flier. He explained that he and others on the local computer bulletin board watched DOCTOR WHO and talked about starting a club. They were waiting to see if the BBC would renew the Doctor, because if DOCTOR WHO went off the air, then they wouldn't start a club. The feeling was that no one would be interested in joining a fan club for a TV series which had been cancelled (providing no new adventures), since that after viewing an episode two or three times DOCTOR WHO was boring. I pointed out that having a limited number of adventures didn't stop the STAR TREK people. He didn't have anything to say to that and didn't seem very interested in the fact that there are over twenty years of DOCTOR WHO adventures.

He also didn't seem aware that there was any sort of fan activity. He said they might form a Chattanooga branch of the Terminus Tardis, but didn't mention the Companions of DOCTOR WHO, which is the umbrella organization. He also didn't have any idea of what sort of activities a club could have if it did form. He vaguely mentioned he had contacted the Atlanta people, but hadn't attended a convention and wasn't involved in fandom. The only people he knew who were interested in a club were on the computer bulletin board and a 18 year-old who "knew all about the Doctor" as he had almost a hundred of the series novelizations. I declined his offer of the youngster's phone number.

I was heartened by his ambition to form a club when he hadn't the faintest idea where to start. However, I was unimpressed with his lack of ideas and drive. At this point, most fans with previous experience in fandom or fans interested in DOCTOR WHO, probably would have said thank you and hung up. But not me. I had an ulterior motive. I was interested to know what he thought about the fliers I had put up.

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The text of the flier is on the front cover and, as you are reading this zine, you know what "Sponsored by EUREKA! a DR WHO fanzine" means. I decided to put the publication of the flier under the auspices of EUREKA! for reasons that still mystify even me. Also for reasons obscure to myself and the world at large. I was interested in the reactions of others. Maybe I could drum up some articles or whatever. I suppose that I thought it might become a rallying point for other hard-core DOCTOR WHO fans like myself.

So I innocently asked him about the flier. He had to admit that it mystified him - at first. But he had done some deep thinking and 'research'.

At first, he thought it might be the vacuum cleaner company, but rejected it. After all, why would a vacuum cleaner company be interested DOCTOR WHO to the extent of put up posters? But this question was not to plague him for long; he put it to the experts on the computer bulletin board (and undoubtedly, the 13 year-old) and got the answer.

EUREKA! (according to these experts) is a dry food company which is donating lots of money to CH 18 (this is the Chatsworth satellite station of Georgia Public TV - Georgia's public TV is state wide - which shows DOCTOR WHO locally) to keep DOCTOR WHO on the air. I never would have been able to keep a straight face if I had been talking to him face to face. As it was, I was almost rolling on the floor. He earnestly assured me this was true; people in the know had told him so. "But that possible interest would a dry food company have in DOCTOR WHO?" I asked. He didn't have an answer to that, but that explanation about EUREKA! seemed to be enough to satisfy him.

I decided to get out while the getting was good, so I politely thanked him and wished him luck with any possible club that might be formed.

Heavy sigh! It was quite a conversation, but now I'm left with a mystery...what is dry food?

Segments of Time

The major news that has rocks DOCTOR WHO fandom is that the BBC is planning a break of 18 months in the filming of DOCTOR WHO, and may not renew the series after that time. There are a great many variations on that story, but it all boils down to the same thing - DOCTOR WHO is in danger of being cancelled.

I've read a lot of discussion on what to do and whether or not letters and/or money will do any good. My suggestion is to keep a positive frame of mind and write polite letters saying how much you enjoy the Doctor and how much you'd like to see the program continue. Like chicken soup, it couldn't hurt!

Of all the write ups I've read, the most interesting was the one in the NUMBER 95 issue (June '85) of STARLOG. Titled, "Doctor: In Distress", the article gives a short outline that Whofans have become familiar with. The additional material is the interesting part.

Following the lead of so many other causes, British Whofolk and fans have made a single entitled, "Doctor in Distress". The main intent of the single is to raise money for a British charity for cancer. The secondary intent is to focus public attention (and thereby public pressure) to the possible cancellation of DOCTOR WHO.

The groups included on the single are The Moody Blues, Ultravox, Mucks Fiss, Matt Bianco and Time UK. Among the individuals on the record are several WHO actors including Colin Baker (the current Doctor), Nicola Bryant (the current companion - Peri Brown), Anthony Ainley (the Master), Nicholas Courtney (the Brigadier), and Faith Brown (a new cast member).

According to STARLOG, the record will be available through the Doctor Who Fan Club of America (P. O. Box 6024, Denver, Co 80206). My suggestion is to look for it at the large WHOcons that will be going on this summer.

As the Master said in "The Five Doctors", "A cosmos without the Doctor. It scarcely bears thinking about". I hope we can Save the Doctor.

KEYS TO TIME -- THE MAIL BAG

The letters are few and far between, but I did get a letter from another DOCTOR WHO organization. Please note that all the letters are edited for length and clarity by the editor. All my comments are in double parentheses with a star.

Gwen M. Fields
The Gallifreyan Consulate
P.O. Box 772481
Houston, TX 77215-2481

Thanks for sending us your publication. ...

You mentioned on page 2 of EUREKA! that you got to see a couple of early episodes of William Hartnell--that's great. I wish I'd been introduced to Doctor Who at a much earlier age, and had been able to see some of the early episodes (especially those which are missing now). Starting in October of this year, (thanks to many requests by Consulate members), Houston's local PBS station began showing Doctor Who. They bought the entire Tom Baker package, and they show the series at 9 P.M. on Saturday nights, one entire episode (all parts) at once.

While at UpperSouthClave - a relaxation by Bowling Green, KY fans held in February in Cave City, KY - I ran into some DOCTOR WHO fans who had a little DOCTOR WHO festival during the con. One tape was the original William Hartnell PILOT episode and following it was the original first Doctor Who adventure. I assume they got the first adventure from someone in England while BBC was rerunning classic DOCTOR WHO during the long break between Tom Baker and Peter Davison. But the pilot...I couldn't guess. And, yes, the first DOCTOR WHO was as good as I remembered it!)

Also, I enjoyed reading the reviews of the books "Doctor Who Special" (or rather, "D.W.S." is more of a magazine), and "Doctor Who--A Celebration".

If you would like to print it in your "Keys to Time" column, the following is some information about the Consulate.

Our full name and address is--The Gallifreyan Consulate, P.O.Box 772481, Houston, TX 77215-2481. Membership is \$8.50 a year for individuals, and if more than one person is in the same household wants to join, one person pays \$8.50 and the others pay

\$1 each. Members receive 12 issues of our monthly newsletter (copy sent per address), and each new member receives a Gallifreyan Passport.

We were formed during the summer of 1980 in Houston, Texas, and we were sanctioned by the BBC. Even though we are Houston-based, we welcome members wherever they might live.

Every month we publish our newsletter: THE SONIC SCREWDRIIVER. It prints articles, news, poems, games, reviews, puzzles, and artwork on the Doctor's and his companions. At least once a year, we publish our fanzine: THE GALLIFREYAN DISPATCHES. The DISPATCHES includes fan fiction, artwork, poems, and views on the various Doctors and their companions. Both the SONIC SCREWDRIIVER and THE GALLIFREYAN DISPATCHES welcome submissions from members and non-members alike.

In 1982 we made a Doctor Who movie called "The Wizard of IS." It runs 45 minutes long. It was shown at MysteryKon in 1982. Each year we go as a club to at least one major Houston convention to meet new people and to raise money for club projects.

Well, I guess that about wraps it up. Thanks again for sending us your premier issue.

((*After reading this letter, I almost wish I lived in Houston! In terms of fandom, there is only one convention that is held in Chattanooga each year; must be nice to have a choice of many. I hope that the Gallifreyan Consulate will travel to Austin, TX for the North American major convention (the name escapes me) as the WorldCon is in Australia this year. I also hope you'll make some major con outside of Texas; I'd love to meet you and see your film!*))

Stephen J. Cobert
UT Box 16048
Knoxville, TN 37996

Thanks very much for the copy of your fanzine. Despite a couple of years as a Whovian, let alone past experiences as a Trekkie (yes, I know...), I am a little vague as to what kind of articles would go well in a fanzine. Local news? Self-written reviews and editorials? Copies of other, published reviews and news? ...

((*Well, I'm looking for all you mention in the way of original

work as it would not involve getting permission (which one should get) in order to reprint. Yes, I'm looking for reviews! Yes, I'm looking for articles on anything related to Doctor Who. Later in your letter you give an example. The only thing I'm NOT looking for is fan fiction. I don't have enough funds to publish anything that long. So send in those articles and art! And, yes, I was very vague. Sorry about that!*)

((*The Knoxville Doctor Who Fan Club is trying to work out some problems with the local PBS station.)) ...To wit: WSJK, ch 2, is only showing the Tom Baker episodes of Doctor Who. This is not the greatest tragedy, but after four reruns even Tom Baker can get repetitive to some people. (This opinion is NOT necessarily shared by the writer of this letter!) The people in charge of CH 2 have explained that Lionheart is asking considerably more for the new episodes that they are able to pay. Recent strong turnouts during pledge drives in 1984 did not result in the promised new episodes coming through; this writer is pretty sure the first 1985 pledge drive suffered for this reason. I have talked to both groups, fan club members and television big-wigs, and it looks like there is a serious rift of understanding. Stay tuned....

A fellow Rockyaholic (that's as in the "....Horror Picture Show"...). Karen Humphrey, was kind enough to tape "Resurrection of the Daleks" ((*a Peter Davison story*)) for the Knoxville club, even though she herself is not a fan of the show. A tip of the hat to her from all Knoxville fans.

((*Featuring adventures of different Doctors is a terrific program item for a club. I noticed the Terminus Tardis also shows episodes of DANGER MOUSE, a British cartoon currently featured on Nickelodeon cable channel. In one episode, the Doctor is referred to' I was nearly bowled over when I heard it and made sure I taped it the next time it was on. "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" has been a favorite of mine for ages...well, at least since it came out.**)

By the way, the reference on the envelope is to the RHPS, in which Transexual is the name of the planet where Frank N. Furter and the other Transylvanians come from. (Transylvania is the name of the planet galaxy.) The idea came from a bit of fiction from the the December issue of ROCKY HORROR SHOP TALK titled "Is Gallifrey Anywhere Near Transexual?" by Gabriel Theriot. In it, the Doctor, Romana (#2), and K9 interrupt the proceedings near the end of the Show by appearing just after Frankie captures Brad, Janet and Dr. Scott with the Sonic Transducer. Interested?

((*Yes and I want to know what ROCKY HORROR SHOP TALK is and how to get it. I didn't realize there was a crossover in the two fandoms. I was in a RHPS orientated apa for a short time several years ago. One could do a piece on the Doctor in relation to RHPS, after all they have the same British accent!*))

It seems I've written this whole letter and not told you how much I liked the first issue of EUREKA!, so let me tell you that now. In fact, it really made my day.

((*Thanks for your letter, Steve. It really made my day!*))

I decided to get a zine out before Dixie Trek and hope to have a con report in the next issue. Anyone who has a con report of Dixie Trek (or any other WHDcon) is invited to send one in. I'llos are, of course, always welcome.

Thanks again to Dick Lynch, the Knoxville Doctor Who club (who listed me in their zine Callbox), Debbie Grisham and Dorothy Tompkins for their support and the Terminus Tardis.

EUREKA!
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