

... goes behind the scenes



the making of a BBC Television programme

DOCTOR WHO



For more than 20 years, millions of children – and adults – from all over the world have followed the adventures of the Doctor as he travels through time and space in the Tardis.

But how does a popular drama serial like Doctor Who arrive on your television screen . . . ?

1 The Planning Stage

The planning of a programme takes far longer than most people realise. One half-hour episode of *Doctor Who*, for example, will take several months to complete.

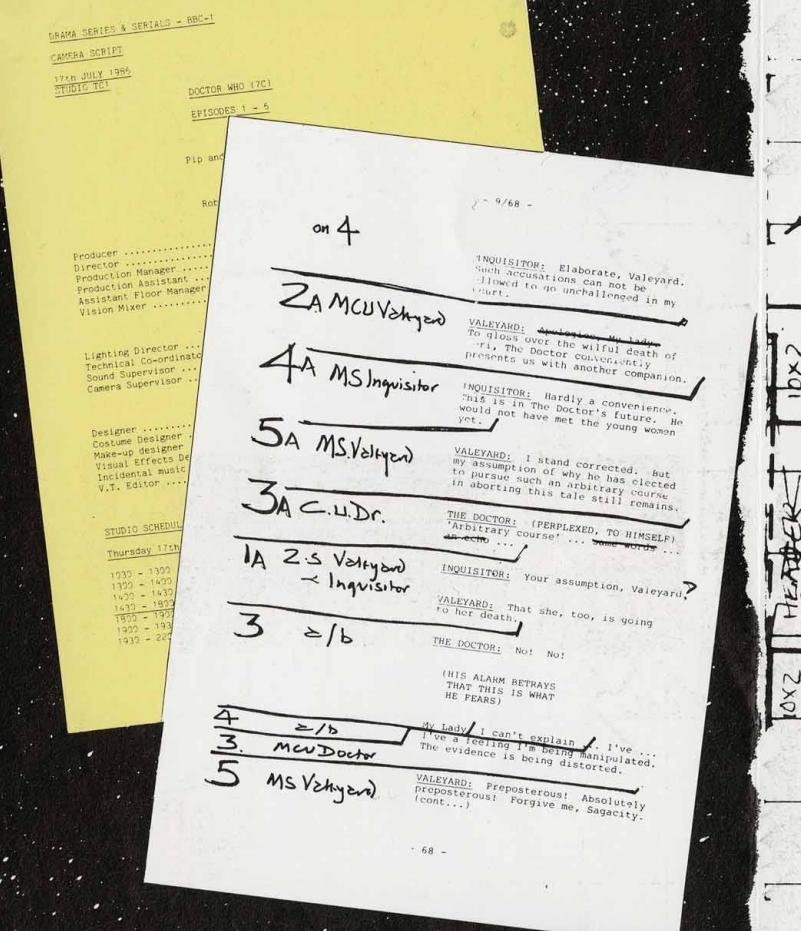
The Producer's Role

The key person in any production is the producer. The producer commissions and discusses the script with the writers and, based on this, a programme budget is drawn up. This will tell everybody concerned exactly how much they can spend on such items as set design, costumes, actors' fees and visual effects.



The Director's Role

Before the programme is recorded, the director writes a camera script which breaks down the original story into a number of different camera shots and indicates which of the cameras in the studio will take each one. With the producer, the director chooses the cast and works closely with them, as well as the design team and camera, sound and lighting technicians in the studio.



2 Design And Special Effects

The designer prepares detailed scale drawings and models of the sets and then arranges for the scenery to be built.



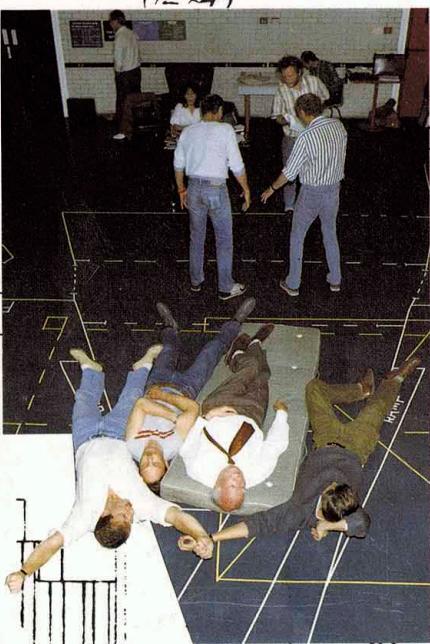
Explosions, fires, electronics wizardry, robots – it's all in a day's work for visual effects designers. For the character, Sil, the shape was formed by using latex and foam built up on a sculpture. To make the sculpture, a plaster life-cast was taken of the actor.

Characters like Sil provide special challenges for the make-up designer, but all characters – like Bonnie Langford, who plays the Doctor's assistant, Melanie – need making-up.

3

Rehearsals

The director rehearses the cast for about two weeks in the BBC's own rehearsal rooms. The floor of the rehearsal room is divided into squares which correspond to squares in the recording studio. The strips of white tape on the floor indicate the shape of the set.



In The Studio

In the television studio more than 200 lights hang from the high ceiling. Lighting a production can be complicated, and the lighting director uses a computer to achieve the right effects quickly.



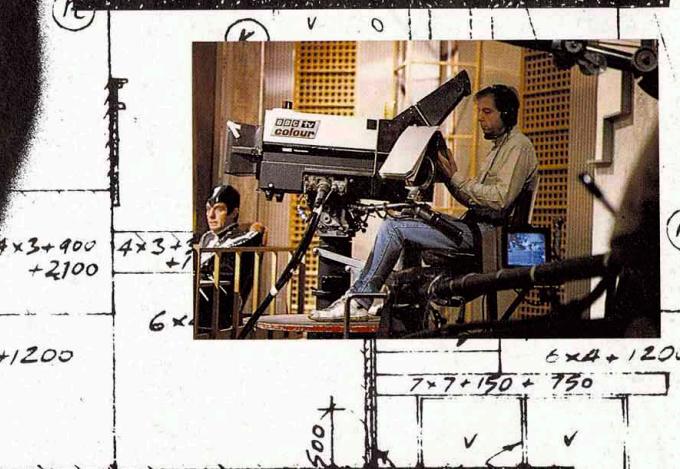
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BRONZE.
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On the studio floor, the production (or floor) manager is in charge and will make sure that everybody and everything is in position.

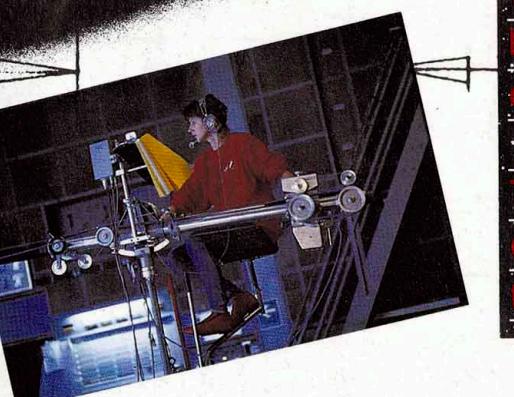
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Camera operators work from camera cards which describe their individual shots.



The sound operator uses an extendable pole called a boom to direct the microphone over the heads of the actors.



The production manager and the sound and camera operators all wear headphones (or 'cans') which link them to the director.

TRUE ELEVATION THRU V-V 1503

PAINTERS NOTES: (ELEV. A-A)

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4



The Gallery

High above the studio is the control room, known as the **Gallery**, which is divided into sound, lighting and production areas.

In the production area, the director sits behind a mass of coloured buttons and switches, facing a stack of TV monitors. The picture from each camera on the studio floor is displayed on a separate monitor, while at the top of the stack a larger monitor gives the picture which the director has chosen for recording.

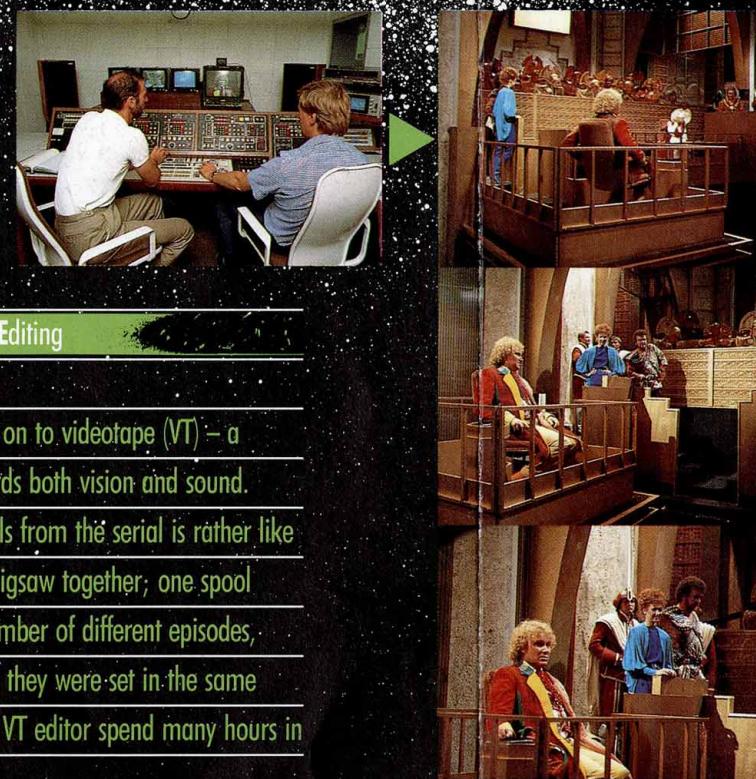
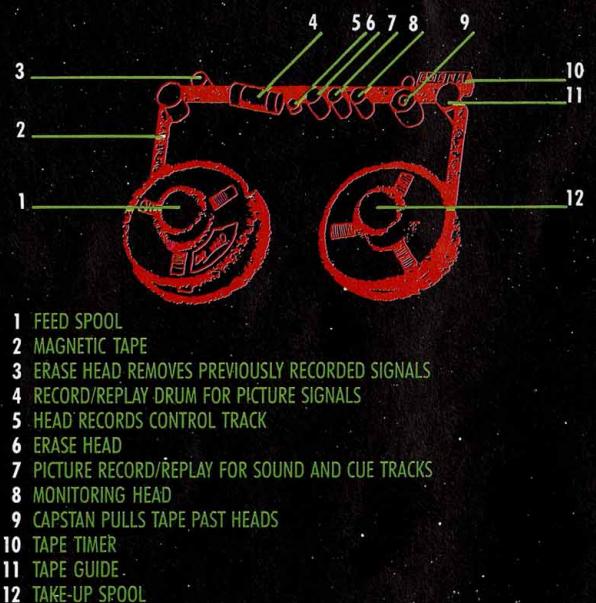
On the director's left sits the production assistant who 'calls' the camera shots as listed in the camera script and times each scene carefully.

On the director's other side is the vision mixer whose job is to 'cut', 'mix', 'fade' or 'dissolve' between the pictures offered by the individual cameras.

Editing

Doctor Who is recorded on to videotape (VT) – a magnetic tape which records both vision and sound.

Editing the many VT spools from the serial is rather like putting a giant electronic jigsaw together; one spool contains scenes from a number of different episodes, recorded together because they were set in the same location. The director and VT editor spend many hours in the editing suite.



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The BBC's Radiophonic Workshop now becomes involved. One of its composers will look at the edited tape and add the distinctive **Doctor Who** music.

LOOK WHO'S BACK

Time trial for the Doctor

actress Joan Sims, who plays the leader of the 'Tribe of the Free', Katryca, and Tony Selby, of 'Get Some In', fame, playing a interplanetary pirate. And in the final part of the series, Dr Who gets a new assistant, played by Bonnie Langford, as a health food and yoga nut, who puts him on a diet. (Colin Baker wishes to point out that he hasn't put on any weight since he took over the Dr Who role.)

Publicity

The programme is complete at last, but that is not the end of the story. A BBC publicity officer talks to newspaper journalists to interest them in writing about **Doctor Who**, organises private viewings, and sends out programme information and photographs.

The BBC's presentation department is also interested in **Doctor Who**. They will 'trail' it on TV before transmission to whet the audience's appetite. **Radio Times**, too, of course, will give full details.

NEW SERIES

5.45 Doctor Who

starring Colin Baker in *The Trial of a Time Lord*. The Tardis is taken 'out of time' and the Doctor is placed on trial. What, if any, are his crimes?

The Doctor COLIN BAKER
The Valeyard MICHAEL JAYSTON

The Inquisitor LYNDY BELLINGHAM

Peri NICOLA BRYANT

Dibber GLEN MURPHY

Glitz TONY SELBY

Broken Tooth DAVID RODIGAN

Katryca JOAN SIMS

Merdeen TOM CHADBON

Drathro ROGER BRIERLEY

Grell TIMOTHY WALKER

Balazar ADAM BLACKWOOD

Written by ROBERT HOLMES

Incidental music DOMINIC GLYNN

Script editor ERIC SAWARD

Designer JOHN ANDERSON

Producer JOHN NATHAN-TURNER

Director NICHOLAS MALLETT

Video, Doctor Who - The Day of the

2036 from retailers

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