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Doctor Who guru Davies steps down

From BBC Entertainment News 20.05.08

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/7411177.stm>

Russell T Davies is to step down as executive producer of Doctor Who, the BBC has announced.

Russell T. Davies



DAVIES' CAREER

HIGHLIGHTS

Children's Ward (1993-1995)

Touching Evil (1997)

Queer As Folk (1999)

Casanova (2005)

Doctor Who (2005-2008)

Torchwood (2006-2008)

Davies is credited with breathing new life into the show which he brought back to television screens in 2005. Bafta-winning writer Steven Moffat will succeed Davies as lead writer and executive producer of the fifth series of Doctor Who.

Moffat said that the whole of his career had been "a secret plan to get this job".

BBC Fiction controller Jane Tranter said the past four series of Doctor Who had been "brilliantly helmed" by the "spectacularly talented" Davies.

"As lead writer and executive producer, he has overseen the creative direction and detail of the 21st century re-launch of Doctor Who and we are delighted to have his continued presence on the specials over the next 18 months," she added.

Davies will remain in charge of four specials to be shown in 2009. The fifth series, with Moffat at the helm, is scheduled to be broadcast on BBC One in spring 2010.

Moffat has already written some of the most memorable Doctor Who episodes of recent times, including The Girl in the Fireplace and The Empty Child. Earlier this month, he picked up the best writer Bafta for the Blink episode of series three which featured terrifying weeping angels.

Moffat said: "I applied before but I got knocked back 'cos the BBC wanted someone else. Also I was seven."

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Steven Moffat

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"Anyway, I'm glad the BBC has finally seen the light and it's a huge honour to be following Russell into the best - and the toughest - job in television.

"I say toughest 'cos Russell's at my window right now, pointing and laughing."

Doctor Who's return after a 16-year break from the screen received praise from critics and fans alike. Speaking after the first series of the revamped show in 2005 - which starred Christopher Eccleston as the Time Lord - Davies said Doctor Who had been in desperate need of regeneration.

"I love Doctor Who and I love the old Doctor Who," he said.

"But, even with all that love, you have to admit that the name of the programme had become a joke and its reputation had become a cheap joke at that - you know, rubber monsters and shaky sets."

He added: "It's been everything we planned and more, and it's very rarely in life you get the chance to have that happen."

The programme, complete with time machine the Tardis, originally ran from 1963 to 1989.

In that time, the lead role was played by eight different actors with writers taking advantage of the Doctor's ability to regenerate his body.

Eccleston and current Time Lord David Tennant take that number to 10.

Steven Moffat
image from www.radiotimes.com



MOFFAT'S CAREER

HIGHLIGHTS

Press Gang (1989)

Coupling (2000)

Jekyll (2007)

Doctor Who (2005 onwards)

Tintin (2008 onwards)

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Entry 3 - Level 1

Read the Dr Who text and answer the following questions:

1. Who will take over from Russell T Davies? _____

2. Who is the BBC Fiction controller? _____

3. When will the specials be shown? _____

4. When will the fifth series start? _____

5. What does " 'cos " mean in the text? _____

6. Steven Moffat said the Dr Who job was the best and __ ?

7. What did Russell T. Davies say had become a cheap joke?

8. What episodes of Dr Who has Steven Moffat written, according to the text?

9. What was the earliest programme listed as a career highlight?

10. Place these words from the text in alphabetical order.

Doctor	
Guru	
Torchwood	
Blink	
Davies	
Moffat	
Tennant	

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Level 2

Read the Dr Who text and answer the following questions:

1. What word is used at least twice in the text that is never used in formal English? _____

2. What unusual phrase tells the reader that Russell T Davies has been an excellent leader in Jane Tranter's opinion? _____

3. How long will the specials take to produce and who will produce them?

4. What dual role has Davies held? _____

5. What word might best replace "knocked back"? a) pushed, b) rejected
c) considered d) ejected? _____

6. What word has a similar meaning to revamped? a) restyled b) improved
c) better d) deteriorating _____

7. What adjectives are used by Steven Moffat to describe the job ?

8. What programme mentioned in the text is an anagram of Doctor Who?

9. What episode is singled out in the text as award-winning?

10. What phrase of Davies' tells the reader that, following, the re-launch, the programme exceeded their expectations?

Answers

Answers for Entry 3 - Level 1.

1. Steven Moffat.
2. Jane Tranter.
3. 2009
4. Spring 2010
5. Because
6. "Toughest"
7. The reputation of the old Dr Who.
8. Three are mentioned: - The Girl in the Fireplace, The Empty Child and Blink.
9. Press Gang (1989 for Steven Moffat).
10. Blink, Davies, Doctor, Guru, Moffat, Tennant, Torchwood.

Answers for Level 2.

1. 'Cos
2. "Brilliantly helmed."
3. 18 months – Russell T. Davies.
4. Lead writer and executive producer.
5. b) Rejected.
6. a) Restyled.
7. Best, toughest.
8. Torchwood.
9. Blink (won Moffat a BAFTA).
10. "It's been everything we planned and more."