

EXCLUSIVE - AFTER TWENTY TWO YEARS DWB CAN AT LAST REVEAL THE TRUTH

Dæmons - The Lost Episode !

BBC and Privileged Fans Admit to Twenty Year Cover Up !

For years now, the so-called Inner Circle of DOCTOR WHO fans have known a secret which they have agreed with the BBC to keep suppressed. *The Dæmons* was originally scripted as - and made as - a six part story. But several events have now conspired to bring this information to a larger audience - and the time is right for DOCTOR WHO fans in general to learn about the episode and why it was suppressed.

The secret nearly came out last year, with the re-colouring of the story. The fact that there are not five, but six episodes of *The Dæmons* filed in the BBC Film and Videotape Library was a surprise to the team who worked on the restoration, and they were quickly asked not to make the information public. What they had found was the transmitted version of the story plus a slightly different tape of part five and the completely 'new' part six - both in colour.

But already the number of people who knew about the original version of the story was spreading. BBC officials even discussed destroying the two extra episodes, but, fearing another scandal, beleaguered DG Jonathon Birt vetoed the suggestion, which would have robbed the archives of an invaluable reference source and impressive piece of drama. BBC Enterprises toyed briefly with the idea of releasing all six original episodes as a special video, but were advised that the reasons it was withdrawn originally would mean it got at least a 15, if not an 18 certificate - which would reduce sales to an unviable level.

Meanwhile Titan Books, having interviewed director Christopher Barry and writer-producer Barry Letts were negotiating to print the final episode as an appendix to their script book and also researched the production of that episode. BBC Enterprises considered, but eventually refused rights to print the script for part six. At about the same time, the Myth Makers video *Return to Devils' End* was being put together, and producer Keith Barnfather was negotiating for clips from the story to counterpoint the interviews with the stars and production crew. Things went well until he asked for permission to include several short (and uncontentious) sequences from part six - at which point the BBC decided not to give permission for any clips, and hinted that any mention whatsoever to the sixth episode would incur the wrath of Auntie.

But fans who were *not in the know* were already asking awkward questions. It has always been a mystery why DOCTOR WHO's eighth season was only 25 episodes long when every subsequent season up to season 18 (which was 28 episodes long) had 26 episodes. Also, *The Dæmons* has always been regarded as a classic let down only by its abrupt and somewhat contrived ending - an ending which sits uneasily with the slow and menacing build-up of tension and horror through the rest of the story. In particular, April Loofer - a researcher for *IN-VISION* magazine which was looking into publishing an *IN-VISION CLASSICS* issue to coincide with the repeat and the video release - was requesting background papers and information that was potentially embarrassing.

The final straw was when the Titan script book of *The Dæmons* was published. As agreed, the script for part

six had been removed. But by an oversight, some of the production details about part six slipped through (the top of page 15, for example, describes the recording of "episodes five and six in TC3 on Wednesday May 26th").

The result was a meeting of BBC and BBC Enterprises executives. The outcome was the BBC decided to tell the true story of what happened to *The Dæmons* and explain the circumstances. The rumours and speculation would be put to rest for ever.

So what exactly did happen between the post-production work on *The Dæmons* and its transmission? The story was completed just like any other. The production team had some reservations about the story - in particular about two scenes. One was a sequence where Jo Grant, about to be sacrificed, is shown in close-up with a knife slashing down towards her. The other scene they had doubts about was the eventual appearance of 'the Devil' at the end of episode four.

But when the Head of Series, and then the Controller of BBC1 saw parts five and six they had deeper reservations. Part six in particular (as you can see from the synopsis printed here) increasingly referred to Christian myths and religious beliefs culminating of course in the appearance of God Himself. It was felt that the episode could not be transmitted.

But what should be done? Most of the first five episodes were excellent television and it would be costly and a shame just to ban the whole story.

So a compromise was reached, it was agreed to re-edit the story to lose an episode and remove the offending material. There was a precedent for this, in 1964 *Planet of Giants* had been trimmed from four episodes to three - ostensibly because it got too boring, but also to remove disturbing sequences involving (amongst other things) a dead cat.

For *The Dæmons*, several filler scenes were removed from early in part five so that the episode ran for only 21 minutes, then the very end of part six was added in - Bok's return to stone, the church exploding, the Master's capture and the May Day dance. Two short sequences were added to the story - a close-up of the Doctor explaining Azal's death (intercut with reactions from the others which were lifted from existing part six material), and the death of Azal. Jon Pertwee was filmed outside the back door of studio TC6 for his short scene. Stephen Thorne was rehired and made-up as Azal for the short scene of him dying. The deficiencies in costume and make-up (due to lack of time) were covered with an electronic glow.

Finally the death of Azal and subsequent end of story was grafted on

to the original end of part five - where Azal is about to kill the Doctor and Jo offers herself as a sacrifice instead (in the original Azal takes her up on the offer and the episode ends as he fires his lightning bolt at her).

The surgery was deemed a great success - nowhere near as powerful as the original, of course, but far less contentious. The public need never know how close DOCTOR WHO had come to treading on the religious and social mores of its audience.

There are two more events worth reporting. First, Barry Letts and Robert Sloman were naturally disappointed that the climactic scenes of the story were removed - although they understood and condoned the BBC's position. They were pleased with the general structure of the scenes in which God appeared, though, and managed to rework them for inclusion as the climax of Sloman's next script for the series - *The Time Monster*. The final event in the story was the permission given to publish the facts, given subject to the condition that the facts not be revealed before the end of March. In the true spirit of investigative journalism, however, DWB has decided to be the first to ignore this embargo, and can exclusively reveal the contents of the banned episode below...

Justin Richards

Synopsis - Episode Six

Azal is about to kill the Doctor (who will not accept his gift of power) when Jo tells the Dæmon to kill her instead. Azal hurls a bolt of lightning at Jo and she collapses - dead...

The Master begs for the Doctor's life - he will live as the Master's slave in the new order once the Master has Azal's powers and rules the Earth. Azal deems the experiment to be over, and passes on his power.

UNIT are still trying in vain to overpower Bok when the church doors fly open and the Master and his acolytes emerge. The Doctor is dragged behind them in chains. Benton gets past Bok and attacks the Master - who strikes him down with a lightning bolt. The Master orders the UNIT troops to prostrate themselves before him and eventually they do, after he has killed a couple more soldiers.

While the Master is gloating over his new subjects and making arrangements for his enthronement and dominion over the planet, Miss Hawthorne manages to slip away and talk with the Doctor. The Doctor tells her there is only one thing to do - He must be summoned. Miss Hawthorne reluctantly agrees that there is no alternative.

The UNIT troops have been locked up in the Cloven Hoof pub, and the Brigadier and Captain Yates are already planning their escape. Miss Hawthorne tells them it will be futile but they do not listen.

The Master is learning more about his powers - mainly by killing the villagers in new and 'exciting' ways. The Doctor pleads with him to stop, and the Master silences him with a stare and a snap of his fingers. He is saving the

Doctor to witness his final triumph over Earth - and then over the Universe once he has fully utilised the psionic power of the Dæmons.

The Brigadier and his men make their escape - to be confronted by Bok who kills Yates and then turns on the Brigadier. The Master and the Doctor witness this and the Doctor begs for the Brigadier's life. The Master orders Bok to kill the Brigadier - which he does. While the Master laughs uncontrollably Miss Hawthorne manages to help the Doctor to escape - they head for the Cavern and Azal. The Master is livid and chases after them.

The Doctor and Miss Hawthorne arrive in the Cavern where Azal is preparing to return to his ship. The Master's rule of Earth signifies a new stage in the Experiment and Azal will monitor it from within the Barrow. He is totally unconcerned about the Doctor's protests. Miss Hawthorne tells the Doctor that he was right - they must now summon Him. The Doctor and the white witch gather various religious icons and artefacts from the church and the Cavern and prepare them round the altar.

The Master arrives with his followers, having finally guessed where the Doctor is. He sees instantly what is happening and tells Azal - who is suddenly speechless - with fear, not with anger the Doctor points out. The Master threatens to destroy the world and utters a powerful incantation - outside volcanoes erupt and the skies darken - (stock footage of) natural disasters as the world begins to end: floods, hurricanes, rivers of lava, earthquakes...

The Doctor is unperturbed and as the Master tries to pull him away, he

completes the summoning ceremony - and God appears, a white-bearded benign face which fills the Cavern. Azal sinks to his knees in front of the face. The Master is appalled.

God introduces Himself and apologises. Azal was over-reaching his remit and experimenting on his own without "official" approval. He will be removed from this universe and punished for trying to usurp God in relation to Earth - like his brother Satan before him.

The world is set to rights, and the Doctor begs for the Master to be spared and given into the power of the authorities. God agrees and undoes all the evil that the Master has done. The Doctor smiles as Jo recovers, bewildered. Miss Hawthorne goes to see how things are outside.

At the same moment, the Squire reappears in his hallway, startled and confused; Yates, Benton and the Brigadier regain consciousness (Miss Hawthorne arriving to explain and tend to Benton!) and together with the UNIT troops resume their attack on Bok outside the Church. While the revived villagers look on, Bok crouches down and returns to his stone form as a gargoyle.

God announces He is leaving, His work here done. But He will destroy all evidence of Azal's power as he goes. The Doctor, the Master, Jo and the remaining coven members flee the church - which explodes. After an emotional reunion, the Master makes his bid for freedom - foiled by Benton and Bessie. Jo goes to change her clothes as the May Day dance begins and Yates and Lethbridge Stewart retire to the pub for a pint.