


DOCTOR WHO

THE ROBOTS OF DEATH

CHAPTER POINTS

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1. PART ONE
 2. The TARDIS
 3. Commander on the Bridge
 4. The Body
 5. Complete Robot Control
 6. Scouting Around
 7. PART TWO
 8. Leela on the Hunt
 9. 'Jelly Baby'
 10. Robot Patrol
 11. Detective Work
 12. Ivanov's Quarters
 13. PART THREE
 14. Crawler Emerges
 15. This is SV7
 16. Priority Red
 17. Sleeping Quarters
 18. Leela on Deck
 19. PART FOUR
 20. Got the Point
 21. On the March
 22. Who's Knocking?
 23. Robot Hunting
 24. The End




Playing Your DVD

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BBC
VIDEO

DOCTOR WHO

THE ROBOTS OF DEATH



The Robots of Death was written by Chris Boucher to follow directly on from his debut script for the show - *The Face of Evil* - which introduced a new companion for the Doctor in the shape of Louise Jameson's Leela. Working closely with script editor Robert Holmes, Boucher came up with a classic whodunit story based loosely on Agatha Christie's *Ten Little Indians*, with elements of *Dune* and the works of Isaac Asimov also to the fore. Set in an isolated and claustrophobic environment, the story comes towards the end of Tom Baker's third series as the Doctor, and many regard this era in the show's history as a true pinnacle of excellence. The sumptuous set design and art deco look of the robots, coupled with top-flight performances from the cast, all serve to make *The Robots of Death* a classic piece of television.

THE TOM BAKER YEARS 1974 - 1981

DVD
VIDEO

DOCTOR WHO

THE ROBOTS OF DEATH

COMMENTARY

By PHILIP HINCHCLIFFE AND CHRIS BOUCHER



Philip Hinchcliffe became producer of *Doctor Who* in 1974, having moved to the BBC from ATV, and was to take full charge of the show from Tom Baker's second adventure *The Ark in Space*. For the next three years, Hinchcliffe and his script editor, Robert Holmes, would oversee some of the programme's most prolific and popular stories, whilst incurring the wrath of TV campaigner Mary Whitehouse for being too frightening. By the time of *The Robots of Death*, he was about to hand over the production reins to Graham Williams and move on to other projects.

Chris Boucher had written the preceding *Doctor Who* story *The Face of Evil*, and was commissioned almost straight away to write another. After *The Robots of Death*, he would write only one more *Doctor Who* adventure - *Image of the Fendahl*. Boucher went on to be script-editor on *Blake's 7* and *Bergerac* for BBC1, and also devised the series *Star Cops* for BBC2.

MODEL SEQUENCES

Various model shots of the Sandminer prop crawling across the stormy landscape were recorded, but not all of them were used in the finished programme. What remains today is a black & white timecoded video recording of these sequences, selections of which are included on this disc (with thanks to Jan Vincent-Rudzki)

STUDIO FLOOR PLANS

The Robots of Death was filmed in two recording blocks at the BBC. The first took place in late November 1976 in studio TC8, the second in early December in studio TC1. The layout of the studios was different on both occasions, and floor plans for both the studio sessions are featured on this disc.

IN-STUDIO

To demonstrate the work done on *Doctor Who* after recording, there is a small section of material presented without sound effects, music or voice-dubbing. Featuring the Doctor and Leela's first meeting with SV7, it is most noticeable for the inclusion of the untreated robot voices.

PHOTO GALLERY

A selection of photographs from the recording of this story are included, featuring many new images that have never been published before.

HOWARD DA SILVA EPISODE INTROS

Beginning in 1978, Time/Life Television distributed 98 half-hour episodes of *Doctor Who* to commercial and public televisions stations in North America. Each episode featured voice-over openings and closings by Howard Da Silva. The opening served to introduce the viewer to what they would be seeing in that particular episode and to "recap" what had happened in the last episode. The closing served to "tease" the viewer with a bit of what they would see in the next episode. Though the actual 2" broadcast master tapes have been lost, copies of these voice-overs, with the accompanying edited video packages still exist. These are the original openings and closings that Howard Da Silva narrated for the four episodes of *The Robots of Death*.

WHO'S WHO

A guide to the cast for this *Doctor Who* serial.



THIS DVD CONTAINS SEVERAL SPECIAL BONUS FEATURES

