

PRESS RELEASE

RENOWNED WRITER AND ACTOR MARK GATISS AND SPECIAL EFFECTS TEAM TO ATTEND DOCTOR WHO FESTIVAL



Sydney, 22nd July 2015: Famed writer and actor Mark Gatiss and one of the special effects teams who work on the iconic series, will join current Doctor Peter Capaldi and writer and executive producer Steven Moffat at the **Doctor Who Festival** in Sydney on the 21st & 22nd November.

Mark will host a special writers' master class, where fans will be given the opportunity to ask questions about how a *Doctor Who* script is crafted, as well as hearing the techniques behind the art of dramatic scriptwriting and how to get work published.

The BAFTA award-winning Real SFX team, led by Danny Hargreaves, will offer festival attendees the chance to witness first hand some of the spectacular effects seen in *Doctor Who* such as explosions and fireballs, elemental and atmospheric effects, mechanical rigs and pyrotechnics. Interactive sections of the demonstration will also offer audiences the chance to participate in the action.

Mark Gatiss, like Steven Moffat, is one of the few writers to have written for all four Doctors in the modern revival of *Doctor Who* (Christopher Eccleston, David Tennant, Matt Smith and Peter Capaldi). Mark was also the writer and executive producer of *An Adventure in Space and Time*, a 90-minute dramatisation of the genesis of the series.

Along with *Doctor Who*, Mark is the co-creator and executive producer of *Sherlock*, which he stars in as Sherlock's brother Mycroft Holmes.

Audiences will also recognise him from his recent acting roles as Stephen Gardiner in the critically acclaimed *Wolf Hall* and as Tycho Nestoris in *Game of Thrones*. Mark was also part of the comedy troupe *The League of Gentlemen*, where he both wrote and appeared on screen.

Mark Gatiss says: "*Watching Doctor Who as a child made me want to become a writer and actor - I used to jot down ideas in my school exercise book. Doing it for real for the past ten years and four Doctors is a dream come true. At the Doctor Who Festival you can come and hear the stories behind my stories!*"

Along with Mark Gatiss and the special effects team, festival attendees will be given the opportunity to show off their best Doctor Who-themed outfits with a Cosplayers' Showcase. A *Doctor Who* expert will judge the costumes, with a special prize awarded to the best-dressed fan.

Fans can also test their knowledge in two separate quizzes, with the chance to win an array of prizes. The fan challenge offers fans of all ages a chance to test their knowledge of the series, whilst the *Doctor Who* Quiz provides the ultimate challenge, with in-depth questions on the Doctor, his adversaries and the many adventures he's had through space and time.

To date the festival includes the following, with more talent and activities to be announced shortly:

- **Q&AS** -see the writers and cast from the series as they talk about how to make an idea become reality on a series as big and bold as *Doctor Who*.
- **PHOTO AND AUTOGRAPH OPPORTUNITIES** – A limited number of opportunities for photos and autographs with selected talent.
- **WRITERS' MASTERCLASS** – ask Mark Gatiss how a *Doctor Who* script is crafted and discover the techniques behind the art of dramatic scriptwriting and how to get work published.
- **SFX DISPLAY** - witness first-hand some of the spectacular effects seen in the series such as explosions and fireballs, elemental and atmospheric effects, mechanical rigs and pyrotechnics.
- **WARDROBE DEPARTMENT** – a fantastic exhibition of costumes and props.
- **COSPLAYERS' SHOWCASE**- fans can showcase their impressive Doctor Who-themed outfits with a special prize awarded to the best dressed.
- **DOCTOR WHO QUIZ** – this is the ultimate *Doctor Who* quiz, where fans can show off their in-depth knowledge of the Doctor, his adversaries and the many adventures he's had through space and time.
- **THE FAN CHALLENGE** - Fans young and old can battle it out and test their *Doctor Who* knowledge.

The **Doctor Who Festival** will be held at the Hordern Pavilion and the Royal Hall of Industries on the 21st and 22nd November.

Tickets can be purchased at [Ticketek](#)

Twitter: #DWFestAu

Series 9 of *Doctor Who* will air on ABC later in the year.

-Ends-

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