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THE UNDERWATER MENACE

STORY NO.32 SEASON NO.4:5

One disc with two original and two reconstructed episodes (97½ mins) and 63 minutes of extras, plus commentary track

Audio navigation of disc contents available by pressing Enter after the BBC ident

TARDIS TEAM Second Doctor, Ben, Jamie, Polly

TIME AND PLACE Contemporary Atlantis, near the Azores

ADVERSARIES Atlanteans; Professor Zaroff

FIRST ON TV 14 January–4 February 1967

DVD RELEASE BB DVD3691, 26 October 2015, PG

COVER Photo illustration by Lee Binding, blue strip; version with older BBC logo on reverse

ORIGINAL RRP £20.42

— Episode three originally released in the *Lost in Time* set; BB DVD1353, £29.99, 1 November 2004

STORY TEASER

The TARDIS arrives on a small volcanic island in the Atlantic Ocean yet there are signs of habitation. Indeed, the travellers are soon captured and taken deep below the surface where a small community of people worship their fish-god Amdo — and are only too happy to have fresh sacrifices to offer her. Also down here is the brilliant scientist Professor Zaroff; brilliant but totally mad. He believes these are the remains of Atlantis and intends to raise the sunken civilisation by draining the world's oceans into its boiling core, well aware that this will split the planet apart.

CONNECTIONS

If this is indeed Atlantis then it's a long way from the Greek islands where it's said to be in *The Time Monster* (1972), which the Doctor and Jo visit in ancient times. That Atlantis is apparently destroyed by Kronos the Chronovore (unleashed by the Master), whereas Azal the Dæmon (unleashed by the Master) claims in *The Dæmons* (1971) that his people were responsible. While there have been a few blinkered human scientists whose work has threatened all life on Earth, only Professor Zaroff here and Professor Stahlman in *Inferno* (1970) risk destroying the planet itself through their unhinged ambitions. The surgery performed by Atlantean scientist Damon to convert humans into water-dwelling fish-people is reminiscent of the experiments of Quillam in *Vengeance on Varos* (1985) and similar work by Crozier for the Mentors of Thoros Beta in *The Trial of a Time Lord: Mindwarp* (1986), the genetic augmentations performed by Dastari in *The Two Doctors* (1985), Davros's conversion of humans into Daleks in *Revelation of the Daleks* (1985), possibly the conversion of some Winders into Smilers in *The Beast Below* (2010), Kahler-Jex's work to create weaponised cyborgs in *A Town Called Mercy* (2012), and of course the modus operandi of the Cybermen, notably in *The Tenth Planet* (1966), *The Invasion* (1968) and *Attack of the Cybermen* (1985). Conversely, in *The Doctor's Daughter* (2008) the Hath are fish-people fitted with filters to allow them to live out of water. Director Julia Smith previously handled *The Smugglers* (1966) at the start of this season, one of only five women to direct Classic Series episodes. Noel Johnson, playing King Thous, also appears as Sir Charles Grover in *Invasion of the Dinosaurs* (1974); Peter Stephens (Lolem) plays several parts in *The Celestial ToyMaker* (1966), notably Cyril the naughty schoolboy; and Colin Jeavons (Damon) is George Tracey in *K9 and Company* (1981).

WORTH WATCHING

The Underwater Menace's reputation has been rather low based on the previously sole surviving episode three, largely due to the slightly comic performance of the Doctor as Patrick Troughton finds his feet in the role, and to Joseph Fürst's eccentricity as Professor Zaroff. Episode two gives us quieter moments for both characters, and a clearer feel for the story itself. It may never be considered a classic, but there's more to appreciate in *The Underwater Menace* than previously thought.

THE EPISODES

Episodes one and four, of which no film copies are known to exist, are recreated using surviving images from the serial matched to a remastered recording of the soundtrack made on audio tape when the episode was originally broadcast. Episode two is restored from an edited 16mm film copy



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of the original black-and-white videotape recording, returned by Terry Burnett in September 2011, with gaps restored from footage cut at the request of the Australian Film Censorship Board but stored in the Board's archive long after the episodes themselves had been destroyed and discovered by Damian Shanahan in October 1996; episode three is restored from a complete 16mm film copy of the original black-and-white videotape recording that survived in the archive. Both these episodes' mono soundtracks are remastered and the VidFIRE process is applied to studio-recorded shots to recapture the smoother motion of video. The title sequences are replaced by a modern transfer of the best surviving copy of the original 35mm film with credits remade to match the originals.

SPECIAL FEATURES

A FISHY TALE (28m26s) The making of *The Underwater Menace*, including getting workable scripts for the new Doctor's first adventures; memories of director Julia Smith; working new companion Jamie into the story; the cast; filming on location in Dorset in winter, and the Fish People scenes at Ealing Studios; and how Patrick Troughton finds his feet in the role. With contributions from production assistant Berry Butler, assistant floor manager Gareth Gwenlan, actors Frazer Hines, Catherine Howe and Anneke Wills, and New Series writer Robert Shearman. Narrated by Peter Davison, produced by Russell Minton.

THE TELEVISION CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE - PART 2 (32m12s) Presenter Yvette Fielding takes actors Peter Davison, Janet Fielding and Mark Strickson on a tour of BBC Television Centre to recall working at the iconic studios in the 1980s, meeting up with senior camera supervisor Alec Wheal. With additional memories from videotape engineer Simon Anthony, production assistant Jane Ashford, assistant floor manager Sue Hedden, producer and *Doctor Who* fan Richard Marson and BBC Enterprises exhibitions assistant Bob Richardson. With behind-the-scenes footage from *Earthshock*. Produced by Russell Minton. *Part one* is on *The Visitation Special Edition*

CENSOR CLIPS (45s) Two clips from episodes one and four. Previously included on the *Lost in Time* set but newly restored for this release.

PHOTO GALLERY (1m52s) Slideshow of black-and-white photos taken during production of *The Underwater Menace*, including publicity shots of Patrick Troughton. Set to sound effects and music from the story. Compiled by Paul Shields.

AUDIO OPTIONS Select **Commentary** to play the audio commentary in place of the main soundtrack when watching the episodes. On episodes two and three this is moderated by actor and comedian Toby Hadoke, talking with Frazer Hines (Jamie), Anneke Wills (Polly), Catherine Howe (Ara), production manager Quentin Mann and special sounds creator Brian Hodgson. On episode one Hadoke talks with Patrick Troughton's son Michael (continued from their discussion on *The Ice Warriors*), and on episode four he introduces extracts from archive audio interviews with directors Julia Smith and Hugh David (who turned down working on this serial), producer Innes Lloyd and Patrick Troughton (the Doctor).

— Select **Feature Audio** to reinstate the main soundtrack when watching the episodes.

SUBTITLES

Select **On** to view subtitles for all episodes and Special Features (except commentary).

RELATED EXTRAS

Coming Soon trailer — *The Moonbase*

The Doctor's Composer — *The War Games*

