Regeneration is the cornerstone of the success of Doctor Who, as a show, for over five decades. Regeneration began when the original actor playing The Doctor became ill and had to leave. Thus, the concept of regeneration was born. Inserted into the cannon of the show was the notion that Time Lords, mortally injured or deathly ill, could regenerate into a new version of The Doctor. The new version would of course be a new actor, and The Doctor would now take on a completely different look, speech, personality, and basically, different DNA.

Throughout the series, The Doctor has always regenerated into a man, a white man, but audiences were treated to a surprise with the character of Missy: Missy was really the regenerated version of The Master, The Doctor’s nemesis and best friend. A new element of regeneration was then inserted into the cannon: Time Lords can change gender during regeneration. As audiences waited to hear which actor would replace Peter Capaldi, the 12th Doctor, rumors about a female Doctor took shape. Those rumors rang true when it was revealed that Jodie Whittaker would be taking on the role as the 13th Doctor. This is exciting new territory for Doctor Who. At the time of writing this post, fans eagerly await learning the identity of The Doctor’s new companion.