

= Planet of the Ood =

" Planet of the Ood " is the third episode of the fourth series of British science fiction television series Doctor Who . It was broadcast on BBC One on 19 April 2008 . It features the return of the Ood , who appeared in the second series episodes " The Impossible Planet " and " The Satan Pit " .

The episode takes place in the year 4126 on the Ood @-@ Sphere , the titular planet of the episode . The Doctor ( David Tennant ) and his companion Donna Noble ( Catherine Tate ) investigate Ood Operations , a company that is selling the Ood as a servant race , to discover the reason the Ood are happy to serve . When they find a group of unprocessed Ood , they become horrified at the alterations performed and resolve to free the Ood . The episode was well @-@ received for its central theme of slavery .

= = Plot = =

The Doctor sets the TARDIS controls to random and materialises on a snowy alien planet . Outside , he and Donna find an injured Ood lying in the snow . Just before he dies , the Ood 's eyes turn red and it makes a lunge for the Doctor and startles him with his ferocity . The Doctor surmises that the Ood was being influenced by a being near them . They find a nearby industrial complex called Ood Operations , a company that has been harvesting and selling the Ood as servants . The Doctor discovers that they are on the Ood @-@ Sphere in the year 4126 , close to the Sense @-@ Sphere of the Sensorites . The " Red Eye " phenomenon begins affecting other Ood on the planet and several people are killed in the weeks before the Doctor arrived . The possessed Ood keep stating that " the circle must be broken " . Ood Operations consider the phenomenon to be a disease similar to foot @-@ and @-@ mouth disease . The CEO of Ood Operations , Klineman Halpen , tells the Doctor the method of killing each time is identical : the victims are electrocuted by the Ood 's translation spheres .

Throughout the episode , Donna becomes sympathetic to the Ood and is horrified by their enslavement . The Doctor also takes an interest in the Ood , noting that no species could naturally evolve to be servants . He and Donna travel through the complex and find a batch of uncultivated Ood singing together . Instead of a translation sphere , they hold a " hindbrain " that gives them individuality . This hindbrain is being removed and replaced with the translation sphere by the humans to make them subservient , and the Doctor rebukes Halpen for lobotomising the Ood . The Doctor and Donna are captured by Ood Operations ' security force . Shortly after , the Ood begin a mass revolution and the complex is evacuated . The Doctor follows Halpen to a locked warehouse that contains a large brain , which is revealed to be the Ood 's collective consciousness . The brain 's control of the Ood is limited by a circle of pylons emitting a forcefield . Halpen plans to kill the brain and by extension all of the Ood , but is stopped by the Doctor , Donna , and Dr. Ryder . Dr. Ryder reveals that he is secretly an activist for " Friends of the Ood " , and had slowly infiltrated the company to gain access to the pylons and lower their force field to cause the revolution . Halpen is outraged at his betrayal , so he throws Dr. Ryder into the brain , killing him . Halpen 's personal Ood servant , Ood Sigma , has been using Halpen 's hair loss medication to slowly convert Halpen into an Ood . Ood Sigma tells the Doctor and Donna that he will take care of Halpen .

The Doctor shuts down the pylons , freeing the Ood and allowing them all to sing in a telepathic collective . As the Doctor and Donna prepare to leave , Ood Sigma promises to include the " Doctor @-@ Donna " in the Ood 's song . He also tells the Doctor that his song will soon be ending .

= = = Continuity = = =

The red eye phenomenon in the Ood is a symptom of them being possessed . In " The Impossible Planet " and " The Satan Pit " they were under the Beast 's control . In " Death is the Only Answer " , Albert Einstein is transformed into a red @-@ eyed Ood . In " The Doctor 's Wife " , an Ood named Nephew is possessed but displays bright green eyes instead of red .

The Ood @-@ Sphere is in the same solar system as the Sense @-@ Sphere , the location for the

1964 serial The Sensorites ; the Sensorites and Ood are visually and mentally similar .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Keith Temple and directed by Graeme Harper . Executive producer Russell T Davies had envisioned the Ood 's return because their previous appearance , the 2006 two @-@ part story " The Impossible Planet " and " The Satan Pit " , had been overshadowed by the appearance of the Devil . Davies subsequently provided Temple with a brief for the episode which included the term " ice planet " and the storyline of a business selling the Ood as a commodity . Temple 's drafts of the episode were described as " too dark " and " too old Doctor Who " ; Temple stated on the episode 's commentary that his early draft was " a six @-@ part [ serial ] in 45 minutes " .

Temple and Davies thought that the episode was not a " fun reappearance " of an old monster ; instead , they felt that there was " an actual story to tell " . Temple emphasised in his script that the Doctor overlooked the Ood under the shadow of the Devil , and the character had to see his shortcomings . Temple 's script also emphasised the Ood 's slavery ; both Temple and lead actor David Tennant commented that the existence of a species born to serve was complicated , the latter stating complications with Richard Dawkins ' " selfish gene " theory . Donna 's role in the episode was to further humanise the Doctor , and her opinion of the Ood changing from her initial disgust at their appearance to empathy for them was important to the episode and her character development . Susie Liggat cited the writing as part of Doctor Who 's importance ? she thought the story about " liberating oppressed people " could be applied domestically or globally .

The episode 's antagonist , Klineman Halpen , is portrayed by Tim McInnerny . Davies considered his character ? " a middle manager who 's out of his depth " ? a perfect villain . Temple described him as " narcissistic " , " preening " and " ruthless ... without sentiment " . McInnerny said " It 's always nice to play a bastard ... I 'm glad Halpen 's a three @-@ dimensional bastard ! That makes him interesting ! " . Temple epitomised Halpen in a scene where he kills an operative for the activist group " Friends of the Ood " ; Davies and Tennant felt that his " disgusting " and " gothic ... Edgar Allan Poe " fate would be undeserved otherwise .

Filming for the episode took place in August 2007 . The opening and closing outdoor scenes were filmed in Trefil Quarry in the Brecon Beacons , the external scenes of the complex at Aberthaw Cement Works , and scenes in the " battery farm " were filmed in a hangar at RAF Saint Athan . CGI was used sparingly in production ; the snow was paper snow adhered by water , and the Ood heads contained complex animatronics . McInnerny wore a prosthetic mask with two layers for his transformation scene though the production team 's best boy provided motion capture for the computer @-@ generated profile of the appendages coming out of his mouth when this needed to be refilmed and McInnerny was unavailable .

= = Reception = =

" Planet of the Ood " was the most watched programme in its timeslot , with 7 @.@ 5 million viewers . The episode was the second most @-@ watched programme of the day , beaten by Britain 's Got Talent , and was the twelfth most watched programme of the week . The episode 's Appreciation Index was 87 ( considered Excellent ) .

Scott Matthewman , writing for The Stage , gave a mixed review of the episode . He thought that " pretty much the only surprise in the way the humans who made up the Ood Corporation were presented came as PR girl Solana ( Ayesha Dharker ) escaped with the Doctor and Donna , only to betray their position by calling for the guards , " and " the revelation that Ryder ( Adrian Rawlins ) has been working to infiltrate the Corporation is thrown away ... as quickly as it is revealed . " However , he thought Donna was becoming " fast ... one of the strongest and most well @-@ rounded companions in the series ? history " , and " there were some nice interpretations of the Ood ? s natural development " . Caitlin Moran of The Times thought the episode was " really really good ... ? one that will have you staring at your screen and asking , ' How can something so

good be happening so early on a Saturday night , in my own front room ? ' " . She enjoyed the scene where the Doctor and Donna talk about slaves in contemporary culture , saying that Tate " really , really isn't that bad when she says [ " We don't have slaves . " ] " . Ben Rawson @-@ Jones of Digital Spy gave the episode five stars out of five . Rawson @-@ Jones opened his review by saying " Doctor Who can occasionally transcend the properties of a mere family television show to reach out and give viewers a poignant , beautiful epiphany and greater sense of the world they inhabit , " citing Donna 's reaction on seeing the uncultivated Ood as the moving part of the episode . He thought the episode as a whole " exemplifies just how powerful and emotive Doctor Who can be when writing , direction and performance are all harmonious and complete their own Ood @-@ like circle " , and was appreciative of the acting . The episode 's only flaw was when Donna said " Why do you say ' Miss ' ? Do I look single ? " , but was otherwise " an extremely impressive , contemplative examination of the abhorrent nature of humanity " .

= = = Reviews = = =

" Planet of the Ood " reviews at The Doctor Who Ratings Guide