

= Cold War ( Doctor Who ) =

" Cold War " is the eighth episode of the seventh series of the British science @-@ fiction television drama Doctor Who . It first aired on BBC One on 13 April 2013 , and was written by Mark Gatiss and directed by Douglas Mackinnon .

In the episode , alien time traveller the Doctor ( Matt Smith ) and his companion Clara Oswald ( Jenna @-@ Louise Coleman ) land on a Soviet submarine in 1983 during the Cold War , where the Ice Warrior Grand Marshal Skaldak breaks loose and plots revenge against humanity .

" Cold War " reintroduces the Ice Warriors , who were last seen in the Third Doctor serial The Monster of Peladon ( 1974 ) . Bringing back the monsters was Gatiss ' idea , and he convinced executive producer Steven Moffat by coming up with new things to do with them . The Ice Warriors ' costume was improved but not significantly redesigned , as the production team felt they were not well known enough . The episode was filmed in June 2012 on a submarine set , as the story is a closed " base @-@ under @-@ siege " . " Cold War " was watched by 7 @.@ 37 million viewers and received generally positive reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

A Soviet submarine is sailing near the North Pole in 1983 during the Cold War . A nuclear weapons launch drill they are running is interrupted by Professor Grisenko ( David Warner ) . In the submarine 's cargo hold a sailor prematurely begins to defrost a block of ice that Grisenko believes contains a frozen mammoth , and is attacked by what is inside .

The submarine begins sinking as the creature in the ice escapes and runs amok . The TARDIS , which originally was on a course set for Las Vegas , materialises inside the submarine and the Doctor and Clara tumble out . The Doctor convinces Captain Zhukov ( Liam Cunningham ) to maneuver the submarine to the side , landing it safely and preventing it from imploding . During this the TARDIS inexplicably dematerialises . They then encounter the escaped Ice Warrior , Grand Marshal Skaldak ( Spencer Wilding , voiced by Nicholas Briggs ) . The Doctor encourages the crew to be peaceful , but the ship 's executive officer Stepashin ( Tobias Menzies ) knocks out Skaldak with a cattle prod , suspecting that he is not an alien but part of a Western plot . Knowing that Skaldak will desire vengeance for being attacked , the Doctor and the crew chain Skaldak , who sends out a distress call for others of his race to find him .

Clara volunteers to speak to Skaldak to try and calm him , relaying the Doctor 's words to Skaldak , though he knows that the Doctor is listening . The Doctor informs Skaldak he was encased in the ice for 5000 years . Skaldak laments the loss of his daughter and his people ; however , the Doctor tries to comfort him with the knowledge that the Ice Warriors still live , just not on Earth or Mars . Skaldak escapes from his armour - an act of great dishonour - and stops broadcasting the signal to the other Ice Warriors because he believes himself to be the only one of his kind left . The Doctor surmises that , thinking himself to be the last of his kind , Skaldak has nothing left to lose . He manages to grab and kill three members of the crew .

Having learnt of the ongoing Cold War and the doctrine of mutually assured destruction from Stepashin , Skaldak plans to use the submarine 's nuclear missiles to provoke a global thermonuclear war and destroy humanity as revenge for the humans attacking him - under the Martian code humanity as a whole has declared war on the Ice Warrior race by assaulting him . Reaching the bridge , he is able to connect himself to the sub 's missile guidance systems and activate the missiles . The Doctor and Clara are attempting to persuade Skaldak to show mercy when the sub is rocked by a tractor beam from above : the Ice Warriors have arrived over the site of the submarine 's undersea grounding , and they haul it to the surface . Skaldak is beamed aboard the Ice Warriors ' spaceship , though the missile launch system is still active . Showing mercy , Skaldak deactivates the missiles remotely . When the Doctor 's sonic screwdriver informs him the TARDIS has reappeared , he informs Clara that it had " relocated " to the South Pole automatically as part of the H.A.D.S. ( " Hostile Action Displacement System " ) , which the Doctor admits he reactivated by accident while fiddling with the controls . As they are at the North Pole , an

embarrassed Doctor asks Zhukov for a lift to get the TARDIS before saluting the Ice Warrior ship as it leaves .

= = Production = =

The Ice Warriors were a well @-@ known villain of the original Doctor Who series . They appeared alongside the Second Doctor ( Patrick Troughton ) in The Ice Warriors ( 1967 ) and The Seeds of Death ( 1969 ) and returned in the Third Doctor ( Jon Pertwee ) stories The Curse of Peladon ( 1972 ) and The Monster of Peladon ( 1974 ) . Showrunner Steven Moffat had originally been hesitant to bring back the Ice Warriors , worrying that they were seen as " the default condition for what people thought of as rubbish Doctor Who monsters ? things that moved very , very slowly and spoke in a way that meant you couldn 't hear a word they said . " Writer Mark Gatiss , however , was a fan of the Ice Warriors ' stories and had been campaigning to bring them back . In a phone conversation with Moffat that was originally supposed to be about their show Sherlock , Gatiss pitched new and " very clever ideas " of what to do with the Ice Warriors , and Moffat agreed . What sold Moffat were the submarine setting and seeing what the Ice Warriors looked like underneath their suits . Gatiss felt that the Ice Warriors had a lot of gaps in their timeline and had not been featured in a while , which allowed a lot of room to explore them .

The submarine was Gatiss 's idea ; he felt that Doctor Who called out to be set on a submarine . Executive producer Caroline Skinner described the story as " Letting a huge Ice Warrior loose at the heart of a classic Hunt For Red October style submarine movie . " Gatiss chose the time period because he was " kind of obsessed " with the Cold War , and felt that there were several times in the 1980s where the danger was close . Gatiss also described " Cold War " as a " love @-@ letter " to the base @-@ under @-@ siege stories that were common during Troughton 's time ; the episode even contains a reference to Troughton 's The Krotons , which was the last time the TARDIS 's HADS had been mentioned .

The read @-@ through for " Cold War " took place on 6 June 2012 , with filming beginning on 13 June . For the submarine setting , the cast would be sprayed in between every take . The scenes in which the characters are drenched in water were achieved by constantly pouring " gallons and gallons of water " on the cast . Coleman found the experience fun , while Smith said that it made acting easier . Coleman said , " The whole make @-@ up process was reversed as they would damp us down in the morning and rub my mascara off ! " For the shots of the submarine in the ocean , a model was used . It was suspended upside @-@ down with " shredded feathers " blown at it to give the effect of being under the sea .

Unlike some other returning monsters , the Ice Warriors were not heavily redesigned . Gatiss insisted upon keeping the fundamentals of the original and Moffat explained that the original design was not well @-@ known enough to put a new spin on it , and so Skaldak 's shell is just a " super @-@ version of the original " . Of the original design , Millennium FX 's Neill Gorton said , " My problem with the old ones is they had Lego hands and weird , spindly arms but a bulky body and these strange saddlebag hips , almost feminine . They had fur sticking out everywhere . So all of that together didn 't suggest " ice warriors . " They should be much beefier and stronger . We gave it more of a bodybuilder physique , changed the hands and styled the body to make it look more like armour @-@ plating , even though it 's reptilian . " The costume was made of flexible urethane rubber instead of the fibreglass like the original , as it would damage less easily and be more comfortable to wear . The costume was made to specially fit Spencer Wilding . Though only some of the Skaldak 's real appearance was shown on @-@ screen , Gorton stated that they created a full animatronic body .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Cold War " was first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC One on 13 April 2013 . Overnight ratings showed that 5 @.@ 73 million viewers watched the episode live , a 28 @.@ 8 % audience share . When timeshifted viewers were taken into account , the figure rose to 7 @.@ 37 million

viewers , the fifth most @-@ watched programme of the week on BBC One . In addition , " Cold War " received 1 @.@ 65 million requests on the online BBC iPlayer during April , the fourth most @-@ watched programme on the service for the month . The episode also received an Appreciation Index of 84 .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The episode received generally positive reviews . Dan Martin of The Guardian wrote that " Cold War " was " easily the best of this new series so far , and Mark Gatiss 's finest contribution yet . " He praised the reinvention of the Ice Warrior and felt that the elements came together to form a " tense , tightly wound , claustrophobic but also full of heart . " Zap2it 's Geoff Berkshire said that " Cold War " was better than Gatiss ' previous episodes " The Idiot 's Lantern " and " Victory of the Daleks " . He praised the guest cast , but wished " their characters had a bit more meat to them . " The Independent reviewer Neela Debnath described the story as " slick and intelligent " with " cinematic aesthetics and tone . "

Patrick Mulkern of Radio Times found an inconsistency with the TARDIS translation matrix , but overall was positive towards the acting , visual aspects , and story . The Daily Telegraph reviewer Gavin Fuller gave the episode four out of five stars , describing it as " finely crafted " and " thrilling . " He praised the setting and the dialogue , but felt that the Soviet characters were " perilously close to being ciphers . " Digital Spy 's Morgan Jeffery awarded the episode five out of five stars , saying that it was " fresh and exciting " but also had a " wonderfully old @-@ school tone . " He wrote that it had " one of the best guest casts to have graced Doctor Who since the show returned in 2005 " and also praised the reintroduction of the Ice Warriors and the production values . Alasdair Wilkins of The A.V. Club gave " Cold War " a grade of A , highlighting the tense atmosphere , the " bold new direction " taken with the Ice Warriors , the guest performances , and Clara 's importance .

Russell Lewin of SFX gave " Cold War " four out of five stars , praising the set and direction as well as the Ice Warrior . On the other hand , Lewin noted that , as a base @-@ under @-@ siege story , it did not play with the narrative form or " go anywhere we couldn 't have predicted , " with the exception of the Ice Warrior breaking out of its suit . IGN 's Mark Snow gave the episode a rating of 8 @.@ 3 out of 10 . Snow praised the reintroduction of the Ice Warriors and called Skaldak " the show 's most memorable villain in a while , thanks to his stern , occasionally psychopathic approach to problem solving , and an environment that helped make the bulky , heavy creature design imposing rather than laughably naff . " However , he felt that some of Skaldak 's effects were " laughably rubbery " and that his motivations were " psychotically random . " Tor.com reviewer Emily Asher @-@ Perrin was more critical of the episode , pointing out that little happened . She called the pacing " sloppy " and found Skaldak to not be an interesting foe .

In Doctor Who Magazine issue 460 , Graham Kibble @-@ White gave it a mixed review . He complimented the fact that " the action kicks off early - very early - and then doesn 't let up " , and said the Ice Warrior redesign was " the best reinvention so far of an old Doctor Who foe , although admitting he thought it was " a shame to lose the tufts of hair around the joints " , saying they gave the Ice Warriors " a pleasing organic feel upon the shell . " He complained about the reference to the Ice Warriors ' code of honour , claiming it to have always been " damnably dull . " Additionally , he disliked the revelation of Skaldak 's true form , claiming it to look like " a not especially memorable CGI tortoise " and saying the BBC seems to have forgotten that " monsters are diminished when they 're brought into the light " , as well as worrying that it may have been " breaking a taboo for the show " .