

= The Sarah Jane Adventures =

The Sarah Jane Adventures is a British science fiction television programme , that was produced by BBC Cymru Wales for CBBC , created by Russell T Davies starring Elisabeth Sladen . The programme is a spin @-@ off of the long @-@ running BBC science fiction programme Doctor Who and is aimed at a younger audience than Doctor Who . It focuses on the adventures of Sarah Jane Smith , an investigative journalist who , as a young woman , had numerous adventures across time and space .

The series debuted on BBC One with a 60 @-@ minute special , " Invasion of the Bane " , on 1 January 2007 , and broadcast through to 2011 . It was nominated for a British Academy Children 's Award in 2008 in the Drama category , and for a BAFTA Cymru in 2009 in the Children 's Drama category . The programme won a Royal Television Society 2010 award for Best Children 's Drama .

= = Series = =

A full series of ten 25 @-@ minute episodes began on 24 September 2007 . The first series consisted of five two @-@ part stories , and a second series , comprising six two @-@ part stories , began airing on 29 September 2008 . A third series , once again comprising six two @-@ part stories to make a total of twelve episodes , with Russell T Davies serving as executive producer , aired from 15 October 2009 to 20 November 2009 .

The fourth series was aired from 11 October 2010 . An episode of another spin @-@ off series , Sarah Jane 's Alien Files , was shown immediately after each of the first episodes of the stories . Filming for three of six two @-@ part serials planned for the fifth series was completed prior to Elisabeth Sladen 's death on 19 April 2011 . Although some UK media , including the Sun , reported in early May 2011 that production of the series was to continue , the BBC has stated explicitly that no further episodes will be filmed . The fifth series was broadcast starting 3 October 2011 on Mondays and Tuesdays . It finished just two weeks later on 18 October 2011 .

= = Background and development = =

In 2006 , Children 's BBC expressed an interest in producing a Doctor Who spin @-@ off . Their initial idea was " a drama based on the idea of a young Doctor Who " , but Russell T Davies vetoed this . " Somehow , the idea of a fourteen @-@ year @-@ old Doctor , on Gallifrey inventing sonic screwdrivers , takes away from the mystery and intrigue of who he is and where he came from , " said Davies . He suggested instead a series based on the Doctor 's former companion Sarah Jane Smith .

The character of Sarah Jane Smith , played by Sladen , appeared in Doctor Who from 1973 to 1976 , alongside Jon Pertwee as the Third Doctor and later Tom Baker as the Fourth Doctor . A pilot episode for another Doctor Who spin @-@ off series , K @-@ 9 and Company , made in 1981 , featured Sarah Jane and the robot dog K @-@ 9 ; however , a full series was never commissioned . Sarah Jane and K @-@ 9 returned to Doctor Who in various media many times over the years , most notably in the 20th anniversary special The Five Doctors (1983) , and in episodes School Reunion (2006) , The Stolen Earth / Journey 's End (2008) and The End of Time (2010) .

Sarah Jane is frequently voted the most popular Doctor Who companion by both Doctor Who fans and members of the general public . The prospect of a new television series focusing on Sarah Jane was first rumoured in The Sun in March 2006 , prior to the airing of " School Reunion " ; the report at that time suggested that Sarah Jane and K @-@ 9 would both appear in the series . The fact that a Sarah Jane series was being developed was first confirmed in the BBC 's in @-@ house newsletter , Ariel , in early August 2006 . These early rumours were associated with the working title Sarah Jane Investigates .

K @-@ 9 's only appearances in the show 's first two series were a cameo in the special and an appearance in the last episode of the first series . This was due to the concurrent development of the independently produced children 's series , K @-@ 9 , which features a remodelled version of K

@-@ 9 with only indirect nods to Doctor Who . However , in 2009 the robot appeared with the Sarah Jane Adventures cast in a sketch for Comic Relief , and K @-@ 9 appeared in 6 episodes of the third series , followed by two more appearances in the fourth series . He did not appear at all in Series 5 .

= = = Production = = =

Production on the full series began in April 2007 . Two of the five two @-@ part stories were scripted by the special 's co @-@ writer Gareth Roberts . Bad Girls and New Captain Scarlet writer Phil Ford wrote two stories and Phil Gladwin wrote one . Creator and executive producer Russell T Davies was going to write one story but was forced to drop out due to other work commitments .

= = Cast and crew = =

In addition to Sladen , the first series of the programme stars Yasmin Paige as Maria Jackson , Sarah Jane 's 13 @-@ year @-@ old neighbour in Ealing , west London , and Tommy Knight as a boy named Luke , who is adopted by Sarah Jane at the conclusion of the introductory story . The third member of Sarah Jane 's young entourage is 14 @-@ year @-@ old called Clyde Langer , played by Daniel Anthony , who is introduced in the first episode of the proper series . Actress Porsha Lawrence Mavour briefly played Maria 's friend , Kelsey Harper , in the 2007 New Year 's Day special Invasion of the Bane which was created before the start of the series . Maria and her family are written out of the series in the first story of the second series , The Last Sontaran , but Maria and her father return briefly in the second part of The Mark of the Berserker . In the second story of that series , The Day of the Clown , several new regular cast members are introduced : Rani Chandra and her parents , Haresh , and Gita (played by Anjli Mohindra , Ace Bhatti , and Mina Anwar , respectively) .

Joseph Millson appears throughout the first series as Maria 's recently separated father , Alan , with Chrissie Jackson , Maria 's mother , played by Juliet Cowan . One other regular is Alexander Armstrong of comedy duo Armstrong and Miller , who provides the voice of Mr Smith , an extraterrestrial computer in Sarah Jane 's attic.The 2007 special featured Samantha Bond as the scheming villain Mrs Wormwood and Jamie Davis as her PR agent Davey . The first series included among its guest cast Jane Asher as Sarah Jane 's childhood friend Andrea Yates , Floella Benjamin as Professor Rivers , who returned in Series 2 , Series 3 and Series 5 , and Phyllida Law as Bea Nelson @-@ Stanley . The second series guest starred Bradley Walsh as an evil alien clown in the story The Day of the Clown and Russ Abbot as a sinister astrologer in Secrets of the Stars . Also appearing in the second series were Gary Beadle and Jocelyn Jee Esien , who portrayed Clyde 's parents Paul and Carla in The Mark of the Berserker ; Esien reprised her role briefly in Series 4 and more prominently in series 5 . Nicholas Courtney guest starred in Enemy of the Bane as classic Doctor Who character Sir Alistair Lethbridge @-@ Stewart , and Samantha Bond also returned as Wormwood for the episode .

The original executive producers for The Sarah Jane Adventures were Phil Collinson , Russell T Davies and Julie Gardner . Susie Liggat produced the pilot , but Matthew Bouch worked as producer of the series . Co @-@ writer Gareth Roberts , writing in Doctor Who Magazine , said , " We 're all determined that this will be a big , full @-@ blooded drama ; that nobody should ever think of it as ' just ' a children 's programme . " Sue Nott was the executive producer of the second series for CBBC .

In December 2007 , the BBC released a statement that Julie Gardner would be replaced by Piers Wenger as executive producer for Doctor Who in January 2009 , but that she would continue to executive @-@ produce Torchwood and The Sarah Jane Adventures through 2008 .

The fourth series in 2010 was executive produced by Russell T Davies and Nikki Wilson , and the producers were Brian Minchin and frequent writer Phil Ford . During this series , Cyril Nri was introduced as a new recurring character called The Shopkeeper . The production team remained in place for the completed episodes of Series 5 , which were shot concurrently with Series 4 . The

show 's abbreviated fifth and final series introduced a new main character named Sky , played by Sinead Michael . The episode that introduced Sky also featured a return appearance by the Shopkeeper , but the fact that the second half of the series was never produced left his story arc , as well as other ongoing plot points , unresolved . A special edition of Doctor Who Magazine , The Sarah Jane Companion Volume 3 , published in August 2012 , detailed the plotlines of the three unfilmed stories .

== Main cast ==

== Recurring cast ==

== Doctor Who characters ==

Including K 9 and Sarah Jane , some characters from the past or current run of Doctor Who have appeared in The Sarah Jane Adventures .

Numerous others have been referenced in dialogue . Several former companions of the Doctor are referenced in the story Death of the Doctor , and the episode also includes brief on screen flashbacks showing the Third , Fourth and Tenth Doctors . Companion Harry Sullivan is referenced separately in dialogue on several occasions and a photograph of the character is visible in one episode . In an issue of Doctor Who Magazine , Sophie Aldred was read an email from Russell T. Davies , in which he declared his plans to bring Ace into a story had the show continued . The episode Sky was originally to have featured the Eleventh Doctor , but Matt Smith was not available .

== Episodes ==

The Sarah Jane Adventures was first seen by its original British audience in the form of a 60 minute New Year 's Day special in 2007 , titled " Invasion of the Bane " , which was co written by Russell T Davies and Gareth Roberts . " Invasion of the Bane " was not a pilot , although the story does contains many conventional introductory elements common to pilots . Creator Russell T Davies has commented upon the exceptional broadcast situation , saying " Sarah Jane Adventures is slightly unusual in that it was commissioned before we 'd written the script . If we 'd written a load of rubbish , they 'd still have had to make it . " He refers to " Invasion of the Bane " simply as the " first episode " . The story focused on Sarah Jane 's investigation of a popular and addictive soft drink called Bubble Shock ! .

Series one of the show aired in September of that year , consisting of five two part half hour stories . Individual half hour episodes aired once a week on BBC One , with episodes airing a week ahead on children 's digital channel CBBC . The final part aired in November 2007 . The second series started in September 2008 using the same format , with six stories instead of five , ending the series in December . The third series started 15 October 2009 , twice weekly (Thursdays and Fridays) on BBC One from 15 October to 20 November . The fourth series aired from 11 October 2010 . The first of each story pair was accompanied by an episode of Sarah Jane 's Alien Files , a set of 25 minute episodes in which a member of the cast updates Mr. Smith 's database about certain aliens . It accompanied series 4 of the programme .

Due to the illness of Elisabeth Sladen , and her subsequent death on 19 April 2011 , filming for the second half of the fifth series , which was due to air in the autumn of 2011 , was postponed and later cancelled . Filming for three stories of the fifth series had been finished , and thus post production on these stories was completed . The final series was aired from 3 to 18 October 2011 on CBBC and ended with a tribute to Elisabeth Sladen in the form of a video montage of scenes from the series and Doctor Who .

The script of the unfilmed Sarah Jane Adventures episode The Thirteenth Floor was rewritten and broadcast as an episode of Wizards vs Aliens .

== Critical response ==

The Sarah Jane Adventures has been generally well received by critics and the viewing public . At the end of the first series , Abi Grant of The Daily Telegraph wrote : " With the debate about the future of children 's TV still rumbling on , this is what the BBC does best , and despite lacking the production values of Doctor Who , it 's still top tea @-@ time programming . " Daniel Martin of The Guardian described the show as looking very promising and more convincing than another Doctor Who spinoff Torchwood . Review website DVD Talk called the series " wonderful " , " thoughtful " and " imaginative children 's entertainment " that was highly recommended . The series also received praise for its willingness to tackle " darker themes [such as] Alzheimer 's , homelessness and loss . "

At Metacritic , the first series received an generally favourable score of 66 out of 100 based on five critics . As the series progressed reviews became slightly more positive with DVD Talk reviewer David Cornelius saying that the " second series is even better than the first . " However Eric Profancik from DVD Verdict stated that the second series suffered from " poor scripts and horrible acting " , criticising it for having " simple plots , too many conveniences and having corny humour . " Series three is described by Guy Clapperton of review site ScreenJabber.com as being slightly braver than its predecessors , while Bullz @-@ eye.com described it as " a sweet , fun little show , with some neat ideas " with " its heart very much in the right place . " Reviews for the final series were sympathetic for the series ' end and the unavoidably incomplete nature of the series (following the death of Elisabeth Sladen) and its story arcs . Stephen Kelly from The Guardian said that it was " a fitting tribute to Elisabeth Sladen " and has occupied a " unique place in the Whoniverse " .

== Awards and nominations ==

== International broadcast ==

The BBC 's children 's channel BBC Kids began broadcasting The Sarah Jane Adventures with " Invasion of the Bane " on 13 January 2008 , airing the rest of the series back @-@ to @-@ back on Sundays thereafter . The South African channel SABC 2 started airing the series beginning on 9 February 2008 . The Hong Kong channel ATV World , which has also aired Doctor Who and Torchwood , aired this series starting 17 February 2008 . The first series began airing on Sci Fi in the USA beginning on 11 April 2008 , but this is the only series broadcast on American television as of Summer 2010 , though later series have continued to be released on DVD in America without a prior television broadcast . In Australia , The Sarah Jane Adventures started on 31 October 2008 on Nickelodeon Australia . In Brazil , the show started airing on 19 November 2012 on TV Cultura , right after their broadcast of Doctor Who series 6 ended . It also screens in New Zealand on Nickelodeon New Zealand , and in Belgium on Ketnet . In 2013 the show started airing on JeemTV in Arabic .

== Merchandising ==

=== Toys ===

Character Options have been awarded a licence to produce Sarah Jane Adventure play sets , action figures , and a ' Sonic Lipstick ' toy . Four 2 @-@ figure sets have been released : Sarah Jane and Star Poet ; Sarah Jane and General Kudlak ; Sarah Jane and Child Slitheen and Sarah Jane and Graske . Also released are Sarah Jane 's Sonic Lipstick with Watch Scanner and Alien Communicator . Character Options have now discontinued the range due to lack of customer interest .

=== Audio adventures ===

Ten audiobooks have been released on CD , all but the last two read by the series lead , Elisabeth Sladen , who read them in the first person in character as Sarah Jane Smith . The final two books , released in November 2011 after Sladen 's death , were read by Daniel Anthony and Anjili Mohindra , respectively , though not as their characters .

The first two were the first time that BBC Audiobooks had commissioned new content for exclusive release on audio .

A 20 minute mini @-@ episode in two parts called " The Monster Hunt " written by Trevor Baxendale and read by Anjili Mohindra was made especially for the Monster Hunt game on the Sarah Jane Adventures website . Two more comics were released " Return of the Krulius " and " Defending Bannerman Road " . All comics were available as a pdf and a free mp3 download on the official Sarah Jane Adventures website .

=== Comics ===

Five The Sarah Jane Adventures comics were released on the official Sarah Jane Adventures website . Four of them were audio and comic adventures read by Anjili Mohindra . A pdf document and a mp3 audio track was available to download of all of the comics . Next to the Krulius stories the comic The Silver Bullet was published on the website . It is the comic that Clyde Langer wrote in the Sarah Jane Adventures episode The Curse of Clyde Langer .

=== Novelisations ===

The Sarah Jane Adventures merchandising revived the concept of the novelisation , which had been part of the Doctor Who franchise from the 1970s to the 1990s (principally under the editorship of author and former Who script editor Terrance Dicks) . The first series and most of the second were adapted in this way , but later series saw only a few releases and a transition from print to e @-@ books .

In September 2010 , Pearson Education published four " photo @-@ novelisations " based on stories from the third series :

=== Magazines and Books ===

Although there has never been a Sarah Jane Adventures magazine there have been three special editions of the Doctor Who Magazine , focused on the Sarah Jane Adventures , as well as regular mentions in the standard editions of Doctor Who Magazine .

=== Home media ===

=== DVD ===

=== Blu @-@ ray ===

=== Past official BBC websites ===

The Sarah Jane Adventures Series 2 @, @ 3 @, @ 4 via Internet Archive
The Sarah Jane Adventures Series 1 Internet Archive