

= The Long Game =

" The Long Game " is the seventh episode of the first series of the British science fiction television programme Doctor Who that was first broadcast on 7 May 2005 on BBC One . It was written by executive producer Russell T Davies and directed by Brian Grant .

In the episode , alien time traveller the Doctor (Christopher Eccleston) and his companion Rose Tyler (Billie Piper) , having been joined by near @-@ future genius Adam Mitchell (Bruno Langley) , land on Satellite 5 in the far future . Satellite 5 is a space station that broadcasts news across the entire human empire . However , the Doctor notices that the station is suspicious : there are no aliens , and those who are promoted to Floor 500 seem to disappear . The Doctor and Rose discover that the Editor (Simon Pegg) and an alien are controlling the rest of humanity by way of the press . Meanwhile , Adam makes a mistake that forces the Doctor and Rose to take him home .

The concept of " The Long Game " was originally submitted by Davies to the Doctor Who script office in the 1980s . Davies had also been interested in doing a storyline about a failed companion . In addition , critics have pointed out that the story is a satire on the media . Production for the episode took place in November and December 2004 , with some location filming in Coryton , Cardiff . " The Long Game " was watched by 8 @.@ 01 million viewers in the UK and received generally mixed reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

The Doctor , Rose , and Adam arrive on Floor 139 of Satellite 5 , a space station orbiting Earth in the year 200 @,@ 000 . The Doctor uses his sonic screwdriver to get Adam and Rose some credits to buy food while he looks around the station . The Doctor meets a woman named Cathica , a reporter who tells him that the station is a giant broadcast tower transmitting news across Earth . They are led to a room where she sits down in a chair located in the center of a round table . The reporters are connected to the computer via a special port installed directly into the brain . The Doctor believes there is a malevolent purpose to the station that is holding back human development . He learns from Cathica that a select few are invited to Floor 500 , which is believed to be the highest promotion that can be earned on the station .

The Doctor , with Rose , hacks into the computer systems of the station and is detected by the Editor . The Editor allows the Doctor and Rose to travel to Floor 500 , with Cathica following soon after . On Floor 500 the Doctor and Rose find the Editor directing control over the station through a number of dead humans . On the ceiling resides the Editor @-@ in @-@ Chief , the Mighty Jagrafess of the Holy Hadojassic Maxarodenfoe , to whom the Editor answers . The Doctor learns that the Jagrafess has controlled the humans aboard Satellite 5 to control the lives of the people on the planet below , by manipulating the news .

Meanwhile , Adam discovers that he can gain access to information about Earth 's future . He has an information port installed in his brain and uses Rose 's phone to call his answering machine at home and transfer data to it . The port also allows the Jagrafess into Adam 's mind , who discovers the true nature of the Doctor and makes plans to kill him . The Doctor , aware of Cathica 's presence outside the room , loudly comments on how altering the environmental systems will likely kill the Jagrafess . Cathica takes the hint and reverses the cooling system , causing Floor 500 to overheat and killing the Jagrafess and the Editor . As the humans on board the station and on Earth come to wake from the stupor they 've been in , the Doctor congratulates Cathica and gives her hope for the future . The Doctor discovers Adam 's duplicity and takes him to his home on Earth . The Doctor destroys the answering machine with the data from the future on it and tells Adam he is no longer welcome in the TARDIS . Adam tries to plead with the Doctor and Rose , saying that they can 't just leave him to walk around with a port to his brain for the rest of his life , but the Doctor tells him that if he just leads a quiet life , it probably won 't be discovered . But as soon as the Doctor and Rose leaves , Adam 's mother returns home and manages , by pure accident and much to her shock , to activate his port .

== Continuity ==

The related update the tie @-@ in website " Who is Doctor Who ? " was an essay from a 14 @-@ year @-@ old Adam Mitchell . " The Long Game " takes place in the time period of the " Fourth Great and Bountiful Human Empire " . The first Earth Empire was featured in several Third Doctor stories in the 1970s . Following the " bad wolf " theme begun in earlier episodes of the season , one of the broadcast channels featuring the Face of Boe (from " The End of the World ") is named " BAD WOLFTV " . In the two @-@ part finale of the 2005 series , " Bad Wolf " and " The Parting of the Ways " , those behind the Jagraffess are revealed to be the Daleks . The finale is set on Satellite 5 a hundred years after " The Long Game " . The Doctor claims in " Bad Wolf " that " someone has been playing a long game " , referring to the manipulation of humanity both before and after " The Long Game " took place .

== Production ==

In the book The Shooting Scripts , Russell T Davies claims that he had originally set out to write this episode from Adam 's perspective , watching the adventure unfolding from his point of view (exactly as Rose did in " Rose ") and seeing both the Doctor and Rose as enigmatic , frightening characters . He even gave this outline a working title : " Adam " . Another working title for this story was " The Companion Who Couldn't " . According to Davies , the concept of " The Long Game " was originally written in the early 1980s and submitted to the Doctor Who production office . Whether it was ever read by the production team of the time is unclear , as Davies received a rejection from the BBC Script Unit , who advised him to write more realistic television about " a man and his mortgage " instead . Davies reworked the story for the new series .

In the DVD commentary for this episode , director Brian Grant and actor Bruno Langley refer to an additional motivation for Adam 's actions . Apparently , in earlier drafts of the script , Adam 's father suffered from a disease that was incurable in his time (2012) and he hoped to learn about a cure which had been discovered between that year and 200 @,@ 000 . In the shooting script , the condition is arthritis . No trace of this motivation remains in the finished programme , although Grant discusses it as if it were still present . Langley and Grant also reveal that the " frozen vomit " that Adam spits out in one scene was in fact a " kiwi and orange ice cube " .

Simon Pegg had grown up with Doctor Who and considered it a " great honour " to guest star . He was pleased at being cast as a bad guy . Pegg had previously played Don Chaney in the Eighth Doctor audio play Invaders from Mars . When the Editor announces the Jagraffess 's name to the Doctor and Rose , he pronounces it as " The Mighty Jagraffess of the Holy Hadrajassic Maxaraddenfoe " . Pegg has stated during interviews that he found this an extremely difficult line to say . Voice artist Nicholas Briggs had recorded voice work for the Jagraffess , but his contribution was not used because it sounded too similar to the Nestene Consciousness (which Briggs had voiced in " Rose ") . " The Long Game " was produced singularly in the series ' fourth production block . Filming in the studio took place in November and December 2004 . Some location filming was done in the former BT building in Coryton , Cardiff for five days in December . The Jagraffess was entirely made of computer @-@ generated imagery (CGI) , animated by The Mill . It was given a shark @-@ like design , with the intention that it would " snap out " like a shark . The initial design was also described as a " lump of meat on the ceiling " .

== Broadcast and reception ==

" The Long Game " was first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC One on 7 May 2005 . Overnight ratings showed that the episode had been watched by 7 @.@ 51 million viewers live , a 38 @.@ 9 % audience share . It received a final rating of 8 @.@ 01 million viewers in the UK , the sixth highest @-@ rated broadcast on BBC One for the week . The episode also received an Appreciation Index of 81 . " The Long Game " was released on DVD in Region 2 alongside the following episodes " Father 's Day " , " The Empty Child " , and " The Doctor Dances " on 1 August

2005 . It was then re @-@ released as part of the first series boxset on 21 November 2005 .

The episode received generally mixed reviews . SFX described it as an " okay " episode that was reminiscent of the earlier episode " The End of the World . " Despite praising Pegg , the theme of " media control , " and the Jagraffess , they criticised it for " [failing] to capture the imagination " because there was " no real palpable sense of threat " and that human culture looked identical to modern day . Rupert Smith of The Guardian wrote , " Anything that satirises the profession of journalism is all right with me , but this did it with style . " Arnold T Blumburg of Now Playing gave " The Long Game " a grade of B- , describing it as " entertaining " and a welcome throwback to the classic series . However , he questioned the developing tradition of the Doctor not being the hero of the episode and noted that there were some dangling threads . Reviewing the episode in 2013 , Patrick Mulkern of Radio Times was more positive , writing that it " acts brilliantly as a satire of the media . " He also praised the guest cast and characters and Adam 's departure . In 2011 , Den of Geek 's Mark Harrison wrote that " In retrospect , ' The Long Game ' is an underrated and perfectly enjoyable mid @-@ series episode , " praising Adam 's departure .

Reviewing " The Long Game " for The A.V. Club in 2013 , Alasdair Wilkins gave it a grade of " B- " . He found it " inessential " and commented that it was not very clear on the motives of the Editor and Jagraffess , but Pegg 's performance was almost enough to make up for it . Overall he felt that the story " presents a few too many simple ideas , with the cumulative effect that this is a story that feels slight at best , underdeveloped at worst . The episode is hardly a failure , but it could have been so much more . " In Who Is the Doctor , a guide to the revived series , Graeme Burk described the episode as " entertaining , if unspectacular . " He called Pegg the best guest star so far , and stated that Langley did a " superb job " at conveying Adam , but he felt that the episode did not have much else beside the failed companion storyline . Burk criticised the satire for not being subtle enough and borrowing from other stories such as Nineteen Eighty @-@ Four . He also remarked that it was a shame Adam 's motives were cut , as well as development between Rose and Adam . Burk 's coauthor Robert Smith ? [the " ? " is part of his *nomme de plume*] was more positive , opining that a satire did not have to be subtle to be effective , and that viewers could still relate it to the news media today . He also praised the way " The Long Game " showed the Ninth Doctor as an " inspirational figure . " The two also questioned the decision to leave Adam in the 21st century with future technology .

= = = Reviews = = =

" The Long Game " reviews at Outpost Gallifrey

" The Long Game " reviews at The Doctor Who Ratings Guide