

= Kiss Kiss , Bang Bang (Torchwood) =

" Kiss Kiss , Bang Bang " is the first episode of the second series of British science fiction television series Torchwood , which was broadcast by BBC Two on 16 January 2008 .

The episode features a guest appearance from James Marsters as Captain John Hart , Captain Jack 's former colleague and lover , who comes to the Torchwood team as part of a plan to steal a diamond from a woman who was murdered .

Chris Chibnall wrote the episode with the knowledge that Marsters wished to appear in the series , and has written the part of John Hart " absolutely " for him . The episode was filmed in Cardiff in July 2007 . " Kiss Kiss , Bang Bang " was seen by four million viewers upon its original broadcast , with an Appreciation Index of 84 , and was met with generally positive reviews in both the United Kingdom and United States .

= = Synopsis = =

Captain Jack Harkness (John Barrowman) returns to his team in spectacular fashion , walking into the middle of a hostage situation involving his team and an alien Blowfish , shooting the intoxicated Blowfish in the head . At the Hub , his team question why he left them , and he simply responds that he had found his Doctor and that he belongs at Torchwood . The team is then alerted to a death near a multi @-@ storey car park , where the team detect energy from the Rift on the corpse . Jack , to even his surprise , gets a hologram message on his vortex manipulator from a person he recognises , and leaves the team to talk to him .

The person is Captain John Hart (James Marsters) , a fellow Time Agent and former lover of Jack . He is responsible for the death , and a public disturbance at a nightclub . After a passionate kiss and brief fight at the nightclub , John tells Jack that the Time Agency was disbanded and he has since undergone several rehabilitation programmes , before the team catch up with Jack and are introduced to John . John accompanies the team back to the Hub , where he tells the team of three cylindrical devices scattered throughout Cardiff , which he explains are radioactive cluster bombs , and he requires help to defuse them . Thus , they split into three pairs : Jack and administrator Ianto Jones (Gareth David @-@ Lloyd) search an office block (during which Jack successfully asks Ianto out on a date) , doctor Owen Harper (Burn Gorman) and technical expert Toshiko Sato (Naoko Mori) search a warehouse , and police liaison Gwen Cooper (Eve Myles) and John search the nearby docks .

It is clear that John has an ulterior motive ; first , he paralyses Gwen and locks her in a crate telling her that if she is not found in two hours , her main organs will stop working and she would die . He then finds Owen and Tosh , shooting the former in the hip . After letting Ianto go , he finally confronts Jack , who realises that the bombs are an elementary 21st century confidence trick . Jack throws the device over the building , and John pushes him off the roof in retaliation .

John returns to Torchwood , where he takes a pyramid @-@ shaped object from the Blowfish in the morgue . Gwen (who was saved by the rest of the team) and the others arrive , including Jack , who survived due to his immortality . They hold John at gunpoint , where he admits that the " bombs " will simply triangulate the location of a diamond he stole off a former lover . However , by using the devices and the pyramid , he discovers there is no diamond ; John 's former lover anticipated dying , and thus set a trap to kill her murderer . The device turns out to be a bomb which attaches itself to John and begins a ten @-@ minute countdown .

Unwilling to be murdered , John handcuffs himself to Gwen and swallows the key . Gwen formulates a plan to use the Rift at the car park to contain the explosion , but at the penalty of her own life . Jack and Owen catch John and the rest of the team at the car park where John arrived and inject him with the team 's DNA , thus confusing the device into detaching from John . Jack throws the bomb into the rift where it detonates . John then agrees to free Gwen and leave , but before leaving , tells Jack that he " found Gray " , visibly disturbing Jack , who just asks his team to get back to work .

= = Production = =

= = = Writing and filming = = =

The development of the episode commenced when executive producer Russell T Davies received an email from his agent , telling him James Marsters was interested in appearing on the series . Chris Chibnall wrote the episode " absolutely " for Marsters , and wanted Hart to become a conflict for Jack Harkness . Marsters believed that Hart was somewhat of a doppelganger to Harkness . After scripting was complete , Marsters did not need to discuss with the directors because he felt the script was self @-@ explanatory .

Originally , Captain John was going to come through the Rift on a " pandimensional surfboard " similar to the one found in the Doctor Who episode " Boom Town " , Chibnall changed it because the production team decided that " it would look cooler if John just calmly walked out of the Rift , as if it was the sort of thing he might do every day " .

The episode was filmed in Cardiff in July 2007 . The first meeting between Jack and John at the nightclub was written to be akin to a Spaghetti Western . Instead of fighting , it was decided that they would kiss first , so that the audience " don 't see it coming " . The following fight scene was intended to be " sexy , rather than brutal " , similar to the naked wrestling scene in the film Women in Love . While the scene only lasted one minute on screen , much more was filmed , so much that it took a whole day to shoot . 80 % of the acting in the scene was done by Marsters and Barrowman themselves , instead of stuntmen . The style of fighting was similar to what Marsters was used to , and was , according to stunt co @-@ ordinator Tom Lucy , a cross between Western , martial arts , and Bourne .

The building used to film searching for one of the canisters was a British Gas building in Cardiff . The scene with Jack falling off the building was performed by Curtis Rivers , John Barrowman 's stunt double . Though Rivers made the stunt to make Jack " look good " , Barrowman had to lie on a box over green screen . Marsters and Barrowman were used for filming close to the roof 's edge .

= = = Visual effects and animatronics = = =

While the most noticeable visual effect was John 's entrance through the Rift , The Mill also made inconspicuous visual effects , such as extending the number of crates at the docks . The visual effect used for the Rift was redesigned for the second series , due to a decision among the visual effects team at The Mill that separate manifestations of the Rift appear different ? in this case , orange and gold was used to make the Rift appear " warmer and more magical " . The Mill also made three different types of holograms . The projection from Jack 's wriststrap device was coloured blue to match earlier appearances , John 's wriststrap projected a flashier , full colour image due to specifications in the script , and the golden hue in the projection of John 's ex @-@ lover was based on the prop .

The blowfish in the opening scene was intended by executive producer Russell T Davies to be " like Finding Nemo , but evil " and the producer of the episode , Richard Stokes , wanted the designs to be as flamboyant as " the lionfish in The Spy Who Loved Me " . The first designs of the costume were visibly different from the final design ; the first designs were more fish @-@ like than humanoid . After a humanoid design was approved by the production team , Millennium FX , who previously created the prosthetics for Doctor Who and the first series of Torchwood , immediately sculpted the costume to Paul Kasey 's dimensions . Two versions of the mask were created ; one was animatronic , which included mechanical fins , and one was used for the stunt where the blowfish was shot in the head .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

= = = Ratings and later broadcast = = =

The episode was watched by 4 @. @ 22 million viewers and its Appreciation Index figure was 84 . After its original broadcast , an edited version was shown the following week on BBC Two . The episode was also aired ten days later on BBC America .

= = = Critical reception = = =

Metro picked " Kiss Kiss , Bang Bang " as their pick of the day on 16 January 2008 , complimenting the " fast @-@ paced plot " in contrast to the " puerile humour " and " [meandering] between soft porn and Scooby @-@ Doo " of the first series . In the same newspaper , on the following day , Keith Watson commented that the episode " was like watching Carry On Up the Asteroids " , but nevertheless stated that " as dramatic cocktails go , [its mix of gadgets , sci @-@ fi gobbledegook and louche libidos] was out of this world " , and gave the episode four stars out of five . The Times commented that the episode was " good , salacious , knockabout fun " , the best thing about Torchwood that " everyday Cardiff hums alongside psychotic blowfish and time loops " , and asked " when extraterrestrial push comes to intergalactic shove , how could anyone object to a series that begins with a blowfish driving a sports car ? " . The Guardian stated that parts were " very , very , funny " and the episode was largely " a hoot " . However , The Daily Telegraph felt that the series fared better on BBC Three , but on BBC Two it was " both far too pleased with itself and surprisingly amateurish " .

The episode also received positive reviews in the United States . The Chicago Sun @-@ Times summarised it as " gay and playful sci @-@ fi fun " and compared it with Buffy the Vampire Slayer 's " good and efficient wit " , and theorised that its rising quality made it " not hard to imagine it could be must @-@ watch TV by season four " , the Orlando Sentinel stated it was " a bracing mix of campy comedy , chilling twists and sexual surprises " and commented that it " enlivens Saturdays " , and the Sci Fi Channel , who syndicate Doctor Who , called the script " excellent " , commented that " Marsters and Barrowman 's chemistry is just terrific " , and lamented that the show only airs thirteen episodes per series , as opposed to the American standard of 24 .