

= Genesis of the Daleks =

Genesis of the Daleks is the fourth serial of the twelfth season of the British science fiction television series Doctor Who . It was written by Terry Nation and directed by David Maloney , and originally broadcast in six weekly parts from 8 March to 12 April 1975 on BBC1 .

In the serial , the Fourth Doctor (Tom Baker) and his companions Sarah Jane Smith (Elisabeth Sladen) and Harry Sullivan (Ian Marter) are sent by members of the Doctor 's race , the Time Lords , to the time of the Daleks ' creation , to avert their future terrorisation of other species . The Doctor faces the dilemma of whether he has the right to do so .

Genesis of the Daleks was originally commissioned under producer Barry Letts and script editor Terrance Dicks , who felt that the outline submitted by Nation was too similar to his previous Dalek adventures , and encouraged him to explore the origin of the Daleks . The story introduces the Daleks ' creator Davros (played by Michael Wisher) , who had a unique visual design . The script was handed to Letts and Dicks ' successors , producer Philip Hinchcliffe and script editor Robert Holmes , who made changes to the original script which gave it a darker tone . Nation , having intentionally modelled the Daleks on the Nazis , further explored the theme in Genesis . It also addresses the moral issues that come with time travelling and genocide . The story was filmed over January and February 1975 , with some location filming done in a quarry in Betchworth .

Genesis of the Daleks premiered with 10 @. @ 7 million viewers and concluded five weeks later with 9 @. @ 1 million , with the least @- @ watched episode being Part Three with 8 @. @ 5 million viewers . Since its broadcast it has been widely praised as one of the series ' best . The story was novelised in 1976 by Dicks , and released as a condensed LP in 1979 , before being released on VHS in 1991 and DVD in 2006 .

= = Plot = =

The Doctor is intercepted while travelling from Earth to the Ark by the Time Lords for a mission to interfere in the creation of the Daleks to avert a future time when Daleks would dominate the universe . The Doctor is given a Time Ring to use to return to the TARDIS when the task is complete . The Doctor finds that he is already on the planet Skaro and joins his companions Sarah Jane Smith and Harry Sullivan . They find that Skaro is a war @- @ torn planet ; a generations @- @ long war of attrition between the Thals and the Kaleds for dominance of the planet has laid waste to its surface and ecology . In the midst of a poison gas attack by the Thals , the Doctor and Harry are dragged inside the Kaled dome , while Sarah is left outside . She runs into the Mutos , exiled descendants of those mutated by chemical weapons early in the war but they are captured by the Thals . Sarah and the Mutos are forced to load radioactive components into a missile , that is to be launched at the Kaled dome . Sarah attempts to lead an escape by climbing out of the rocket silo but fails .

The Doctor and Harry are brought before the Kaled elite : General Ravon , the leader of the Kaled army and Security Commander Nyder . The Doctor attempts to explain that they are aliens but Nyder dismisses this as their greatest scientist , Davros , has stated there is no life outside Skaro . The Doctor and Harry 's possessions , including the Time Ring , are taken but another scientist , Ronson , discovers that they really are alien . Davros enters and demonstrates his new " Mark III travel machine " , which he later dubs as the next stage of their evolution : a " Dalek " . Ronson subsequently confides in the Doctor that he and other scientists believe Davros ' research has become immoral , because he using unethical mutations to create the Daleks . The Doctor promises to tell the Kaled leaders about Davros and the Daleks if Ronson helps them to escape . The Doctor meets Mogran and other Kaled Councillors , who agree to halt Davros ' experiments . When Davros discovers this through Nyder 's spies , he prepares twenty Daleks under computer control and covertly provides the Thal leaders with a chemical to weaken the Kaled dome in order that their rocket will penetrate it .

The Doctor and Harry rescue Sarah from the Thal dome but in doing so , the Doctor is captured . He watches helplessly as the Thals launch their rocket and destroy the Kaled dome . At the Kaled

bunker , Davros declares the Kaled race is dead , giving birth to the Daleks ; he claims Ronson provided the chemical secret to the Thals and has him executed . He instructs the next scientist , Gharman , to remove compassion and pity from the new Dalek mutations and sends them to the Thal dome to exterminate everyone . In the confusion , the Doctor , Sarah and Harry rejoin the few Thal and Mutos survivors and return to the Kaled bunker . The Doctor instructs the Thals and Mutos to try to destroy the bunker , while he and his companions go inside . They are captured by Davros , who becomes aware of the Doctor 's knowledge of the Daleks ' future . The Doctor is forced to describe all future defeats of the Daleks which Davros records , to ensure that they will never occur , later having a private audience with Davros in a failed attempt to reason with him , before being placed in a cell .

The Doctor and his companions are freed by another scientist , while Gharman is making his move to stop Davros ; the group using the opportunity to rig explosives in the Dalek incubation room but the Doctor finds himself unable to detonate it , asking " Have I the right ? " . The Doctor is able to avoid the choice when one of Gharman 's followers reveals that Davros appears to have succumbed to their demands and will stop his research , on the condition of a vote among the councillors . While Davros pleads his case the Doctor recovers their possessions , before he and his companions force Nyder to give him the recording of the Dalek defeats , so they can destroy it . At that time , once the remaining Kaled elite are split between him and Gharman , Davros reveals the voting was a ploy to give the Daleks time to arrive and kill the opposing group . The Doctor and his friends learn that the Thals and Mutos have prepared to detonate explosives to seal the Daleks inside the bunker and there is little time to escape . While Sarah and Harry get out , the Doctor returns to destroy the Dalek incubation chamber with a Dalek inadvertently completing the circuit and destroying the room . The Doctor then escapes before the Thal explosives detonate .

Acting on their will and impulses , the Daleks start a production line against Davros ' wishes , while mercilessly killing his supporters . Davros attempts to activate the bunker 's self @-@ destruct but is shot by a Dalek . Though the Daleks know they are trapped , they are confident they will eventually emerge as the superior race and dominate the universe . The Doctor , Sarah and Harry say goodbye to the surviving Thals and Mutos . While the Doctor did not stop the Daleks , he does believe he has hindered their development for perhaps a thousand years and was thus successful in his mission . The three use the Time Ring to return to their own time .

= = Production = =

= = = Conception and writing = = =

When planning stories for season 12 , producer Barry Letts and script editor Terrance Dicks felt that it was time for Terry Nation to return to the series and write another Dalek adventure . Letts and Dicks enjoyed the script Nation sent in , but found it too " reminiscent " of many of his previous Dalek stories . The two suggested that Nation instead write an origin story for the Daleks , originally titled Daleks ? Genesis of Terror . The serial was commissioned on 1 April 1974 , and the scripts accepted on 22 July . The stories lined up for the season were handed over to Letts and Dicks ' successors , producer Philip Hinchcliffe and script editor Robert Holmes , with whom Genesis of the Daleks gained a darker tone . Holmes was not a fan of frequent appearances by the Daleks , and only allowed the story because it explored their origins . In an aim to make the series more adult , Hinchcliffe wanted the story to be " pacy " and make the Daleks appear more powerful . In a 2006 interview , Dicks said that he does not believe the story would have been much different if he and Letts were in charge , though he remarked he would have added some lighter moments to soften the " grim " tone . Director David Maloney stated that the images of war at the beginning of the serial were intended to create atmosphere , and he had no intention of losing the younger audience .

The production of Genesis of the Daleks saw several changes from the script . Maloney altered the opening scene to show the soldiers gunned down by machine guns in slow motion . Nation was displeased with the change , and Maloney later felt that the violent addition was " a bit much " .

Hinchcliffe and Maloney were not keen on the Doctor 's original meeting with the Time Lord , which took place in a lush garden , and changed it to the Skaro war @-@ zone which they felt more appropriate . The Thal soldiers were originally supposed to be boys aged 15 or 16 to illustrate the youth of those fighting in the war , but this was later changed to make them appear more mature . In the Genesis of Terror script , Sarah Jane becomes ill in the third episode from radiation poisoning , and Bettan was a male who was introduced in the fourth episode . Part Five originally had more action in the Dalek incubator room and ended with the Doctor 's question of whether he had the right to destroy them .

= = = Casting and costumes = = =

Maloney cast John Franklyn @-@ Robbins as the Time Lord because he had worked with him before and intended his character to resemble Death in The Seventh Seal . Hilary Minster , who played a Thal soldier , had also played a Thal in Planet of the Daleks (1973) . Minster had been considered for the role of Mogran . Peter Miles previously played Dr. Lawrence in Doctor Who and the Silurians (1970) and Professor Whitaker in Invasion of the Dinosaurs (1974) . Stephen Yardley , who played the Muto Sevrin , later appeared in Vengeance on Varos (1985) . During filming of Genesis , Yardley walked into the casting department on his lunch break in costume and asked for a job ; because of his costume , they assumed he was a tramp from the street . Dennis Chinnery , who played Gharman , had previously been seen in The Chase (1965) and would later appear in The Twin Dilemma (1984) .

The character of Davros was designed by Nation to have created the Daleks in his image , and to also be a " spokesperson " for the Daleks as he felt it was " boring " listening to Daleks giving speeches . The design was inspired by the Mekon , a comic book character with no body but a " green , dome @-@ like head " which Hinchcliffe remembered from his childhood . Davros attracted the attention of BBC prosthetics designer John Friedlander who agreed to come off another show to make Davros ' mask . The latex mask was moulded to Michael Wisher 's face by make @-@ up artist Sylvia James . Wisher could even eat while wearing the mask . Regular latex instead of the more mouldable foam latex was used because the latter was too expensive . The cast and crew regarded Davros ' effects as a great technical achievement considering the budget and time period they worked in . Two children visiting Baker at the BBC studios were scared by Wisher in costume ; they thought he was a statue at first . When sitting in Davros ' Dalek @-@ like base , Wisher wore knee pads and a kilt because trousers were too uncomfortable . To prepare during rehearsals , Wisher acted in a wheelchair with a paper bag over his head that only had slits cut out for his eyes so he would be used to the " disorienting " situation and be able to express himself without using his whole face . Wisher , a heavy smoker , put two holes in the top of the bag so he could smoke underneath it in rehearsals . Wisher also provided some of the voices for the Daleks with Roy Skelton ; in some scenes , he was acting to his own pre @-@ recorded dialogue .

= = = Filming and effects = = =

Genesis of the Daleks was the last serial of the twelfth season to be filmed , after Revenge of the Cybermen . As Sarah Jane had been filmed in Revenge wearing a combat costume , it was added into Genesis that the Doctor would hand her the outfit , to which she changes into by the next scene . The story was mainly filmed in January 1975 , with some studio recording carried into February . Location filming for the serial took place at Betchworth quarry in Surrey , which represented the landscape of Skaro . Having had trouble with the Daleks on location in Planet of the Daleks (1973) , Maloney scheduled shooting so that they only appeared in studio scenes . The three active Dalek props used in the serial were originals from the 1960s , and their wear was covered by new paint . Five " dummy " Daleks which could not be operated were also used . Hinchcliffe wanted the Daleks to appear more powerful , and intended to achieve this through low angles and lighting . Duncan Brown , who was responsible for studio lighting , used colours and dark lighting to make the Daleks seem as if they were " emerging from the shadows " and to suggest rather than show the world

created to viewers .

The same model was used for both the Kaled and the Thal domes . The gas attack in Part One was achieved through dry ice and green lighting . Some of the Thal guns were re @-@ used props from the First Doctor (William Hartnell) serial Galaxy 4 (1965) . The electric trolley used by the Kaleds in Part One worked in tests , but collapsed when Baker and Marter boarded it . The creature Harry and the Doctor glimpse at the end of Part Two was mainly a reused Ice Warrior costume , while the Thal rocket ship was a reused model from The Ambassadors of Death (1970) . During the filming of Part Two , Miles and Chinnery had trouble fitting the gun on the Dalek . As a result , the scene had to be filmed in two takes , bridged with a reaction shot of the Doctor . Part Two is unusual in that it is one of the very few episodes not to begin with a reprise , and also the first to end in a freeze frame . A stunt double for Elisabeth Sladen was hired for Sarah 's fall from the scaffolding , but Maloney discovered that she would be falling eight feet , while Sladen had fallen ten feet in rehearsals . Maloney ultimately decided to conclude the episode with a freeze frame ending . Maloney would use the freeze frame technique again , most notably with The Deadly Assassin . The third episode overran its 25 @-@ minute limit and rather than cut material out the cliffhanger was changed from Davros ' speech to the Doctor being electrocuted . The music for the serial was recorded on 3 March 1975 and the dubbing finished the day before Part One aired .

= = Themes and analysis = =

Nation , who grew up during World War II , intentionally based the Daleks on the Nazis , and this episode contains many deliberate parallels . The Kaleds dress in uniforms reminiscent of the Nazis and display " fascist salutes " . The Kaleds look to " keep [their] race pure " by banishing the Thals and Mutos . Cast and crew members described it as a " warning to the world " about the danger of allowing authoritarianism take over . Physical comparisons have been drawn between the appearance of Nyder and Heinrich Himmler ; aside from the resemblance , both wear insignias and spectacles . As production of the third episode began , the producers decided to downplay some of the Nazi symbolism , and took away Nyder 's Iron Cross .

Ed Webb and Mark Wardecker , in a paper in Doctor Who and Philosophy , interpreted the Dalek history shown in Genesis of the Daleks as a warning that " scientists will be the one to bring about the ultimate destruction , the ultimate evil , and deliberately so " . They also commented that the serial showed that the Daleks were evil by design , rather than evolution . Davros represents a mad scientist who creates a monster that then consumes him . Sarah Honeychurch and Niall Burr , in the same book , wrote that the corruption of the Daleks showed that creatures should not be created with " such limited moral reasoning , " and that in our world we cannot " impose our own personal human standards on everybody else " .

Genesis of the Daleks also displays a battle between good and evil . Letts enjoyed the fact that the story did not have clear heroes and villains , but rather a conflict of principle . The discussion between the Doctor and Davros about the hypothetical viral weapon demonstrates this . Hinchcliffe described it as the " hero meets antihero " moment , with the two engaged in " intellectual grappling " . The episode also presents the " moral dilemma " of whether the Doctor should destroy the Daleks , resulting in the famous " Have I the right ? " scene . The Doctor 's comparison to knowingly killing a child who would grow up to be a dictator shows how the Doctor 's ethics are influenced by his non @-@ linear experience of time . (The Twelfth Doctor would again revisit this theme in the 2015 episodes " The Magician 's Apprentice " and " The Witch 's Familiar " .) He considers the good things that may come out of the Daleks , such as that " many future worlds would become allies " . The Doctor 's conclusion that he does not have the right is an example of utilitarian reasoning , and a " duty @-@ based ethical " position . Sladen recalled that Baker took the scene very seriously , almost " agonising " over the dialogue .

Comparisons to other stories have been drawn . The Time Lord who appears at the story 's beginning is intentionally costumed to resemble Death in Ingmar Bergman 's film The Seventh Seal . Gareth Roberts has compared this character to the ghost of Hamlet 's father , setting the protagonist (the Doctor) on a violent mission with which he has moral qualms . Martin Wiggins , senior lecturer

and fellow at the Shakespeare Institute at Stratford @-@ upon @-@ Avon , suggests that the Doctor 's indecision about destroying the Dalek embryos in the " have I the right ? " scene is derived from The Brothers Karamazov .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

Genesis of the Daleks was first broadcast in six weekly parts from 8 March to 12 April 1975 . Viewership varied from 8 to 10 million ; Parts One and Two were watched by audiences of 10 @.@ 7 and 10 @.@ 5 million , Parts Three and Four were watched by audiences of 8 @.@ 5 and 8 @.@ 8 million , and Parts Five and Six were watched by audiences of 9 @.@ 8 and 9 @.@ 1 million . Audience Appreciation Indexes were taken for the second , fourth , fifth , and sixth episodes , scoring 57 , 58 , 57 , and 56 respectively .

At the time of broadcast , there were some complaints about the level of violence portrayed . Mary Whitehouse , of the National Viewers ' and Listeners ' Association , complained that Genesis contained " tea @-@ time brutality for tots " . Scenes objected to included the depictions of war and Nyder hitting the Doctor . However , David J. Howe and Stephen James Walker , in their Doctor Who : The Television Companion (1998) , recorded a positive reaction from fans in regards to creativity and Davros , though one writer noted the ending did not satisfyingly close the story . The BBC 's Audience Research Report concluded , " A little more complex than some Doctor Who adventures , perhaps , and with underlying questions of conscience , the serial had been ' different ' it was occasionally felt and , although dismissed in some quarters as far @-@ fetched , long drawn @-@ out , confused and / or predictable , had provided acceptable escapist entertainment for the majority . " Howe and Walker themselves described the serial as " well @-@ written and full of new ideas , while still remaining true to the Daleks ' roots by effectively equating them with the Nazis " , and particularly praised the production values , pacing , and moral dilemma . However , they noted a few minor flaws , namely Harry being attacked by a giant clam , dull cliffhangers , and " many of the scientist characters serve no other purpose than to act as Dalek @-@ fodder " .

In 2010 , Mark Braxton of Radio Times hailed the serial as " Terry Nation 's finest hour for the series " , especially praising the creation of Davros . He was also positive towards Dudley Simpson 's score and Davros 's allies who were " impeccably written and played " from Nyder to Gharman . However , he was disappointed that Harry did not have much to do . The A.V. Club reviewer Christopher Bahn noted that it contradicted some aspects of The Daleks but that it " [hit] the emotional target dead @-@ on " . He particularly praised Davros and Skaro . However , Bahn felt the " major problem " with the portrayal of the Daleks was that " we 're not given any choice but to view them as psychopathic murderers " , and the Doctor came across as a " catastrophically incompetent secret agent " . DVD Talk 's Stuart Galbraith gave Genesis of the Daleks four out of five stars , calling it as a " real fan @-@ pleaser " and writing that Wiseman was " superb " as Davros . While noting that the story " is mostly concerned with action and suspense , which it does rather well " , he felt it " isn 't especially original " as it dealt with common time @-@ travel issues , despite doing it in " intelligent ways " . In 2009 , SFX listed the scene where the Daleks receive their first blaster as the thirteenth scariest moment of Doctor Who . The magazine also named the scene where Harry is attacked by a giant clam as one of the silliest Doctor Who moments , noting " even the best Doctor Who stories have the occasional dropped stitch " . Charlie Jane Anders of io9 , in a 2010 article , listed the cliffhanger of Episode Four ? in which the Doctor is forced to tell Davros how the Daleks will be defeated in the future ? as one of the greatest Doctor Who cliffhangers .

= = = Legacy = = =

Genesis of the Daleks was one of the most widely known serials of the original run as it was repeated often . It was edited into an 85 @-@ minute omnibus version and broadcast on BBC1 at 3 : 00 pm on 27 December 1975 , attracting 7 @.@ 6 million viewers , and also was repeated in two edited 45 @-@ minute episodes as part of the " Doctor Who and the Monsters " on 26 July and 2 August 1982 , which attracted audiences of 4 @.@ 9 and 5 million . It was then repeated in its

original serial form on BBC Two in 1993 (averaging 2 @.@ 2 million viewers) and 2000 (averaging 1 to 1 @.@ 5 million) . In a 1998 poll of readers of Doctor Who Magazine , over 2500 voters placed Genesis at the top of a poll to find the greatest Doctor Who stories of all time . In the magazine 's 2009 " Mighty 200 " poll , asking readers to rank all of the then @-@ made 200 stories , Genesis came in third place , behind The Caves of Androzani (1984) and " Blink " (2007) . In a 2014 poll , the magazine 's readers again placed the episode in third place . In 2008 , The Daily Telegraph named Genesis of the Daleks one of the ten greatest episodes of Doctor Who .

Genesis of the Daleks is the first example in the history of Doctor Who of " outright revisionism " ; the creation story of the Daleks is very different from that established in The Daleks (1963) , where it was said they evolved from creatures known as Dals , who were once similar to the Thals . Here , the Dals from the original story are changed to Kaleds . Russell T Davies , who revived Doctor Who in 2005 , suggested that the origins of the Time War , a conflict between the Time Lords and the Daleks which contributed to the storyline of the new series , began with the Time Lords ' attempted genocide of the Daleks in Genesis .

Davros is resurrected in Destiny of the Daleks (1979) , played by David Gooderson , and appears in the remaining three Dalek stories of the classic series played by Terry Molloy . He also appears in revived series since " The Stolen Earth " / " Journey 's End " (2008) , played by Julian Bleach . In The Magician 's Apprentice (2015) , footage from the episode is used with its plot based on the Fourth Doctor 's moral issue if one has the right to kill a child if they knew " that child would grow up totally evil . " Davros ' early life is additionally covered in the 2006 Big Finish four @-@ part audio series I , Davros , which sees Miles reprising his role as Nyder in fourth episode , Guilt .

= = Commercial releases = =

= = In print = =

The Target novelisation of this serial , written by Terrance Dicks , was published by Tandem in 1976 . It was re @-@ released by Virgin Publishing in 1991 , bearing its designated number of 27 in the novilisation range . The Genesis of the Daleks novelisation has the largest print run of any of the original series , selling over 100 @, @ 000 copies .

= = Home media = =

In 1979 , the BBC released a condensed audio version of the serial as an LP . In 1988 , this recording was reissued on cassette by BBC Audio alongside a later radio play , Slipback . It was subsequently released on CD in a revised and expanded version by BBC Audio paired with Exploration Earth : The Time Machine in 2001 . In February 2011 , Audio Go reissued the one @-@ hour condensed audio version of the LP as part of their " Vintage Beeb " range .

Genesis of the Daleks was released on VHS by BBC Enterprises in 1991 with The Sontaran Experiment , and again as part of a box set of stories featuring Davros in 2001 . It was released on DVD as a two @-@ disc special edition in the United Kingdom by BBC Worldwide on 10 April 2006 and in the United States by Warner Home Video on 6 June 2006 . This DVD is also available as part of the limited edition 2007 release of The Complete Davros Collection box set along with Destiny of the Daleks , Resurrection of the Daleks , Revelation of the Daleks and Remembrance of the Daleks .

= = Reviews = =

Genesis of the Daleks reviews at Outpost Gallifrey

Genesis of the Daleks reviews at The Doctor Who Ratings Guide

= = Target novelisation = =

Doctor Who and the Genesis of the Daleks reviews at The Doctor Who Ratings Guide
On Target ? Doctor Who and the Genesis of the Daleks