

= Rose ( Doctor Who ) =

" Rose " is the opening episode of the first series of the revived British science fiction television programme Doctor Who . The episode was directed by Keith Boak and written by Russell T Davies who was also one of the three executive producers . It was first broadcast in the UK on BBC One on 26 March 2005 . " Rose " was the first Doctor Who episode to air since the Doctor Who television film in 1996 .

The plot involves Rose Tyler meeting the Doctor , a time @-@ travelling alien Time Lord . She first encounters him in the department store where she works , while being attacked by Autons ? living plastic in the guise of shop window mannequins . Rose and the Doctor uncover and defeat a plot by the alien Nestene Consciousness , which aimed to take over the Earth using the living plastic , after which she accepts the Doctor 's offer to travel through time and space with him in his time machine , the TARDIS .

The episode marked the debut of Christopher Eccleston , the ninth actor to play the Doctor since the programme started in 1963 , and Billie Piper as Rose Tyler , the Doctor 's companion . Being the first episode of the revived series , several lead characters were introduced ; Camille Coduri as Jackie Tyler , and Noel Clarke as Mickey Smith . Viewers did not see the Doctor character regenerate from a previous incarnation ; regeneration being a plot device in which the character of the Doctor changes body and identity . Russell T Davies felt it would be clearer for the viewer to begin the series with the new actor in place rather than show the previous actor regenerating . " Rose " began filming in Cardiff , the headquarters of BBC Wales , in July 2004 , with some location scenes shot in London . " Rose " was viewed by 10 @.@ 81 million viewers in the UK , the most viewed Doctor Who episode since The Creature from the Pit in 1979 ( making it the first episode in over 25 years ) ; and received positive reviews from critics , though there were some criticisms of its use of humour .

= = Plot = =

Rose Tyler ( Billie Piper ) , a 19 @-@ year @-@ old shop assistant is being chased by mannequins in the basement of Henrik 's , the department store where she works . She is rescued by the Doctor ( Christopher Eccleston ) who destroys the building with an explosion . The next day , the Doctor visits Rose at her home where he is attacked by a plastic mannequin arm which he and Rose subdue . Rose investigates the Doctor and meets Clive ( Mark Benton ) , who has been tracking the Doctor 's appearances throughout history . Clive tells Rose the Doctor is dangerous , and that if he 's there , something bad is about to happen . While Rose is talking to Clive , her boyfriend Mickey Smith ( Noel Clarke ) is kidnapped by a wheelie bin and replaced with a plastic doppelgänger .

The fake Mickey takes Rose to lunch and attempts to question her about the Doctor , but the Doctor shows up and beheads the doppelgänger . The Doctor takes Rose and the plastic head to the TARDIS and attempts to use the head to locate the controlling signal . With the head connected , the TARDIS takes them to the London Eye . The Doctor explains to Rose that the fake Mickey was an Auton , controlled by a signal from the Nestene Consciousness . He has a vial of anti @-@ plastic that can be used to destroy the Nestene if necessary . Realising that the transmitter is the London Eye itself , Rose and the Doctor descend underneath it to stop the Nestene Consciousness . They find Mickey , tied up but alive , and the Doctor speaks to the Nestene Consciousness . He tries to negotiate with it , but the Consciousness blames the Doctor for the destruction of its planet during the Time War . The Consciousness activates all the Autons at a shopping arcade , where several shoppers are shot and killed , including Clive . The Doctor is also held down by a pair of Autons , but Rose rescues him and the anti @-@ plastic drops into the vat where the Nestene Consciousness resides , killing it . With the Consciousness dead , the Autons all collapse . The Doctor uses the TARDIS to take Mickey and Rose home , then persuades Rose to join him as his new companion .

= = = Continuity = = =

Both the Autons and the Nestene Consciousness first appeared in the serial Spearhead from Space ( 1970 ) , and then reappeared in Terror of the Autons . This story introduces The Shadow Proclamation , an intergalactic police force mentioned several times in the revived series and eventually seen in " The Stolen Earth " . This is the first mention of the Time War , which would be one of the running threads throughout the series .

= = Production = =

= = = Background and casting = = =

Doctor Who originally ran from 1963 to 1989 , when it was cancelled after its twenty @-@ sixth season . Television producer Russell T Davies had been lobbying the BBC in an attempt to revive the show from the late 1990s , and reached the discussion phase in 2002 . It was announced in September 2003 that Doctor Who was returning and would be produced by BBC Wales via a BBC press release . The format of the programme was changed to 45 @-@ minute episodes , lightening the pace . Davies was inspired by American series such as Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Smallville , in particular by using Buffy 's structure of season @-@ long story arcs around a " Big Bad " villain .

It was announced in March 2004 that Christopher Eccleston would be playing the Doctor . Jane Tranter , BBC Controller of Drama Commissioning , stated that casting an actor of Eccleston 's reputation signaled " our intention to take Doctor Who into the 21st century , as well as retaining its core traditional values ? to be surprising , edgy and eccentric . " Eccleston is the ninth actor to play the Doctor since the programme started in 1963 . New actors are able to take over the role through a plot device of regeneration , in which the character of the Doctor changes body and identity ; this having been introduced in 1966 . Russell T Davies decided to begin the revived series with a new Doctor rather than show the regeneration , as he believed it was " madness " to start with someone and then change him before the audience could build a relationship with him . Davies wanted to initially approach the revival as a " new programme " . Eccleston 's character is more " down @-@ to @-@ earth " than previous Doctors ; Davies referred to him as " stripped down " , while still having " fun and humour " . Eccleston 's costume of a battered leather jacket was in Davies ' original pitch , but the clothing also went with Eccleston 's desire not to have clothes dominating his time on the show . The Ninth Doctor 's clothes do not dominate him , but rather create a simple silhouette and an " action man " vibe .

Billie Piper 's casting as Rose Tyler was announced in May 2004 . According to executive producer Julie Gardner , former pop star Piper " fits the bill perfectly " as a " unique , dynamic partner for Christopher Eccleston " . Davies described Rose as " the ordinary person who stumbles into something extraordinary and finds herself their equal . " Camille Coduri and Noel Clarke were also cast to play Rose 's mother and boyfriend respectively ; Davies wanted to include these characters to " make her real " and to " give her a life " . Rose 's family is also working @-@ class , which had rarely been seen in companions on the show prior to " Rose " .

= = = Writing and filming = = =

The episode name had gradually been shortened ; in Davies 's pitch it had been called Rose meets the Doctor , and the journey begins , on his contract as Rose Meets The Doctor , but finally shortened to Rose . Also changed from Davies 's original pitch were the names of the supporting characters : Judy Tyler became Jackie Tyler , and Muggsy Smith became Mickey Smith . Davies had trouble coming up with how Mickey was supposed to be captured by the Nestene while waiting for Rose in the car , and finally realised he could be lured by a plastic wheelie bin . He commented that such instances of the ordinary being made scary made Doctor Who unique . Davies had to take out " oblique " references to the Autons being like terrorists , as the Eye was once a target of a terrorist attack . The entrance of the Doctor was something much debated ; Tranter and other

members of the production team wanted it to be more dramatic , but the scene was never reshot . Davies remarked that it reflects Rose 's point of view , whereas a more dramatic entrance would reflect the audience 's excitement at the Doctor coming back . The scene in which the Auton arm attacks in the Tyler 's flat was originally much longer , but was revised . The episode originally underran by several minutes , and a scene with the Doctor and Rose walking was added a month or so later .

Davies wanted the Doctor to realise that Rose has something to offer to his cause . Their holding hands while running was meant to signify that they were a team , despite him not asking her yet , and they were not to question their relationship . The episode was intended to be presented from Rose 's point @-@ of @-@ view . For audience identification purposes , Davies wanted the alien menace to be easily mistaken as human , so that it was possible for Rose to mistake the aliens for humans . Davies felt that there was no need to create a new monster , as the Autons met these criteria . The Auton sequences were difficult to film because the costumes were uncomfortable for the actors ; which meant that frequent breaks from filming were needed . Computer @-@ generated imagery ( CGI ) was used in post @-@ production to cover up the zipper on the back of the necks of the Auton costumes . Davies wanted to recreate the scene of the Autons breaking out of shop windows from their first appearance in *Spearhead from Space* , although he had the budget to actually smash the glass instead of just cutting around it like in *Spearhead* .

The episode was storyboarded by artist Anthony Williams . Davies offered Edgar Wright the opportunity to direct the episode , but Wright was forced to decline , as he was still working on *Shaun of the Dead* . Instead , the episode was directed by Keith Boak . " Rose " began filming in July 2004 , as part of the first production block alongside episodes four and five . The first five days were spent filming in London , while the rest was filmed in Cardiff . The production team was given permission to add more lights to the London Eye . For the scene in which the Doctor and Rose are running through London , careful timing was undertaken by the production team because they wanted a London bus to travel behind them , but this had to be accomplished by waiting for a bus to come . In other scenes filmed in Cardiff , a London bus and a van of the *London Evening Standard* drove by to give the illusion of London . The exterior of Rose 's council estate was filmed at a London estate as well as a Cardiff one in other scenes . Mickey 's flat is the same set as the Tyler 's , just redecorated . The production team sought to film the Cardiff scenes in secrecy , but the day before they began the Cardiff Council issued a press release naming the streets where they would be filming . The Autons ' attack during the climax was filmed on Working Street , Cardiff from 20 to 22 July 2004 @.@ with scenes set around major London landmarks like the London Eye being the exception . Henrik 's , where Rose works , is actually the department store Howells , and the pizza restaurant is La Fosse . It took the production team a while to find a restaurant that would require minimal set dressing but would be willing to close for a day . The street where Rose joins the Doctor is St David 's Market , while service tunnels in the basement of a hospital in Cardiff were used for the basement of Henrik 's where Rose is menaced by Autons . Studio filming mainly took place from August to October 2004 .

The area underneath the London Eye where the Doctor and Rose confront the Nestene Consciousness was filmed in an unused paper mill in Grangetown , Cardiff . It underwent steam cleaning because there were such high health and safety concerns . They were only permitted to film for three days , which required that some of the sequence be cut : originally , there was to be another Auton Mickey involved . Special effects producer Mike Tucker was reminded of the James Bond film *The Man with the Golden Gun* when reading the scene in which the Nestene 's lair is blown up , and sought to display it as a major effect . The production team built a one @-@ sixth scale model of the warehouse where the explosions were filmed . Tucker did a model explosion for the destruction of Henrik 's as well , although that was only for the roof ; the rest was done by CGI . The production team considered doing the explosion practically , but that would have been too expensive . In the original script , Rose 's first experience of seeing the TARDIS interior was shared with the audience . Director Keith Boak , however , wanted her to exit and run around the TARDIS before entering again , at which point the interior would be revealed to the audience . This change was eventually embraced by the executive producers . Davies remarked that he originally wanted to

take Rose and the audience inside the TARDIS in all one shot , but this was not a feasible with the budget . This effect would later be accomplished in the 2012 Christmas special , " The Snowmen " .

= = Broadcast = =

= = = Pre @-@ broadcast leak = = =

On 8 March 2005 , Reuters reported that a copy of the episode had been leaked onto the Internet , and was being widely traded via the BitTorrent file sharing protocol . The leaked episode did not contain the new arrangement of the theme tune by Murray Gold . The leak was ultimately traced to a third party company in Canada which had a legitimate preview copy . The employee responsible was fired by the company and the BBC considered further legal action .

= = = Broadcast and ratings = = =

" Rose " was first broadcast in the United Kingdom on 26 March 2005 on BBC One , and was the first Doctor Who episode to air since the Doctor Who television film in 1996 . Unofficial overnight viewing figures from the Broadcasters ' Audience Research Board showed that the episode attracted an average of 9 @. @ 9 million viewers ? 43 @. @ 2 % of the available television audience ? over the course of the evening . At its peak , it had 10 @. @ 5 million viewers , a 44 @. @ 3 % share . The final figure for the episode , including video recordings watched within a week of transmission , was 10 @. @ 81 million , third for BBC One that week and seventh across all channels . In some regions , the first few minutes of the original BBC broadcast of this episode on 26 March were marred by the accidental mixing of a few seconds of sound from Graham Norton hosting Strictly Dance Fever .

Internationally , " Rose " was first transmitted on CBC in Canada on 5 April 2005 , debuting to strong ratings of 986 @, @ 000 viewers . In Australia , it was broadcast on 21 May 2005 on ABC to 1 @. @ 11 million viewers . " Rose " was first broadcast in the United States on the Sci @-@ Fi Channel on 17 March 2006 . It was aired back @-@ to @-@ back with the following episode " The End of the World " ; Davies had originally wanted to air the first two episodes together in the UK , but the request was given to the BBC too close to transmission . The US premiere was watched by 1 @. @ 58 million viewers .

On 30 March , four days after the episode was originally broadcast in the UK , the BBC announced that another full series had been commissioned . On the same day , the BBC released a statement , apparently from Eccleston , saying that he would be leaving the role at Christmas , for fear of being typecast . The BBC later revealed this was not an official statement from Eccleston , whom they had failed to contact before responding to press questions after the story broke ; the mis @-@ quote was re @-@ used in other media . Eccleston later said , " They handled it very badly , but they issued an apology and I dropped it " in an 2010 interview . David Tennant was called a " hot favourite " to replace Eccleston , when it was announced that Eccleston was leaving , BBC said that they were in talks with Tennant ; the bookmakers ' odds were at 1 / 10 , with William Hill refusing to take any bets on who would act a new Doctor . A BBC spokesman said that they had " hoped , rather than expected " that Eccleston would continue in the role .

= = = Reception = = =

" Rose " received positive reviews and was seen as a successful relaunch to the programme . Harry Venning of The Stage praised Davies ' script , particularly for taking it seriously and making it scary . He was pleased with Piper 's acting and Rose , who proved to be more independent than her predecessors . However , he felt that Eccleston was " the show 's biggest disappointment " as he seemed unsuited to a fantasy role . Digital Spy 's Dek Hogan stated that production values had increased from the classic series , and praised the acting and characters of Eccleston , Piper , and

Clarke . However , he felt that some of the humour ? such as the wheelie bin burping after it consumes Mickey ? was not as enjoyable as an adult . The Sydney Morning Herald reviewer Robin Oliver praised Davies for " [ taking ] an adult approach to one of television 's most famous characters " and " [ overriding ] the cash @-@ strapped production values of the past to make his new doctor competitive in a high @-@ tech market " . Kay McFadden of The Seattle Times described the revival as " superb " and " intelligent and well @-@ done " . Daily Mail writer Michael Hanlon said that " As a fan I really hope this new series succeeds . It 's lively , well filmed and the special effects are up to scratch . There is humour , a vital ingredient if the new series is to be a success . " He also felt that everything necessary for Doctor Who was present in " Rose " . However , Stephen Brook of The Guardian said that it was " pitched at its youngest ever audience " , and also felt that the episode had an " overdose on humour " .

Retrospective reviews have also been positive . Patrick Mulkern of Radio Times gave " Rose " four out of five stars in 2013 , particularly praising Rose 's fleshed @-@ out life and how it welcomed in new viewers . While he noted " minor gripes " and felt the Autons ' destruction was toned @-@ down , he praised the direction and the performances and called it " a blinding success " . The A.V. Club reviewer Alasdair Wilkins gave the episode a grade of a B , also noting how important it was that Rose 's world was shown first . He felt that some effects already seemed dated in 2013 and Jackie and Mickey were one @-@ dimensional , but the episode succeeded above all else , especially in developing Rose and the Doctor 's relationship and pointing out that Doctor Who is dangerous . In 2013 , Ben Lawrence of The Daily Telegraph named " Rose " as one of the top ten Doctor Who stories set in the contemporary time .

= = = Reviews = = =

" Rose " reviews at Outpost Gallifrey

" Rose " reviews at The Doctor Who Ratings Guide