

= Blink (Doctor Who) =

" Blink " is the tenth episode of the third series of the British science fiction television series Doctor Who . It was first broadcast on 9 June 2007 on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) . The episode was directed by Hettie MacDonald and is the only episode in the 2007 series written by Steven Moffat . The episode is based on a previous short story written by Moffat for the 2006 Doctor Who Annual , entitled " ' What I Did on My Christmas Holidays ' By Sally Sparrow " .

In the episode , the Doctor ? a time travelling alien played by David Tennant ? and his companion Martha Jones (Freema Agyeman) are trapped in the past and try to communicate with a young woman , Sally Sparrow (Carey Mulligan) , to prevent the Weeping Angels from taking control of the TARDIS . Sparrow and her best friend 's brother , Larry Nightingale (Finlay Robertson) , must unravel a set of cryptic clues sent through time by the marooned Doctor .

The Doctor and his companion have very little screen time , which allowed for another episode to be filmed simultaneously ; " Blink " is consequently referred to as a " Doctor @-@ lite " episode . The scenes at Wester Drumlins were shot in a derelict house in Newport . To create the angels , two actresses wore makeup and prosthetics . The episode was seen by 6 @.@ 62 million viewers in the United Kingdom .

" Blink " received widespread critical acclaim , and is widely considered to be one of the best episodes of the show . Moffat won the BAFTA Craft and BAFTA Cymru awards for Best Writer , and the Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation , Short Form , while for her single performance in the series , Mulligan won the Constellation Award for Best Female Performance in a 2007 Science Fiction Television Episode . In 2009 the episode was voted the second best Doctor Who story ever by readers of Doctor Who Magazine .

= = Plot = =

In 2007 , Sally Sparrow enters an abandoned house to look for subjects to photograph . Instead she finds eerie statues and a message from the Doctor behind peeling wallpaper addressed to her , warning her about the Weeping Angels . Sally returns the next day with her friend Kathy Nightingale to explore further but Kathy disappears at the same time a young man knocks at the door . He claims to be Kathy 's grandson and delivers a letter to Sally . The letter explains that Kathy suddenly found herself in the 1920s in Hull . She settled down with a husband and led a peaceful life and requests that Sally tell Kathy 's brother Larry of her disappearance . Sally sees a Yale key hanging from the hand of one of the statues and takes it before leaving .

Sally visits Larry at a DVD shop and is told that he has been documenting an " Easter egg " in seventeen apparently unrelated DVDs . The egg contains video clips of a man calling himself The Doctor , having half of a conversation with the viewer . Larry gives Sally a list of the DVDs and she leaves for the police station . There she meets DI Billy Shipton , who explains that there have been several disappearances at the abandoned house and shows her an impound lot containing a locked fake police box . Sally leaves but remembers the Yale key and returns to find that Billy and the phone box have disappeared . She immediately receives a call from a much older Billy , who is on his death bed at the hospital . She visits him and he explains that after she left the lot , he discovered the Angels trying to retrieve the police box . He then suddenly found himself in 1969 , where he met the Doctor and was asked to relay a message to Sally decades later . Billy subsequently married and started a video production house that was responsible for putting the Easter egg on the DVDs . Before Billy dies he tells Sally the Doctor 's message , which instructs her to look at the list . Sally realises that the list is her own DVD collection and that the Easter egg is meant for her .

Sally and Larry return to the house with several of the DVDs and a portable DVD player . They select a DVD to watch the Easter egg and Larry places another into his pocket . Sally discovers she can converse with the Doctor in the past , as he possesses a transcript that is currently being compiled by Larry as he listens . The Doctor explains that he and Martha were transported to the past by the Weeping Angels . The Angels are " quantum locked " , allowing them to move

unbelievably fast when unobserved , while they turn to stone , making them become statues that are difficult to destroy , when they are observed . They will cover their eyes when near other angels to avoid looking at each other , giving them their weeping appearance . If they ever look at another angel , they become permanently locked in statue form . He warns Sally not to look away or even blink when they are around . The Doctor tells them they are seeking his TARDIS to acquire its potential power . The Doctor comes to the end of the transcript and Sally realises Larry has stopped writing it due to the presence of an Angel in the room . They make their way to the basement of the house and discover the Angels and the TARDIS . The Angels attack and Sally and Larry use Sally 's key to hide inside the TARDIS . Once in the control room , a hologram of the Doctor informs them that they have a control disk with them . Larry takes a now glowing DVD from his pocket and inserts it into the console . The TARDIS dematerialises , leaving a panicking Sally and Larry behind . With the TARDIS gone , the Angels have been tricked into looking at each other and have become permanently frozen as statues .

One year later , Sally and Larry have opened a DVD store . Sally insists on keeping a folder of the events but Larry wants her to move on and indicates he has feelings for her . Sally gently rebuffs him and Larry steps out on an errand . Sally sees the Doctor and Martha hurriedly leave a taxi in front of the shop and goes outside to meet them . They don 't recognise her and she realises that they have yet to experience the events that sent them to the past . She hands the Doctor the folder , warning him that he will need it in his future . The Doctor and Sally say goodbye as Larry returns , surprised to see the man from the Easter egg . Sally and Larry return to the shop hand in hand , hinting that she is now ready for a romantic relationship . The episode ends with a repeat of the Doctor 's warning to Sally , this time directed at the viewer and overlaid with flashes of famous statues , implying any statue in the world can be a Weeping Angel .

= = Production = =

= = = Writing = = =

" Blink " was written by Steven Moffat . Part of the story for " Blink " is based on Moffat 's own Ninth Doctor short story from the Doctor Who Annual 2006 called " ' What I Did on My Christmas Holidays ' by Sally Sparrow " . The short story is presented as a homework essay from Sally , though only 12 years old , who encounters evidence of the Doctor 's presence from the past in her aunt 's house while visiting . " What I Did " includes several elements that are reused in " Blink " , including messages under the wallpaper and an ontological paradox involving a conversation between Sally and the Doctor , prerecorded on a video cassette , based on a written transcript ? the essay itself ; however , instead of the Angels , " What I Did " features the Doctor and the TARDIS inadvertently separated twenty years in time by a fault in the time machine , and the Doctor is able to instruct Sally how to bring it back to him in the past .

Moffat had held the idea of the Weeping Angels since seeing an angel statue in a graveyard whilst on a family holiday , and had planned to use them for the next series in the episodes that became " Silence in the Library " and " Forest of the Dead " . However , after withdrawing from the writing of series three 's first two @-@ part story ? Helen Raynor took over these episodes , writing " Daleks in Manhattan " and " Evolution of the Daleks " ? Moffat volunteered to write the series ' Doctor @-@ lite episode and opted to use the Weeping Angels in what would become " Blink " . Moffat was also inspired to write the episode based on the popular children 's game Statues , which he always found " frightening " . Murray Gold , the composer for the series , later compared the creatures to the moving ghostly topiary animals in Stephen King 's 1977 horror novel The Shining .

" Blink " is the third story of the revived series to be adapted for television by the same writer from a piece of their spin @-@ off writing . It follows the " Human Nature " and " The Family of Blood " story arc , which was adapted by Paul Cornell from his 1995 novel Human Nature ; and " Dalek " , which used the basic premise as well as several scenes and lines of dialogue adapted by Robert Shearman from his 2003 audio drama Jubilee . " Blink " is referred to as a " Doctor @-@ Lite "

episode because the Doctor and his companion have very little screen time . This allowed two episodes to be filmed simultaneously , a process known as " double banking " . The practice had begun with the 2006 entry " Love & Monsters " , and would continue for episodes such as " Turn Left " , " Midnight " , and " The Girl Who Waited " . Moffat stated that he felt relaxed when he was writing the script for " Blink " , for if it proved to be unpopular , he could blame the " Doctor @-@ lite " structure of the episode . Due to the show 's tight schedule , " Blink " had only one script meeting .

= = = Filming = = =

" Blink " was directed by Hettie MacDonald , making her the first female director of a Doctor Who episode since the Sixth Doctor serial The Mark of the Rani . Russell T Davies , the series ' executive producer , later noted that , due to MacDonald 's work , the episode included some of " the most beautiful [visuals] we 've ever had " . British actress Carey Mulligan was chosen to play Sally Sparrow ; Mulligan was reportedly ecstatic to have been cast in the series . She was initially concerned with the fact that Tennant would have little screen time , but after the episode aired was very pleased with the final result .

Location shooting for scenes set at the Police Station Garage took place at the Coal Exchange and Mount Stuart Square , Cardiff Bay on 21 November 2006 . Fields House , located in Newport , filled in for Wester Drumlins . The house was already abandoned and falling into disrepair when the filming crews arrived . Moffat noted that " very little of it was tarted up " for the shoot ; Moffat later called the location " the creepiest house " he had ever seen . The name was taken from a previous residence that Moffat lived in during the late 1990s . Larry describes the residence as " Scooby @-@ Doo 's house " , a reference to the dilapidated mansions that the Scooby @-@ Doo gang would usually visit . The BBC Fact File for the episode notes that 1969 ? the year Martha , the Doctor and Billy are sent to ? is the first year Scooby @-@ Doo , Where Are You ! aired .

Originally , the producers considered having Michael Obiora play both the young and old version of Billy Shipton . However , it was decided that Obiora in makeup would look too fake , and so Louis Mahoney was cast to play the older version . Initially , Obiora played the role with a London accent ; Mahoney , however , has a thick accent . Obiora had to re @-@ dub his lines to match . Billy mentions that the windows of the TARDIS are the wrong size for a real police box . In 2004 , when the first photographs of the new series ' TARDIS prop were revealed , there was a vigorous discussion of the box 's dimensions on the Outpost Gallifrey Doctor Who discussion forum , in which some fans complained that the prop 's windows were too big . Moffat has confirmed that this line is an in @-@ joke aimed at the Outpost Gallifrey forum .

= = = Effects = = =

Moffat joked that " since I was a kid , I 've been thinking of Doctor Who monsters , just now when I do , it costs the art department [?] a lot of money " . To create the rigid structure of the angels ' dresses , prosthetics supervisors Rob Mayor soaked fabric in fibreglass resin , which was then painted over . Although they are never shown moving on screen , all of the Weeping Angels were played by actresses Aga Blonska and Elen Thomas wearing makeup and prosthetics . The actresses wore two distinct masks : one that was more docile looking , and one with fangs bared . Blonska later noted that " I 'm partly painted , partly glued into the costume , but it 's quite comfortable . " Although the actresses were slightly " wobbly " when they stood still , the producers used digital effects to , in essence , freeze the angels on film . Moffat was very pleased with the results , and called them " fantastic " . Mulligan later called the effects " so good " and " really creepy " .

To create the effect of the Angels rocking the TARDIS Mulligan and Robertson threw themselves around the ship 's set . The camera 's operator then shook the camera in the opposite direction that Mulligan and Robertson threw themselves . The scene wherein the Doctor talks to Sally via a DVD extra was created by writing a conversation , removing Sally 's lines , then having David Tennant record his lines . Moffat felt that this one @-@ way filming made the performance more convincing .

Moffat initially wrote placeholder dialogue in the script for the scene where the Doctor tells Sally that he can hear her in the DVD shop , because he knew the lines that appeared would have to play " double duty later on " and be authentic and fresh both times . Gold called the sequences " the heart of the Chinese puzzle " .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Blink " was first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC One on 9 June 2007 . Overnight ratings showed that it was watched by 6 @. @ 1 million viewers , which rose to 6 @. @ 62 once time @- @ shifted viewers were taken into account . The episode was the seventh most watched episode on BBC One for the week ending 10 June and was the lowest @- @ rated episode of Doctor Who 's third series . It received an Appreciation Index of 87 , considered " excellent " . In its initial broadcast , a short clip of a card reading " One Year Later " was shown before the episode 's denouement . In the syndicated and the DVD version , this shot has been removed .

A Region 2 DVD containing " Blink " together with the episodes " Human Nature " and " The Family of Blood " was released on 23 July 2007 . It was re @- @ released as part of the complete series three DVD on 5 November 2007 .

= = Critical reception and accolades = = =

" Blink " received universal critical acclaim , with many praising the acting , the script , the level of fear and the Weeping Angels themselves . The Guardian 's Stephen Brook called it a " wonderfully creepy episode " that " ultimately made sense " despite " barely featur [ing] the Doctor and Martha " . David Bradley of SFX awarded " Blink " five out of five stars , saying that it could have featured any of the previous Doctors and predicted that its " timelessness " would ensure that it would " [go] down as one of the finest , scariest , cleverest Who episodes ever " . IGN 's Travis Fickett gave the episode 9 @. @ 1 out of 10 , praising the way the audience felt they had known Sally Sparrow for a while , as well as the strength of Mulligan 's performance , although he noted that " all of the performances in this episode are exceptional " . He concluded that , " it 's difficult to believe that so much was accomplished in such a short amount of time . The story of not one , but two relationships was told , several time lines intersected and a new and rather frightening enemy was vanquished without The Doctor ever coming face to face with them " . Ross Ruedinger of Slant Magazine believed that the episode was not just the best Doctor Who episode , but also a great episode of the science fiction and horror genre that could allow it to stand alone . He also praised the fear @- @ inducing concept of the Weeping Angels as well the " tenderness of the story and the characters " which were " quite intricate given how much is going on in these 45 minutes " . The Daily Telegraph named the episode one of the best of the show 's entire run , noting that , while the Doctor " is somewhat on the periphery here " , it " adds to the threat " .

Many critics consider the episode one of the strongest during Tennant 's time as the Doctor . IGN 's Matt Wales named it the sixth best episode of Tennant 's tenure , while Sam McPherson of TVOvermind listed it as the second best Tenth Doctor episode . In 2011 , before the second half of the sixth series , The Huffington Post labelled " Blink " as one of the five essential episodes for new viewers to watch . The Weeping Angels also received critical praise . In 2009 SFX named the climax with the Weeping Angels advancing on Sally and Larry the scariest moment in Doctor Who 's history , describing it as " a terrifying combination of scary concept and perfect direction " . The Weeping Angels came in at number three in Neil Gaiman 's " Top Ten New Classic Monsters " in Entertainment Weekly , while TV Squad named them the third scariest television characters . They were also rated the third " baddie " in Doctor Who by The Daily Telegraph , behind the Nestene Consciousness and Daleks . In 2009 SFX listed the Angels in their list of favourite things of the revival of Doctor Who , writing , " Scariest . Monsters . Ever . "

Writer Steven Moffat was awarded the 2008 BAFTA Craft and BAFTA Cymru awards for Best Writer for his work on this episode . " Blink " won the Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation , Short Form , and Carey Mulligan received the Constellation Award for Best Female Performance in

a 2007 Science Fiction Television Episode . The episode was nominated for the Nebula Award for Best Script , but lost to Pan 's Labyrinth by Guillermo del Toro .

= = = Legacy = = =

" Blink " received the award for Best Story in the Doctor Who Magazine 2007 Survey . In Doctor Who Magazine 's 2009 poll to find the greatest Doctor Who story ever , it came in second place after Peter Davison 's final story , The Caves of Androzani . In a 2007 poll conducted by the BBC , taking votes from 2 @, @ 000 readers of the Doctor Who Adventures magazine , the Weeping Angels were voted the scariest monsters of 2007 with 55 % of the vote ; the Master and the Daleks took second and third place with 15 % and 4 % of the vote . In a 2012 poll of over ten thousand respondents conducted by the Radio Times , the Weeping Angels were again voted the best Doctor Who monster with 49 @. @ 4 % of the vote . In Doctor Who Magazine 's 2014 fan poll of the greatest episodes of all time , " Blink " again came in second , this time behind the 2013 episode " The Day of the Doctor " .

Moffat , after becoming lead writer of the programme , wrote " The Time of Angels " and " Flesh and Stone " for the fifth series as a more action @-@ oriented sequel , believing that good monsters should come back with a different style of story . They also returned in " The Angels Take Manhattan " , seventh series episode , and have featured in " Good as Gold " , a mini @-@ episode written by children for a Blue Peter contest , and the New Series Adventures novel Touched by an Angel by Jonathan Morris .

A line spoken by the Doctor , " The angels have the phone box " , is rhetorically repeated by Larry and prompts him to say " I 've got that on a T @-@ shirt " . As expected by Moffat and Gold , this led online retailers such as ThinkGeek , and Zazzle , among others , to offer versions of such a product for sale . In addition , the " wibbly @-@ wobbly timey @-@ wimey " line has been used to describe several of Moffat 's complex time travel stories , such as " Let 's Kill Hitler " and " The Big Bang " . The line was also referenced in the first episode of the fifth series , " The Eleventh Hour " , when the Eleventh Doctor (Matt Smith) scans the crack in young Amelia Pond 's (Caitlin Blackwood) wall with his sonic screwdriver . BBC America created a series of four specials prior to the seventh series premiere of Doctor Who , including one entitled " The Timey @-@ Wimey Stuff of Doctor Who " .

British " Timelord rock " band Chameleon Circuit , composed of YouTube bloggers Alex Day and Charlie McDonnell among others , wrote a song about the episode , also entitled " Blink " , and released it on their debut eponymous album .