

= Time Crash =

" Time Crash " is a mini @-@ episode of the British science fiction television series Doctor Who . It was broadcast on 16 November 2007 , as part of the BBC One telethon for the children 's charity Children in Need . Written by Steven Moffat , it starred David Tennant and Peter Davison as the Doctor .

The episode , set during the last scene of the previous episode " Last of the Time Lords " , depicts a humorous encounter between the Doctor 's fifth and tenth incarnations , played by Davison and Tennant respectively . " Time Crash " was praised by critics who reviewed the episode , and was a ratings success ; it was the most @-@ viewed show of the night , and briefly the most @-@ viewed episode of Doctor Who since 2005 , with 11 million viewers .

= = Plot = =

The episode takes place within the final scene of " Last of the Time Lords " . After the Tenth Doctor ( David Tennant ) parts ways with Martha ( Freema Agyeman ) , he tries taking off , only for the TARDIS to spin wildly and sound an alarm . Checking out the systems , the Doctor passes his fifth incarnation ( Peter Davison ) doing the same thing . The Tenth Doctor recognises his past self and is overjoyed to see him , gently poking fun of his particular eccentricities , such as the stick of celery on his lapel and the unneeded glasses he sometimes wears . The Fifth Doctor is annoyed , believing his counterpart to be a fan who has broken into the TARDIS .

The Fifth Doctor discovers that two TARDISes have merged , a paradox that will cause a massive black hole . The Tenth Doctor counters it with a supernova , a solution he remembers seeing himself perform in this same incident ( a predestination paradox ) ; the Fifth Doctor realises that the Tenth really is his future self . The Tenth reminisces as the Fifth begins to fade into a separate timeline :

" You know , I loved being you . Back when I first started , at the very beginning , I was always trying to be old and grumpy and important ? like you do , when you 're young . And then I was you . And it was all dashing about and playing cricket and my voice going all squeaky when I shouted . I still do that , the voice thing , I got that from you . Oh , and the trainers . And ... " [ putting his glasses on ] " snap ! ' Cos you know what , Doctor ? You were my Doctor . "

The two Doctors say goodbye : " To days to come , " says the Fifth , raising his hat . " All my love to long ago , " replies the Tenth with a bow . As the time streams split , the Fifth Doctor calls out , warning the Tenth to put his shields up . But it is too late ; the Titanic collides with the TARDIS , leading the narrative into " Voyage of the Damned " .

= = = Continuity = = =

The Fifth Doctor mentions " that LINDA lot " , a reference to the Doctor 's fan club from " Love & Monsters " . Both Doctors describe the paradox as " wibbly @-@ wobbly , timey @-@ wimey , " which is the way the Tenth Doctor describes time to Sally Sparrow in " Blink " . The Tenth Doctor , asking when the Fifth Doctor originates , refers to companions Nyssa and Tegan , adversaries Cybermen and the Mara , and " Time Lords in funny hats . " The Fifth inquires about the Master , wondering if he still has " that rubbish beard " ( which his prior incarnations sported ) . The Tenth replies that he actually got married .

= = Production = =

The episode was first conceived by executive producers Julie Gardner and Russell T Davies , who decided to air an interstitial scene for Children in Need 2007 . Gardner asked Steven Moffat to write the special , with the stipulations the scene could be shot in one day and one set , and require no CGI effects . Peter Davison was approached to reprise his role as the Fifth Doctor in July 2007 , and accepted the role to impress his children . The episode was officially announced by the BBC on 21 October .

Moffat 's script started by repeating Martha 's departure . The script indicated that " this time , we stay with the Doctor . As before ... the Doctor takes a moment , then slam the controls , " and described the Fifth Doctor as having a " frock coat , cricket jersey , and a stick of celery on his lapel " . Moffat included several references to Fifth Doctor stories in his script : the Tenth Doctor commented about the Fifth Doctor 's attire and his disuse of the sonic screwdriver , saying : " Ooh , I 'm the Doctor , I can save the universe with a kettle and a piece of string and ooh , look at me , I 'm wearing a vegetable . " A line about the effects of the paradox the TARDIS collision had caused gave an explanation of why the Fifth Doctor looked far older than normal , thus getting around the fact that Peter Davison had left the role over twenty years before . And near the end of the episode , he refers to Tegan Jovanka , Nyssa , the Cybermen stories Earthshock and The Five Doctors , the Mara serials Kinda and Snakedance , the Time Lords ' " funny hats " from Arc of Infinity , and the various Ainley Master stories during Davison 's tenure .

" Time Crash " was filmed at Upper Boat Studios in Upper Boat , Cardiff , as part of the fourth recording block of the fourth series ( which included " Partners in Crime " ) on 7 October 2007 . Graeme Harper , director of Davison 's final serial The Caves of Androzani , directed the episode . To replicate the Fifth Doctor 's attire , the production team borrowed items from the Doctor Who exhibition in Blackpool and knitted a new cricket jumper to reflect the style worn from Castrovalva to Warriors of the Deep . The accompanying Doctor Who Confidential episode reveals that the trousers Davison wore in " Time Crash " were the same pair that Colin Baker wore in his early scenes in The Twin Dilemma .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

Previous Doctor Who charity specials transmitted over the years include Dimensions in Time , Doctor Who and the Curse of Fatal Death and the untitled 2005 special . The anniversary special The Five Doctors was broadcast on Children in Need night for its United Kingdom premier broadcast .

The Children in Need telethon was the most @-@ watched television programme of the night , with a final rating of 9 @.@ 6 million viewers , and figures peaked between 8 : 15pm and 8 : 30pm , when " Time Crash " was aired , with a total of 11 @.@ 0 million viewers . The episode was therefore the most @-@ viewed since the show 's revival in 2005 , surpassing the revival 's premiere , " Rose " , which achieved a rating of 10 @.@ 8 million viewers . Donations also peaked during the episode 's airing . When the episode was replayed four hours later , it garnered an audience of 2 @.@ 5 million viewers . This rating was later beaten by " Voyage of the Damned " , which received 13 @.@ 3 million viewers .

The episode was positively reviewed by critics . Martin Conaghan of TV Squad expressed the belief that the episode was " the highlight of the evening " . He mainly complimented Moffat for his writing ; he said that Moffat " has a knack for clever paradox @-@ style stories , and managed to capture a fantastic little snippet of emotion , harking back to the early days of Doctor Who , " specifically praising the farewell scene . Dek Hogan of Digital Spy mirrored Conaghan 's beliefs ; he called Moffat 's script " witty " and hoped that Davison would return to film a full @-@ length episode .