

= Closing Time (Doctor Who) =

" Closing Time " is the twelfth and penultimate episode of the sixth series of the British science fiction television programme Doctor Who , and was first broadcast on BBC One on 24 September 2011 . It was written by Gareth Roberts and directed by Steve Hughs . It is a sequel to " The Lodger " , an episode Roberts wrote for the previous series .

In the episode , alien time traveller the Doctor (Matt Smith) is going on a " farewell tour " before his impending death and visits his friend Craig (James Corden) , who has a new baby son , Alfie . Though not initially intending to stay , the Doctor becomes intrigued by a Cybermen invasion at a local department store .

Roberts and showrunner Steven Moffat wanted to bring Craig back , having enjoyed " The Lodger " and Corden 's performance . Though " Closing Time " was designed to be fun , with comedy built around the double act of Smith and Corden , it contains themes and an epilogue that lead into the finale . The episode marks the first appearance of the Cybermats in the revival of Doctor Who , and they were appropriately redesigned . Much of the episode was filmed in a department store and a private home in Cardiff at night , with shooting going early into the morning . " Closing Time " was watched by 6 @.@ 93 million viewers in the UK and received generally positive reviews from critics ; while the performances , comedy , and emotional moments were praised , many critics were not pleased with the usage of the Cybermen .

= = Plot = =

= = = Synopsis = = =

Nearly two hundred years have passed for the Doctor since he left Amy and Rory in " The God Complex " and he is on a farewell tour of his friends as he knows he has only one day to go before his death (depicted in " The Impossible Astronaut ") . He stops by Craig (" The Lodger ") , who is living with his girlfriend Sophie in a new home and is raising their baby , Alfie . Craig , struggling to care for Alfie alone while Sophie is away for the weekend , suspects the Doctor is investigating something alien . The Doctor prepares to leave , but he notices a strange electrical disturbance in the area and decides to investigate .

Craig , while at a new department store with Alfie , discovers the Doctor working in the toy area . The Doctor reveals that he has traced the electrical disturbances to the store and is using the job to allow him to investigate further , hearing rumours of the disappearance of several shop assistants and the sightings of a " silver rat " . The Doctor and Craig enter a lift and find themselves teleported to a Cyberman spacecraft . A Cyberman emerges from the darkness and comes towards them but the Doctor manages to reverse the teleporter and disable it . As Craig returns home , the Doctor sees Amy and Rory shopping but stays out of their sight .

With Craig 's help , the Doctor enters the store after hours and catches a Cybermat , which has been siphoning small amounts of energy to the spacecraft . The Doctor also encounters a malfunctioning Cyberman in the building 's basement , and is curious how it arrived in the store . At Craig 's house , while the two are distracted , the cybermat reactivates , but they are able to stop it , and the Doctor reprograms the unit to track down the Cybermen signal .

The Doctor leaves on his own to locate the Cybermen at the store but Craig shortly follows , bringing Alfie along . The Doctor finds the spaceship actually sits below the store , underground , accessed by a tunnel from a changing room . The ship has been slowly siphoning energy from the store 's power lines , reactivating its crew . The Doctor is captured by the Cybermen , who tell him that their ship crashed long ago but , with this new energy , will soon have enough power to convert the human race .

Craig , leaving Alfie with a store clerk , follows the Doctor into the tunnel , and is also captured and placed into a conversion machine . The Doctor reveals his own impending death and urges Craig to fight , but the conversion appears to be complete . Alfie 's cries over the closed @-@ circuit

television echo in the ship . Craig , encouraged by the Doctor telling him that this is his chance to be a father , fights and reverses the conversion . The rest of the Cybermen painfully experience the emotions they have repressed from Craig 's struggle , and their circuits start to overload . The Doctor and Craig escape via the teleporter as the ship explodes , the blast contained by the cavern . Craig reunites with Alfie , while the Doctor slips away unseen . Craig returns home to find the Doctor already there , having used time travel to clean the house . The Doctor tells Craig that Alfie now has a much higher opinion of his dad . The Doctor leaves just before Sophie returns .

Nearby , the Doctor tells the TARDIS he knows this is his last trip in her and offers some parting words to a small group of children . In the far future , River Song , recently made a Doctor of Archaeology , reviews eyewitness accounts made by those children when they were adults , and also notes the date and location of the Doctor 's death . She is interrupted by Madame Kovarian and agents of the Silence . Kovarian tells River that she is still theirs , and will be the one to kill the Doctor . Against River 's will , they place her in an augmented astronaut 's suit and submerge her in Lake Silencio to await the Doctor .

= = = Continuity = = =

Two hundred years have passed for the Doctor since the events of " The God Complex " , taking him to the age his older self was in " The Impossible Astronaut " . He spent this time " waving through time " at Amy and Rory , which is seen at the beginning of " The Impossible Astronaut " . The Doctor takes the blue envelopes he uses to summon his companions from Craig 's flat and Craig gives him the Stetson he wears at the start of " The Impossible Astronaut " . From River Song 's perspective , the final scene takes place immediately before the picnic in " The Impossible Astronaut " , and she is confirmed to have been that episode 's eponymous astronaut .

Cybermats are shown for the first time in the revived series . In the classic series , they appeared in The Tomb of the Cybermen (1967) , The Wheel in Space (1968) , and Revenge of the Cybermen (1975) . The Doctor examines a toy and remarks , " Robot dog ; not as much fun as I remember , " alluding to K @-@ 9 , a robot dog who accompanied the Fourth Doctor . The Doctor claims to be able to " speak ' baby ' " , as he did in " A Good Man Goes to War " . The Doctor expresses his dislike for Craig 's " redecorated " house by using a line from the Second Doctor (Patrick Troughton) in The Three Doctors (1973) and The Five Doctors (1983) . The Doctor recites the mini @-@ poem " Not a rat , a cybermat " from the novelization of Revenge of the Cybermen .

Amy has become a minor celebrity , appearing in an ad for Petrichor perfume , with the tagline , " For the girl who 's tired of waiting . " The concept of petrichor was used as a psychic password in " The Doctor 's Wife " and means " the smell of dust after rain " . The Doctor frequently refers to Amy as " the girl who waited " . The perfume and tagline imply that the episode takes place after " The God Complex " . This conflicts with the date on Craig 's newspaper , 19 April 2011 , which is three days before the Doctor 's death at Lake Silencio .

= = Production = =

= = = Writing and casting = = =

Writer Gareth Roberts said in an interview that he was considering bringing the character of Craig back when he saw James Corden 's performance in " The Lodger " , saying that " it already felt like he was one of the Who family " . Showrunner Steven Moffat was pleased with " The Lodger " , an episode he called " quite close to my heart " , and wanted to bring Craig back . He commented that it was a change of pace for Corden , who usually was cast as " the funny one " ; as Craig he is " the straight man to the wacky Doctor " . Director Steve Hughs compared the Doctor and Craig to famous comedic duos such as Laurel and Hardy , Abbott and Costello , and Simon Pegg and Nick Frost . Though most of the episode is intended to be fun , it also sets the stage for the finale and the Doctor 's upcoming death . The " serious " final scene , written by Moffat , concluded events in River

's life that had been hinted since " Flesh and Stone " . Other episode titles suggested by Roberts included " Everything Must Go " , " The Last Adventure " , and " Cyberman and a Baby " . A prequel , entitled " Up All Night " , is included as part of the Night and the Doctor series of mini @-@ episodes in the Series 6 DVD package .

It was also Roberts ' idea to bring back the Cybermen , because there were no other returning monsters in the series and he thought " there should be a sense of history about the Doctor 's final battle to save Earth before he heads off to meet his death " . He felt that this was consistent with the theme of " death and lingering darkness " that had run throughout the sixth series . Roberts wanted the audience to think that maybe Craig would really be converted . Moffat felt the " blowing the Cybermen up with love " conclusion was the Doctor Who version of a father bonding with his son . Roberts felt that the episode 's depiction of the Cybermen put it on the " silly / terrifying axis " that was common in Doctor Who .

Daisy Haggard 's reduced role as Sophie in the episode was due to her role in the play Becky Shaw at Almeida Theatre in London . This episode marks Lynda Baron 's third involvement with Doctor Who , having provided vocals for the " Ballad of the Last Chance Saloon " , heard in The Gunfighters (1966) , and the role of Wrack in Enlightenment (1983) . The accompanying Doctor Who Confidential to " Closing Time " is entitled " Open All Hours " in honour of Baron 's role in the sitcom of the same name . Radio 1 DJ Greg James appears in a non @-@ speaking cameo role , as a man shopping for lingerie . His character was nicknamed " Carlos " . Alfie was portrayed by seven different babies , usually paired in twins , because of strict rules about baby hours . Several dummies were used as well . Corden , who was about to become a father , learned tips from the mothers .

= = = Filming and effects = = =

Much of " Closing Time " was filmed in a department store in Cardiff . As the store had to be closed , they filmed over four or five nights , sometimes going until 6 : 00 in the morning . Hughs said it was a " drain " on the production team , while Corden recalled it made the cast and crew " lightheaded " and " hysterical " . Reportedly , the department store scenes were shot in March 2011 . The rest of the episode was filmed in a private home in Cardiff ; the couple who owned the house allowed the filming to take place in order for it to be an experience for their two young boys . Production at the house also went into the early hours of the morning . The window of the sliding door in the house that the Doctor jumps through to save Craig from the Cybermat was too small , so the production team built another one . The new door was too big for shatterglass ; instead , glass that breaks into chunks was used , wired with a small explosive that would crack the glass when Smith 's stuntman jumped through it . Hughs wanted it to look as if the audience was crashing through the window with the Doctor ; he spliced together shots of Smith filmed running up to the door , the stuntman jumping through it , and Smith landing with shards of glass thrown over him .

The Cybus Industries logo , which had been used on the Cybermen since their redesign for the revived series in " Rise of the Cybermen " / " The Age of Steel " (2006) , was covered up for the Cybermen in this episode as well as the ones which had previously appeared in " A Good Man Goes to War " . This is because the Cybermen from " Rise of the Cybermen " originated from a parallel universe , while the prime universe has its own Cybermen from the planet Mondas , as seen in the classic series . As the Cybermen that feature in " Closing Time " were barely surviving , the production team made them look broken down and as if they had been cannibalizing parts to survive . The suits were already worn to an extent , as they had been used so often in the five years since they were made . The Cyber Controller conversion equipment was built around Corden .

The Cybermats , which had not been seen on screen since 1975 's Revenge of the Cybermen , were redesigned to appear more high @-@ tech . The top was designed to recall the head of a Cyberman , and piranha @-@ like teeth were added to suggest that they were converted animals , just as Cybermen were converted humans . Three versions of the Cybermat were made . The first was simply a " stunt double " which did not have teeth and was meant for being thrown around or laid still . The second was a cable @-@ controlled " close @-@ up " version that had teeth and

thrashed , and was used for when the characters handled it . Smith broke this one when he hit it with a frying pan in the scene where Craig is being attacked , and it was subsequently repaired with tape . The third was radio @-@ controlled to dash along the floor . The post @-@ production special effects team The Mill created a computer @-@ generated Cybermat that leapt up to attack Craig .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Closing Time " was first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC One on 24 September 2011 , and in the United States on BBC America . It achieved overnight ratings of 5 @. @ 3 million viewers , coming in second for its time slot behind All @-@ Star Family Fortunes . When final consolidated figures were taken into account , the number rose to 6 @. @ 93 million , making it the second most watched programme of the day behind The X Factor . " Closing Time " was the fifth most @-@ downloaded programme of September on BBC 's online iPlayer . It was also given an Appreciation Index of 86 , considered " excellent " .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The episode received generally positive reviews , with critics praising the comic interplay between Smith and Corden . Dan Martin of The Guardian questioned the decision to air a standalone episode as the penultimate show of the series , calling " Closing Time " " something of a curiosity " as well as writing positively about Smith and Corden 's " Laurel and Hardy act " . However , he felt that the Cybermen had been deprived of their menace . Martin later rated it the eighth best episode of the series , though the finale was not included in the list . Gavin Fuller of The Daily Telegraph awarded the episode three out of five stars , comparing Smith 's performance favourably to that of Patrick Troughton . Neela Debnath of The Independent said it was an " intriguing change of pace " and succeeded with " great comedic moments " and the " brilliant chemistry between the Doctor and Craig " . She praised Corden for excelling after his " average " performance in " The Lodger " .

Patrick Mulkern , writing for Radio Times , thought that the ending was an " emotional overload ... but what better way to deal with the emotionally deprived Cybermen ? " He was pleased with the " sweet cameo " from Amy and Rory and the " tense coda " with River Song and Kovarian . Keith Phipps of The A.V. Club gave " Closing Time " a grade of " B + " , feeling that the episode was more about small character moments than the Cybermen plot . Though he wrote it was not as strong as " The Lodger " , he praised the way it gave a break before the season finale to bring out the softer side of the Doctor . Digital Spy 's Morgan Jeffery praised Smith , Corden , and Lynda Baron as Val , and felt that it was a " relief " to have a fun episode after two emotional heavy ones . However , he did not think it was as good as " The Lodger " and thought the Cybermen were " wasted " , citing the conclusion of Craig blowing them up with love as " unsatisfactory " . Andrew Blair of Den of Geek defended the Cybermen in the episode , opining that the episode brought out the tragedy of them barely surviving and having to convert people mechanically without any emotional understanding of the situation .

IGN 's Matt Risley rated the episode 7 @. @ 5 out of 10 , praising the chemistry between Smith and Corden as well as Smith 's interaction with the baby , but was disappointed with the Cybermen , who he said " never really delivered on the threat or horror fans know they 're capable of " . SFX magazine reviewer Rob Power gave the episode three and a half out of five stars , saying it " [worked] wonders " as a light @-@ hearted episode before the finale and with " properly bad " Cybermen . Though he thought the Cyberman lacked " real menace " and Craig escaped in a " cheesy way " , he considered the main focus to be on the Doctor 's " farewell tour " and praised Smith 's performance . He thought that the moments of " sad @-@ eyed loneliness and resignation " added weight to " what would otherwise have been a paper @-@ thin episode " . Power also praised the ending for bringing things together for the finale , though he thought the final scene with River Song felt " a little tacked @-@ on " . Charlie Jane Anders writing for io9 described it as a " worthy sequel " and " welcome shot of comedy " and was positive towards the " sweet " exploration

of the Doctor 's self @-@ loathing that proved the universe needed him . However , Anders was bothered by the running joke of the Doctor and Craig being mistaken for a gay couple and the stereotypes the episode relied on , such as the " clueless dad " and the ignorant shop girls . Christopher Hooton of Metro found the episode to be " soppy " and " sickly sweet " , criticising Corden for his " whooping " , " annoying " performance , the reliance on " slapstick capers " that " lurched a bit too close to the CBBC end of the spectrum " and the " jaunty [and] smug " soundtrack .