# Communications Theory in *Dr. Who: Voyage of the Damned*

The television Christmas special *Dr. Who: Voyage of the Damned* provides an excellent portrayal of the importance of a variety of non-verbal communication. The directors’ decision to combine the use of groups, haptics, and power throughout the show to further communicate the story with the viewer provides a seamless addition to the entertainment aspect. The underlying core material of the story itself and most obvious of these non-verbal communication ploys is the use of a group.

This technique demonstrated an almost textbook example for each of the key moments in the formation, performance, and adjournment of the group. The forming occurs within the opening scenes as the characters meet for the first time on the space cruise liner Titanic when they are brought together for a visit to Earth

* Ease of following for viewer and discernable storyline.

The second technique that occurs frequently throughout the show is the use of haptics for multiple purposes. Two examples that clearly employ haptics is the visit to Earth in which Asterid embraces Dr. Who amidst her joy of being on an “alien” planet and also that of Dr. Who physically pushing Von Moff through a gap in the debris in the Host chase sequence. The first example of the Earth visit scene employs haptics in the form of a hug in order to visually show the change in the relationship between Astrid and Dr. Who from one of acquaintances

The third technique demonstrated by the director is the use of power, in particular the key character Dr. Who is used to

In conclusion the television Christmas special *Dr. Who: Voyage of the Damned* provides an excellent portrayal of the importance of a variety of non-verbal communication through the use of groups, haptics, and power to both entertain and inform the viewer by the director.