It seems like time has flown by for the second half of Season Seven. With the airing of Neil Gaiman's *Nightmare In Silver* this weekend, we will be only one story away from the end of a tumultuous season.

That is a pretty bittersweet moment. This season has seen some amazing bits and also more than a few rough patches but so far it appears that the teaming of Matt Smith with Jenna-Louise Coleman has live up to the mustard. Both have been outstanding so far. I only wish they had stronger scripts to work with at times this season.
With that in mind I am looking to be emotionally leveled in the next two weeks. I think the show needs two solid stories to lead into the anniversary special. This would go along way towards making me feel better about the season overall.

In other news BBC America is celebrating the anniversary with another classic Doctor Who episode and John Hurt has made some waves by discussing his role in the Anniversary Special.

As we ride into the home stretch it looks like we are being set up for a wild ride.

**FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY NEWS**

After five weeks, principal filming for the 50th Anniversary Special has been completed.

Some 3D filming did take place last week on Galligaer Lane in Cardiff and at Gladstone Primary School in Cardiff.

This is interesting...
(Pictures courtesy of Ryan Farr)

So it seems that a return trip to Coal Hill School and Totters Lane is in order.

Could William Russell be coming back?

The first shot from *An Unearthly Child* has been filmed with a modern setting.

**PIPER ON WHO RETURN**

The returning Billie Piper has commented on her return (again) to *Doctor Who*. 
I feel it’s like going home, and it’s a real gift that show. Obviously it’s such a special one because it’s the 50 year celebration. It’s very much for the fans and you really feel that on this particular episode.

See it here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtSI1ECZs74&feature=player_embedded

HURT TALKS ANNIVERSARY ROLE

John Hurt’s role in the Anniversary Special seems to be intriguing. He has been listed on some of credits as The Doctor and in others as Omega. The latter is probably not true. He is said be a ‘forgotten’ Doctor.

Hurt gave a hint about his role in a recent interview with the
Norfolk *Eastern Daily Press.*

Link: http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/john_hurt_launches_sh

THE CRIMSON HORROR RATINGS

Overnight ratings for *The Crimson Horror* are in. The Mark Gatiss romp scored an overnight audience of 4.61 million viewers in the United Kingdom for a total audience share of 25.2%.

The Audience Appreciation (AI) score for the episode was 85. Final ratings are due next week.

SEASON SEVEN NEWS

It's very weird but at times this season it has been more entertaining to watch Strax, Jenny and Vastra then The Doctor. In fact I will argue that they have been the best written incidental characters since the reboot of the show in 2005. This past week proved that again and it will be exciting to see all three of them return in the season finale.

Matt Smith talked about the relationship between Strax and The Doctor in *The Radio Times.*

Read on:

*He Said, She Said* is the title of a specially filmed prequel that will air immediately after *Nightmare In Silver* ends in the UK this Saturday night. In addition to the countless number of blogs and sites that will repost it you may also check it out on the BBC’s Red Button service.

Designed to set up the action for *The Name Of The Doctor*, The special webisode will be to be longer then previously filmed prequels. It was written by Steven Moffat and stars Matt Smith and Jenna-Louise Coleman.

France will begin screening Season Seven on May 25th. France 4 will also screen *Pond Life* on their website. The show has been gaining popularity in France over the last
For an idea of what *Doctor Who* is like with France talk added watch below.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUZRxKi0TGo&feature=player_embedded

Despite the title we will not learn the name of The Doctor in the series finale. This makes a lot of sense since divulging his name would, in effect, kill one of the basic premises that the show has been built on for fifty years. After all no matter who is in the lead role this central question has been an enticing source of speculation over the decades and it would be a really bad move to remove that component for the show.
The Season finale is said to answer a lot of questions about Clara and should also address the missing 16 and 23, the numbers that astute observers have noticed are missing from her book, *101 Places to See*.

**Social Workers with a BSW**
Jenna-Louise Coleman has definitely made the series lighter in tone at times and brought some much-needed new air into the show by changing up the Doctor/companion dynamic. Coleman talked about her flirtatious character with *The Radio Times*.


Her arc is just one of the things that I would love to see tied up inventively in the finale. Hopefully the flickering lights seen throughout the season will be addressed along with the nature of the ‘relationship’ between Clara and the TARDIS. It also would be good to see some of the speculation about River get cleared up too. Oh yeah, what’s up with all the roses? I have a pretty good idea....

**NIGHTMARE IN SILVER**

So far I have not been a huge fan of many aspects the current season. I am really hoping that this week’s story goes a long way in salvaging what I think of it.

Although it is a stand alone story, *Nightmare In Silver* serves as swing piece of sorts to the season finale and Fiftieth Anniversary special.

Here are some images from *Nightmare In Silver*. 
Perhaps the only thing greater than Neil Gaiman writing a *Doctor Who* episode is Neil Gaiman writing *another Doctor Who* episode.

By all accounts Gaiman is going old school and making the Cybermen scary again. There are shades of *The Moonbase* era Cybermen in their redesign which I think is a great thing.

Gaiman talked to the BBC:


Gaiman spoke with *SFX* about working on *Doctor Who* and explained why he will not be the next showrunner.

Link: [http://www.sfx.co.uk/2013/05/07/exclusive-neil-gaiman-talks-doctor-who-and-cybermen/](http://www.sfx.co.uk/2013/05/07/exclusive-neil-gaiman-talks-doctor-who-and-cybermen/)

Here are some images of the revamped Cybermen courtesy of the BBC.
Synopsis

Hedgewick’s World of Wonders was once the greatest theme park in the galaxy, but it’s now the dilapidated home to a shabby showman, a chess-playing dwarf and a dysfunctional army platoon.

When the Doctor, Clara, Artie and Angie arrive, the last thing they expect is the re-emergence of one of the Doctor’s oldest foes. The Cybermen are back!

Warwick Davis is a guest star! Awesomesauce!

EARTHSHOCK ON BBC AMERICA
BBC America has announced that it will celebrate the Fifth Doctor by airing Earthshock on Sunday, May 26th (8pm ET) as the next installment of their Doctor Who: The Doctors Revisited series.

Earthshock aired in 1982 and shook up the series by killing off Adric (Matthew Waterhouse). This obviously had a profound effect on The Fifth Doctor. It also shaped the idea that it is very dangerous to travel with The Doctor that has become so engrained in the new series.

For fans of the classic series we’ll get to watch Adric die all over again, but this time for a nationwide audience.

TIP OF THE TONGUE

Patrick Ness, author of The Chaos Walking Trilogy, has been tabbed to write the next installment in Puffin's E Book series celebrating 50 years of Doctor Who.

Ness has written a story called Tip Of The Tongue featuring the Fifth Doctor and Nyssa. It is slated for a release on May 23rd. A synopsis of the story has been released.
Synopsis

In 1945, a strange new craze for Truth Tellers is sweeping the kids of small-town America. The Fifth Doctor and Nyssa soon arrive to investigate the phenomenon, only to discover that the actual truth behind the Truth Tellers is far more sinister than anyone could have imagined.

The award-winning author explained why he chose the fifth Doctor:

_The Fifth Doctor is always the Doctor I thought most likely to be a novelist. People sometimes call him slightly passive, but I think it's more that he's observing, watching, waiting on the fringe to make his move. Just like any good writer. Which is why I've made this story one of those – which I've always liked – where the Doctor stays a bit out of the action and we see what happens through a non-canon character and get a whole different point of view of all the strange things happening. It's a bit how it feels when you watch the show as a young viewer._

**THE TARDIS LANDS AT DEPAUL**

Last Saturday DePaul University in Chicago was hosted _A Celebration of Doctor Who_, offering not only an insight into the popularity of the program but also delved deeper into the show offering an academic assessment that covered topics like gender, narrative and lasting popularity of _Doctor Who_. A lively panel on _Doctor Who_ fandom was presented along with an in-depth look at the aesthetics of the show's
five decades

On hand guests included, bloggers, authors, convention organizers, scholars, teachers and of course, fans. Jodi Lynn Nye, Carole Barrowman and Robert Shearman were amongst those in attendance.

Verity! An all female Doctor Who podcast was also in the house. They do good work and you can visit them here: http://veritypodcast.wordpress.com/

Writer Robert Shearman provided a live commentary of his episode, Dalek. He also gave a reading and held a lengthy Q&A session. Those in attendance were also treated to a special message from John Barrowman.

Over one hundred people attended the day long event and organizer Paul Booth is considering doing another one.

He has created a Facebook page for the group. More info on A Celebration of Doctor Who is this way:


Next Time… The Name Of The Doctor, Big Finish Update, Chicago TARDIS, The Visitation on DVD, Matt Smith shaves his head and more news!
About Rob Levy

From St. Louis, Missouri, comes Anglophile, pop culture/SF writer, DJ and all around pop culture geek Rob Levy. Since 1996 Rob has served as president of the United States’ oldest Doctor Who/British media fan club, The St. Louis Celestial Intervention Agency. The CIA meets regularly in St. Louis and participates in programming at many local and national conventions, including Dragon Con, where Rob is a loyal Brit Track participant for 15 years. When not working or observing the world around him, Rob watches way too much TV, reads a lot, wears black, travels, goes to shows, and traipses around used book and record stores with great fervor. He has a passion for history and a strange fascination with subway systems. He loves board games, baseball, supports Liverpool and loves a wicked curry.

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