



Adelaide Theatre Guide

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50 YEARS OF DOCTOR WHO: PREACHRS PODCAST LIVE

Preachrs Podcast

Box Factory Community Centre
Until 16 Feb 2013

Review by Anthony Vawser

Being greeted by a life-size TARDIS, K-9, Dalek and Cyberman upon entering a venue will pretty much clue you in as to the nature of the experience that you are in for! As it happens, a large part of my own childhood was spent obsessing over the world of Doctor Who, so I immediately felt my early years flooding back to me...

I must confess that I've never been able to give myself over to properly watching the amazingly successful recent revival of the show, partly because by the time the powers-that-be had finally managed to bring it back, I was considerably older and I'd mostly moved on in my interests. Fortunately, the three MCs of "Preachrs Podcast Live" – Rob, Nick and Ben – are able and willing to cater to the classic buff as much as the new recruit, which means that this love letter from three fans to their favourite TV entertainment should be appreciated by Whovians of all ages!

As the starting time approaches, the audience is commanded (on screen and over the PA) by a typically hostile Dalek to BE SEATED!!! and to TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONES!!! (or you will be – duh – EXTERMINATED!!!) Hence it came as a surprise to me that, for virtually its entire length, the Podcast's presentation forgoes the use of audio/visual clips (possibly for copyright reasons?) Instead, the task of audience involvement and entertainment is carried almost completely on the shoulders of our three hosts – two in their teens, one in his 30s – and with their enthusiasm, their knowledge and their comic energy, they do a pretty excellent job of maintaining interest across the slightly-more-than-an-hour's-time that they had in which cover the highlights of a series that dates back all the way to the era of JFK (in fact, the very first episode was quickly repeated by the BBC, due to its initial broadcast on the day of the assassination...)

There was the sharing of personal stories related to the beginnings of their enthusiasm for the adventures of the Doctor, entertaining disagreements as to the worth of various eras (and actors) of the show, plenty of chances for audience involvement, even give-away jelly babies - and the whole experience felt rather like a mini-convention crossed with a fan club meeting. By the end of the hour, even our hosts had to acknowledge that there were some basic elements of the series that just couldn't be covered in much (if any) detail, given such a relatively brief period of time – but what Rob, Nick and Ben have provided for a Doctor Who fan at the Fringe is a celebratory treat – complete with a climactic 50th birthday cake!