



The Doctor takes his spacesuit for a first space walk in *The Impossible Planet*.



2006's *The Girl in the Fireplace* is one of Louise's favourite *Doctor Who* episodes.

find watching the first series in five years that she's played no part in designing?

"I'll look at it in a different way, because it's not mine anymore. It'll be like watching a different show, almost. I've loved [new showrunner] Steven Moffat's episodes – I cried when I read *The Girl in the Fireplace*, and it's still one of my favourites, actually – so I'm sure what he'll do in 2010 will be lovely, and I'll have a terrible twinge of 'Oh gosh, I should have stayed!' But sometimes you have to be a bit brave, and do what you feel is right.

"Around the time that we were shooting *The Girl in the Fireplace*, just two or three months into my first series, I remember [producer] Phil Collinson saying to me, 'I need to ask you if you're going to stay on for the next series.' I said, 'Hang on, we're not even halfway through this one yet! I can't make that decision.' He said, 'Well, I'm going to come and see you every week until you say yes.' And he did. He used to come on the wardrobe truck, make himself a cup of coffee, and go, 'Have you made a

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decision yet?" He had so much faith in me. Phil was there for me every step of the way. I stayed because of Phil, and because of Russell, and because of Julie – and their encouragement, their support, and their enthusiasm.

"It can be quite a lonely job, costume designing. There are

days when you're swamped, and you're stressed out... but there would always be Phil, or Russell, or Julie sending me texts. They sent constant texts and emails to all the heads of department, and that made all the difference. Russell once said, 'People like Louise Page need those messages,' and it's true. You do need them. They're what keep you going. If Russell texts to say, 'I love that. It's wonderful,' you feel that someone has acknowledged it, and recognised your hard work, and it makes for a stronger, happier team.

"Equally, from day one, I was told, 'If you email Russell or Julie pictures or questions, you'll get an answer back within a few hours. You'll always get a response.' And absolutely that was true. It meant you could mentally move on to the next costume, knowing that you're on track. Very little ever got on screen without being approved first by Russell, Julie, Phil, and the director.

"In 25 years of working, I've never worked with a production team that has been this amazing, this dedicated, and this appreciative. Things will never be the same. With Russell, Julie, Phil and David all leaving, it felt like the right time for me to go as well. I'm sure that the new team is brilliant, but it'd be too different. In my heart, I feel it was the right thing to do. Besides," she adds, smiling, "it would be nice to go on

and do a project where I've got more than a week to prep. Now, that would be a luxury." **DWM**

## MISS HARTIGAN THE NEXT DOCTOR

**"A**nother Christmas Special female frock! We made two red dresses within a week. We were tied into the Victorian period, but like most of my work on the show, we don't have to be completely period accurate. Whilst waiting for casting, I had already sampled and purchased the best red silk Duchesse satin that I could find – no two reds are ever the same. The whole costume had to be in natural fibres – no synthetics allowed – as Miss Hartigan was to be near flames, and I had a parasol covered to match the dress.

"Dervla Kirwan has an amazing figure. Such poise. She insisted that her corset was as tight as possible, even though she didn't need it to be. She said it was the best costume she'd ever worn, which is all any costume designer could hope to hear. My only regret is that she had the most fantastic pair of black leather gloves, which had an amazing cut-out leather-lacework design that never registered on screen. As so often is the case, little details don't get seen."



*A futuristic space suit for River Song in *Forest of the Dead*.*



*Louise models an *Impossible Planet* space suit in 2006.*