

## **Doctor Who: Classic vs. Modern**

By: Nicole Whitney

As a major Doctor Who fan I have seen every episode, and filled my DVR with everything Doctor Who related I could find. After learning to love three different doctors in the new series, a curiosity began to grow about the previous Doctors. What were their stories? Their personalities? What were their companions like? And another question weighed on my mind, what more could I find out about the Doctor?

Once I began watching the classic series I couldn't help but compare it to the new one. I will admit, there is an element of that inevitable cheesiness that comes with all classic science fictions. The acting, the sets, even the some of the storylines were pretty corny at times. But the show is definitely worth watching. Seeing the evolution of the show: the story, the Doctor(s), the companions, even the technology and skill of the actors and writers is an adventure in and of itself.

Though the budget and technology was lacking compared to the new series, there were also areas in which the Classic show excelled . For example, they traveled to more faraway planets and interacted with other species more often. The new series spends more than half of its episodes on planet earth or earth-based space stations and repeats the same bad guys over and over (namely, the Daleks, the Cybermen, and the Weeping Angels). The Classic show was also more diverse in the companion department including alien companions, even other time lords, and people from different time periods -instead of mostly attractive women from the modern time. In the modern series, Amelia Pond stands out as the only non-British companion, and yet she was still European.

I will say, if you are looking for information on the Doctor or his back story you may come out less than satisfied. I find the Classic show more vague and mysterious than the current one in that regard, and you will most likely end up with more inconsistencies and questions than you started with, when comparing the two.

All in all either series could stand in its own right. The new one explains what you need to know about the past making the classic show a bonus rather than a necessity. However, if you are the kind of person who likes to watch all six Star Wars movies in order, or plans to have a "Tolkien" marathon watching the Lord of the Rings trilogy following Hobbit trilogy once they are all released on DVD, you will definitely find it interesting to watch through the classic series while the current one is fresh on your mind. You might even find yourself watching the entire series in order, if you have a lot of time on your hands. It really comes down to this: the current series is amazing, and one of the best shows on television today, while the classic series is just that, a classic, and for good reason.

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