

have published that discuss kidnapped." matter of companions are focal points of fan identification with the show.

"The companion, I think, is your way into the stories, the way into science fiction. It's your point of view as the person going, 'Oh my god, there's no such thing as monsters, there's no such thing"" (Russell T. Davies, executive producer, Doctor Who Confidential, 'I get a sidekick out of you').

> Besides Russell T. Davies' reason, there many more. Companions are of fundamental importance to many of the Doctor's

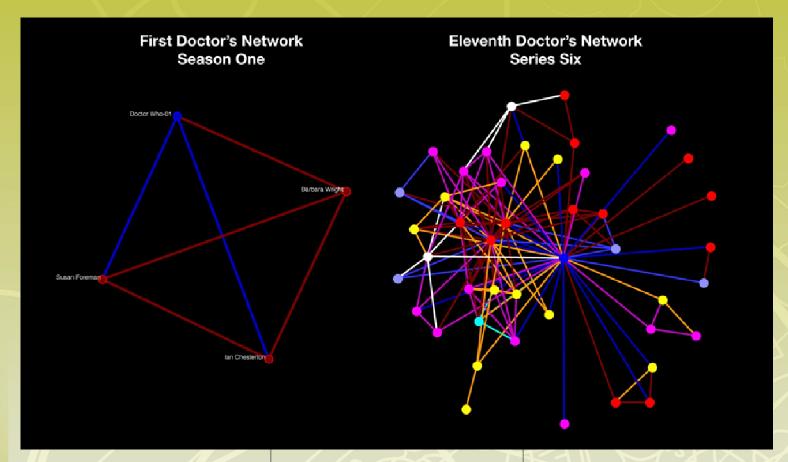
Many articles in Whotopia adventures. And not just because Terrance and other magazines in Dicks was said to think that "the only real job the Doctor Who fandom of a Doctor Who companion is to ask the been Doctor to explain the plot and to get (Philip Sandifer, **TARDIS** different aspects of Eruditorum, 2012, 'Terror of the Autons'). In companions. As a this article, we look at not only 'Companions', fact, but also the other characters that are important supporters of the Doctor: Companion-Lite and Associate. After a look at the Team TARDIS network, we will look at a preconception about companion ages.

Companions and Other Friends

Companion is the most common term associated with the Doctor's friends, though they have been known by other titles throughout the years. And they actually come in three flavors. 'Companion' is a character who regularly travels in the TARDIS, runs down corridors, and is a confidante of the Doctor, mostly done over a series of episodes, eg Sarah Jane Smith and Rose Tyler. 'Companion-Lite' is a character that fulfills many qualities of a companion but missed achievements in one of more aspects, eq Wilfred Mott acts like a companion in one Series Four special. We consider all one-off assistants to be a Companion-Lite. 'Associate' is a character who assists the Doctor in one or more stories but doesn't engage in all aspects of a Companion or Companion-Lite, eg Clifford Jones in The Green Death (1973) or Captain Erisa Magambo in the new series. These are the people that the Doctor relies on but not enough to invite them for serious travel.

> These three groups of people are what we call the Doctor's 'support-group' in network analysis parlance. For the purpose of this article, we refer to them all as 'Team TARDIS'.

In our network charts, every circle



(node) represents a character: blue=Doctor various duplicate selves), red=Companion, vellow=Companion-Lite, fuchsia=Associate (The other colors represent characters not used in 'this' analysis.) and lines (links) between the circles are drawn indicate these characters collaborated with each other in at least one episode during that season. Looking at the nearly 50 years of Doctor Who, we can find after a closer look, we also classified only the main characters. During the some interesting patterns. First, Team TARDIS got a lot bigger as time went on; Team TARDIS has grown as support characters are added. The network from the first season of the First Doctor has only the four main characters: the First Doctor, Susan Foreman, Ian Chesterton, and Barbara Wright. There were no Companions-Lite or Associates at that time. The majority of the interaction was between the four main characters. But in Seasons Two and Three, the network grows and in Season Three we see the first of the Companion-Lite characters: Katarina, Sara Kingdom, and Bret Vyon. We place in the Companion-Lite category not only Sara Kingdom but also Bret Vyon (who actually had more screen time than Sara Kingdom). Both appeared in The Daleks' Master Plan (1965/66) Then,

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Katarina as a Companion-Lite since she was more a hasty addition to replace the 'fired' Vicki who was supposed to die in the which connected with the Doctor's plotline episode 'Airlock' of The Daleks' Master Plan. in the end. A complex Seventh Doctor story, Five episodes do not a Companion make.

hand, dwarfs the First Doctor's network. It final confrontation. contains many characters that we class as Companion, Companion-Lite, and Associate. When looking at the large overall network,

T Davies and the top left are the two years Steven Moffat. The number of characters in New Who compared to Classic Who is quite a bit larger even though there are both fewer years and stories. That there are many more characters in the network of later incarnations of the Doctor has led to more complicated storylines. The main story narrative no longer needs to be carried by Pertwee years, there was often a secondary plotline headed by the Brigadier and UNIT, The Curse of Fenric (1989) contained many supporting characters with their own The Eleventh Doctor's network, on the other subplots which were all important for the

Notice how many characters do not share one more structural property is interesting: connections in the network. Many of these everyone is somehow connected with each characters are story specific and interact other, even though we coded the Doctor's only with the core group. In the big incarnations as eleven different and visualization at the beginning of the article, unconnected nodes in the network. There we show the networks of all seasons have been a series of mini-reboots in order together. The bottom half of the network to start the series fresh, which should have consists of the 26 years of Classic Who. The disconnected the network. Many times top right nodes are the four years of Russell when a Companion (or Companion-Lite or Associate) leaves they are replaced by equal). Liz had multiple Ph.D.s, Sarah Jane Companions. someone new. But quite often, the new Companion never meets the old Companion (eq Jo Grant leaves at the end of The Green savage warrior. And, Jo took her A' levels, Death (1973) and Sarah Jane Smith enters in the next story, The Time Warrior (1973/74). These two Companions don't meet until 2010 in the Sarah Jane Adventures story, The Death of the Doctor. Until then they were connected only through the Third Doctor. Vicki (who entered in *The Rescue*, 1964) never met Susan (who left in The Dalek Invasion of Earth, 1964). At the end of the Second Doctor's time, he was banished to Earth and regenerated into the Third Doctor while his two Companions, Jamie and Zoe, were mind wiped and sent back to their original starting points. But the network tendrils found a way to connect. Jamie showed up with the Second Doctor during 80 the Sixth Doctor's tenure in The Two Doctors (1985). And after the Tenth Doctor left his 70 Companions and regenerated into the Eleventh Doctor, he met up with Amy and 60 Rory. This initially looked like a clean start. But soon enough River Song, who first appeared in Silence in the Library/Forest of the Dead (2008), made an appearance which connected them back to the Tenth Doctor. But one of the strongest connections in all of Doctor Who was the return of Sarah Jane Smith in the new series episode, School Reunion (2006) and the Eleventh Doctor appearing in the Sarah Jane Adventures story. Death of the Doctor. This had the impact of connecting a large portion of Classic Who to the new series. In network terms, she is called a 'Boundary Spanner'. So, the overall network is truly a timeywimey ball of connections, not a straightforward progression though time.

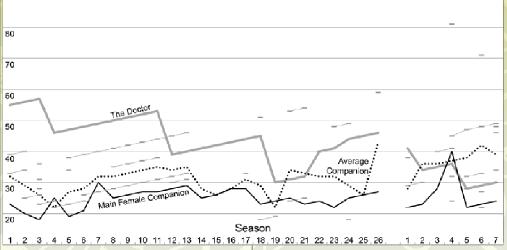
The Primary Female Companion

In the face of changing the main female Companion from Amy to Oswin, we also take a closer look at this role. In the 1960s, the main female Companion started out as a young girl to be protected by the Doctor in a 'grandfatherly way' (Susan and Vicki); but this evolved into representing the mod girl from swinging London (Dodo and Polly) but still very young. In the 1970s the female Companion became a symbol of the emancipated woman who worked alongside the Doctor more like a sidekick (or even an

was a journalist, Romana outscored the Doctor at the Academy, and Leela was a Conclusion and flunked them, but she was still For 49 years the program has been in extremely independent. The 1980s saw a turn toward more diverse Companions, all of which had their quirks from the best This normally tends to shake a network screamers (Tegan and Melanie) to the street -wise teenage girl (Ace). And in the new series all the main female Companions are opposite. It remains a tightly packed ball strong-willed individuals who actively sought out the Doctor.

The main female Companions share a very striking characteristic: age. In the final chart, big happy family.

existence, many characters have come and gone without immediate overlapping stories. loose or even it break apart. But the Team TARDIS Network has, in essence, done the where the degrees of separation between any two characters remain only a few steps. No matter how many changes there are. It shows how Doctor Who is, in essence, one



we visualized the actual ages of actors (not It's also no secret that the Doctor enjoys the ages of the characters they were traveling with young female companions. portraying) of Team TARDIS over time. The He's a protector looking for someone to three continuous lines represent the Doctor, protect. But there's another reason for the the main female Companion, and the Doctor to travel with a young attractive average age of Team TARDIS. (The Doctor female. It began mostly to attract the dads Who Movie is considered part of the of the viewing children. But after that, the 'Wilderness Years' and due to multiple formula worked so well they just continued Doctors and primary Companions was on along the same vein. It's not to say that excluded from the chart as an anomaly.) You older companions won't work. Donna Noble can see that (with little exception, eq Donna is a great example that older companions Noble) the average age of all the ace the viewer's expectations. But for the companions per year is higher than the age most part, the Doctor has picked his of the primary female Companion in that companions from a very narrow age range. year - in their mid-twenties with two in their teens. In contrast to many opinions out there, the age of the primary female Companion is not getting younger. It has, in fact, been steady throughout Doctor Who's history. And from the perspective of this chart, Jenna-Louise Coleman is right in line with the ages of the previous main female

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