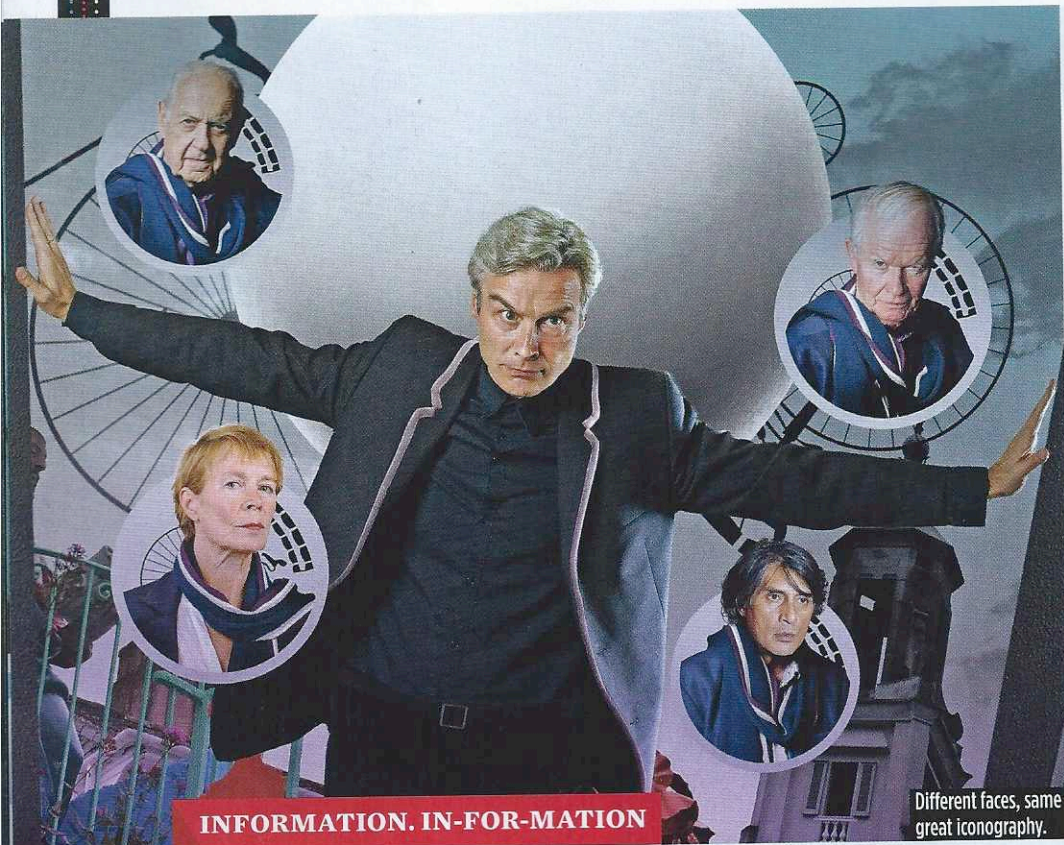


SCI-FACT! Publisher Rebellion bought the 2000 AD imprint in the year 2000, appropriately.



Different faces, same great iconography.

INFORMATION. IN-FOR-MATION

ROVER'S RETURN

Big Finish are venturing back to the Village in a new version of *The Prisoner*

➔ For a show that lasted a scant 17 episodes, Patrick McGoochan's *The Prisoner* left an indelible mark on British sci-fi; so much so that attempts to resurrect Number Six in the years since have proven less successful than the average run-in with Rover. Big Finish hopes to buck that trend with *The Prisoner Volume 1* – a full-cast audio drama which reinterprets the original series.

"It never occurred to me to do a continuation," says writer/director Nicholas Briggs. "How could you continue something that ends in an utterly inexplicable, allegorical way? I wanted anyone who loves *The Prisoner* to enjoy it in a slightly different way."

Three of the box set's four hour-long episodes will be familiar to fans of the series – *Departure And Arrival*, *The Schizoid Man* and *The Chimes Of Big Ben*. But Briggs has also penned a new tale – *Your Beautiful Village*

– which sees Number Six deprived of his senses. "I wanted to do an episode that could only have worked on audio," Briggs enthuses. "It's also about certain revelations in Six's relationship with someone who has been in the Village a lot longer than him and who doesn't necessarily represent the side of authority."

Mark Elstob has the unenviable task of following in Patrick McGoochan's gargantuan footsteps while Celia Imrie, John Standing, Ramon Tikaram and Michael Cochrane all take up residence in Number Two's ball chair. Further box sets remain unconfirmed, but Briggs already knows which stories he'd like to tackle next. "I want to do 'Many Happy Returns'. And 'Hammer Into Anvil'. And 'A, B And C'. I want to do them all really!" ●

The Prisoner Volume 1 is released on disc and as a download in January.

"Check out our review on page 105. Punk."



CREATOR EXCLUSIVE

DREDD RECKONING

Documentary *Future Shock!* tells the incredible story of long-running British comic 2000 AD

➔ Punk comic 2000 AD has been thrilling earthlings since 1977, but it's taken till now for a documentary to chronicle its meteoric rise. *Future Shock!* came about when director Paul Goodwin, and producers Sean Hogan and Helen Mullane united in their desire to tell a story they felt had been ignored.

Goodwin wanted to "go to the creators and hear them speak and really champion them, especially people like Pat Mills" (right). He also wanted to show that the influence of the comic was incredibly wide: "2000 AD is the comic that people don't know they like. Its pop cultural influence is massive and yet too many people are unaware of it."

Appearing in the doc are 2000 AD stalwarts like Alan Grant and John Wagner, alongside Neil Gaiman and *Dredd* star Karl Urban. The film's animations and visuals riff on classic 2000 AD art, and the filmmakers commissioned a soundtrack that Hogan says is: "a mixture of punk and that kind of retro-electronic aesthetic that we associated with that 1970s era."

Expect a frank look at the highs and lows of the comic's history. Mullane says: "We did forewarn people involved that we had no intention of sugarcoating, even though we are fans of the comic to this day. If 2000 AD has taught us anything, it is to question your heroes!" ●

Future Shock! The Story Of 2000 AD is out now on DVD.