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How Does Matt Smith Fit Into *Doctor Who* Pantheon?

By John Scott Lewinski January 06, 2009 | 7:17:00 PM Categories: [Doctor Who](#), [Sci-Fi](#), [Television](#), [Torchwood](#)



With young British actor Matt Smith stepping into *Doctor Who's* title role, Wired.com takes a look back at the 10 actors who have previously portrayed sci-fi TV's most enduring hero.

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Our gallery, "[A Who's Who of *Doctor Who*](#)," runs down the men who have played The Doctor throughout the show's 45-year run.

While viewers debate the casting of Smith -- who, at 26, is set to become the youngest Doctor ever -- a veteran fan signs off on the idea.

"I am excited about him because he represents evolution and growth, and I hate a static Doctor Who," says Alfred "Tuna" Snider, a professor of forensics who has been hosting a weekly *Doctor Who* theater event in his Vermont home for more than 15 years. Calling Smith "very young and somewhat goth," Snider says the young actor could be perfect if new producer Steven Moffat emphasizes the Time Lord's dark side.

"If so, Matt Smith would seem to be ideal," Snider says. "He has not shown a lot of comic potential in his previous roles, so that side might

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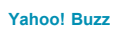
be toned down. Perhaps less silliness in terms of puns."

What do you think? Does Smith have what it takes to assume the mantle of sci-fi's longest-running TV franchise? If not, who does? And who would make the perfect companion for Smith when the actor joins the series in 2010? Let us know in the comments below.

Image courtesy BBC

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After watching the interview the other day, I'm cautiously optimistic that Mr. Smith (yes, I know, irony abounds) will do a good job as The Doctor. At the least, he seems to understand that this isn't just another role.

As for the perfect companion, I'd really like to see:

- A female companion who doesn't moon over The Doctor (getting a bit tired)
- A second companion at the same time (maybe not for the whole season, a la Captain Jack or Mickey)

Posted by: **Matt** | Jan 6, 2009 4:42:53 PM

Bring on Sally Sparrow as the next companion!

Posted by: **Taylor** | Jan 6, 2009 10:07:30 PM

I think it's great that the Doctor just keeps getting younger and sexier. We've come a long way from William Hartnell. I can't wait 'till they start raiding the cast of skins.

Posted by: **Defamed Prawn** | Jan 6, 2009 10:12:29 PM

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