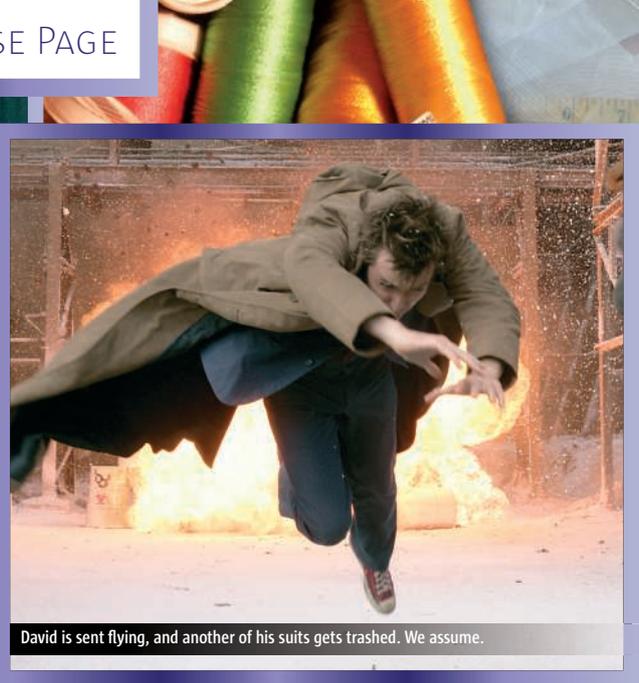




Early days for the Tenth Doctor, and the brown suit is accompanied by an open-neck collar for the first time.



David is sent flying, and another of his suits gets trashed. We assume.

◀ Some say, 'I'm flat-chested,' or 'I've got short legs'... actors are actors. Sometimes my girls would come off set and go, 'Oh my goodness, they're exhausting. They've got their dinner down them again!'"

David Tennant was notoriously difficult to work with, wasn't he?

"He was a nightmare," teases Louise. "He walked around at lunch time with a knife and fork in his top pocket, which was convenient for him, but I'm sure he only did it when I was watching, to wind me up. The more I'd say, 'Don't do it,' the more he would, for my benefit." In spite of this, David's Doctor is the costume that Louise is most proud of designing. "It's the iconic look that will forever be linked to the Tenth Doctor. It's unusual for a costume designer's work to be exposed to

because David had said that he wanted a long coat. Funnily enough, I had a lot of greys – smoky greys, silvery greys – and I said to David, 'Do you have a preference?' He said, 'Yes. Brown suits me quite well!' Afterwards, we met up in town on a Saturday morning, and went to the shops to try on some shapes – to get a feel of his silhouette, what he could handle and what he couldn't. In the end, the brown suit was made from pairs of trousers..."

What, really?!

"Yes! I'd only bought the trousers to see if David liked the shape, but when he put them on, he said, 'Why can't we make the whole suit out of this?' I said, 'Well, it's thin cotton, not suit fabric. Besides, I can't get hold of it.' I looked everywhere to find something similar – a brown with a blue

having another suit – he'd got bored of wearing a brown suit the whole time – and he said, 'Could it be the same, but different?'

"I found a fabric – a light blue shirting, with a bright red stripe through it – which I dyed into all these different shades, these inky blues, and I sent off some samples to David. I thought, it's the same but different. It was almost a reverse of the brown suit. I liked it, and Russell liked it, and Julie [Gardner, executive producer] liked it... but David didn't. He said, 'I think it's trying to be too clever.' Luckily, he came round. Weirdly, women tend to prefer

"It's the iconic look that will forever be linked to the Tenth Doctor. To have created a look that will remain in the Doctor Who history books forever, is a great honour.."

so many different mediums other than on screen. It makes me smile when I pass the children's birthday cake counter, and see my work staring back at me. That's surreal. To have created a look that's been so well received, and will remain in the Doctor Who history books forever, is a great honour."

In 2005, when Louise interviewed for the position on Doctor Who, she was asked to bring along her ideas for the new Doctor's look. "I did this kind of book, this school project, the night before the interview. It was full of fabric samples, textures, images, and words – words like 'sexy' and 'eccentric'. Soon after I got the job, I met David and showed him the project." David has claimed that aspects of his costume were modelled on a certain celebrity chef. "He tells a different version of this," she insists, "because he certainly never mentioned Jamie Oliver to me."

In her "school project", Louise had four possible looks for the new Doctor. "One was quite military, I remember, and there were coats involved,

stripe – but drew a blank. Purely as an experiment, I thought I'd see if I could make the jacket out of his trousers. They were on sale, so I bought a load, and we opened up the seams, took them apart, and made a suit. Everybody thought I was mad. David is skinny, but I was buying size 36", 38" trousers to get enough fabric. We needed something like five pairs of trousers for each jacket. At the next fitting, I said to David, 'I've got a surprise for you.' Of course he loved it."

Four years on, was David still wearing jackets made of, er, trousers?

"Yes, it's the same. The jacket shape was based on a 1930s period suit. We made four versions, and I bought a load more trousers, thinking I'd have enough spare, but I hadn't realised quite what a bashing they'd take. David dashed about, slid on the floor, knelt in them... and he went through so many pairs. They went through rain, and snow, and the drycleaners. They were so easy to wreck. It got to a point, after his first series, where we were getting quite worried. We thought, these suits won't hold out forever. David liked the idea of

