

WHERE AM I? - IN THE T.A.R.D.I.S.

Karen Langley peers briefly at Doctor Who's "The Masque of Mandragora" DVD

The recent BBC TV DVD release of the Doctor Who 14th season (February in UK, May in US) came too late for a review in CI5. Now, the Time Lords have made 'space' available for a look at the story which was filmed on location in Portmeirion. In May, 1976 - nearly a decade since *The Prisoner* had been shot 'in the Village' back in the autumn of 1966 - the BBC camera crew vehicles made one of their longest journeys from London to film a Doctor Who script. Not only was the distance a factor, but horses, costumes, props were also all needed in Portmeirion, a place by then busy with a new spring season. On top of that, the roads had to be covered with sand, to create a medieval look. Star and fourth Doctor, Tom Baker, had a stunt double for the more tricky climbing and running or riding shots - as did Patrick McGoohan before him. Below are shots from the BBC DVD, which offers additional documentaries and stills. Members of the production team and some actors journeyed back to the location to recall the filming - in the year that Six of One was initially formed and building Portmeirion had just been finally completed. (All images © BBC TV).



Bridge House as City gate



Battery market or bazaar



Doctor runs down steps



Soldiers by Buddha loggia



Inside Bristol Colonnade



Execution below Gloriette



Doctor is led to the Piazza



Town Hall road is sanded



Hercules Hall balustrade



On Hercules statue steps



Cut-through under Neptune



Steps from Watch House



Riding towards Green Dome



Filming in Battery Square



The Piazza and Gloriette



A break beside Town Hall Dome