

EXAMINER'S REPORT

DR. WHO AND THE DALEKS

TITLE OF SCRIPT

Screenplay by Milton Subotzky.

Dr. Who, his granddaughters Susan and Barbara and Barbara's boy-friend Ian, sweep off into another time and place in Dr. Who's space-ship and find themselves in the land of the Daleks, who are not friendly. The Daleks, my reader will doubtless remember, look rather like large-size pepper-pots and talk in stilted, mechanical voices. Also on the same planets are the Thals, who look like handsome human beings so present no problem from our point of view. The Daleks take the humans prisoner and intend to kill them; the Thals on the other hand are friendly and, though they are again violence, finally resolve to fight to save Dr. Who and Co. from destruction. After a number of adventures - in all of which fright turns into comedy, - there is a final battle and Dr. Who and his little company win and try to return to earth; but something goes wrong and at the end of the film they are in a dense jungle ready for the next adventure - which, I am sure, will not be long in coming.

I think most children in this country are now familiar with Dr. Who. I do not look at him much myself and do not know whether these particular adventures are new or old. I rather fancy that Ian (played by Roy Castle) is allotted more comedy than his counterpart in the T.V. serial, the bits of which that I have seen I thought more frightening than the present film script. Also, I believe this is a case in which colour, which seems to be intended, would be a help rather than a hindrance in making the story fit for younger children. Of course, we cannot say with any certainty till we see the film, as the treatment is what really matters. But I should think that most of it would turn out all right for "U" - many of the objections to the T.V. serial have in fact been on the basis that it is at a "C" time of day and is not "C". My main objection to what I read was the number of screams, quite excessive and unnecessary and not always redeemed by the fact that what has been screamed at turns out not to be frightening after all. I have made a number of notes on points of detail:-

P.1(2). Barbara screams at a mouse. My only objection to this is that, as I have said, there are too many screams.

P.9(6). Screams from Barbara, o.s.

10(7). Hideous, reptile-like creature. Care will be needed, and C.S.'s should be avoided. Ian screams. Must he.

12(7). A hand touches Susan; she screams and starts to run.

It grabs her and she shrieks. I am not sold on this hand; and the screams don't help.

P.T.O.

19(13). Ian yells - but it is Dr. Who. (14) Barbara hemmed in by walls. She must not look too frightened; and the incident must not be too prolonged. Must she scream. Perhaps so in this instance, as, (15), it is heard by the others.

24(20). Dalek fires at Ian and makes him collapse. He screams. It would be well if he did not, as this incident is potentially quite alarming enough.

30(28) - 32(29). Susan running through the jungle alone, terrified. We see furry feet and she then sees them and is more terrified, and it is not for some time that we see that the owner is in fact quite a nice-looking Thal. This should be modified and we do not want b.c.u.'s showing fear, or anything too prolonged.

35(30). Susan in cone with bright light - to make her talk. A caution on this.

37(33). Barbara wakes Ian - he wakes with a scream. I know he is meant to be a figure of fun, and Roy Castle has a reassuring personality & but still, there is too much yelling ~~here~~ in this script.

48(40). I do not want Ian's tongue to pop out when he is being strangled, nor should the incident last too long.

51(40). Glistening green claw. OK?

58(54). Dalek machine has been burning. ? Too much of this?

65(79). We are not very fond, for "U" films, of people being killed by flame guns, even if they are mystery ones which make the picture go negative. A caution on treatment. But probably OK for "U" as opposed to "C".

76(91). Shot of two huge, malevolent eyes in water. Could be too shocking; we would not want too close a shot.

77(92). Dreadful scream from Elyon.

85(98). Antodus screams as he falls into chasm.

94(116). ~~Final~~ and fall. Final fight. A caution. There is a lot of flame, and even if it doesn't hit any human, it could be a bit much.

97(119). Ferocious caveman. Worth a caution on treatment.

I hope I have not been too casual about this. Much of it seems to me to have a Jules Verne flavour - i.e. not C, but nowadays accepted as "U".

4.2.65.