



# DATA

Brent Spiner explains why time is running out for his android alter ego...



# Cult Times

£2.75 US \$4.99  
CAN \$6.95

THE BEST GUIDE TO THIS MONTH'S CULT TV

#41 • FEBRUARY 1999

**EARTH: FINAL CONFLICT**

The fanatic Zo'or

**SPACE: 1999**

Shaping the future

Cult TV Listings INSIDE

Back on TV!

# RED DWARF

The complete cast interviewed!

**BUFFY and STAR TREK**

# POSTERS



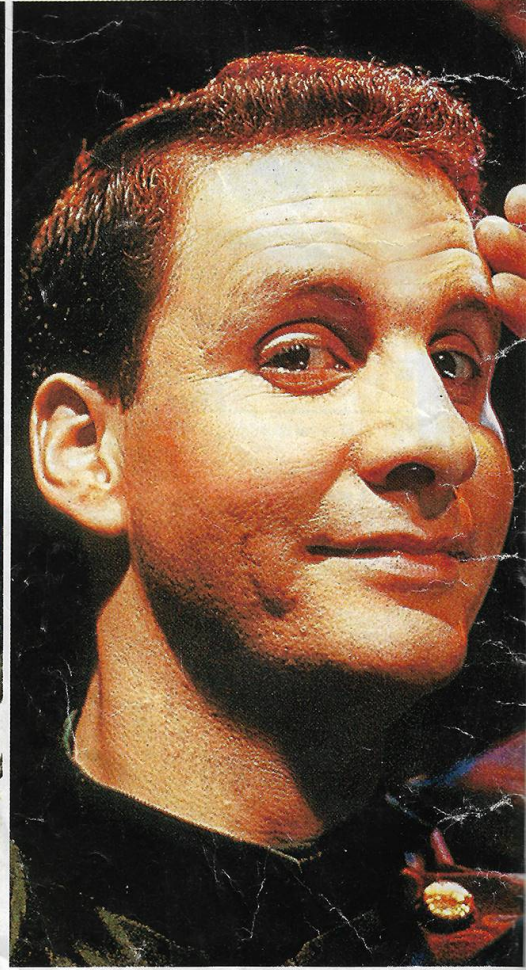
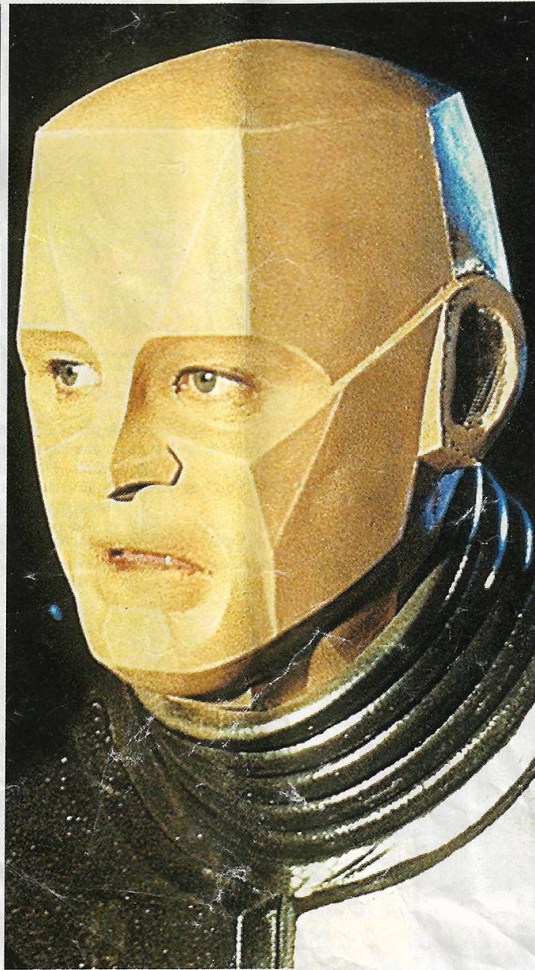
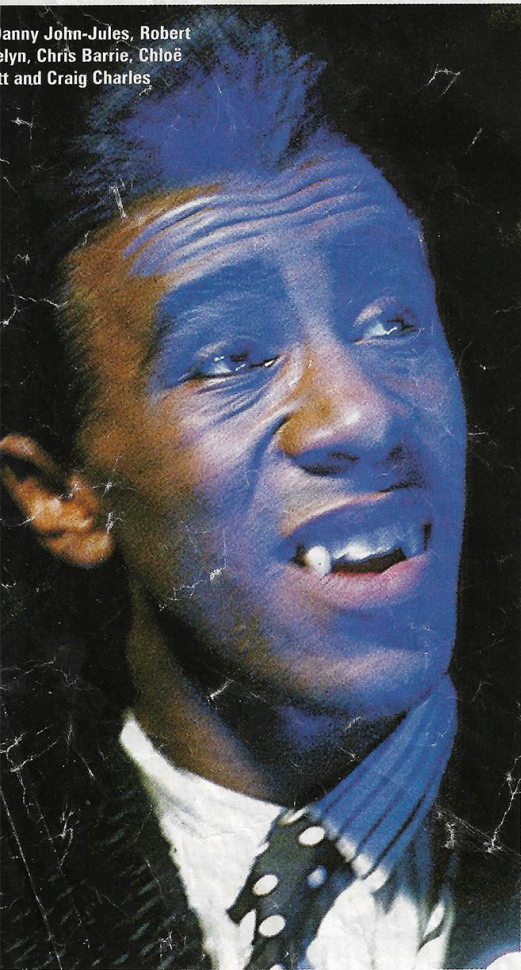
VISUAL IMAGINATION





# DWARF STARS

Johnny Lee Miller, Robert  
Downey Jr., Chris Barrie, Chloë  
Sexton and Craig Charles



# Having finally found Red Dwarf, our intrepid heroes are promptly thrown in jail. Still, you've got to see the funny side of it...



Rob Grant had left and the scripts had lost some of their edge; and while there were still some classic moments (the "Arnold, Arnold, Arnold Rimmer" song, for instance) there were far too many duff lines spoken in ventilation ducts. This was compounded by the fact that the lack of a studio audience meant that the timing of many of the jokes wasn't as sharp as it could have been.

**ISN'T IT** always the case? You spend 200 years looking for something and then it turns up just when you least expect it, and in the last place you'd ever look. At the end of Season Seven of *Red Dwarf*, the Jupiter Mining Corporation's finest vessel was eventually found by its surviving crew members, lurking amongst Lister's underwear in Starbug's laundry basket. Those naughty nanobots, responsible for purloining it in the first place, restored it to far, far more than its former glory. As Lister (Craig Charles), Kryten (Robert Llewelyn), Kochanski (Chloë Annett) and the Cat

(Danny John Jules) soon discover that the ship is not the only thing that the nanobots have re-created...

Throughout the history of the series, there have been two things which have remained constant: Lister is the last surviving human in the universe, and Arnold J Rimmer exists only as a hologram, having died horribly three million years ago. All this is about to change.

The last series of *Red Dwarf* was a controversial one. Rimmer was absent for half the season and replaced by the permanently irritable (and to Kryten, irritating) Kristine Kochanski; writer and co-creator

Season Eight, however, promises a return to form. The show is once more being recorded in front of a studio audience. Norman Lovett's Holly and Chris Barrie's Rimmer are both back for all the episodes. There are scuttlers aplenty and the largest amount of curry ever seen on television.

Imagine that the first half of the first episode of the first season was the template for what was to come. Imagine that the accident that destroyed all of Lister's friends (and killed Rimmer too) never occurred. Imagine then *Red Dwarf VIII*...

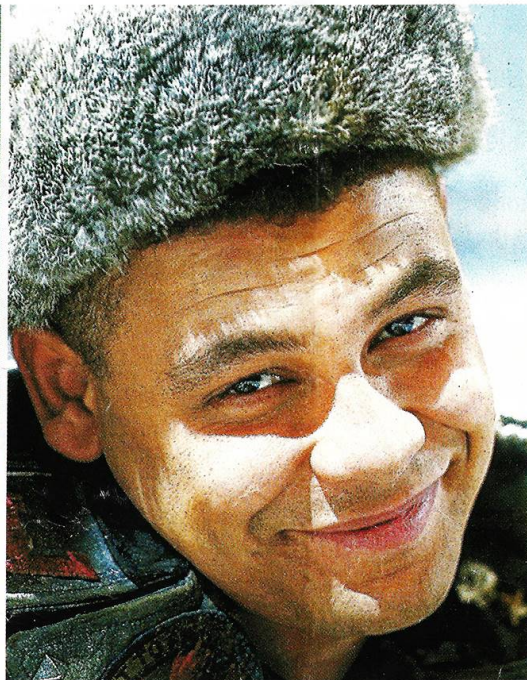
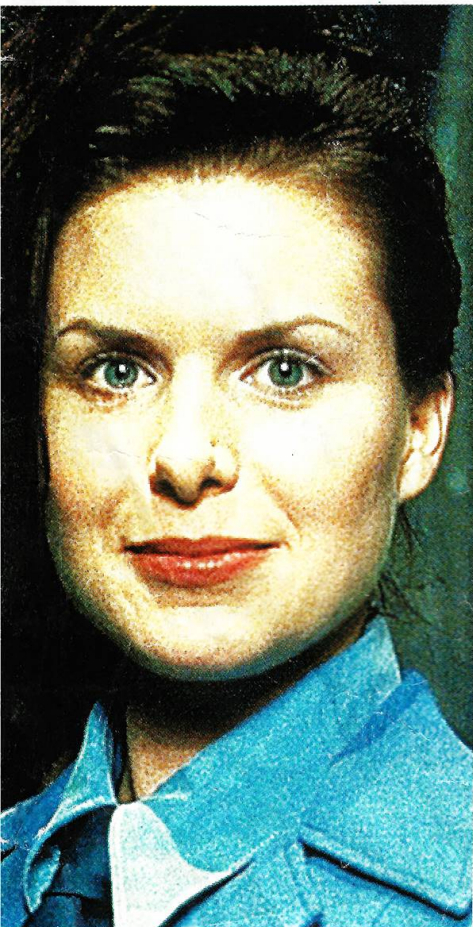
## Circumstances for our heroes have changed considerably. Tell us more.

**Craig Charles:** We get stuck on charges for stealing Starbug, so we end up in jail. Its a different dynamic in a way; the crew are back with some of the strangest looking bods you've ever met. There's a chap there with more than 55 facial piercings... We spend most of our time in a cell really, unless we're going on suicide missions, to break the monotony! The sleeping quarters are back to what they were - no longer the captain's quarters. We're on the 13th floor, 'The Tank'. There are some good stories...

**Chris Barrie:** In Starbug it was quite limited. We'd see other ships or discover other planets, but back on *Red Dwarf*, there's so much more that can happen. There are a lot of little ideas that have been placed to provide more adventures.

**This season, Rimmer makes a welcome return. What was it that convinced Chris Barrie to reprise the role?**

**CB:** Having done six series and then seven, in retrospect I thought I may as well stay right to the end. It will probably go down



"We spend most of our time in a cell really, unless we're going on suicide missions"

- Craig Charles



as the thing that I was best known for. I did enjoy the couple of episodes I did for the seventh series and I just want to get back into it. Plus, the vibe I got from inside and the fans, was that the balance of the show wasn't quite there without Rimmer and I thought I'd go back and save the day! Mainly it was a personal thing. You're never going to get the same sort of script material that you get for this show anywhere else.

### What's the atmosphere like on set?

**CB:** Something's obviously happened to me over the last couple of years because I think that this is the most comfortable series of

## All Change

**T**HERE ARE changes afoot this season in *Red Dwarf*, with some of the characters experiencing changes for the better, and some for the worse.

**Rimmer:** The good news for Arnie is that he's once more alive. Thanks to the nanobots' work rebuilding the ship, they've also recreated the crew. The bad news is that his status as ship smeghead is still intact, and with everyone on Earth probably dead, he stands no chance of getting a promotion.

**Lister:** His happiness at returning to *Red Dwarf* is short-lived when, after living the high life alone on a ship with his own command crew quarters, Lister now has to make do with a cell, into which he's thrown for stealing Starbug.

**The Cat:** No real change for Cat, who's so shallow nothing's likely to trouble him as long as he's still allowed to wear sharp suits. Which he is.

**Kryten:** Designated a woman, Kryten is thrown into a cell with Kochanski, who he's still none too keen on. In desperate attempts to prove his masculinity, Kryten creates an android penis which he calls Archie.

**Kochanski:** After her irritation at being removed from the universe she knew, Kochanski is now slightly more accepting of the fate she's been dealt. Admittedly, her lot hasn't really improved, and there's still some sexual tension between her and Lister, but she's a more rounded individual than she was.

**Holly:** Back to his original face, Holly is probably in big trouble. Still computer senile, now he'll have to cope with the demands of a crew again...

Paul Spragg

this show I've done. We've all got to the point where we really work well together and I think it's probably the best of all the series. I don't know what happened, but there's a good balance now between studio audience, location and rehearse/record... and the actors have got a good balance of funny dialogue or character dialogue and visual effects. I think it's all come together wonderfully. It's great to have Norman back. Chloë's excellent, and the boys are the boys and we're all happy.

**CC:** I think we all genuinely get on. Throughout the years we've all had fallings out and stuff. When you're in a room with creative people all the time they're bound to get on your nerves. But this time it's been painless. It's the most enjoyable *Red Dwarf* experience I've had. We all know our characters and what we're supposed to do. We've been at it now for 12 years – the whole of my adult life in fact!

**Norman Lovett:** I'm still isolated, lonely... it's a strange form of acting to do but I like it. The closest I get to the actors is the read through...

### Being relatively new to the team, did Chloë get ganged up on?

**Chloë Annett:** They wouldn't dare!

**Robert Llewelyn:** Chloë was more 'one of the lads' than the rest of us put together!

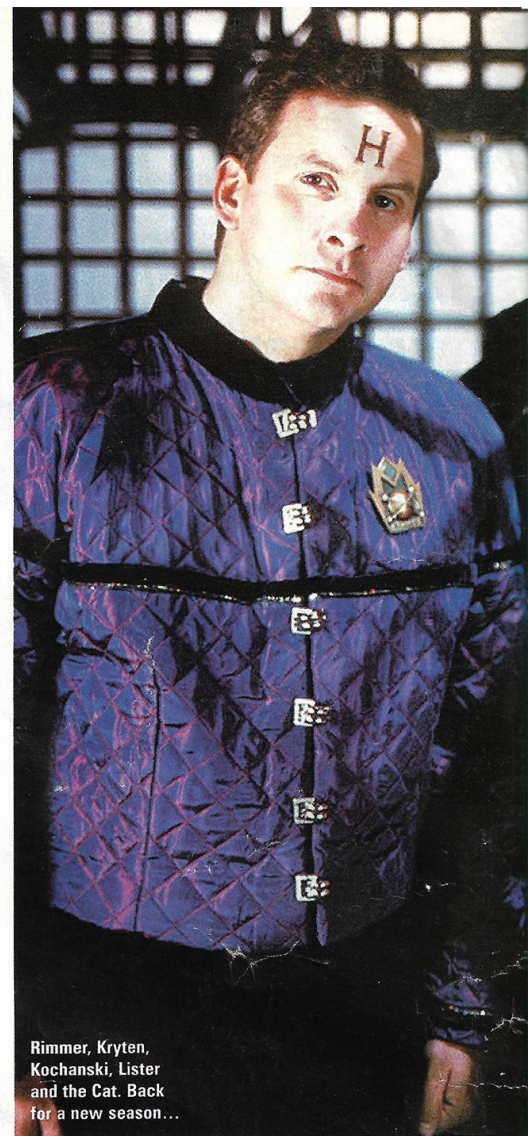
### How did Craig feel when he found he was banged up for most of the show?

**CC:** I thought I've done the research, I might as well do the video! I got all that out my system in *The Governor* really. It's funny, when Doug [Naylor, writer] used to come and visit me all the time you could tell he was making notes. I thought he was coming 'cos he was a mate! I should have known...

The weird thing was, when [Doug Naylor's *Red Dwarf* novel] *The Last Human* came out I was in jail all the way through that as well...

### How has it been working with a studio audience again? Is it important?

**NL:** Cor, yeah, it's so important to get a reaction...



Rimmer, Kryten, Kochanski, Lister and the Cat. Back for a new season...



**CC:** Series seven was a completely different kind of show because we did it without a studio audience. Sit-coms need to be played to an audience, so you can gauge and judge the laughs better.

**CB:** The studio audience is just wonderful. I can't really remember, to be honest, the last studio audiences. I suppose I'm a bit more together now than I was then. I used to panic like crazy before going on before an audience. Now, they're so good, you just don't worry. They're behind you on everything...



**"We've all got to the point where we really work well together and I think it's probably the best of all the series"**

– Chris Barrie

**CA:** They're so into it, and so supportive that you just... show off. The only danger is in the showing off! [laughs]

**RL:** From my point of view, I'm only in a mask for four hours as opposed to 12, because you just put it on at night. It was great fun and it reminded me very much of where the comedy was and how strong it was. The audience reaction was absolutely phenomenal; last week's show was astonishing, scenes doubled their length because we had to stand around while people were clapping.

**How have the scripts been this year?**

**CB:** The scripts have been really good. Best line? "I'm giving you a big wet snog with

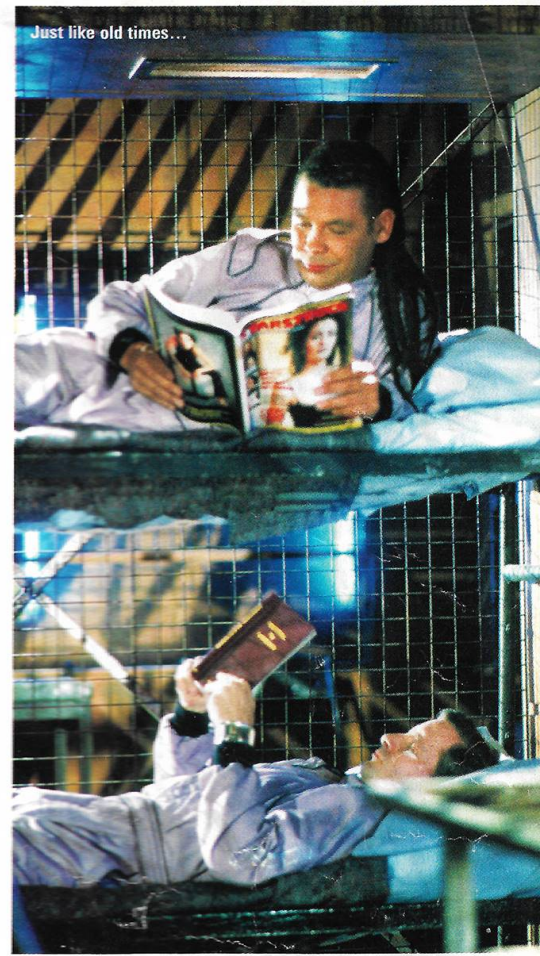
oodles of Tommy Tongue!" The sleeping quarters scenes that we've got back with Lister and Rimmer have been great fun.

**CC:** I think Doug Naylor's on excellent form, brilliant scripts... We're getting rounds of applause in the middle of scenes and you've got to act you're way through it. Big laughs. I filmed a great fight scene yesterday... thrown to the walls, jumping off a trampet. Physical stuff which I quite enjoy. A bit of stress relief!

**RL:** There's a lot more group action going on and some of the extras have been annoyingly funny! I've done a lot less scenes with Craig this series...

**Any favourite moments?**

**RL:** The tampon exploding. Would that give it away? No, I won't tell you about the tampon exploding then! The episode



we did last week, which is called *Kryten* TV I enjoyed very much, there are some good bits in that... and I got to shower with eight semi-naked women!

**CA:** People you'd never seen before on the set suddenly turned up!

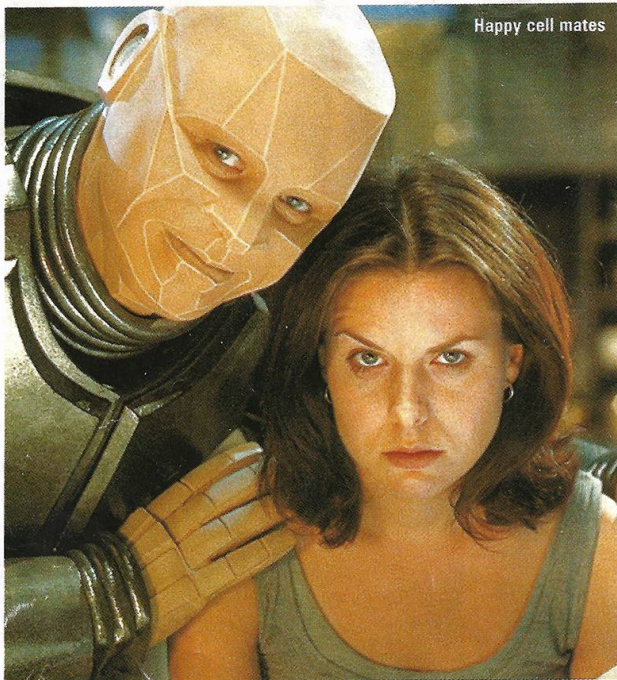
**RL:** I have to say that the rubber head does have a very debilitating effect on the libido though!

**Did Robert consider writing a script this time round?**

**RL:** No, I couldn't have done it, and I wasn't asked to. I'm really glad I had a go [*Beyond a Joke*], but I wouldn't do it again. I'm too close to it, to be honest. My problem was that I started to write for the cast rather than the characters.

**What have the special effects been like?**

**RL:** The scutters are much better. They used to be affected by local taxi firms and just walk off! They still go wrong a staggering



Happy cell mates

amount of times. It's amazing the things that can go wrong! But they've been very good, they've had some good comedy moments. We had to do a lot of looking at huge things that aren't there.

**CC:** It's weird working on green screen for hours 'cos you don't know what's happening. It's a bit like that Jack Dee advert – you never know what they're going to put on behind you, so it can be a bit disconcerting. You can get more expensive looking effects more cheaply now. There's a brilliant one with a rat! And the dinosaur is awesome... it's like Spielberg, y'know? It's amazing how things have moved on – I mean series four we had that Godzilla one... [shakes head and giggles]

**Danny John-Jules:** There is a musical number in the first show and there's going to be a dancing Blue Midget... [one of Red Dwarf's smaller spaceships.]

**NL:** I've got more lighting in this series than I ever had before. I had a candle for the first two series, now there's electricity and everything! That's just a little joke...

**Any chance of 'slipping into something more comfortable' with regard to the costumes?**

**DJ-J:** I get good clothes in *every* show!

**RL:** Last series we recorded in the summer. Everyone else was in shorts and T-shirts. They were all happy! [Filming in autumn] has made it a lot less traumatic.

**CC:** At least I get a few costume changes! I was getting a bit bored walking around in that bloody boiler suit and it was so hot, y'know, thermal underwear, big boiler suit, leather jacket on top of that, gloves and studio lights. I've got dreadlocks, but these days I don't have the extensions put in which were very difficult to sleep in. Now I have them sewn in just before the shoot. That haircut's

come back to haunt me – people still have that, people have copied that haircut! Guys would come on set and you can tell they'd copied Lister's haircut and you think "Are you mad?!" It was my idea, the haircut, I must have been mad. I just wanted something to make him look slightly different. Rimmer had the 'H', Cat had the teeth, Kryten had a square head and I just wanted to give Lister something futuristic and different in the haircut department. I didn't think people would copy it! There's loads of travellers now who go round in buses with that haircut. We had some extras on sets with the same haircut!

**Generally, how do you find the fans of Red Dwarf?**

**CC:** When I went to my first convention last year in Daventry, I was a little bit apprehensive as to how they would react... But actually, over the last couple of years with people writing in to Robert's web site, we've come to really appreciate the fans. The last convention in Liverpool a few weeks back was a good weekend. There are people who have written to me probably 30,000 times with strange handwriting and you think, 'er, hello!', but there are a lot of people out there who get that. Most of the fans are pretty grounded people.

**CC:** I was going to a party in New York once and I stopped by a liquor store to buy a bottle of tequila. The guy behind the counter almost fainted. He went "Come here, come here!", so I went round the back of the counter into a little back room and three of his mates were there watching Red Dwarf on the telly!

I remember I was on holiday once in Lanzarote. Apparently the chap who dubs me in Spanish has dubbed a really high effeminate voice. There were all these gay Spaniards on a beach chasing me up and down convinced of two things – one that I was gay, and two that I could speak the language! It was quite embarrassing.

**"There were all these gay Spaniards on a beach chasing me up and down"**

– Craig Charles

## Back to Basics

**T**HE ACTIONS of the nanobots in rebuilding Red Dwarf's entire crew means that a few familiar faces from the first season will be back. Here's a quick guide to the known crew of '88.



**Captain Hollister (Mac McDonald):** Definitely involved in the new season, it was Hollister who sent Lister into stasis. He was also painted green by Rimmer.

**Todhunter (Robert Bathurst):** Hollister's second-in-command, who also kept an eye on Rimmer and Lister.

**Kochanski (C P Grogan):** Apparently there will still be only one Kochanski. Probably for the best as she's changed quite a bit since those days.



**Peterson (Mark Williams):** Lister's best friend before the accident. Peterson is unlikely to return because Mark Williams is too famous after doing *The Fast Show*.



**Chen (Paul Bradley):** Another of Lister's drinking companions. Played by Paul 'Nige from *EastEnders*' Bradley, who apparently isn't famous enough not to come back.

**Selby (David Gillespie):** The last of Lister's three regular companions. Classier... but not by much.

Paul Spragg



Rimmer: back from the dead and still just as irritating

temples. It has a great feeling of 1988 if you like with the new generation... It's just a good feeling to be in a good successful show.

**CC:** We're like a big family now, we all grew up together y'know? It's weird, when eight-year-olds and 10-year-olds come up and say, "Oh, I love you, I love Red Dwarf" and all that, and you think these guys weren't born when the first episode went out! And the amount of people who turn round and say, "Oh, I loved the first series best, I was there from the start" – only half a million people watched the first series, now it seems that everyone was in from the start.

**So the cast has matured?**

**NL:** Yeah, definitely... when you think about it, I was 41 and Craig was 23, and there I was with Danny and Craig at the Hacienda club! It was crazy really. Craig is very mature now; the first one here... never late... I just think everyone's got more professional now and the writing is at a peak...

**Is a feature film of Red Dwarf still under consideration?**

**CC:** There's still talk of that, yep...

**RL:** I think spring 2000 is when they're officially filming it... We're not going to say no to that...

**So are all agreed that they'd like to return to the Dwarf for a few more series yet?**

**CB:** Yeah... the way I feel now, the answer to that question is yes.

**CA:** I would, I've only been in it for a year...

**RL:** I joined back in 1989... nearly 10 years ago! I would like to do one every other year, but I'd like to do stuff outside the show... and I need a year to get over it!

**NL:** Now that I've just moved house to London, I'd like to do another one ASAP!

Peter Ware

**Red Dwarf**  
BBC2 & UK Gold: See Cx Index for times



The cast enjoy their first convention appearance

Red Dwarf has given me so much fame which is quite strange. It's not something I ever went after in life. It's given me so much recognition on the streets. Even if I don't shave, or if I wear glasses or a big hat, when I walk round Sainsbury's people still go "Oi, smeghead!" I suppose I've got an identifiable face...

**RL:** I get a get a lot of fan mail. I got a very weird one years ago when someone wrote in asking for any undergarments, socks and stuff... I showed it to Craig and he said we should collect all of them after a bad week and send them in a big packet to him!

**DJ-J:** I got a strange one this week from a girl who started the letter 'I sit here writing

in tears...' She was writing to me but she's in love with the Cat. It's very scary....

**NL:** I got one from this mad bloke in Brixton jail, 'Trog'. He wanted some money to buy a computer. I sent him a signed photograph. I'm not going to tell him I've got a computer in case when he gets out he kills me and nicks it! And there was another one I got recently – "I really admire you work. I think Kryten's brilliant!"

**How does it feel to be doing Red Dwarf after so many years now?**

**CB:** After 11 or 12 years of doing this show, we're all cracking jokes about Dad's Army in Space, covering up the old grey



## Red Dwarf

Season II remastered  
BBC2: Mondays, 21.00



Seasons III, IV and V  
UK Gold: Sundays, from 21.00  
All-new Season VIII  
BBC2: Thursdays from 18th, 21.00

It's **Red Dwarf** heaven this month. Not only can you get annoyed at buying the remastered videos when Season Two is screened on BBC2, but there is also a chance to see again the two seasons that followed, as nature intended, on UK Gold. Finally, you can catch the brand new adventures of Lister, Rimmer and company on BBC2 later in the month.

So, whether you want to enjoy Lister getting pregnant, Holly having her IQ increased at the expense of her runtime, Kryten becoming human, or a reborn Rimmer just as irritating as the dead version, there's definitely something for you. And if you're not a fan, why not? (PS)



Your guide to using  
the listings is on page 81