

TV SHOW REVIEW

THROUGH THE TIME VORTEX ONCE AGAIN

The 9th Season of Doctor Who

ANUPOMA JOYEETA JOYEE

The wait is finally over. The longest-running sci-fi show is back and it's all kinds of amazing. Even though I powered through the 8th season only because I'm completely loyal to my fandom, I've been going insane for season 9 as soon as I got to know the release date. Might I just add, the season premiere has lived up to all my expectations, may have even gone beyond it? The adventure through time and space hasn't been this exhilarating since, well, season 6.

I was hooked as soon as the song of my people struck its perfect melody into my ears, the TARDIS flying through the time vortex and there it was in bold letters, the name of the person multiple fandoms fear, Steven Moffat, taking his first bow this season as the writer of the premiere.

The moment I saw desperate soldiers running through the battlefield followed by hundreds of creepy, clay hands with a single eye on each emerging from under the ground, I knew that The Magician's Apprentice was not going to disappoint me. It literally sent shivers down my spine as I realised what moral dilemma the last Time Lord of Gallifrey was going to face. I kept wondering whether he should have made a rational choice and stopped the Time War from ever happening by destroying his archenemy Davros when he was a child, before he could have turned into an

ancient murderer and created Daleks.

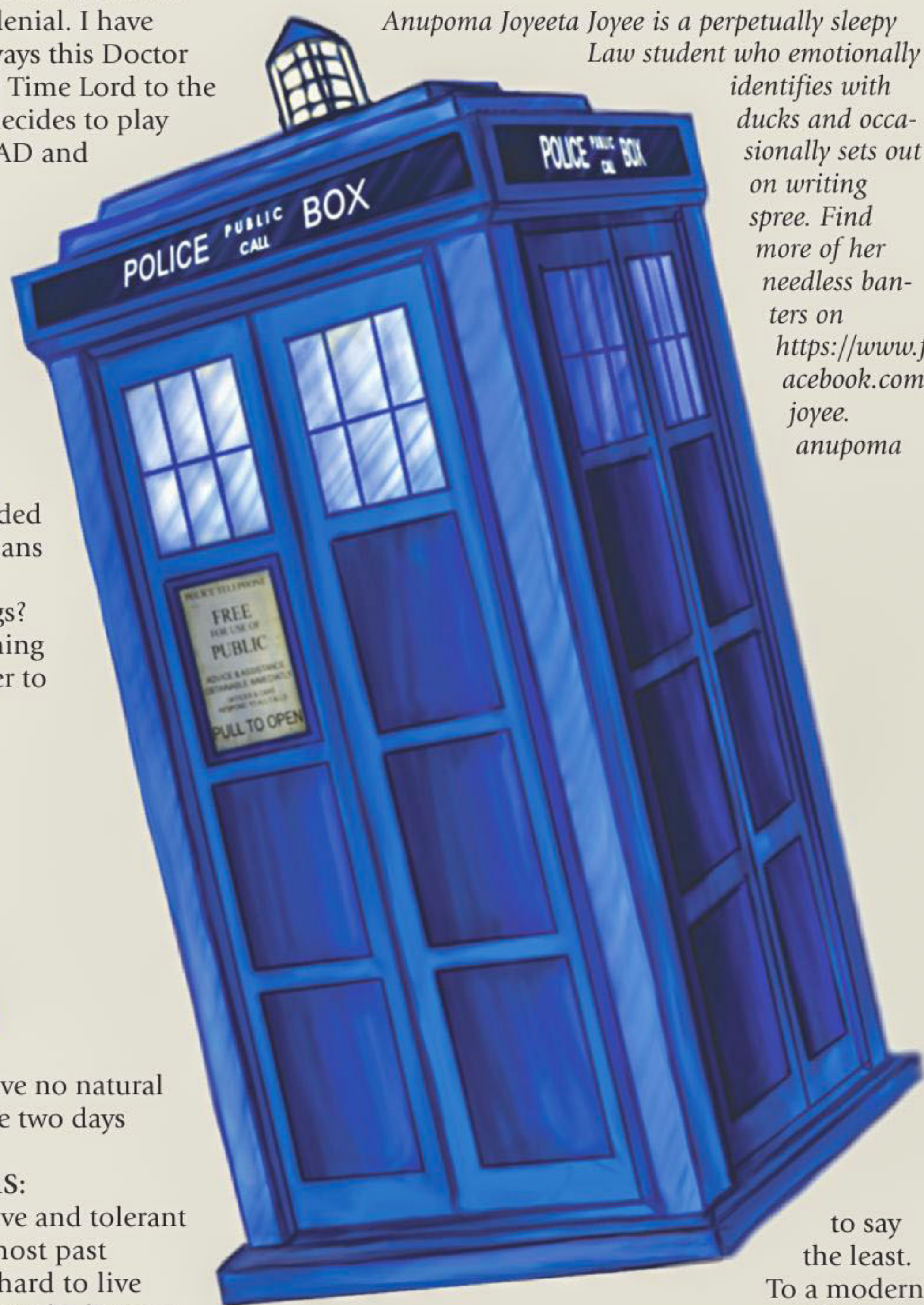
I'd be lying if I said that this episode is anything less than a full-package. Apart from its scary bits, and vaguely-questioning-my-morality bits, there were moments when I fell in love with the Twelfth Doctor all over again. Honestly, Peter Capaldi had me at "kidneys!" in the 7th season finale, but I couldn't love season 8 per se. This time, I'm way past denial. I have familiarised myself with the strange ways this Doctor reacts and love the ancient humanoid Time Lord to the moon and back, especially when he decides to play electric guitar in an axe-fight in 1138 AD and thinks that teaching people the word "dude" a few hundred years earlier would be fun. Next in the list of my favourite things in this episode has to be a tie between the Doctor's frenemy Missy's coming back to life and her nonchalant murdering instincts.

The Doctor's companion Clara (Jenna Coleman) will be leaving after this season, which is why Moffat decided to run a practice see-off on the Whovians by giving us a nail-biting cliff-hanger, because why not play with our feelings? We know Maisie Williams will be joining our cult this season. Can we expect her to

become the next companion? Only time will tell.

After a long time this fandom is in trance, that too proudly. The news of Doctor Who fandom being mesmerized by a long-awaited, perfect kick-off is resonating in all of time and space. So where is the Doctor going to take us next? Answer: Everywhere.

*Anupoma Joyeeta Joyee is a perpetually sleepy Law student who emotionally identifies with ducks and occasionally sets out on writing spree. Find more of her needless ban-ters on <https://www.facebook.com/joyee>.
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WHY TRAVELLING TO THE PAST IS A BAD IDEA

NOVO MANZOOR

Time travel is a fascinating concept. Especially, the idea of travelling to the past captures our imagination like no other. Let's say you find some way to actually go back. Whether you are a Doctor Who fan, Sci-fi lover or just want to give Shakespeare a fistbump; here are the reasons it might not be a good idea:

NO MODERN AMENITIES:

The first reason is a simple one. The incredible advancement in technology has made us dependent on a certain kind of lifestyle, which is unavailable in the past. No air-conditioning, no smartphones and no Wi-Fi: that is the scenario you stand to face.

DIFFICULT TRANSPORTATION:

You finally reach Renaissance-era Europe and want to head over to China. Dangerous ships at the mercy of the wind, robbers at every corner, having to walk for uncountable miles and lack of well-made roads will make sure you don't get too much 'travel' out of your time travel.

DISEASES:

A time traveller carrying a modern day 'superbug' would probably cause a pandemic worse than the Black Death.

On the other hand, many dangerous diseases have

been extinct for a long time, so we have no natural resistance against them. You could die two days into your trip just by breathing.

UNFAVOURABLE SOCIAL CUSTOMS:

Society tends to become more inclusive and tolerant through time. To a modern person, most past societies would appear bigoted and hard to live in. With the 'wrong' skin colour, or just by being a female, your windows of exploring any given past society could be pretty small.

LACK OF ACCESS:

Getting close to historical figures, places or events would be extremely difficult. Why would the king of Babylon let a random traveller see his precious Hanging Gardens? Why would Alexander meet an apparently mundane civilian? They probably wouldn't unless you have a heat-seeking death machine with enough ammo to ward off an army.

LANGUAGE BARRIER:

Language changes rapidly through time. We don't even speak Bangla the same way we used to a hundred years ago. If you only know modern-day languages, you have no hope of communicating with people five hundred years in the past.

LACK OF HYGIENE:

The hygiene practices of days gone by were... lacking

to say the least. To a modern person, everything

would feel dirty. Say goodbye to good soaps, modern showers or a decent toilet.

PARADOXES AND SIDE EFFECTS:

What if you kill Lincoln before the civil war? Or prevent your parents from ever meeting? Your random interferences in the past could cause paradoxes and negative changes, maybe even destroy the world.

NOSTALGIA FILTERS ARE OFF:

We humans, as a whole, have a tendency to glorify the past. It's seldom as good as we remember it. Maybe you find your favourite battle was a disappointment. Maybe your favourite author was actually an insufferable bigot. After sacrificing your life in the present to travel back, such disappointment could easily become unbearable to you.

Novo Manzoor is an athlete. He surfs the web all day. You can reach him at: novo_manzoor@yahoo.com