

MAXIMUM POWER!

THE COMPLETE UNAUTHORISED
GUIDE TO ALL 64 EPISODES
OF BLAKE'S 7



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CONTENTS

Foreword	7
Introduction	9

EPISODE GUIDE

SEASON M	11
SEASON N	65
SEASON P	117
SEASON R	181

OTHER WORLDS

BLAKE'S 7 FILM TREATMENT #1	242
BLAKE'S 7 FILM TREATMENT #2	247
THE JAPANESE REMAKE	253
TRAVIS SPIN-OFF	258
THE MOLOCH AND GOLOCH CHRISTMAS CAVALCADE	262
THE BLAKE'S 7 COMIC STRIPS	266

OTHER OTHER WORLDS

MATHSCENE	272
BLAKE'S 7 COMPUTER GAME	274
ROAD SAFETY	280

A to Z	283
Acknowledgements	322



19 PRESSURE POINT

Writer: Terry Nation (is back!)

Director: George Spenton-Foster

Guest Stars: Alan Halley (Arle), Jane Sherwin (Kasabi), Martin Connor (Berg), Sue Bishop (Mutoid), Joseph Cotten (Dr Vesalius), Yolande Palfrey (Veron)

Opening Shot: Two resistance fighters bicker like frightened girls about whether they should enter the Forbidden Zone.

You Just Described the Story:

Jenna: You're suggesting that we go into the Forbidden Zone and attack Control?

Random Insult:

Avon (referring to the Liberator crew): Not very bright, but loyal.

In A Nutshell: Pressure Pointless.

Story: In a desperate attempt to get themselves noticed, Blake decides the crew should return to Earth and attack Control, the central computer network for the whole of the Federation. Unfortunately, after a lot of to-ing and fro-ing, they find themselves in a big empty room because they're in the wrong place. Hot-footing it, they lose Gan to a slowly closing door.

Information:

The inside of the cottage doesn't really square with the outside.

Has Vila got a bad shoulder or something? He appears to be wearing a sling.

Who exactly are all of the other people who have been trying to attack Control?

Travis is a complete nutcase by now. He's probably some sort of monstrous sexual deviant too.

Kasabi's face is filthy. Get a wash, woman!

Blake: 'As far as I can see it's all clear.' No it isn't. It's full of trees.

It's nice to see Gan getting something to do at last. He's really starting to show a bit of potential as a character.

Setting part of the episode in an old church is an interesting touch. They borrowed the set from a guy called Alan, who swore it was used in *The Avengers*. At least, that's what the production documentation says.

What ARE those squeaking things that we hear every time that we are on location? We don't have any creatures on Earth that make that sort of noise do we?

Cally continues her character development by having nothing to do yet again.

We do wish that Avon wouldn't wear that horrid red leather uniform. It does nothing for him.

Heh, heh ... look at what Servalan's chameleon is doing ... heh, heh...

Sue Bishop's performance as the Mutoid is a bit off.

Blimey. Gan's dead.

Closing Shot: Gan's chair, followed by a picture of Earth.

Delightful Dialogue:

Avon: What's the matter Blake, don't you trust your friends?

Blake: Of course. I trust them in the same way I trust you.

Amateur Hour:

The dummies that represent Arle and Berg being blown up don't blow very up.

The homing beacon doesn't exactly look to be the height of technology, does it?

You might think that the ladders the team climb down are all the same ladder lit differently, but in fact Spenton-Foster spent as much as a small

cottage would cost building a multi-floor set for these sequences and a powered lift to elevate the cameras for each individual set.

Nation was so proud of himself for coming up with the name 'Kasabi' that he wrote it into every line of dialogue, sometimes twice. On-set rewrites were hastily carried out when Spenton-Foster noticed that the cast were still saying it twenty minutes after her death.

David Jackson fluffs a line in his big episode when he tries to say 'The teleport will have to be precise.'

ADDITIONAL SCRAPS OF KNOWLEDGE

Terrynation Street: Terry's back! Radiation. Again. What is it with him and radiation? Did he have a bad experience with an x-ray machine or something?

Planets: Earth.

Space-isms: High-intensity radiation grid, sono gas, some stuff about 'repair mesh'.

THE Sun

Tuesday, February 8, 1979 10p TODAY'S TV: PAGE 14

BBC AXE HERO GAN



Sad ... *Blakes Seven* star David Jackson

Jackson, aged 45, was unavailable for comment. The producer of the show, David Maloney, said that the BBC switchboard had been jammed for three hours after the show was transmitted on BBC1. The programme

By CHARLES CATCHPOLE
BBC BOSSES WERE PREPARED for their

Previous page: A clipping from *The Sun* newspaper following the broadcast of "Pressure Point". **Below:** The letter the BBC sent to grieving fans, and a sticker from the *Daily Star's* *Bring Back Gan* campaign.



BBC

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15th February 1979

Reference: 28/JB

Dear

Thank you for your recent letter, which I have been asked to acknowledge.

We are sorry that you should be concerned about the death of the television character Gan in the hit BBC Television series, 'Blakes Seven'. While we are aware that children have been upset at the loss of such a well-loved character, it should never be forgotten that people die every day in real-life and it is all part of growing up.

However, the BBC have set up a telephone hotline for fans to ring if they would like to talk to someone about the way they are feeling. The number is 01-580-4167.

The Producer and his team welcome every letter they receive, but would like to tactfully inform everyone that the newspaper campaigns to bring the character back are pointless as (I quote) 'Gan is dead, definitely, fully completely dead, yup, dead, he's gone.'

Thank you again for your letter. We appreciate your interest in writing, and shall bear all your comments in mind.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Marrow (Miss)
Programme Correspondence Section

44 MOLOCH

Writer: Ben Steed

Director: Veer Lorry More

Guest Stars: Davyd Harries (Doran), John Hartley (Grose), Mark Sheridan (Lector), Debbi Blythe (Poola), Peter Duncan (Boloach), Sabina Franklyn (Chesil), Deep Roy (Moloch)

Opening Shot: The model of Servalan's oddly-shaped ship going from left to right, very slowly. The shot is repeated shortly afterwards.

You Just Described the Story:

Servalan: Women, food, and inflicting pain – in no particular order.

Random Celebratory Song:

It's great to be free, It's great to be free, It's great to be free from the law,
It's great to be free, And we all agree, We're not going back anymore!

You tell 'em.

In A Nutshell: Planet of the Rapes.

Story: Servalan travels to the planet Sardos at the edge of the galaxy, hoping to find the remains of the Federation fleet. Instead, she discovers a group of Federation officers who have been left to their own devices. One of the officers, Grose, demonstrates a device he has discovered that can replicate anything, and he plans to use it to take over the Federation. With replicated stuff.

Information:

The episode opens with Vila serving a round of GREEN. Hedonism ahoy.

Vila does a lovely roly-poly as the *Liberator* approaches the planet. He's just happy to be alive.

Nice artist's impression of what's on the planet below. The *Liberator's* sketchedroids do a marvellous job.

You may notice that this episode isn't particularly kind to women at all. Grose couldn't be better named, while Doran seems completely obsessed with sex.

Moloch can do just about anything. Apart from look convincing.

Despite there being a gun and a rock on the ground whilst the trooper is fighting Vila, Servalan elects to clobber the trooper on the head rather than simply shooting him.

The Colonel Astrid Action Figure was marketed in 1980 but flopped spectacularly on the high street after failing to capture the imagination of the buying public.

Avon's genuinely concerned for Vila's safety – it's really quite touching.

It was all going so well until Moloch the Monkey turned up.

The teleport bracelet that Moloch wears is lacking the standard pink communication button.

Closing Shot: Close-up of Avon, who says 'Get us out of here.'

We couldn't agree more.

Delightful Dialogue:

Avon: Ah! Careful of my wrist, Vila. It's had enough.

Avon: Perhaps she wants to compare notes with some other genocidal maniacs. Or take a refresher course in basic brutality.

Dayna: Are they friendly?

Orac: They are socially exclusive but not unduly hostile.

Cally: What sort of answer's that?

Orac: A succinct one.

Amateur Hour:

Moloch himself – *everything* about Moloch himself. The first shot of him, after more than 47 minutes, is supposed to be the episode's big reveal, and yet we're presented with *that*. And you can barely understand a word he says. The man who directed this episode, and would surely have had

to approve the design of the character, would go on to be the producer of the final series.

ADDITIONAL SCRAPS OF KNOWLEDGE

Planets: Kalcos, Sardos.

Important Fact: Six writers and this was all we could find to say about this episode.

Spaced Out: The line, ‘For a man of your era, you have uncommon qualities of deduction, Avon’ was sampled and used in the 12" Intergalactic Cake remix of “Out of Space” by techno-band the Prodigy.

Ill-Advised One-Off Christmas Special: Turn to page 262.

Below: The plush Moloch soft toy that was available from the short-lived exhibition *The Blakes 7 Experience*. The loin-cloth was added after a number of complaints from furious parents who were freaked out by their children dragging around a weird naked cyclops doll dwarf.





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