

# Blake's 7

<i>Blake's 7</i>	
The logo used for the first three series of <i>Blake's 7</i>	
<b>Format</b>	Science fiction Space opera
<b>Created by</b>	Terry Nation
<b>Starring</b>	Gareth Thomas Michael Keating Sally Knyvette Paul Darrow David Jackson Peter Tuddenham Jan Chappell Jacqueline Pearce Stephen Greif Brian Croucher Josette Simon Steven Pacey Glynis Barber
<b>Theme music composer</b>	Dudley Simpson
<b>Country of origin</b>	United Kingdom
<b>Original language(s)</b>	English
<b>No. of series</b>	4
<b>No. of episodes</b>	52 (List of episodes)
<b>Production</b>	
<b>Producer(s)</b>	David Maloney (series 1-3) Vere Lorrimer (series 4)
<b>Camera setup</b>	Multi-camera
<b>Running time</b>	50 minutes
<b>Broadcast</b>	
<b>Original channel</b>	BBC1
<b>Picture format</b>	625 line (576i) PAL 4:3
<b>Audio format</b>	monaural
<b>Original run</b>	2 January 1978 – 21 December 1981
<b>External links</b>	
Website <sup>[1]</sup>	

*Blake's 7* is a British science fiction television series produced by the BBC for broadcast on BBC1. Four 13-episode series of *Blake's 7* were broadcast between 1978 and 1981. It was created by Terry Nation, who was also creator of the Daleks for *Doctor Who*. The script editor was Chris Boucher. The series was inspired by a range of fictional media including *Passage to Marseilles*, *The Dirty Dozen*, *Robin Hood*, *Brave New World*, *Star Trek*, classic Westerns and real-world political conflicts in South America and Israel.

The series is set in a future age of interstellar travel and follows the exploits of a group of renegades and convicted criminals. Gareth Thomas played the eponymous character Roj Blake, a political dissident who is arrested, tried and

convicted on false charges, and then deported from Earth to a prison planet. He and two fellow prisoners, treated as expendable, are sent to board and investigate an abandoned alien spacecraft. They get the ship working, commandeer it, rescue two more prisoners, and are joined by an alien guerrilla with telepathic abilities. In their attempts to stay ahead of their enemies and inspire others to rebel, they encounter a wide variety of cultures on different planets, and are forced to confront human and alien threats. The group conducts a campaign against the totalitarian Terran Federation until an intergalactic war occurs. Blake disappears and Kerr Avon then leads the group. When their spacecraft is destroyed and one group member dies, they commandeer an inferior craft and a base on a distant planet, from which they continue their campaign. In the final episode Avon finds Blake and, suspecting him of betraying the group, kills him. The group is then shot by Federation guards, who surround Avon in the final scene.

*Blake's 7* was popular from its first broadcast, watched by approximately 10 million people in the UK and shown in 25 other countries. Although many tropes of space opera are present, such as spaceships, robots, galactic empires and aliens, its budget was inadequate for its interstellar narrative. It remains well regarded for its strong characterisation, ambiguous morality and pessimistic tone. Critical responses to the programme have been polarised; reviewers praised its dystopian themes and "enormous sense of fun", but broadcaster Clive James described it as "classically awful".

A limited range of *Blake's 7* merchandise was issued. Books, magazines and annuals were published. The BBC released music and sound effects from the series, and several companies made *Blake's 7* toys and models. Four video compilations were released between 1985 and 1990, and the entire series was released on videocassette starting in 1991 and re-released in 1997. It was subsequently released as four DVD boxed sets between 2003 and 2006. The BBC produced two audio dramas in 1998 and 1999 that feature some original cast members, and were broadcast on Radio 4. Although proposals for live-action and animated remakes have not been realised, *Blake's 7* has been revived with two series of official audio dramas, a comedic short film, a series of fan-made audio plays, and a proposed series of official novels.

## Overview

*Blake's 7* is a science fiction television series that was created by Terry Nation and produced by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Four series (each consisting of thirteen 50-minute episodes) were made and first broadcast in the United Kingdom between January 1978 and December 1981 on BBC 1.<sup>[1]</sup> The programme is set in the third century of the second calendar,<sup>[2]</sup> and at least 700 years in the future.<sup>[3]</sup> *Blake's 7*'s narrative follows the exploits of political dissident Roj Blake, who leads a small group of rebels against the forces of the totalitarian Terran Federation, which rules the Earth and many colonised planets. The Federation uses mass surveillance, brainwashing and drug pacification to control its citizens. Blake discovers he was once the leader of a revolutionary group and is arrested, tried on false charges, and deported to a remote penal colony. En route he and fellow prisoners Jenna Stannis and Kerr Avon gain control of a technologically advanced alien spacecraft, which they name *Liberator*. *Liberator*'s speed and weaponry are superior to Federation craft, and it also has a teleportation system that enables transport to the surface of planets. *Liberator* is controlled by Zen, the ship's central computer. Blake and his crew begin a campaign to damage the Federation, but are pursued by Space Commander Travis – a Federation soldier – and Servalan, the Supreme Commander and later Federation President.<sup>[4]</sup>

The composition of the titular "seven" changes throughout the series. The initial group of six characters – Blake, Vila, Gan, Jenna, Avon and Cally – included Zen as the seventh member. At the end of the first series, they capture a supercomputer called Orac. Gan is killed during the second series, after which Blake and Jenna disappear and are replaced by new characters Dayna and Tarrant. In the fourth series, Cally dies and is replaced by Soolin. Following the destruction of *Liberator* the computer Zen is replaced with a new computer character, Slave.

Whilst Blake is an idealistic freedom fighter, his associates are petty crooks, smugglers and killers. Avon is a technical genius who, while outwardly exhibiting most interest in self-preservation and personal wealth, consistently acts to help others. When Blake is separated from his crew, Avon takes over as leader. At first Avon believes the

Federation has been destroyed, and becomes tired of killing and seeks rest. But by the middle of the third series, Avon realises the Federation is expanding again, faster than he had originally realised, and he resumes the fight. The BBC had planned to conclude *Blake's 7* at the end of its third series, but a further series was unexpectedly commissioned.<sup>[1]</sup> Some changes to the programme's format were necessary, such as the introduction of a new spacecraft, *Scorpio*, and new characters, Soolin and Slave. Although many tropes of space opera, such as spaceships, robots, galactic empires and aliens are present, the series is primarily noted for its strong character interaction, ambiguous morality and pessimistic tone.<sup>[2]</sup> *Blake's 7* was watched by approximately 10 million people in the UK and was broadcast in 25 other countries.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Characters



*Blake's 7* cast at the launch of the first series DVD, 2004.

### Regular characters

- Roj Blake portrayed by Gareth Thomas (crew member for series 1-2). Blake is a long-term political dissident who uses the *Liberator* to wage war on the Federation. He is passionately opposed to the Federation's injustice and corruption, and prepared to accept loss of life in pursuit of its destruction. He thinks nothing of placing himself in danger to protect his crew or advance his cause. Although respected by many of his crew members, Avon accuses him of fanaticism and recklessness.<sup>[4]</sup>
- Kerr Avon portrayed by Paul Darrow (series 1-4). Avon is an electronics and computer expert who once attempted to steal 500 million credits from the Federation banking system. He distrusts emotion, and he attempts to pursue a code based on logic and reason. This frequently brings him into conflict with Blake. He becomes a reluctant rebel, agreeing to participate only on the basis that he will control *Liberator* once the Federation is destroyed. At times he appears motivated by financial gain and shows his readiness to put companions in danger in order to protect himself. He has an ambiguous and sometimes playful relationship with Servalan.<sup>[5]</sup> Avon appears in 51 of the series' 52 episodes, being only absent in the first episode "The Way Back".
- Vila Restal portrayed by Michael Keating (series 1-4). Vila is a skilled thief, lock-picker and conjurer and is usually reluctant to risk his life. His behaviour is often cowardly, and although other crew members regard him as tiresome, he has a high IQ. He has weaknesses for alcohol and women, and increasingly comes close to breaking the fourth wall whilst apparently talking to himself on screen.<sup>[6]</sup> Vila is the only character to appear in every episode of the series.
- Jenna Stannis portrayed by Sally Knyvette (series 1-2). Jenna is a glamorous space smuggler and skilled pilot who becomes adept at piloting *Liberator*. She has a great deal of affection for Blake and is loyal to him once he gains her trust.<sup>[7]</sup> In earlier episodes, Jenna stands her ground in her opinions showing no fear in challenging any male adversary.

- Cally portrayed by Jan Chappell (series 1-3). Cally is a guerrilla fighter from the planet Auron. She is a telepath, like all of her people, who can transmit thoughts silently to others. She later develops mindreading, telekinesis and precognition abilities, but is also uniquely vulnerable to telepathic control by alien forces.<sup>[1]</sup> Cally develops as the moral conscience of the group, especially in later episodes in Season 2 and throughout Season 3.
- Dayna Mellanby portrayed by Josette Simon (series 3-4). The daughter of former dissident Hal Mellanby, Dayna is an expert in weapons technology. She is adept at designing mechanised weapons, but also appreciates the nobility of what she describes as more 'primitive' combat. Brave and loyal, but at times reckless and naive, she is often seen successfully challenging men who are supposedly accomplished fighters.<sup>[1]</sup> Her vendetta against Servalan (who murdered her father Hal Mellanby) motivates her to support Avon in fighting the Federation.
- Del Tarrant portrayed by Steven Pacey (series 3-4). Tarrant is an expert pilot who trained with the Federation before turning to illegal activities. He is ruthless and charming, and often challenges Avon's leadership. He also takes advantage of Vila's cowardice, whom he bullies into carrying out his instructions.<sup>[1]</sup>
- Olag Gan portrayed by David Jackson (series 1-2). Having killed the Federation guard who murdered his girlfriend, Gan has been implanted with an electronic 'limiter' device which prevents him from ever killing again. However, he is courageous, strong and dedicated to Blake's cause.
- Soolin portrayed by Glynis Barber (series 4). Soolin is an expert gunslinger, distinctive for her apparent lack of fear or self-doubt, perhaps developed in response to the fact that her parents were murdered when she was a child. She joins the group after she is betrayed by Dorian, her partner. No one can match her speed when it comes to drawing a gun. Soolin's logical and cynical attitude proves an asset to her colleagues. On several occasions her quick thinking and poignant actions save the crew from perishing, overpowering the Cancer Assassin and surviving the Betafarl Conspiracy.
- Orac voiced by Derek Farr (first appearance) and Peter Tuddenham (series 1-4). Orac is a portable super-computer capable of reading any other computer's data and built by an inventor called Ensor. It uses a component called a Taniel cell – a universal computer component – and can access information stored on any computer that uses one. It can also control other computers. Orac dislikes work that it considers unnecessary, enjoys gathering information and has delusions of grandeur.<sup>[1]</sup>
- Zen voiced by Peter Tuddenham (series 1-3). The main computer aboard *Liberator*, Zen controls the craft's secondary systems, including the battle and guidance computers. It was susceptible to interference from outside influences, such as Orac. It is considered a character in its own right. It is rendered nonfunctional after *Liberator* is damaged by fluid particles, and is destroyed with the ship.<sup>[1]</sup>
- Slave voiced by Peter Tuddenham (series 4). Introduced in the fourth series, Slave was built and programmed by Dorian and is the master computer of Dorian's ship, 'Scorpio'. It has a cringing personality, frequently apologetic and obsequious, and addresses Avon as 'master' and others as 'sir' or 'madam'.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Other recurring characters

- Servalan portrayed by Jacqueline Pearce. Servalan began her service career as a cadet, and rose to Supreme Commander of the Terran Federation. Her desire for power began at the age of eighteen when her lover abandoned her. Shortly before the Intergalactic War, Servalan conducts a military coup and installs herself as President. During her isolation on Terminal she is overthrown but adopts a pseudonym, Commissioner Sleer, under which she conducts a campaign of drug-induced pacification in order to regain territory for the Federation. Servalan is determined to pursue the crew of the *Liberator* and win control of the ship for herself.<sup>[1]</sup>
  - Travis portrayed by Stephen Greif in the first series and Brian Croucher in the second series. Travis is a dedicated and ruthless Federation officer, with the rank of Space Commander. Travis's left eye and arm were destroyed by Blake, and replaced with an eye patch and a prosthetic arm fitted with a concealed weapon. Travis is known for treating his troops well and leading them from the front, but also for his ruthlessness and contempt for human life. After his trial and conviction for killing civilians, Travis becomes increasingly obsessed with killing Blake.<sup>[1]</sup>
-

## Sources and themes

Series creator Terry Nation pitched *Blake's 7* to the BBC as "*The Dirty Dozen* in space", a reference to the 1967 Robert Aldrich film in which a disparate and disorganised group of convicts are sent on a suicide mission during World War II.<sup>[1]</sup> This influence shows in that some of Blake's followers are escaped convicts (Avon, Vila, Gan and Jenna). *Blake's 7* also draws much of its inspiration from the legend of Robin Hood.<sup>[2]</sup> Blake's followers are not a band of "Merry Men". His diverse crew includes a corrupt computer genius (Avon), a smuggler (Jenna), a thief (Vila), a murderer (Gan), a telepathic guerrilla soldier (Cally), a computer with a mind of its own (Zen) and another wayward computer (Orac). Later additions were: a naive weapons expert (Dayna), a mercenary (Tarrant), a gunslinger (Soolin) and an obsequious computer (Slave). While Blake intends to use *Liberator* to strike against the Federation, the others are often reluctant followers – especially Avon. Blake and Avon's clashes over the leadership represent a conflict between idealism and cynicism, emotion and rationality, and dreams and practicality.<sup>[3]</sup> Similar conflicts arise between other characters; the courage of Blake and Avon compared with Vila's cowardice, or Avon and Jenna's scepticism of Blake's ideals compared with Gan's unswerving loyalty, Blake's mass murdering methods compared with Avon's targeted and less destructive approach.<sup>[4]</sup>

Script editor Chris Boucher, whose influence on the series grew as it progressed,<sup>[5]</sup> was inspired by Central American and South American revolutionaries, especially Zapata, in exploring Blake and his followers' motives and the consequences of their actions.<sup>[4]</sup> This is most evident in the episode *Star One*, in which Blake must confront the reality that in achieving his aim of overthrowing the Federation, he will unleash chaos and death for many innocent citizens.<sup>[6]</sup> When Avon gains control of *Liberator*, following Blake's disappearance after the events of *Star One*, he uses it initially to pursue his own agenda, avenging Anna's death. Later Avon realises that he cannot escape the Federation's reach and that he must, like Blake, resist them. In this respect, by the end of the fourth series Avon has replaced Blake.<sup>[7]</sup>

Classic films, such as the Western *The Magnificent Seven*, were an important influence upon *Blake's 7*. Chris Boucher incorporated lines from Westerns into the scripts, much to the delight of Paul Darrow, an enthusiast of the genre.<sup>[5]</sup> The final episode, *Blake*, was heavily inspired by *The Wild Bunch* and *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.<sup>[6]</sup> *Blake's 7* also drew inspiration from the classic British dystopian novels *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell, *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley and *When the Sleeper Wakes* by H. G. Wells.<sup>[8]</sup> This is most evident in the nature of the Federation, whose methods of dealing with Blake in the first episode, *The Way Back*, including brainwashing and show trials. These are reminiscent of the way in which the former Soviet Union dealt with its dissidents.<sup>[9]</sup> Explorations of totalitarianism in the series are not confined to the Federation – totalitarian control through religion (*Cygnus Alpha*), genetics (*The Web*) and technology (*Redemption*) also appear throughout.<sup>[10]</sup> Such authoritarian dystopias are common in Terry Nation's work, such his *Doctor Who* story, *Genesis of the Daleks*.<sup>[11]</sup>

Loyalty and trust are important themes of the series.<sup>[12]</sup> Avon is presented with several opportunities to abandon Blake. Many of Blake's schemes require co-operation and expertise from others. Characters are often betrayed by family and friends – especially Avon, whose former lover Anna Grant is eventually revealed to be a Federation agent. The theme of loyalty and trust reaches its peak during Blake and Avon's final encounter in the last episode (*Blake*); Blake, by now deeply paranoid, has been masquerading as a bounty hunter collaborating with the Federation as a front for his activities in recruiting and testing potential allies in the struggle, and this causes Avon and the others to mistrust him when Tarrant accuses Blake of selling them out; an ironic miscommunication between Avon and Blake precipitates the disastrous events that conclude the episode.<sup>[13]</sup> If Blake and his crew represent Robin Hood and his Merry Men, then the Federation forces, personified in the obsessive, psychopathic Space Commander Travis and his superior, the beautiful but ruthless Supreme Commander Servalan, represent Guy of Gisbourne and the Sheriff of Nottingham.<sup>[14]</sup>

A common theme in Nation's science fiction is the depiction of post-apocalyptic societies, as in several of his *Doctor Who* serials, for example *The Daleks*, *Death to the Daleks* and *The Android Invasion* and in his series *Survivors*, which Nation created before *Blake's 7*.<sup>[15]</sup> Post-apocalyptic societies feature in several *Blake's 7* episodes including

*Duel, Deliverance, City at the Edge of the World* and *Terminal*. Although not explicitly stated, some publicity material for the series refers to the Federation as having risen from the ashes of a nuclear holocaust on Earth.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Plot summary

### Series One

Roj Blake, a worker of high social status classified as "alpha-grade", lives in a domed city. Similar domes house most of the Earth's population. Blake is approached by a group of political dissidents who take him outside the city to meet their leader, Bran Foster. According to Foster, Blake was once the leader of an influential group of political activists opposed to the Federation's Earth Administration. Blake was arrested, brainwashed and coerced into making a confession denouncing the rebellion. His memory of those years was then blocked. Foster wants Blake to rejoin the dissidents. Suddenly, the meeting is interrupted by the arrival of Federation security forces, who fire on and kill the crowd of rebels. Blake, the only survivor, returns to the city, where he begins to remember his past. He is arrested, tried on false charges of child molestation and sentenced to deportation to the prison planet Cygnus Alpha.<sup>[8]</sup>

On the prison ship, *London*, Blake meets thief Vila Restal, smuggler Jenna Stannis, murderer Olag Gan and computer engineer Kerr Avon. The *London* encounters a battle between two alien space fleets and *London*'s crew plot a course to avoid the combat zone and continue their voyage. They encounter a strange alien craft, board it and attempt to salvage it but are thwarted by the alien ship's defence mechanism. The captain of the *London* sends the expendable Blake, Avon, and Jenna across to the ship. Blake defeats the defence system when it tries to use memories he recently discovered were false. With Jenna as pilot, the three convicts escape in the alien craft.<sup>[9]</sup>

Blake and his crew follow the *London* to Cygnus Alpha in their captured ship, which they have named *Liberator*. They retrieve Vila and Gan, while Blake leaves the other prisoners. Blake wants to use *Liberator* and its new crew to attack the Federation with the others, especially Avon, as reluctant followers.<sup>[10]</sup> Blake's first target is a communications station on the planet Saurian Major. Blake infiltrates the station and is assisted by Cally, a telepathic guerrilla soldier from the planet Auron. Blake invites Cally to join the crew. With this new arrival, and including *Liberator*'s computer, Zen, *Liberator* has a crew of seven.<sup>[11]</sup>

As Blake's attacks against the Federation become bolder, he has less success. Political pressure grows on the Administration with planetary leaders threatening to leave the Federation because of its inability to protect them from Blake's attacks. Rumours abound about Blake's heroism, and other rebel groups use Blake's name for their actions. Supreme Commander Servalan appoints Space Commander Travis, who has a personal vendetta against Blake, to eliminate Blake and capture *Liberator*. Servalan often co-opts Travis for her personal projects and uses Blake as a cover for her own activities. When Travis repeatedly fails to eliminate Blake, Servalan does not assign the task to another officer and does not use more resources to eliminate Blake.<sup>[12]</sup>

Blake meets a man called Ensor and discovers a plot by Servalan and Travis to seize a powerful computer called Orac, which is capable of communicating with any computer that uses a component called a Taniel Cell. Blake's crew are suffering from radiation sickness, but capture the device before Servalan arrives. Blake offers to perform the operation to save Ensor's life aboard the *Liberator*, but Ensor dies when the power cells for his artificial heart are depleted before they are able to reach *Liberator*. Aboard *Liberator*, Orac predicts the craft's destruction in the near future.<sup>[13]</sup>

### Series Two

The alien race that built *Liberator* recaptures it. Orac's prophecy is fulfilled when it destroys an identical space vehicle.<sup>[14]</sup> Blake wants to attack the heart of the Federation and he targets the main computer control centre on Earth. Avon agrees to help on condition that Blake gives him *Liberator* when the Federation has been destroyed. Blake, Avon, Vila and Gan reach the control centre and find an empty room. Travis reveals that the computer centre was secretly moved years before and the old location was left as a decoy. Blake and his crew escape but Travis

explodes a grenade and Gan is killed by falling rubble.<sup>[15]</sup>

Following Gan's death, Blake considers the future of the rebellion and Travis is convicted of war crimes in a Federation court martial at Space Command Headquarters based aboard a space station. Blake decides to restore his group's reputation and attacks the space station but Travis escapes and continues his vendetta against Blake.<sup>[16]</sup> Meanwhile, Blake seeks the new location of the computer control centre. He learns that it is now called *Star One*.<sup>[17]</sup> When *Star One* begins to malfunction, Servalan also becomes desperate to find its location. The centre's failure causes many problems across the Federation. *Star One* controls a large defensive barrier that has prevented extra-galactic incursions. Blake discovers *Star One*'s location and finds that, with help from Travis, aliens from the Andromeda galaxy have infiltrated it. Vila discovers a fleet of alien spacecraft beyond the barrier. Travis partially disables the barrier. Blake and his crew overcome the aliens at *Star One* and kill Travis and the gap in the barrier allows the aliens to invade. Jenna calls for help from the Federation, where Servalan has conducted a military coup, imposed martial law and declared herself President. Servalan dispatches the Federation's battle fleets to repel the invaders, who begin to breach the barrier. *Liberator*, alone until Servalan's battle fleets arrive, fights against the aliens.<sup>[18]</sup>

### Series Three

*Liberator* is severely damaged during the battle with the Andromedans, forcing the crew to abandon ship. The Federation defeats the alien invaders but has sustained heavy casualties and its influence in the galaxy is considerably reduced.<sup>[19]</sup> Blake and Jenna go missing and Avon takes control of *Liberator*. Two new additions, weapons expert Dayna Mellanby and mercenary Del Tarrant, join the remaining crew.<sup>[20]</sup> Avon is less inclined than Blake to attack the Federation but Servalan realises that if she captures *Liberator*, the Federation would quickly restore its former power.<sup>[21]</sup>

Servalan attempts to create clones of herself but is thwarted when the embryos are destroyed.<sup>[22]</sup> Avon decides to find the Federation agent who killed Anna Grant, his former lover. The group interrupts an attempt to overthrow Servalan and Avon discovers that Anna is alive and was previously a Federation agent named Bartolemew. Anna tries to shoot Avon in the back but Avon kills her and frees Servalan.<sup>[23]</sup> Servalan lures Avon into a trap using a faked message from Blake. Servalan finally captures *Liberator* and maroons the crew on an artificial planet called Terminal. However, *Liberator* and Zen have been irreparably damaged after flying through a cloud of corrosive fluid particles and, as Servalan leaves Terminal, the ship explodes and Servalan is apparently killed as she attempts to escape by teleporting away.<sup>[24]</sup>

### Series Four

Booby traps, set by Servalan in her underground complex on Terminal, explode and kill Cally. Avon, Tarrant, Vila and Dayna escape with Orac and are rescued by Dorian, a salvage operator. Dorian takes the crew in his spacecraft, *Scorpio*, to his base on the planet Xenon, where they meet his partner, Soolin. Dorian plans to drain the crew's life-force and take Orac, but he is foiled by Vila.<sup>[25]</sup> Avon completes a new teleport system for *Scorpio* using the technology left behind by Dorian. Soolin joins the crew and they takeover *Scorpio* and occupy the Xenon base. Avon gains control of Slave, *Scorpio*'s main computer.<sup>[26]</sup>

The crew acquires an experimental new stardrive that vastly increases *Scorpio*'s speed, making it even faster than *Liberator* was.<sup>[27]</sup> The *Scorpio* crew become concerned about the speed at which the Federation is reclaiming its former territory and discover that Servalan survived the destruction of *Liberator*. Now deposed as President of the Federation, she is using the pseudonym Commissioner Sleer and is enacting a pacification programme using a drug called Pylene 50. The *Scorpio* crew gain the formula for an antidote to Pylene-50, but this cannot reverse the drug's effects. Avon finds a way to synthesise the antidote and the crew attempt to create an alliance between independent worlds to resist the Federation in order to obtain the resources and manpower to mass produce it. They plan large-scale manufacture of the Pylene 50 antidote. One of the alliance members, Zukan, betrays the alliance to

Servalan and detonates explosives on Xenon base, which is heavily damaged and the *Scorpio* crew are forced to abandon it.<sup>[28]</sup>

Avon tells the rest of the group that Orac has traced Blake to Gauda Prime, an agricultural planet. Blake is masquerading as a bounty hunter; his latest quarry is Arlen, whom he hopes to recruit for his rebellion. *Scorpio* approaches Gauda Prime and is attacked. The crew, except Tarrant, use the teleport to abandon the heavily damaged craft. Slave is rendered non-functional and Tarrant remains aboard to pilot *Scorpio* and is injured during a crash landing. Blake arrives, rescues and takes Tarrant to his base and purportedly captures Tarrant as bounty. Tarrant thinks that Blake has betrayed the group, and Blake lets Tarrant escape. Tarrant is nearly killed by Blake's colleagues when Avon and his crew save him, giving credence to Tarrant's accusation that Blake has betrayed them to the Federation. Becoming overwhelmingly suspicious of Blake, Avon kills him. Arlen reveals that she is a Federation officer and Federation guards arrive. Tarrant, Soolin, Vila and Dayna are apparently killed by Federation troops, who slowly surround Avon. Avon steps over Blake's body, raises his gun and smiles. Shots ring out.<sup>[29]</sup>

## Production history

Terry Nation had the idea for *Blake's 7* in a moment of inspiration during a pitch meeting with Ronnie Marsh, a BBC drama executive. Marsh was intrigued and immediately commissioned a pilot script. When he had seen the draft, Marsh approved *Blake's 7* for full development.<sup>[30]</sup> David Maloney, an experienced BBC director, was assigned to produce the series and Chris Boucher was engaged as script editor. Nation was commissioned to write the thirteen episodes. Boucher's task was to expand and develop Nation's first drafts into workable scripts, but this became increasingly difficult as Nation started running out of ideas. Meanwhile Maloney was struggling with the limited budget available given the need for action and special effects. Despite these challenges *Blake's 7* was very popular, with some episodes exceeding ten million viewers. A second series was quickly commissioned.<sup>[30]</sup>

The BBC engaged new writers for the subsequent series. It was decided that one of the regular characters should die, to demonstrate that Blake and his crew were not invincible. The character of Gan, played by David Jackson, was chosen because Gan had been under-used and was the least popular character. Although ratings declined compared to the first series, the BBC commissioned a third.<sup>[30]</sup> However the team faced a major challenge when Gareth Thomas and Sally Knyvette decided not to return. New characters were required so that the story could continue without its titular character. Suggestions for a replacement actor for Blake were rejected and Avon became more prominent in the storyline. New characters Del Tarrant, portrayed by Steven Pacey, and Dayna Mellanby, portrayed by Josette Simon, were introduced.<sup>[30]</sup>

*Blake's 7* was not expected to be recommissioned after the third series. Therefore there was surprise when in 1980 a further series was announced as the third series ended. Bill Cotton, BBC Head of Television, had watched *Terminal* and greatly enjoyed it. He telephoned the presentation department and ordered them to make the announcement.<sup>[1]</sup> As David Maloney was unavailable, Vere Lorrimer became the producer. He introduced new characters and a new spacecraft *Scorpio*, and its computer Slave. Jan Chappell (who played Cally) decided that she did not want to return, and was replaced by Glynis Barber as Soolin.

Gareth Thomas made a final appearance as Blake, and insisted that his character be killed off in a definitive manner. Although the fourth series performed satisfactorily in the ratings, *Blake's 7* was not renewed for a fifth time and the final episode had an ambiguous finale. Except for Blake, whose death was contractual, the characters were shown being attacked in such a way that their survival would have been possible had a fifth series been commissioned. The final episode *Blake* was broadcast on 21 December 1981.<sup>[30]</sup>

---



## Music and sound effects

*Blake's 7*'s signature music was written by Australian composer Dudley Simpson, who had composed music for *Doctor Who* for over ten years. The same recording of Simpson's theme was used for the opening titles of all four series of the programme.<sup>[1]</sup> For the fourth series, a new recording was made for the closing credits that used an easy listening-style arrangement.<sup>[31]</sup> Simpson also provided the incidental music for all of the episodes except for the Series One episode "Duel" and the Series Two episode "Gambit". "Duel" was directed by Douglas Camfield, who bore a personal grudge against Simpson and refused to work with him, and so Camfield used library music.<sup>[32]</sup> Elizabeth Parker provided the music and sound effects for "Gambit". *Blake's 7* made considerable use of audio effects that are described in the credits as "special sound". Many electronically-generated sound effects were used, ranging from foley-style effects for props including handguns, teleport sounds, spacecraft engines, flight console buttons and background atmospheres. The special sounds for *Blake's 7* were provided by the BBC Radiophonic Workshop composers Richard Yeoman-Clark and Elizabeth Parker.

## Critical reception

*Blake's 7* received both positive and negative reviews. The fourth episode *Time Squad* review by Stanley Reynolds of *The Times* stated, " ... nice to hear the youngsters holding their breath in anticipation of a little terror." Reynolds elaborated, "Television science fiction has got too self-consciously jokey lately. It is also nice to have each episode complete within itself, while still carrying on the saga of Blake's struggle against the 1984-ish Federation. But is that dark-haired telepathic alien girl, the latest addition to Blake's outer-space merry men, going to spell love trouble for blonde Jenna? Maid Marian never had that trouble in Sherwood Forest."<sup>[1]</sup>

In January 1998 Robert Hanks of *The Independent* compared the series' ethos to that of *Star Trek*. He wrote "If you wanted to sum up the relative position of Britain and America in this century – the ebbing away of the pink areas of the map, the fading of national self-confidence as Uncle Sam proceeded to colonise the globe with fizzy drinks and Hollywood – you could do it like this: they had *Star Trek*, we had *Blake's 7* ... No 'boldly going' here: instead, we got the boot stamping on a human face which George Orwell offered as a vision of humanity's future in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*." Hanks concluded that "*Blake's 7* has acquired a credibility and popularity Terry Nation can never have expected ... I think it's to do with the sheer crappiness of the series and the crappiness it attributes to the universe: it is science-fiction for the disillusioned and ironic – and that is what makes it so very British."<sup>[1]</sup>

Gavin Collinson of the British Film Institute's website *Screenonline* wrote "The premise of *Blake's 7* held nothing remotely original. The outlaw group resisting a powerful and corrupt regime is an idea familiar from Robin Hood and beyond. He added "*Blake's 7*'s triumph lay in its vivid characters, its tight, pacey plots and its satisfying realism...For arguably the first time since the 1950s Quatermass serials, the BBC had created a popular sci-fi/fantasy show along adult lines." His review concludes "Ultimately, the one force the rebels could not overcome proved to be the BBC's long-standing apathy towards science fiction. However, the bloody finale, in which Avon murders Blake, exemplified the programme's strengths – fearless narratives, credible but surprising character development and an enormous sense of fun."<sup>[1]</sup>

On the negative side, broadcaster and critic Clive James called the series " ... classically awful British television SF ... no apostrophe in the title, no sense in the plot." James continued "The depraved space queen Servalan ... could never quite bring herself to volatilize the dimly heroic Blake even when she had him square in the sights of her plasmatic spasm guns. The secret of Blake's appeal, or Blakes appeal, for the otherwise infallibly fatale Servalan remained a mystery, like the actual wattage of light bulb on which the design of Blake's spaceship, or Blakes spaceship, was plainly based."<sup>[33]</sup>

## Legacy

*Blake's 7*'s legacy to future television and film space opera was the use of moral ambiguity and dysfunctional main characters to create tension, and of long-term story arcs to aid cohesiveness. These devices can be seen in *Babylon 5*, *Lexx*, *Andromeda*, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, *Farscape*, the reimagined *Battlestar Galactica*, and *Firefly*. These programmes contrast with the simple good-versus-evil dualism of *Star Wars*, or the 'feel-good' tone and unconnected episode structure of both early *Star Trek* and the series' main contemporary *Doctor Who*.<sup>[1]</sup> *Blake's 7* also influenced *Hyperdrive* and *Aeon Flux*.<sup>[34]</sup> Television playwright Dennis Potter's final work *Cold Lazarus* was inspired by the show.<sup>[35]</sup>

*Blake's 7* remains highly regarded. A poll of United States science-fiction writers, fans and critics for John Javna's 1987 book *The Best of Science Fiction* placed the series 25th in popularity, despite then only having recently begun to be broadcast in the US.<sup>[36]</sup> A similar poll in Britain conducted for *SFX magazine* in 1999 put *Blake's 7* at 16th place, with the magazine commenting that "twenty years on, TV SF is still mapping the paths first explored by Terry Nation's baby".<sup>[37]</sup> In 2005 *SFX* surveyed readers' top 50 British telefantasy shows of all time, and *Blake's 7* was placed at number four behind *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *Red Dwarf* and *Doctor Who*.<sup>[38]</sup> A similar poll conducted by *TV Zone* magazine in 2003 for the top 100 cult television programmes placed *Blake's 7* 11th.<sup>[39]</sup>

Dutch musician Arjen Anthony Lucassen was inspired by *Blake's 7* in naming his side-project Star One.<sup>[40]</sup> Star One's album *Space Metal* features a song called "Intergalactic Space Crusaders" based on the series. The Orb's album *The Orb's Adventures Beyond The Ultraworld* features a song called "A Huge Ever Growing Pulsating Brain That Rules from the Centre of the Ultraworld", which is a reference to the episode *Ultraworld*.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

In 2004 a 15-minute comedy film entitled *Blake's Junction 7* debuted at several film festivals around the world. It was directed by Ben Gregor, written by Tim Plester, and starred Mackenzie Crook, Martin Freeman, Johnny Vegas, Mark Heap and Peter Tuddenham. This parody depicted the characters taking a break at the Newport Pagnell motorway service area.<sup>[41][42]</sup> In 2006 the BBC produced a 30-minute documentary *The Cult of... Blake's 7* that was first broadcast on 12 December on BBC Four, as part of a *Science Fiction Britannia* series.<sup>[43]</sup>

## Revivals

The revival of *Blake's 7* has been mooted for some years. Terry Nation raised the possibility on a number of occasions and proposed that a new series would be set some years after the existing one. Avon, living in exile like Napoleon on Elba, would be persuaded by a new group of rebels to resume the fight against the Federation.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Radio and audio

In 1998 *Blake's 7* returned to the BBC on the radio. *The Sevenfold Crown* was broadcast by BBC Radio 4 on 17 January 1998 as part of its *Playhouse* strand. The play was produced by Brian Lighthill and written by Barry Letts. Paul Darrow, Michael Keating, Steven Pacey, Peter Tuddenham and Jacqueline Pearce reprised their television roles, but Josette Simon and Glynis Barber were replaced by Angela Bruce as Dayna and Paula Wilcox as Soolin. The story was set during the fourth series between the episodes *Stardrive* and *Animals*. This was followed up by *The Syndeton Experiment*, which featured the same cast, producer and writer and was broadcast as *The Saturday Play* on 10 April 1999 by BBC Radio 4.<sup>[44]</sup> BBC Audiobooks released a CD of readings of Trevor Hoyle's novelizations of episodes *The Way Back* read by Gareth Thomas and *Cygnus Alpha* read by Paul Darrow.<sup>[45]</sup>

On 11 December 2006 B7 Productions announced that it had recorded a series of 36 five-minute *Blake's 7* audio adventures, written by Ben Aaronovitch, Marc Platt and James Swallow.<sup>[46]</sup> This featured Derek Riddell as Blake, Colin Salmon as Avon, Daniela Nardini as Servalan, Craig Kelly as Travis, Carrie Dobro as Jenna, Dean Harris as Vila, Owen Aaronovitch as Gan, Michael Praed, Doug Bradley and India Fisher.<sup>[1]</sup> The new series was broadcast on BBC Radio 7 and repeated in mid-2010 as three hour-long episodes: *Rebel* (written by Ben Aaronovitch), *Traitor* (Marc Platt) and *Liberator* (James Swallow). B7 Productions also produced series of 30-minute prequel audio

episodes called *Blake's 7: The Early Years*, which explored the earlier histories of the central characters.<sup>[47]</sup>

In 2011 Big Finish Productions, under licence from B7 Productions, announced that it would be producing a series of audio dramas called *Blake's 7: The Liberator Chronicles*, which would be "... a series of exciting, character-driven tales that remain true to the original TV series. We're aiming for authenticity – recreating the wonder of 1978 all over again!" The company also said it would publish a series of *Blake's 7* novels at a rate of two per year.<sup>□</sup>

Several individuals and companies have produced unofficial material based upon *Blake's 7*. Alan Stevens, later of Magic Bullet Productions,<sup>[48]</sup> produced three unofficial audio cassettes between 1991 and 1998: *Travis: The Final Act*,<sup>[49]</sup> *The Mark of Kane*<sup>[50]</sup> and *The Logic of Empire*.<sup>[51]</sup> Stevens also produced a series of audio dramas called *Kaldor City*, created by Chris Boucher, which link the *Blake's 7* universe into Boucher's *Doctor Who* serial *The Robots of Death* through the character Carnell (Scott Fredericks), whom Boucher created for the *Blake's 7* episode *Weapon*.

## Television

In April 2000 producer Andrew Mark Sewell announced that he had bought the rights to *Blake's 7* from the estate of Terry Nation, and was planning to produce a TV movie set 20 years after the finale of the original series.<sup>[52]</sup> In July 2003, Sewell announced that he, Paul Darrow and Simon Moorhead had formed a consortium called 'B7 Enterprises' that had acquired the rights and was planning a TV miniseries budgeted at between five and six million US dollars. Darrow would play Avon and the series was to be televised in early 2005, depending on "... many factors, not least financing".<sup>[53]</sup> Paul Darrow subsequently left the project in December 2003, citing "artistic differences".<sup>[54]</sup>

On 31 October 2005 B7 Enterprises announced it had appointed Drew Kaza as Non-Executive Chairman and that it was working on two *Blake's 7* projects. *Blake's 7: Legacy* would be a two part, three hour mini-series, which would be written by Ben Aaronovitch and D. Dominic Devine. *Blake's 7: The Animated Adventures* would be a 26-part children's animated adventure series written by Aaronovitch, Andrew Cartmel, Marc Platt and James Swallow.<sup>[55]</sup> In an interview with *Doctor Who Magazine*, writer and producer Matthew Graham said that he had been involved in discussions to bring back *Blake's 7*. Graham's concept was that a group of young rebels would rescue Avon, who had been kept cryogenically frozen by Servalan, and then roam the galaxy in a new ship named *Liberator*.<sup>[56]</sup>

On 24 April 2008 television station Sky1 announced that it had commissioned two 60-minute scripts for a potential series, working alongside B7 Productions.<sup>□</sup> On 4 August 2010 the station said it had decided not to commission the series. B7 Productions said the decision was "... obviously disappointing", but that the development process has resulted in the "... dynamic reinvention of this branded series". It said it was confident it would find another partner to bring a new version of *Blake's 7* to television.<sup>[57]</sup>

In July 2012 Deadline reported that a remake for US television networks was being developed by the independent studio Georgeville Television.<sup>□</sup> On 22 August the Syfy network announced that Joe Pokaski would develop the script and Martin Campbell would direct the new remake.<sup>[58]</sup>

On April 9, 2013, the BBC reported that a new series of *Blake's 7* would appear on SyFy.<sup>□</sup> Other media reported that a full-series order of thirteen episodes had been placed.<sup>□</sup>

## Merchandise

Terry Nation had done well financially from commercial exploitation of the *Doctor Who* Daleks, and recognised the potential for merchandise related to *Blake's 7*.<sup>□</sup> Nation and his agent Roger Hancock discussed this with Ray Williams of BBC Merchandising in December 1976. By May 1977 twenty-seven items of merchandise had been proposed for release by companies including Palitoy, Letraset and Airfix. However only a small quantity of these was ever made available.<sup>□</sup>

A small number of toys and models were produced. In 1978 Corgi Toys produced a two inch long die-cast model of *Liberator* with a transparent rear globe. The following year this was re-released in silver with a model space shuttle, and in blue on its own. Also in 1979 Blue Box Toys produced three space vehicle toys that carried the series logo; however these had never appeared in the TV programme.<sup>[1]</sup> In 1989 Comet Miniatures produced a nine-inch long injection moulded model kit of *Liberator*, which contained many parts. They also produced a white metallic two-inch *Liberator* model, and a three-inch Federation trooper figure.<sup>[1]</sup> A *Scorpio* clip gun, and *Liberator* and *Scorpio* teleport bracelets, were also produced.<sup>[30]</sup>

The children's programme *Blue Peter* offered a cheaper home-made alternative to fans who wanted merchandise. In its 23 February 1978 show, presenter Lesley Judd demonstrated how to create a replica *Liberator* teleport bracelet from common household objects. This was followed up on 6 June 1983 when presenter Janet Ellis demonstrated a similar method of making a replica *Scorpio* bracelet.<sup>[30]</sup>

## Music

The sheet music of the *Blake's 7* theme was published by Chappell & Co. Ltd in 1978 with a photograph of *Liberator* on the front cover.<sup>[1]</sup> Dudley Simpson's theme music was also released as a single, with *The Federation March* (a piece of incidental music from the episode *Redemption*) on the B-side.<sup>[30]</sup> The *Blake's 7* theme was also released on an album *BBC Space Themes*, and *Liberator* was featured on the album sleeve. Another version of the theme, 'Blake's 7 Disco', was recorded by Federation and released in 1979 on Beeb Records with a B-side unconnected with the series.<sup>[1]</sup> Many of the sound effects from the series were released in 1981 on an album *BBC Sound Effects No. 26 – Sci-Fi Sound Effects*, and re-released later on CD as *Essential Science Fiction Sound Effects Vol. 1*.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Books and magazines

*Blake's 7* books were produced by various authors and publishers. The first was entitled *Blake's 7*, written by Trevor Hoyle and Terry Nation, and published in 1978. Its US title was *Blake's 7 - Their First Adventure*.<sup>[1]</sup> Hoyle wrote two more books in the series: *Blake's 7: Project Avalon* (1979, novelising the episodes *Seek–Locate–Destroy*, *Duel*, *Project Avalon*, *Deliverance* and *Orac*) and *Blake's 7: Scorpio Attack* (1981, novelising the episodes *Rescue*, *Traitor* and *Stardrive*).<sup>[1]</sup> Publications continued to be issued after the series had ended. Tony Attwood's *Blake's 7: The Programme Guide*, published by Target in 1982, is a factual overview of the series with a detailed episode guide, an encyclopedia, and interviews with the cast and writers. It was re-issued by Virgin Books in 1994.<sup>[1]</sup> Attwood also wrote an original novel called *Afterlife*, which is set after the final episode and was published by Target in 1984.<sup>[1]</sup> Another original novel *Avon: A Terrible Aspect* by Paul Darrow told the story of Avon's early years before he met Blake, and was published in 1989.<sup>[1]</sup>

World Distributors produced *Blake's 7 Annuals* for 1979, 1980 and 1981. These featured stories, games, artwork and articles about space.<sup>[1]</sup> In October 1981 Marvel UK began publishing *Blake's 7 – A Marvel Monthly*, which included a comic strip by Ian Kennedy as well as text stories, features and photographs. Twenty-five issues including two 'specials' were published, until the magazine closed in August 1983.<sup>[1][1]</sup> Marvel produced two 'special' magazines in 1994 and 1995, with much of the content written by TV historian Andrew Pixley and about how the series was made. Seven issues of *Blake's 7 Poster Magazine* were published between December 1994 and May 1995.<sup>[59]</sup>

Several books offering insight and background information to *Blake's 7* were produced, including *Blake's 7: The Complete Guide* by Adrian Rigelsford (Boxtree, 1995), *Blake's 7: The Inside Story* by Joe Nazzaro and Sheelagh Wells (Virgin, 1997), *A History and Critical Analysis of Blake's 7* by John Kenneth Muir (McFarland and Company, 1999), and *Liberation. The Unofficial and Unauthorised Guide to Blake's 7* by Alan Stevens and Fiona Moore (Telos, 2003).<sup>[60]</sup>

## Video and DVD releases

In 1985 BBC Video issued four compilation videocassettes containing highlights from the first three series edited into 90 minute features. The first released was *The Beginning*, containing excerpts from *The Way Back*, *Spacefall*, *Cygnus Alpha* and *Time Squad*. *Duel* was released in 1986 with highlights of *Seek–Locate–Destroy*, *Duel* and *Project Avalon*. In the same year *Orac* was released, containing excerpts from *Deliverance*, *Orac* and *Redemption*. The first three tapes were available in both VHS and Betamax format. The final tape *The Aftermath* was released in Australia in 1986, with extracts from *Aftermath*, *Powerplay* and *Sarcophagus*. In 1990 all four tapes were re-released in the UK on VHS.<sup>[1]</sup>

From 1991 BBC Video released *Blake's 7* in episodic order on 26 VHS cassettes with two episodes per tape.<sup>[30]</sup> Canadian company BFS also released these in North America. In 1997 Fabulous Films re-released these tapes in different packaging. The BBC and Fabulous Films planned to issue the series in four DVD box sets, but this was disrupted by conflicts with rights-holders B7 Enterprises. These issues were resolved and one series per year was released on Region 2 DVD between 2003 and 2006. In 2007 Amazon sold a four-series box set, but a casualty of the difficulties with Blake's 7 Enterprises was *The Making of Blake's 7*, a four-part documentary directed by Kevin Davies, originally intended as an extra feature with each DVD release. B7 Enterprises said they " ... did not feel [the documentary] provided a proper tribute or fresh retrospective of the show".<sup>[61]</sup> The discs contained extra features including bloopers, out-takes, alternative scenes, voiceover commentaries, interviews and behind the scenes footage.<sup>[62]</sup>

## Notes and references

[1] <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cult/classic/blakes7/>

[2] The reference to *Blake's 7* being set in the "third century of the second calendar" does not appear in the series, but is mentioned in the associated publicity material (although the Federation introducing a 'new calendar' is mentioned in the episode *Pressure Point*). ()

[3] In the episode *Killer*, a 700 year old space ship is encountered, one of the first deep space missions from Earth.

[8] Nation, Terry (writer) & Briant, Michael E. (director). (1978) *The Way Back* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 2 January 1978

[9] Nation, Terry (writer) & Roberts, Pennant (director). (1978) *Space Fall* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 9 January 1978

[10] Nation, Terry (writer) & Lorrimer, Vere (director). (1978) *Cygnus Alpha* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 16 January 1978

[11] Nation, Terry (writer) & Roberts, Pennant (director). (1978) *Time Squad* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 23 January 1978

[12] Nation, Terry (writer) & Lorrimer, Vere (director). (1978) *Seek-Locate-Destroy* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 6 February 1978

[13] Nation, Terry (writer) & Lorrimer, Vere (director). (1978) *Orac* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 27 March 1978

[14] Nation, Terry (writer) & Lorrimer, Vere (director). (1979) *Redemption* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 1 September 1979

[15] Nation, Terry (writer) & Spenton-Foster, George (director). (1979) *Pressure Point* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 9 February 1979

[16] Boucher, Chris (writer) & Martinus, Derek (director). (1979) *Trial* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 13 February 1979

[17] Nation, Terry (writer) & Lorrimer, Vere (director). (1979) *Countdown* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 1979-03-06

[18] Boucher, Chris (writer) & Maloney, David (director — uncredited). (1979) *Star One* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 3 April 1979

[19] Nation, Terry (writer) & Lorrimer, Vere (director). (1980) *Aftermath* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 7 January 1980

[20] Nation, Terry (writer) & Maloney, David (director — uncredited). (1980) *Powerplay* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 7 January 1980

[21] Prior, Allan (writer) & McCarthy, Desmond (director). (1980) *Volcano* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 14 January 1980

- [22] Parkes, Roger (writer) & Morgan, Andrew (director). (1980) *Children of Auron* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 19 February 1980
- [23] Boucher, Chris (writer) & Cumming, Fiona (director). (1980) *Rumours of Death* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 25 February 1980
- [24] Nation, Terry (writer) & Ridge, Mary (director). (1980) *Terminal* (Television series episode). In Maloney, David (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 31 March 1980
- [25] Boucher, Chris (writer) & Ridge, Mary (director). (1981) *Rescue* (Television series episode). In Lorrimer, Vere (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 28 September 1981
- [26] Steed, Ben (writer) & Ridge, Mary (director). (1981) *Power* (Television series episode). In Lorrimer, Vere (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 5 October 1981
- [27] Follet, Jim (writer) & Proudfoot, David Sullivan (director). (1981) *Stardrive* (Television series episode). In Lorrimer, Vere (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 19 October 1981
- [28] Masters, Simon (writer) & Ritelis, Viktors (director). (1981) *Warlord* (Television series episode). In Lorrimer, Vere (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 14 December 1981
- [29] Boucher, Chris (writer) & Ridge, Mary (director). (1981) *Blake* (Television series episode). In Lorrimer, Vere (producer), *Blake's 7*, London: BBC, 21 December 1981
- [30] Pixley, Andrew (1995). *Blake's 7 Summer Special*. ISSN 1353-761X
- [31] Details largely taken from documentary included Blake's 7 series 4 DVD
- [34] "Forever Avon" special feature on the Blakes 7 series 4 UK DVD
- [44] Pixley, Andrew (2004). *Blake's 7. The Radio Adventures* [CD liner notes]. London: BBC Audiobooks

## External links

- Big Finish Productions website (<http://www.bigfinish.com/>)
  - Blake's 7 — B7 Enterprises, the rights holders of Blake's 7 (<http://blakes7.com/>)
  - Down and Safe: an irreverent guide to Blakes 7 (<http://www.thevervoid.com/media/blakes7/blakemenu.htm>)
  - The Anorak's Guide to Blake's 7 (<http://www.anorakzone.com/blake>)
  - *Blake's 7* (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00t1cyg>) at BBC Programmes
  - *Blake's 7* (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0076987/>) at the Internet Movie Database
  - *Blake's 7* (<http://www.tv.com/shows/blakes-7/>) at TV.com
-

# Article Sources and Contributors

**Blake's 7** *Source:* <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?oldid=567196191> *Contributors:* 1exec1, After Midnight, Aisha9152, AjAldous, AledDavies, AlexandrDmitri, Andycjp, Angmering, AnonMoos, Anthony Appleyard, Arcayne, Archolman, Ashmoo, Autopilot, Baffle gab1978, Barbacana, Barek, BayerischerMann, Bearcat, Ben King, Beta m, Betacommand, Bezapt, Blakesseven, Bobblewik, BornonJune8, Bovlb, Bozoid, Brion VIBBER, BrownHairedGirl, Bryan Derksen, CAWylie, Cameron Scott, Cbh, Cercia, Chip1990, Chizzit26, Chocolateboy, Chris Buckey, ClaudiaM, Colonel Tom, ConradPino, CrackDragon, Cyberia23, D6, DOSGuy, Da Joe, Daecon, DanDud88, Daven200520, Davepark, David Gerard, Davidelit, Davidhorman, Davidkevin, Day2night, Dayofthetriffids, Debuskjt, Deposuit, Derek Ross, Dh orac, Dj manton, DonQuixote, Donmccullen, Dopefish, Download, DrachenFyre, Dugo, Dunks58, Dvasour, Dwanyewest, Ekotkie, Ellen Papenburg, Emurphy42, Epaskaleva, Essexmutant, Evelyntose, Extraordinary, Feline1, Ferkelparade, FisherQueen, Flexcoupling, Fredrick day, Freefry, Frietjes, Futurehawk, GRAHAMUK, GRuban, Gaius Cornelius, Garing, Gioto, Gmoney484, Goatherd, Goudaprim, GraemeLeggett, Grahamecooper, Gridlock Joe, Gtrmp, GusF, Gymnophoria, Hajor, Hu, Hydrargyrum, Hyliad, I dream of horses, ISD, Ian Rose, IanB2, InsiderInformation, J04n, JMWhite, Jbom1, JediLofty, Jellyman, Joe King, John, Johnleemk, Joolz, Josiah Rowe, JustAGal, Kalinda001, Kam Solusar, Kbaughan1, Khaosworks, Kidburla, Kierant, KrishnaBlue, Lawpjc, Lee M, Lightmouse, Logotu, Luminifer, Magnus, MakeRocketGoNow, Malcolm Farmer, Mallanox, Marktreut, MarnetteD, Martarius, Martpol, Matthew, Matthew See, Mboverload, Mean as custard, MeekSaffron, MegX, Merzbow, Mez2009, Mhiji, Michael Hopcroft, Mischling, Mlaffs, Mmm commentaries, Mokwella, Mollsmolyneux, Morandir, Mortense, MrH, Mrstonky, Msa1701, Mwbard, Ndtteegarden, NeilFraser, Netwrox, Nick Cooper, Ninquelosse, Nlu, Noirish, Nude Amazon, Numen, Ohconfucius, Oldag07, Onodevo, OpenToppedBus, OwenBlacker, Paisley, Parsnipmistress, Pat Berry, Paul A, Paul MacDermott, Paulnwatts, Pax:Vobiscum, Peace Inside, Pegship, Percy Snoodle, Phaither, Philip Cross, Pinkadelica, Pmc, PrePressChris, Pretzelpaws, Professor Firefly, Queenmomcat, Qwfp, RandomCritic, Randomstats, Rewinn, Rhbenes, Ringbang, Rjwilmsi, Rob T Firefly, Rob-nick, Robert Brockway, Robert Williams, Robinson weijman, Rocdahut, Rodericksilly, RoyMathur, SMC, SchuminWeb, Science4sail, SebF7, Serein (renamed because of SUL), Snowgrouse, Splateagle, Starfighter Pilot, Staxringold, Stephenb, Sterlingjones, Sugarfish, Suttkus, Tamfang, Tangerine Cossack, Tarquin, Tassedethe, Telsa, Template namespace initialisation script, The JPS, The Leviathan Vampire Girl, The wub, TheFaJamoc, TheGiantHogweed, Thetriangleguy, Thumperward, TigerShark, Tim!, Timrollpickering, Tommy2010, TonyW, Tonyrex, Topbanana, Tortillovsky, Trevor Burnham, Tumadoireacht, UpperPuppy, UtherSRG, Velella, VeryVerily, Victory93, Viletraveller, Vremya, Whoosher, Whouk, Wikipedian Penguin, Woohookitty, YUL89YYZ, Yamla, Zen34, Zipacna1, ZipsFliesandTrousers, 343 anonymous edits

# Image Sources, Licenses and Contributors

**file:Blake's 7 cast 2004-1.jpg** *Source:* [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Blake's\\_7\\_cast\\_2004-1.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Blake's_7_cast_2004-1.jpg) *License:* Creative Commons Attribution-Sharealike 2.0 *Contributors:* Auz from London, UK

**file:Blake's 7 cast 2004-2.jpg** *Source:* [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Blake's\\_7\\_cast\\_2004-2.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Blake's_7_cast_2004-2.jpg) *License:* Creative Commons Attribution-Sharealike 2.0 *Contributors:* Auz from London, UK

# License

Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported  
[//creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)