

SIMPLE STYLE

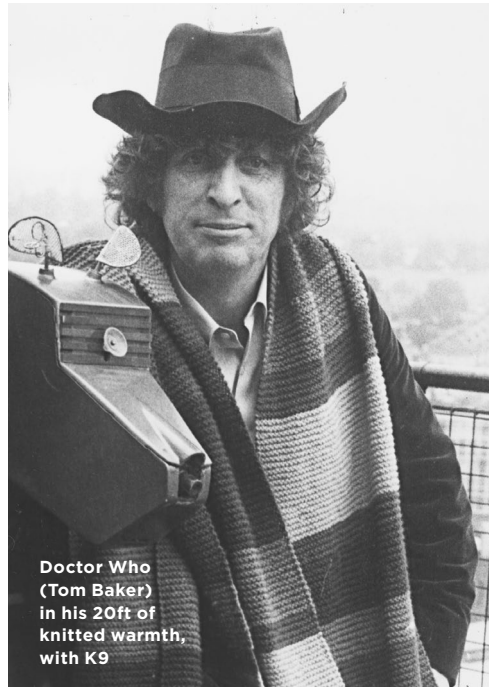
THE WINTER SCARF

Words: **CLARE GOGERTY**

Whatever the vagaries of fashion throw at us, during the winter months scarves remain steadfastly looped around our necks. This is mostly because they are very good at doing what they do best: keeping the wearer warm by withstanding chilly gusts. But it is also because they are an affordable and easy way to update a weary winter wardrobe.

Easy, that is, if you know the right way to wear one. The scarf is a versatile garment and can be worn in countless ways – it can be draped, tossed over one shoulder, tied in knots, or simply dangled – but the danger is that not all of these are fashionable. The days of wearing your scarf folded in half with the loose ends pulled through the loop, for example, are long gone. And no one wears a scarf like a neckerchief (folded into a triangle and tied behind the neck) any more, unless perhaps, they're a cowboy. These days, it's all about the loose dangle.


In recent winters, scarves turned voluminous and shawl-like, smothering wearers' heads in fold upon fold of woollen fabric. There is still much to recommend this snug and muffled look, but if you want to look 'up to the minute', this winter it is all about the long knitted scarf. Preferably this



Doctor Who (Tom Baker) in his 20ft of knitted warmth, with K9

scarf should be of multi-coloured stripes, as pioneered by Tom Baker, right, in seven series of *Doctor Who*. (Interesting aside: Baker's scarf was knitted by Begonia Pope, who used all the wool given to her in a great big bundle by the costume designer, resulting in the 20ft legendary garment we all came to love and that Tom Baker has never been able to shake off.)

Although the scarf's origins date back to Roman times, when they were used to mop sweat from the necks of men, they didn't become fashionable until the 19th century. During the Victorian era, they indicated wealth and status, although these were usually made of silk and chiffon and tucked into bodices or worn as a cravat.

Before you buy one of your own, though, take heed from the story of dance pioneer Isadora Duncan. A champion of both the long scarf, which she often involved in her dances, and of the convertible car, the two combined disastrously when the former caught in the hub cap of the latter and strangled her. Be careful where your scarf dangles, you never know where it will end up. Just saying. 

“These days it's all about the loose dangle, preferably in multi-coloured stripes”



THE CLASSIC

Islay Breton Stripe Pom scarf | £70

Channeling the spirit of Tom Baker's original but a lot nicer, actually. jigsaw-online.com

THE UPDATE



TWO GREAT TWISTS

Bow neck tie | £22.50

A neat solution to scarf management: just pull one end through the other and you're sorted. seasaltcornwall.co.uk



Forest green pom pom scarf | £35

Who can resist a pom-pom? Not us. And certainly not this tasteful pom pom fringing. sophieallport.com

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