

ENTERTAINMENT

'The Kevorkian Verdict' airs tonight on PBS 'Frontline'

By MIKE DUFFY
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Simple answers? They don't exist.

Not in the impassioned, complex debate over assisted suicide, which has been brought to a boil by Michigan pathologist Dr. Jack Kevorkian over the past six years. But in a tangled thicket of moral and legal issues, where confrontational emotional heat is the norm, "The Kevorkian Verdict" calmly attempts to shed some light.

This first-rate edition of "Frontline," PBS's superlative news documentary series, is a follow-up to the 1994 Emmy Award-winning "The Kevorkian File."

Using interviews with ethicists, legal scholars and doctors, producer Michael Kirk explores Kevorkian's controversial role in raising the national consciousness on the issue of physician-assisted suicide.

"I think he's turned up the

heat in this debate and in some ways will be remembered as the central figure who made America grapple with the question of assisted suicide and not allow them to turn away," says Arthur Caplan, a bioethicist at the University of Pennsylvania, who opposes physician-assisted suicide.

"The Kevorkian Verdict" features dramatic footage from Kevorkian's most recent trial at the Oakland County Courthouse in Pontiac, Mich. Production of the show was completed before the trial ended, so "Verdict" is necessarily incomplete. It does offer exclusive interviews with family members of Kevorkian's patients, as well as Kevorkian's own video-taped, occasionally haunting discussions with patients before they committed suicide.

Even those who sympathize with Dr. Kevorkian are sometimes uncomfortable with his tactics. Over the past six

years, making headlines and rattling the cage of the medical establishment, Kevorkian has been present for 28 suicides.

"I really think he needs to stop doing what he's doing. I think whatever good he's done in terms of raising public awareness of the issue is done," says Dr. Timothy Quill of the University of Rochester Medical School, and a leading advocate of legalizing physician-assisted suicide.

"I think what (Dr. Kevorkian) can do now is simply harm, he's going to add to the polarization," Quill says. "He's going to be an example of the worst-case scenario of a maverick doctor acting on his own."

"The Kevorkian Verdict" serves as an excellent, dispassionate primer on an agonizing topic that isn't going to fade away.

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Paul McGann is eighth 'Doctor Who' this time in two-hour Fox movie

By ELLEN GRAY
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

It's probably fitting that Paul McGann, who tonight makes his debut as the eighth "Doctor Who," is from Liverpool.

Not only were four more famous Liverpudlians once guest stars on the long-running BBC series that inspired tonight's movie (they performed "Ticket to Ride" in a 1965 episode), but the fanfare in Britain that greeted McGann's casting is reminiscent of the fuss that once accompanied the Fab Four's every move.

There was "a huge brouhaha" when the announcement was made in December, recalled McGann in a phone interview last week. "I was surprised. I was in Canada at the time," getting ready to shoot the two-hour movie that airs tonight on Fox. Relatives, he said, sent him copy of the front-page editorials that heralded the choice, one McGann himself still doesn't completely understand.

"I wouldn't have approached me to play Doctor Who," said the actor, whose past work has mostly been in feature films ("Alien 3," "The Three Musketeers") and the London stage. And the prospect of a possible five-year commitment (tonight's movie is a pilot) was "kind of scary," he said.

McGann, 36, was only a toddler when "Doctor Who," the chronicles of a renegade Time Lord who travels through space and time, premiered on the BBC in November 1963. While he

might not have considered himself a Whovian, he was familiar with the series.

"In Britain you couldn't really miss it," he said. "Everybody's seen it. Even if they're not fans, it's as common as the news."

And taken just as seriously.

A minor scandal erupted during the filming in Vancouver, McGann said, when a London newspaper got hold of a daily plot summary. In one scene, McGann's co-star, Daphne Ashbrook, who plays the latest of the Doctor's female companions, Grace Holloway, is supposed to hit the Doctor over the head. (It's OK, she's possessed at the time.)

The plot summary, McGann said, read, "Grace bonks the doctor," which in Canada is fairly innocuous, but in Britain it means the noble art of lovemaking.

Oops.

"Within 48 hours, this had made the papers in Britain," and fans, he said, were not amused.

The Doctor is famously celibate, a choice McGann agrees with, even though he's the first of the Doctors to have an on-screen kiss — at least one that gets shown.

In the '70s, he said, the Doctor played by Tom Baker got married to his assistant in a two-episode arc, "but then they got cold feet and never aired it."

His own kiss with Grace, he insists, "was very chaste" (although viewers may disagree).

"She happens to be six inches

from his mouth at the time so he kisses her," he said.

"The Doctor's a child," he said. "I think sex is out of place for this character ... There are bigger things to think about, there are more burning passions."

McGann's own favorite Doctor was the first, William Hartnell.

"He was very tall and he had this shock of white hair ... and he was really stern, a cantankerous old bugger," he said, adding it's "the short-tempered, less easy-going side of the character that I think might be worth reinstating."

While McGann admits to some worries about typecasting, "I have a family" (he and his wife, Anne, an artist, live 100 miles from London with sons aged 5 and 7) and playing the Doctor could be "steady work," he said.

At least one former James Bond might not agree.

As McGann's predecessor, Sylvester McCoy (who appears tonight as Doctor No. 7) "kindly remarked to me, 'You could be the George Lazenby of Time Lords, famous for two hours.'"

DOCTOR WHO
7 p.m. tonight
Fox

You can reach Ellen Gray by e-mail at elgray(at)phillynews.com, by fax at 215-854-5852 or by mail at the Philadelphia Daily News, Box 7788, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101.

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'Doctor Who'? Some facts

The longest-running science fiction series in the world returns tonight as a two-hour movie on Fox.

No, not "Star Trek." "Doctor Who."

Who?

Unless you're already a Whovian, weaned on PBS reruns of the BBC series and doomed to wander the Internet forever in search of fellow travelers, you may want to bone up on some facts and figures about the renegade Time Lord from the planet Gallifrey:

- Number of years "Doctor Who" played on the BBC: 26, starting in 1963. Tonight's movie will be the 695th installment.
- Number of hearts pumping blood through the Doctor's body: Two. (He also has a bypass respiratory system — whatever that is — and a body temperature of 60 degrees.)
- Number of lives granted a Time Lord: 13. Like the Super Mario Brothers, Doctor Who can take a licking and keep on ticking.

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TELEVISION LISTINGS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1996

	XRV 2-2	KGBV 4-4	KRGV 5-5	XHAB 7-7	XHFX 17-6	KVEO 23-8	KLUJ 48-3	KNVO 48-3	KMB 60-10	AMC	A&E	CNBC	DISC	DISN	ENC	ESPN	FAM	GEMS	HBO	LIFE	MAX	NICK	PRIME	STARZ	TBS	TLC	TNT	USA	WGN	
6:00	Tele-Noticias	News	News	Sign off	Bananas Mutant	Goof Trip	GED	Soltero	Sign off	"Never to Love"	Techno-	Business	Paid Prog.	Mermaid	"Breaking	Sports-	FIT TV	Cita con	"I'll Do	Paid Prog.	"The	Weiner,	Press Box	STARZ	Jetsons	Chicken	F1stone	Cartoon	Ed Young	
7:00	Tele-Noticias	This Morning	Good Morning	Fe Agradada	Animal Bobby's	Today	Joy Alivel	Sesamo	Homestr.	"Love"	Mike Hammer	Capitol	Paid Prog.	Winnie	"	Sports-	Family	Holly	"	Baby	Looney	Press Box	"Black	Gilligan	Little Star	Dooby	"	News		
8:00	Tele-Noticias	"	America	vision	Pastor C. Ortiz	"	Flying J. Hagee	Chespirito	Sesame	"Call of the Wild"	Columbo	Box	Discovery	Gummi	"Silver-	Sports-	The	Cita con	"Richie	Sisters	"For	Rugrats	Press Box	"Price of	Little	Booknise	Bunny	"		
9:00	Noticias	Golden	Regis & Kathie	Ros-angelica	Carmie	Mark Walberg	R. Parsley	Llavello	Barney	"	Columbo	Money	Home	Umbrilla	"	Sports-	News	El Des-	"	Our	Rupert	Get Fit	"The	Hillbillies	Chicken	Gilligan	Murder,	Court TV		
10:00	Minor de Sevices	The Price Is Right	Mike & Maly	Medicina al Dia	The Shadow	Sally Jessy	Cope. Praise the Lord	Magica Juventud	Wild	Shining	Double Exposure	"	House	Little Pony	"Dracula	Sports-	Club	LifeStory	"	Biggers & Summers	"Lassie"	Allegria's	Get Fit	"	Matlock	Little Star	Knobs	Magnum,		
11:00	La Hora Lunatica	Young & Restless	All My Children	Macarena	Richard Bey	Coach Hard	Lord	Dulce Enemiga	Rogers	"Step	Quincy, M.E.	Opinion	G. Kerr	Chip/Dale	"1972"	Sports-	Rescue	Holly	"Chips"	Stewart	"	"People	Perry	Garden	Charlie's	Quantum	Geraldo			
12:00	Tacos al Carbon	News The Bold	News The City	Mujer Latina	Jerry Springer	Days of Our Lives	C. Treat	Morelia	Sesame	"Just	The	Lunch	Gr. Chels	"The Cat	Gol:	Home	Cita con	"	Hdmade	Power	Timmy	College	"(Part 2)	"Good	Crafts	Starsky & Hutch	P. Court	News		
1:00	El y Ella	As World Turns	One Life to Live	Pa'l Norte	Griffith Love Lucy	Another World	Monroe B. Hinn	Como Tu, Ninguna	Newton's	Corner"	McMillan and Wife	Money	Finish	Outer	"	Wide Sr. College	"	Hola	"Sins	"Home	Gumby	Texas	"Adam's	The	the Bad	CHiPs	P. Court	Baseball:		
2:00	Guiding Light	General Hospital	Valte- vision	Dinosaurus	Littest Pet	Baywatch	The 700 Club	Garden	Weed	"Bird"	Banacek	"	Jennings	C. Brown	"Breaking	College	Highway	Tardes de	"Rom-	"Burning"	"	Looney	At Texas	"	Garfield	Crafts	Wild, Wild	Love Con.	Astros at	
3:00	Sevices	Jenny Jones	Ricki Lake	Dinosaurus	Sailor Mn. Taz-Mania	Bonkers	J. Hagee	Cristina	Paint	"Mr. Hobbs"	"	Market	Cuisine	Kids, Inc.	"	Centennial	Brewster	"	"Perfect	Spenser:	"Being	Muppets	Tonight at	The	Scobby	Home	"Tecu-	Cubs		
4:00	Ocurio Asi	Geraldo	Oprah Winfrey	Cine	Eek! Batman	Gargoyles	Praise the Lord	Primer	Sandiego	Takes a	Mike Hammer	"	Mechan-	Duck	"Silver-	NBA Fant.	Family	El Des-	"Alibi"	Cagney & Lacey	"	Tiny Toon	Challenge	Gang	Saved	Furniture	Last	High-	10th In.	
5:00	Angelic Tele-Noticias	News	News	Rangers	Matters Blossom	Dr. Perez	Noticiero	Sesame	Street	"Cattle	Quincy, M.E.	Business	Wings	DuckTales	"	Indy Live	Newhart	Montana	"Richie	Sweep	"Star Trek	Clarissa	Center	"The	Matters	Home	Heat of the	Renegade		
6:00	Kama	News Current	News Home	Ciboto Fortuna	Videos Videos	Fr. Prince	Tripp	Marisol	A. Smith	Montana	The	Money	Beyond ...	"Lion,	"The	Center	The	Holly	"	The	Commiss	Wrath of	Doug	Phi Beta	"	Videos	Miracle	Heat of the	Wings	Matters
7:00	Dos Camion	Wed Tuesday	Roseanne	Muy Bien	"Doctor Who"	3rd Rock	Today Betty	El Premio	NewsHour	"Heaven	Biography	Politics	Wild	and ...	My	Hockey:	Highway	Cita con	"Bad	Unsolved	"Suspi-	Monster	"	"Don	Pitts-	How'd Do	NBA	Murder,	Baseball:	
8:00	Placas	"The Strepod"	Home Eilen	Aunque Derecho	Fraser	John Hagee	Mayor	Parks	Health	Mr. Alison	Columbo:	Rivera	Clarke	One Small	"Rome	ence	Rescue	Hola	"	"Hostage	Agenda"	Love Lucy	Boys of	DeMar-	Pirates at	ball	Boxing:	White		
9:00	Tele-Noticias	News	News	Cprado	Jerry Springer	Cheers	Noticiero	Frontline	"	Law & Order	Next Step	Hope	"Five	Sports-	3 Stoo-	"	"You ...	Unsolved	"The	Kotter	Press Box	"With	Basket-	How'd Do	That?	ball	Bill	Simon &		
10:00	Cprado	Show Roseanne	Seinfeld	Place Medias de	Patrol	Show	How con	Charlie	"Blood on	Biography	Rivera	Wild	"Midnight	One	Baseball	Bonanza	Nueva	"Point of	Mystery	Van Dyke	Press Box	"Basket-	"	The	Operation	"	High-	Simon		
11:00	prado	Late Late Show	Next Nowhere	Seda	Donahue	Canan	Bonnie B. Hinn	Derecho	Sign off	"Moon	Columbo	Charles	Clarke	"Black	cycle	Paid Prog.	Hola	"	Nurses	Born	Monster	Press Box	"Stone	Home	In NBA	Knight	Heat of the			
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