# Doctor Who’s Fifteenth Doctor set to break costume tradition with varied wardrobe



Russell T Davies, the showrunner of the long-running British science fiction series Doctor Who, has revealed a deliberate choice not to provide the Fifteenth Doctor, portrayed by Ncuti Gatwa, with a fixed signature outfit or accessory. Speaking to Polygon, Davies explained that this decision was made to allow greater flexibility in the character’s wardrobe, encouraging a wide range of interpretations and looks.

Davies noted that previous incarnations of the Doctor have been known for distinctive clothing pieces, such as bowties or vividly striped scarves. However, with Gatwa in the role, the creative team aimed to offer more variety. “In one episode in the first season [the Fifteenth Doctor] set out of the TARDIS in a pair of jeans and a duffle coat. And at the [finale], he was in a pair of Levi’s and a black leather jacket. And that means almost anyone can cosplay,” Davies said.

The varied wardrobe reflects the Doctor’s ongoing adventures through time and space, with episodes spanning different eras and styles. For instance, the costume department enjoyed working on last season’s Bridgerton-inspired episode titled “Rogue,” which allowed for distinctive period-appropriate costumes. Additionally, the show incorporates sci-fi elements that are tailored to suit the themes of each episode while complementing Gatwa’s portrayal.

This approach to costuming has had a positive impact on the show's fanbase, particularly cosplayers. Davies expressed enthusiasm about how the lack of a singular, iconic outfit broadens accessibility. “If it’s your hobby, then that’s money well spent. […] But there’s also going to be that casual cosplayer, that kid who fancies being Doctor Who today. And that means now they can put on a pair of jeans and a duffle coat, run out the door or in the middle of the rain, and say, ‘I’m the Doctor.’ And I like that,” he said.

He further elaborated on the philosophy behind the decision: “It democratizes it, it means no one has ownership. It means you can put on any costume and say, ‘I’m the Doctor today,’ because that’s what he’d do.”

Doctor Who continues to air weekly on both Disney+ and BBC One, presenting ongoing opportunities for Ncuti Gatwa’s Doctor to explore new looks and adventures.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.doctorwho.tv/news-and-features/why-is-the-fifteenth-doctors-wardrobe-so-varied> - This article from Doctor Who's official site explains the deliberate decision made by showrunner Russell T Davies and costume designer Pam Downe to have the Fifteenth Doctor's wardrobe be varied and flexible, supporting the claim about no fixed signature outfit and the wider variety of looks for Ncuti Gatwa's Doctor.
* <https://screenrant.com/doctor-who-fifteenth-first-costume-bizarre-ncuti-gatwa-explained/> - ScreenRant provides an explanation of the Fifteenth Doctor's unique costume choices after regeneration, including the story behind the initial odd outfit due to the bi-generation special, corroborating the article's detail about the varied wardrobe and absence of a classic fixed outfit.
* <https://www.cbr.com/russell-t-davies-doctor-who-woke-claims/> - This CBR article discusses Russell T Davies's views on diversity and inclusivity in Doctor Who, including remarks on casting Ncuti Gatwa as the first Black Doctor and the show's modern progressive approach, which aligns with the perspective shaping the Fifteenth Doctor's characterization and wardrobe flexibility.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/2023/doctor-who-the-fifteenth-doctor-costume> - Official BBC media resources describe the creative concept behind the Fifteenth Doctor's costume design, mentioning the choice to avoid a single iconic look and instead allow for a range of styles as the character travels through different eras and storylines, supporting the article's content on wardrobe variety including historic and sci-fi themed episodes.
* <https://www.polygon.com/23602090/doctor-who-ncuti-gatwa-russell-t-davies-interview-costume> - This Polygon interview with Russell T Davies confirms his intention to avoid a fixed signature outfit for the Fifteenth Doctor, emphasizing accessibility for casual cosplayers and the democratic philosophy behind the varied wardrobe, directly supporting the article's quotations and points about cosplay inclusivity.