UFO – The Complete Series – First Watch!

1x01 – Identified (7.5/10)

* SHADO - an acronym for Supreme Headquarters Alien Defence Organization - is located beneath a supposed film studio in the English countryside and run by Commander Straker, who poses as a film producer.
* When an Unidentified Flying Object attacks a plane in which Straker's deputy Colonel Freeman is travelling it is shot down and investigated. The body of an alien is found and discovered to have transplanted human body parts, seemingly from a trio who disappeared in nearby woods a decade earlier.
* It is part of the alien plan to take over the Earth to study and imitate humans.
* Watching it on the last DVD release, actually a pretty good picture.

1x02 – Computer Affair (7.5/10)

* Three Interceptors are sent to frustrate a UFO attack but one collides with the UFO, killing the pilot, Ken Matthews. Lieutenant Gay Ellis was giving the pilots their instructions and Straker suspects she sacrificed Matthews to spare another pilot, Mark Bradley, her apparent lover.
* When an alien lands on Earth, Gay sends Mark to capture it, to prove that she is impartial and prepared to risk his life. He comes through and goes on a date with her. Straker tells them that if Gay had followed official SHADO protocol all three pilots would have been killed.
* An abundance of cigarettes! So glad this is no longer the case in this life time. An okay episode, much more fast paced than it’s successor Space 1999. Annoyed again by the chronological order, what is the order on the DVD set is not the same as on IMdB.

1x03 – Flight Path (6.5/10)

* Paul Roper is a SHADO technician with a pretty, younger wife and aliens have threatened to kill her unless he passes on to them cryptic computer co-ordinates, the possession of which will allow them to make an undetected attack on the Moonbase.
* Colonel Freeman discovers what Roper has been doing and Roper asks for the opportunity to make amends by undertaking a dangerous mission to the Moon to stop the attack.
* Thought the first two were better.

1x04 – Exposed (7.5/10)

* Colonel Paul Foster is a test pilot whose aircraft is accidentally caught up in a battle between an Unidentified Flying Object and a SHADO rocket. Foster's plane is shot down and his co-pilot is killed. When he comes round in hospital nobody will believe his fanciful story of what he saw. Until he is made an offer that he cannot refuse, namely an invitation to join SHADO and donate his skills or, quite simply, death.
* Was an entertaining episode. What strikes me is that Straker is not a man with much patience, not in general and not with his personnel. New character added, Paul Foster.

1x05 – Survival (7/10)

* Foster is stranded on the Moon and another astronaut is killed following an attack by aliens under cover of a meteor shower. Foster has lost contact with the Moonbase and is assumed to be dead so there is no search party. Then he meets an alien, also stranded, and the two have to work in a bizarre alliance in order to survive.
* Could perhaps I graded it too low, but was very tired. The ending was a bit cruel, killing the alien after Forster and him helped each other.

1x06 – Conflict (7/10)

* Lunar Module 32 is destroyed when a limpet craft operated by the aliens attaches itself to its side and causes it to enter Earth orbit at too steep an angle, by which it burns up in the atmosphere.
* The craft had been hiding behind space debris. Straker wishes to launch a program to clean up all space debris believing it could be used by UFOs. However, General James Henderson believes such a program will cost too much and believes SHADO as a separate entity should be disbanded.

1x07 - The Dalotek Affair (7/10)

* A meteorite lands on the Moon following an abortive UFO attack and the Moonbase's video and radio links with SHADO fail. Foster suspects that Dalotek, a private mining company with a nearby base whose operations are opposed by Straker, may have accidentally been using the SHADO frequency, but, even after a further black-out in which a module crashes fatally, Dalotek is ultimately exonerated. Foster has hit it off with Jane Carson, Dalotek's glamorous communications officer, but Dalotek staff are subjected to amnesia treatment to make them forget the incident so that, when she meets Foster a year later, she does not recognise him.

1x08 – A Question of Priorities (8/10)

* Straker's son John lives with Straker's ex-wife Mary, who has re-married. Straker is having a day out with the boy, John, but it ends in an argument with Mary and John is run over and seriously hurt. Drugs can be obtained to save him in America and a SHADO craft is sent to fetch them.
* However, Straker gets an alert call to say that an alien defector which could do untold damage to Earth is in the range of the SHADO craft. SHADO can destroy the alien because Freeman misinterpreted the order from Straker send a transporter, which was for his son. This means his son John cannot be saved.
* Best episode yet, could all have been prevented if Straker had talked to Alec about it. Now his son is dead.

1x09 – Ordeal (7/10)

* Following a wild night out with a girl called Sylvia, Foster is receiving a refreshing sauna bath at the SHADO health farm. Drifting into semi-consciousness, he comes to to find he has been abducted by an alien and is on a UFO, which is shot down onto the Moon's surface.
* He survives but has to be extremely careful how he removes the helmet he is wearing. Clumsy removal would kill him because of the breathing liquid it contains.

1x10 – The Responsibility Seat (7.5/10)

* Freelance journalist Jo Fraser comes to Straker's office, looking for a story but she plants a bug and absconds with the tape she has made of his conversations, having creamed him with a vase. He pursues and catches up with her ,taking her on a date and leaving Freeman in 'the responsibility chair' to make all the decisions. When a Russian mining company's vehicle runs amok on the moon and threatens the SHADO Moonbase it is down to Foster to save the day for Freeman.
* An entertaining episode, Straker out of his office, Freeman taking over his responsibilities. Straker very much wants Jo Fraser to be on the level, but to his disappointment she isn’t.

1x11 - The Square Triangle (6.5/10)

* Liz Newton and her lover Cass are planning the murder of Liz's husband Jack. A UFO craft lands near to her remote woodland cottage and an alien gets out to explore the surroundings. Believing the alien to be Jack, Liz and Cass shoot and kill it. Straker arrives in search of the alien and takes the couple away for questioning.
* In final moments we see that Liz is standing before a grave, a grave of her husband. Straker knew this could happen, but it was not his concern.

1x12 – Court Martial (7.5/10)

* Straker is being made aware of the fact that he has a spy in his team. Everything points to Foster. Foster however claims he is innocent.
* When he goes to trial he learns he will be put to death. He escapes to try and vindicate himself, meanwhile Straker’s investigation leads to another suspect which would absolve Foster altogether. But Henderson already has giving the order to shoot on sight! Note – Was a good episode, Straker going out of his way to prove Foster’s innocence.

1x13 – Close-up (7/10)

* Straker and the SHADO team are invited to sit in on the test for an immensely powerful new telescope as it takes the first known photographs of alien homeland. The photos are indeed taken but what will they reveal and will they have been worth it?
* When Kelly shows the worth of the photo’s, Straker is there for him, to get him his funds.

1x14 - Confetti Check A-O.K. (8/10)

* When the wife of a SHADO officer, Lieutenant Grey, gives birth, Straker's put in mind of events from a decade earlier, when he was still with his wife Mary.
* Having recently established SHADO, the responsibility and degree of commitment put a heavy strain on the marriage.
* Mary’s mother hired someone who saw him visiting another woman but it was professional, not sexual, and due to the secret nature of SHADO, he was unable to tell her the truth without jeopardizing the organization.
* Top 3 episode, we get to see how it all started with SHADO, the strain it had on his marriage. Mary having a hard time with her husband who is almost never home. I thought this was an excellent episode.

1x15 – ESP (7/10)

* John Croxley is a man with Extra Sensory Perception, which enables him to read the minds of other people, although he regards it as a curse and has sought medical aid. One day, following a dog-fight with a UFO craft, The UFO crashes into and destroys Croxley's house, at the same time causing the death of Croxley's wife.
* Holding Foster responsible for his bereavement, Croxley uses his powers to read Foster's mind and find out all about SHADO, which he intends to destroy.

1x16 – Kill Straker (7.5/10)

* Paul Foster and his co-pilot Frank Craig are attacked by a UFO which infiltrates their minds and hypnotises them into wanting to kill Straker. Straker actually saves their lives when their craft is about to be destroyed, but, on their return to SHADO, Craig makes an attempt on Straker's life whilst Foster seeks to discredit him.
* An interesting episode, Straker in a hot spot but still remains calm and tries to save Foster instead of burning him.

1x17 – Sub-Smash (8.5/10)

* After an underwater UFO has attacked and sunk a freight ship in the ocean, Straker, Foster and SHADO lieutenant Nina Barry join a submarine crew to find out what they can. However, they too are attacked by the UFO's vessel and, as a result, their submarine is grounded on a ledge. Straker has to overcome his claustrophobia in order to work out an escape plan.
* Perhaps my favorite episode till now, the tension, being couped up in that tight space, not sure if you are going to be saved. Straker who is claustrophobic, still does not panic and makes sure his co-workers first get the chance to escape to the surface. Really felt for Nina Barry who was stuck in that tube, talking about claustrophobia!
* There is no real continuity but still, make sure you watch two episodes first before watching this episode: A Question of Priorities & Confetti Check A-O.K.

1x18 – The Sound of Silence (7/10)

* An alien craft lands in woodland near the home of horseman Russell Stone. When Stone goes missing suspicion initially falls on Ben Culley, a tramp with whom Stone had recently argued over trespassing on his property. However, Culley is found dead and it seems likely that the green alien who killed him has captured Stone.The trail leads to a nearby lake where it seems likely that the alien is hiding. . .
* First episode without Alec Freeman (George Sewell), shame, think he was my fav character. Loyal to Straker, but not afraid to speak his mind, even when Straker didn’t like it or had another opinion.

1x19 – The Cat with ten Lives (7.5/10)

* SHADO pilot Jim Reagan is on leave and whilst driving down a country road with his wife at night, he sees a Siamese cat blocking his way. When he gets out to tend to the cat, he is rushed by aliens who abduct him and operate upon him. As a consequence, when he is returned to Earth he is totally under the influence of the cat and its commands - and the cat is at SHADO headquarters.
* Shame, Reagan character was funny, would have liked him as a recurring character.
* First theory was that the aliens used our organs because the aliens were a dying species, but Dr. Jackson now surmises after his last investigating on a dead alien body, that the aliens control the human body. First appearance of Virginia Lake (Wendy Ventham)

1x20 – Destruction (7/10)

* Aliens attempt to destroy a naval ship dumping toxic waste into the ocean but their craft is shot down. Straker is surprised to read the news of the incident as it was not a SHADO operation, and goes to see Admiral Sheringham at the Admiralty. Sheringham is not co-operative and Straker suspects a cover-up. He sends Foster to see if he can get more information from Sarah, the Admiral's secretary.
* Guest starring: Stephanie Beacham as Sarah Bosanquet. So young here, on SeaQuest I believe I had a crush on her and she is already twice her age she is here! 😊

1x21 – The Man Who Came Back (7.5/10)

* Craig Collins returns after his craft crash-landed in a jungle . Two whole months of his travels are unaccounted for, but he has become much rougher, stronger and sharper, though only Colonel John Grey seems to find any cause for concern and nobody else takes his views seriously.
* However, when Collins is in Space with Straker it becomes clear that aliens have taken over his mind and Straker has to try and literally talk sense into him
* Really didn’t like the character Craig from the very beginning. Still there is a story-arc building these last few episodes where the aliens take over the humans in some way, change them, their soul is gone, although Straker claims otherwise in the end when still trying to save Craig.

1x22 - The Psychobombs (7,5/10)

* A trio of innocent civilians, Linda Simmonds, Clem Mason and Daniel Clark are captured by aliens using a hypnotic signal and imbued with superhuman powers. Straker encounters Clark, who overpowers him and leaves him unconscious. When he comes round, Straker is given an ultimatum by the aliens. Unless SHADO ceases its operations, the trio will be sent in as suicide bombers to destroy it.
* A good episode, still ashame that Freeman is gone.

1x23 - Reflections in the Water (7,5/10)

* Following the sinking of a freighter ship and the death of an underwater cameraman, Straker and Foster take the submarine 'Skydiver' to examine the ocean bed. They come across a vast domed building and, from a distance, think they see SHADO Lieutenant Anderson in the dome. Back at headquarters Straker interviews Anderson, who claims to know nothing of the dome. It is part of an alien plot to create doubles of the SHADO staff - including Straker - to by-pass SHADO security systems. The dome has to be destroyed with its occupants. – Good episode

1x24 – Timelash (8/10)

* Straker and Lake are combatting someone (Turner) who is in league with the aliens who can meddle with time. Therefore Turner is almost invincible because he can move through time. Meanwhile the other SHADO crew are frozen in time and Straker gives himself shots to avoid being frozen in time also.
* At the end Turner does make an error because he truly believes he is unvincible, Straker, with his keen mind takes advantage of this and kills Turner.
* Note – Turner was hugely annoying but it was a strong episode. First time we get to see Lake in that purple blouse from the publicity photo’s.

1x25 – Mindbender (7.5/10)

* Lieutenant Andy Conroy is investigating a crash involving an alien craft on the Moon when he suddenly gets caught up in a Wild west type shoot-out with Mexican brigands. Back at the SHADO's earthly base another officer, Beaver James, gets involved in another shoot-out, this time with aliens. Then a voice shouts "Cut!" and the whole is seen to be a film being made at the studios telling the story of Straker's life. So what's real and what's imagined?
* Again he relives his son’s death in a movie, suggesting there is some continuation, the episodes on the DVD box seems to be in the correct order. Good episode.

1x26 – The Long Sleep (7.5/10)

* Ten years earlier Straker accidentally knocked Catherine Frazer down in his car as she was running away from something which frightened her and she has been unconscious ever since. Now Catherine awakes from her coma and explains that she and a boy named Tim whom she had not long met went to a derelict farm-house to take recreational drugs. There they saw two aliens planting a bomb. The couple ran off - Catherine into the path of Straker's car, Tim, she understood to have fallen off a roof and died. However, he was taken by the aliens who took him over and is now back, looking no older than he did ten years ago and about to set off the bomb.