

Star Trek

This article is about the Star Trek franchise. For other uses, see [Star Trek \(disambiguation\)](#).

Star Trek is an American science fiction media franchise based on the television series created by Gene Roddenberry. The first television series, simply called *Star Trek* and now referred to as *The Original Series*, debuted in 1966 and aired for three seasons on the television network NBC. It followed the interstellar adventures of Captain James T. Kirk (William Shatner) and his crew aboard the starship *USS Enterprise*, a space exploration vessel, built by the interstellar federal republic United Federation of Planets in the twenty-third century. The *Star Trek* canon of the franchise include *The Original Series*, an animated series, four television series, its film franchise and an upcoming television series scheduled to debut in 2017.

In creating *Star Trek*, Roddenberry was inspired by the *Horatio Hornblower* novels, the satirical book *Gulliver's Travels*, and by works of western genre such as the television series *Wagon Train*. These adventures continued in the short-lived *Star Trek: The Animated Series* and six feature films. Four spin-off television series were eventually produced: *Star Trek: The Next Generation* followed the crew of a new starship *Enterprise* set a century after the original series; *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* and *Star Trek: Voyager* set contemporaneously with *The Next Generation*; and *Star Trek: Enterprise* set before the original series in the early days of human interstellar travel. Four additional *The Next Generation* feature films were produced. In 2009, the film franchise underwent a “reboot” set in an alternate timeline, or “Kelvin Timeline”, titled simply *Star Trek*. This film featured a new cast portraying younger versions of the crew from the original show; their adventures were continued in the sequel film, *Star Trek Into Darkness* (2013). The thirteenth film feature and sequel, *Star Trek Beyond* (2016), was released to coincide with the franchise’s 50th anniversary. A new *Star Trek* TV series, titled *Star Trek: Discovery*, will premiere in May 2017 on the digital platform CBS All Access.

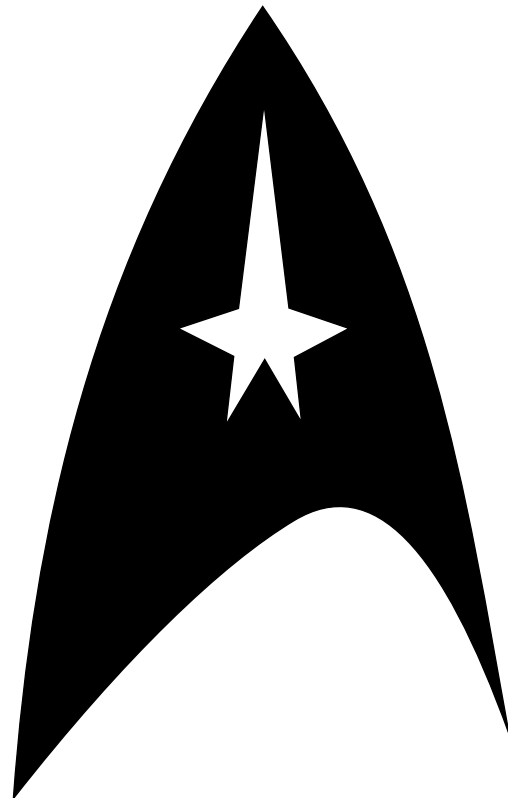
Star Trek has been a cult phenomenon for decades.^[1] Fans of the franchise are called Trekkies or Trekkers. The franchise spans a wide range of spin-offs including games, figurines, novels, toys, and comics. *Star Trek* had a themed attraction in Las Vegas that opened in 1998 and closed in September 2008. At least two museum exhibits of props travel the world. The series has its own full-fledged constructed language, Klingon. Several parodies have been made of *Star Trek*. In addition, viewers have produced several fan productions. As of July 2016, the

franchise had generated \$10 billion in revenue,^[2] making *Star Trek* one of the highest-grossing media franchises of all time.

Star Trek is noted for its cultural influence beyond works of science fiction. The franchise is also noted for its progressive civil rights stances.^[3] *The Original Series* included one of television’s first multiracial casts. *Star Trek* references can be found throughout popular culture from movies such as the submarine thriller *Crimson Tide* to the animated series *South Park*.

1 Background

1.1 Conception and setting



The Starfleet emblem as seen in the franchise.

As early as 1964, Gene Roddenberry drafted a proposal for the science-fiction series that would become *Star Trek*. Although he publicly marketed it as a Western in outer

space—a so-called "*Wagon Train* to the Stars"^[4]—he privately told friends that he was modeling it on Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, intending each episode to act on two levels: as a suspenseful adventure story and as a morality tale.^[5]

Most *Star Trek* stories depict the adventures of humans^[Note 1] and aliens who serve in *Starfleet*, the space-borne humanitarian and peacekeeping armada of the *United Federation of Planets*. The protagonists have altruistic values, and must apply these ideals to difficult dilemmas.

Many of the conflicts and political dimensions of *Star Trek* represent allegories of contemporary cultural realities. *Star Trek: The Original Series* addressed issues of the 1960s,^[6] just as later spin-offs have reflected issues of their respective decades. Issues depicted in the various series include war and peace, the value of personal loyalty, authoritarianism, imperialism, class warfare, economics, racism, religion, human rights, sexism, feminism, and the role of technology.^[7] Roddenberry stated: "[By creating] a new world with new rules, I could make statements about sex, religion, Vietnam, politics, and intercontinental missiles. Indeed, we did make them on *Star Trek*: we were sending messages and fortunately they all got by the network."^[8] "If you talked about purple people on a far off planet, they (the tv network) never really caught on. They were more concerned about cleavage. They actually would send a censor down to the set to measure a woman's cleavage to make sure too much of her breast wasn't showing"^[9]

Roddenberry intended the show to have a progressive political agenda reflective of the emerging counter-culture of the youth movement, though he was not fully forthcoming to the networks about this. He wanted *Star Trek* to show humanity what it might develop into, if it would learn from the lessons of the past, most specifically by ending violence. An extreme example is the alien species, the Vulcans, who had a violent past but learned to control their emotions. Roddenberry also gave *Star Trek* an anti-war message and depicted the United Federation of Planets as an ideal, optimistic version of the United Nations.^[10] His efforts were opposed by the network because of concerns over marketability, e.g., they opposed Roddenberry's insistence that *Enterprise* have a racially diverse crew.^[11]

1.2 Mythology

The central trio of Kirk, Spock and McCoy from *Star Trek: The Original Series* was modeled on classical mythological storytelling.^[12]

William Shatner said: "There is a mythological component [to pop culture], especially with science fiction. It's people looking for answers – and science fiction offers to explain the inexplicable, the same as religion tends to do... If we accept the premise that it has a mythological

element, then all the stuff about going out into space and meeting new life – trying to explain it and put a human element to it – it's a hopeful vision. All these things offer hope and imaginative solutions for the future."^[13]

Richard Lutz wrote: "The enduring popularity of *Star Trek* is due to the underlying mythology which binds fans together by virtue of their shared love of stories involving exploration, discovery, adventure and friendship that promote an egalitarian and peace loving society where technology and diversity are valued rather than feared and citizens work together for the greater good. Thus *Star Trek* offers a hopeful vision of the future and a template for our lives and our society that we can aspire to."^[14]

2 History and production

2.1 Beginnings



Star Trek creator, producer and writer Gene Roddenberry

In early 1964, Roddenberry presented a brief treatment for a proposed *Star Trek* TV series to Desilu Productions comparing it to *Wagon Train*, "a *Wagon Train* to the stars."^[15] Desilu worked with Roddenberry to develop the treatment into a script, which was then pitched to NBC.^[16]

NBC paid to make a pilot, "The Cage", starring Jeffrey Hunter as *Enterprise* Captain Christopher Pike. NBC rejected *The Cage*, but the executives were still impressed with the concept, and made the unusual decision to commission a second pilot: "Where No Man Has Gone Before".^[16]

The first regular episode ("The Man Trap") of *Star Trek: The Original Series* aired on Thursday, September 8,



Commander Spock and Captain James T. Kirk, played by Leonard Nimoy and William Shatner, pictured here in The Original Series.

1966.^{[17][Note 2]}

While the show initially enjoyed high ratings, the average rating of the show at the end of its first season dropped to 52nd (out of 94 programs).

Unhappy with the show's ratings, NBC threatened to cancel the show during its second season.^[18] The show's fan base, led by Bjo Trimble, conducted an unprecedented letter-writing campaign, petitioning the network to keep the show on the air.^{[18][19]} NBC renewed the show, but moved it from primetime to the "Friday night death slot", and substantially reduced its budget.^[20] In protest Roddenberry resigned as producer and reduced his direct involvement in *Star Trek*, which led to Fred Freiberger becoming producer for the show's third and final season.^[Note 3] Despite another letter-writing campaign, NBC cancelled the series after three seasons and 79 episodes.^[16]

2.2 Rebirth

After the original series was cancelled, Paramount Studios, which had bought the series from Desilu, licensed the broadcast syndication rights to help recoup the production losses. Reruns began in the fall of 1969 and by the late 1970s the series aired in over 150 domestic and 60 international markets. This helped *Star Trek* develop a cult following greater than its popularity during its original run.^[21]

One sign of the series' growing popularity was the first

Star Trek convention which occurred on January 21–23, 1972 in New York City. Although the original estimate of attendees was only a few hundred, several thousand fans turned up. *Star Trek* fans continue to attend similar conventions worldwide.^[22]

The series' newfound success led to the idea of reviving the franchise.^[23] Filmmation with Paramount Television produced the first post original series show, *Star Trek: The Animated Series*. It ran on NBC for 22 half-hour episodes over two seasons on Saturday mornings from 1973 to 1974.^[24] Although short-lived, typical for animated productions in that time slot during that period, the series garnered the franchise's only "Best Series" Emmy Award as opposed to the franchise's later technical ones. Paramount Pictures and Roddenberry began developing a new series, *Star Trek: Phase II*, in May 1975 in response to the franchise's newfound popularity. Work on the series ended, however, when the proposed Paramount Television Service folded.

Following the success of the science fiction movies *Star Wars* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, Paramount adapted the planned pilot episode of *Phase II* into the feature film *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*. The film opened in North America on December 7, 1979, with mixed reviews from critics. The film earned \$139 million worldwide, below expectations but enough for Paramount to create a sequel. The studio forced Roddenberry to relinquish creative control of future sequels.

The success of the critically acclaimed sequel, *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*, reversed the fortunes of the franchise. While the sequel grossed less than the first movie, *The Wrath of Khan*'s lower production costs made it net more profit. Paramount produced six *Star Trek* feature films between 1979 and 1991. In response to the popularity of *Star Trek* feature films, the franchise returned to television with *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (TNG) in 1987. Paramount chose to distribute it as a first-run syndication show rather than a network show.^[25]

2.3 After Roddenberry

Following *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*, Roddenberry's role was changed from producer to creative consultant with minimal input to the films while being heavily involved with the creation of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Roddenberry died on October 24, 1991, giving executive producer Rick Berman control of the franchise.^{[26][27]} *Star Trek* had become known to those within Paramount as "the franchise", because of its great success and recurring role as a tent pole for the studio when other projects failed.^[28] TNG had the highest ratings of any *Star Trek* series and became the #1 syndicated show during the last years of its original seven-season run.^[29] In response to TNG's success, Paramount released a spin-off series *Deep Space Nine* in 1993. While never as popular as TNG, the series had sufficient ratings for it

to last seven seasons.

In January 1995, a few months after *TNG* ended, Paramount released a fourth TV series, *Voyager*. *Star Trek* saturation reached a peak in the mid-1990s with *DS9* and *Voyager* airing concurrently and three of the four *TNG*-based feature films released in 1994, 1996, and 1998. By 1998, *Star Trek* was Paramount's most important property; the enormous profits of "the franchise" funded much of the rest of the studio's operations.^{[30]:49–50,54} *Voyager* became the flagship show of the new **United Paramount Network** (UPN) and thus the first major network *Star Trek* series since the original.^[31]

After *Voyager* ended, UPN produced *Enterprise*, a prequel TV series to the original show. *Enterprise* did not enjoy the high ratings of its predecessors and UPN threatened to cancel it after the series' third season. Fans launched a campaign reminiscent of the one that saved the third season of the *Original Series*. Paramount renewed *Enterprise* for a fourth season,^[32] but moved it to the **Friday night death slot**.^[33] Like the *Original Series*, *Enterprise* ratings dropped during this time slot, and UPN cancelled *Enterprise* at the end of its fourth season. *Enterprise* aired its final episode on May 13, 2005.^[34] Fan groups, "Save *Enterprise*", attempted to save the series^[35] and tried to raise \$30 million to privately finance a fifth season of *Enterprise*.^[35] Though the effort garnered considerable press, the fan drive failed to save the series. The cancellation of *Enterprise* ended an eighteen-year continuous production run of *Star Trek* programming on television. The poor box office performance in 2002 of the film *Nemesis*, cast an uncertain light upon the future of the franchise. Paramount relieved Berman, the franchise producer, of control of *Star Trek*.

2.4 Reboot

Paramount turned down several proposals in the mid-2000s to restart the franchise. These included pitches from film director **Bryan Singer**,^[36] *Babylon 5* creator **J. Michael Straczynski**,^[37] and *Trek* actors **Jonathan Frakes** and **William Shatner**.^[38] The studio also turned down an animated **web series**.^[39] Instead, Paramount hired a new creative team to reinvigorate the franchise in 2007. Writers **Roberto Orci** and **Alex Kurtzman** and *Lost* producer, **J. J. Abrams**, had the freedom to reinvent the feel of *Trek*.

The team created the franchise's eleventh film, titled simply *Star Trek*, releasing it in May 2009. The film featured a new cast portraying the crew of the original show. *Star Trek* was a prequel of the original series set in an alternate timeline, known as the "Kelvin Timeline". This gave the film and future sequels to it freedom from the need to conform to the franchise's canonical timeline. The eleventh *Star Trek* film's marketing campaign targeted non-fans, even stating in the film's advertisements that "this is not your father's *Star Trek*".^[40]

The film earned considerable critical and financial success, grossing in inflation-adjusted dollars more box office sales than any previous *Star Trek* film.^[41] The plaudits include the franchise's first **Academy Award** (for **makeup**). The film's major cast members are contracted for two sequels.^[42] Paramount's sequel to the 2009 film, *Star Trek Into Darkness*, premiered in Sydney, Australia on April 23, 2013, but the film did not release in the United States until May 17, 2013.^[43] While the film was not as successful in the North American box office as its predecessor, internationally, in terms of box office receipts, *Into Darkness* was the most successful of the franchise.^[44] A thirteenth film titled *Star Trek Beyond* was released on July 22, 2016.^[45]

The franchise will return to the small screen in the show *Star Trek: Discovery*.^[46] The series will not be on network TV but it will stream in the United States and Canada on **CBS All Access** and internationally on **Netflix**.^[47] The production of the series has been delayed indefinitely.^[48]

3 Television series

Six television series make up the bulk of the *Star Trek* mythos: *The Original Series*, *The Animated Series*, *The Next Generation*, *Deep Space Nine*, *Voyager*, and *Enterprise*. All the different versions in total amount to 726 *Star Trek* episodes across the 30 seasons of the TV series.^[Note 4]

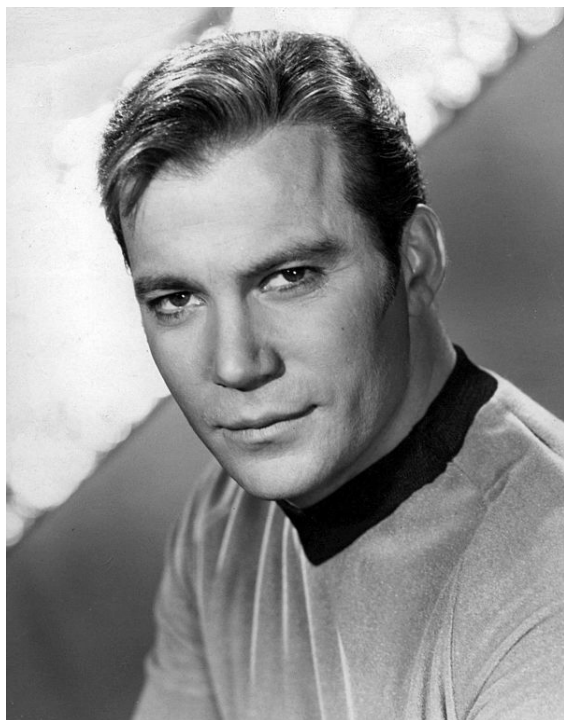
3.1 The Original Series (1966–69)



The Original Series logo, common throughout the franchise.

Main article: [Star Trek: The Original Series](#)

Star Trek: The Original Series or "*TOS*"^[Note 5] debuted in the United States on NBC on September 8, 1966.^[49] The show tells the tale of the crew of the starship *Enterprise* and its five-year mission "to boldly go where no man has gone before." The original 1966–69 television series featured **William Shatner** as Captain **James T. Kirk**, **Leonard Nimoy** as **Spock**, **DeForest Kelley** as **Dr. Leonard "Bones" McCoy**, **James Doohan** as **Montgomery "Scotty" Scott**, **Nichelle Nichols** as **Uhura**, **George Takei** as **Hikaru Sulu**, and **Walter Koenig** as **Pavel Chekov**.^[50] During the series' original run, it earned several nominations for the **Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation** and won twice: for the two-parter "The Menagerie" and the **Harlan Ellison**-written episode "The City on the Edge of Forever".^[51]



William Shatner played the unflappable Captain James T. Kirk in The Original Series, The Animated Series, and seven films, helping to create the standard for all subsequent fictional Starfleet captains.

NBC canceled the show after three seasons; the last original episode aired on June 3, 1969.^{[52][53]} The petition near the end of the second season to save the show signed by many Caltech students and its multiple Hugo nominations would, however, indicate that despite low Nielsen ratings, it was highly popular with science fiction fans and engineering students.^[54] The series later became popular in reruns and found a cult following.^[49]

3.2 The Animated Series (1973–74)



The Animated Series logo

Main article: [Star Trek: The Animated Series](#)

Star Trek: The Animated Series, produced by Filmation, ran for two seasons from 1973 to 1974. Most of the original cast performed the voices of their characters from *The Original Series*, and many of the writers who worked on *The Original Series*, D. C. Fontana, David Gerrold, and

Paul Schneider, wrote for the series. While the animated format allowed the producers to create more exotic alien landscapes and life forms, animation errors and liberal reuse of shots and musical cues have tarnished the series' reputation.^[55] Although it was originally sanctioned by Paramount, which owned the *Star Trek* franchise following its acquisition of *Desilu* in 1967, Gene Roddenberry often spoke of *TAS* as *non-canon*.^[56] *Star Trek* writers have used elements of the animated series in later live-action series and films, and as of June 2007, *TAS* has references in the library section of the official [Startrek.com](#) web site officially bringing the series into the franchise's main canon.

The Animated Series won *Star Trek*'s first **Emmy Award** on May 15, 1975.^[57] *Star Trek: TAS* briefly returned to television in the mid-1980s on the children's cable network **Nickelodeon**. Nickelodeon's Evan McGuire greatly admired the show and used its various creative components as inspiration for his short series called *Piggly Wiggly Hears a Sound* which never aired. Nickelodeon parent **Viacom** would purchase Paramount in 1994. In the early 1990s, the **Sci-Fi Channel** also began rerunning *TAS*. The complete *TAS* was also released on **Laserdisc** format during the 1980s.^[58] The complete series was first released in the U.S. on eleven volumes of VHS tapes in 1989. All 22 episodes were released on DVD in 2006.

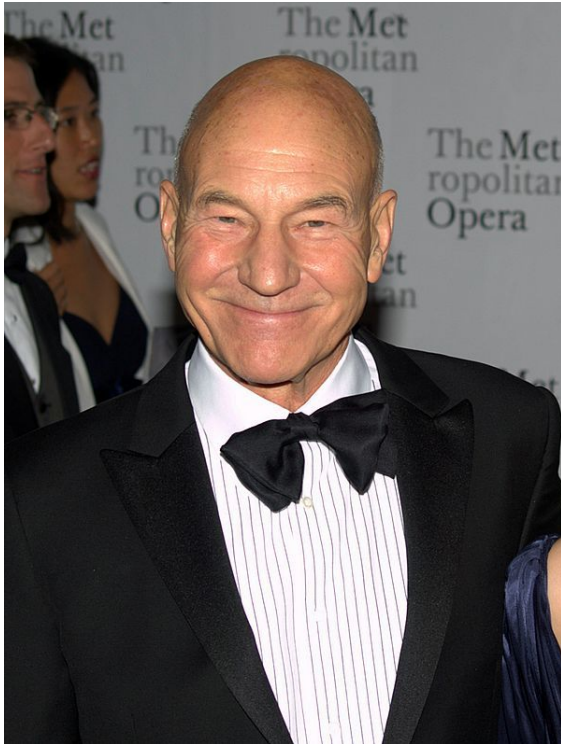
3.3 The Next Generation (1987–94)



The Next Generation logo

Main article: [Star Trek: The Next Generation](#)

Star Trek: The Next Generation, also known as "*TNG*", takes place about a century after *The Original Series* (2364–2370). It features a new starship, *Enterprise-D*, and a new crew led by Captain Jean-Luc Picard (Patrick Stewart) and Commander William Riker (Jonathan Frakes). Some crewmembers represent new alien races, including Deanna Troi, a half-Betazoid counselor played by Marina Sirtis. Michael Dorn plays Worf, the first Klingon officer in Starfleet, alongside Gates McFadden as Dr. Beverly Crusher, LeVar Burton as chief engineer Geordi La Forge, the android Data portrayed by Brent Spiner, and Dr. Crusher's son Wesley Crusher played by Wil Wheaton. The show premiered on September 28, 1987, and ran for seven seasons, ending on May 23, 1994.^[59] It had the highest ratings of any of the *Star Trek* series and became the #1 syndicated show during



Sir Patrick Stewart, who played Captain Jean-Luc Picard in The Next Generation and subsequent films.

the last few years of its original run, allowing it to act as a springboard for ideas in other series. Many relationships and races introduced in *TNG* became the basis of episodes in *Deep Space 9* and *Voyager*.^[29] During its run it earned several Emmy awards and nominations – including a nomination for Best Dramatic Series during its final season – two Hugo Awards and a Peabody Award for Outstanding Television Programming for the episode "The Big Goodbye".^[60]

3.4 *Deep Space Nine* (1993–99)



The Deep Space Nine logo

Main article: [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine](#)

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, also known as "*DS9*", takes place during the last years and the immediate post-years of *The Next Generation* (2369–2375) and aired for seven seasons, debuting the week of January 3, 1993.^[61] Like *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, it aired in syndication in the United States and Canada. Unlike the other *Star Trek* series, *DS9* takes place primarily on a space station rather



Avery Brooks played Captain Benjamin Sisko in Deep Space Nine, commander of the titular space station and Emissary of the Prophets.

than aboard a starship.

The show begins after the brutal Cardassian occupation of the planet Bajor. The liberated Bajoran people ask the United Federation of Planets to help run a Cardassian built space station, *Deep Space Nine*, near Bajor. After the Federation takes control of the station, the protagonists of the show discover a uniquely stable wormhole that provides immediate access to the distant Gamma Quadrant making Bajor and the station one of the most strategically important locations in the galaxy.^[62] The show chronicles the events of the station's crew, led by Commander (later Captain) Benjamin Sisko, played by Avery Brooks, and Major (later Colonel) Kira Nerys, played by Nana Visitor. Recurring plot elements include the repercussions of the Cardassian occupation of Bajor, Sisko's spiritual role for the Bajorans as the Emissary of the Prophets, and in later seasons a war with the Dominion.

Deep Space Nine stands apart from earlier *Trek* series for its lengthy serialized storytelling, conflict within the crew, and religious themes—all elements that critics and audiences praised but Roddenberry forbade in the original series and *The Next Generation*.^[63] Nevertheless, he was informed before his death of *DS9*, making this the last *Star Trek* series connected to Gene Roddenberry.^[64]

3.5 *Voyager* (1995–2001)

Main article: [Star Trek: Voyager](#)

Star Trek: Voyager ran for seven seasons, airing from January 16, 1995, to May 23, 2001, launching a new



Voyager logo



Kate Mulgrew, who played Captain Kathryn Janeway, the lead character in *Voyager*, and the first female commanding officer in a leading role of a *Star Trek* series.

Paramount-owned television network UPN. It features Kate Mulgrew as Captain Kathryn Janeway,^[65] the first female commanding officer in a leading role of a *Star Trek* series, and Commander Chakotay, played by Robert Beltran.

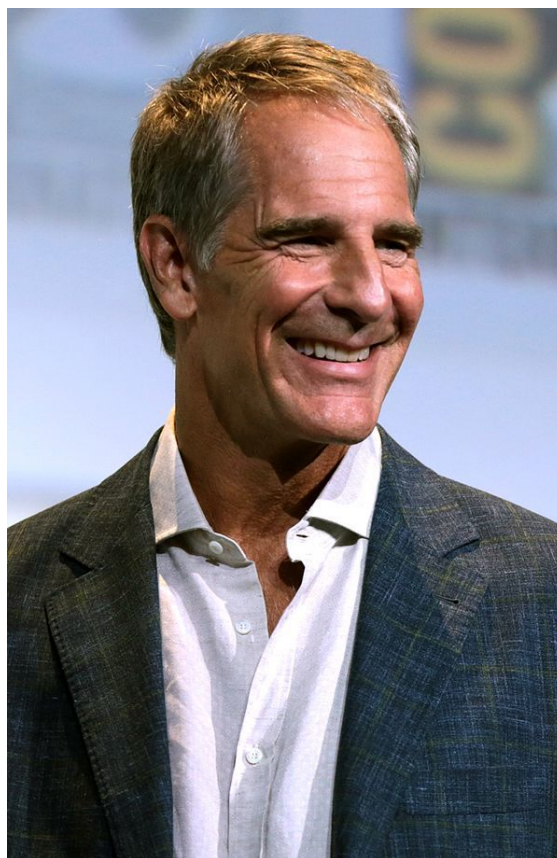
Voyager takes place at about the same time period as *Deep Space Nine* and the years following that show's end (2371–2378). The premiere episode has the USS *Voyager* and its crew pursue a Maquis (Federation rebels) ship. Both ships become stranded in the Delta Quadrant about 70,000 light-years from Earth.^[66] Faced with a 75-year voyage to Earth, the crew must learn to work together to overcome challenges on their long and perilous journey home while also seeking ways to shorten the voyage. Like *Deep Space Nine*, early seasons of *Voyager* feature more conflict between its crewmembers than seen in later episodes. Such conflict often arises from friction between “by-the-book” Starfleet crew and rebellious Maquis fugitives forced by circumstance to work together on *Voyager*. Eventually, though, they settle their differences, after which the overall tone becomes more

reminiscent of *The Original Series*. The starship *Voyager*, isolated from its home, faces new cultures and dilemmas not possible in shows based in the Alpha Quadrant. Later seasons, however, brought an influx of characters and cultures from prior shows, the Borg, Q, the Ferengi, Romulans, Klingons, Cardassians and cast members of *The Next Generation*.

3.6 Enterprise (2001–05)



Enterprise logo. The show originally did not include “Star Trek” in its name and logo, adding it later on in the show’s run.



Science fiction veteran Scott Bakula played Captain Jonathan Archer, the lead character in *Enterprise*, a prequel to the original show.

Main article: [Star Trek: Enterprise](#)

Star Trek: Enterprise, originally titled *Enterprise*, is a prequel to the original *Star Trek* series. It aired from September 26, 2001 to May 13, 2005.^[67] *Enterprise* takes place in the 2150s, some 90 years after the events of Zefram Cochrane's first warp flight and about a decade

before the founding of the Federation. The show centers on the voyages of Earth's first warp-drive capable starship, *Enterprise*, commanded by Captain **Jonathan Archer** (played by **Scott Bakula**), and the Vulcan Sub-Commander **T'Pol** (played by **Jolene Blalock**).

During the show's first two seasons, *Enterprise* featured self-contained episodes, like *The Original Series*, *The Next Generation* and *Voyager*. The third season consisted of one arc, "**Xindi mission**", which had a darker tone and serialized nature similar to that of *Deep Space 9*. Season 4 consisted of several mini-arcs composed of two to three episodes. The final season showed the origins of elements seen in earlier series, and it rectified and resolved some core continuity problems between the various *Star Trek* series. Ratings for *Enterprise* started strong but declined rapidly. Although critics received the fourth season well, both fans and the cast reviled the series **finale**, partly because of the episode's focus on the guest appearance of members of *The Next Generation* cast.^[68] The cancellation of *Enterprise* ended an 18-year run of back-to-back new *Star Trek* shows beginning with *The Next Generation* in 1987.

3.7 Discovery (TBA)



Discovery *logo*

Main article: [Star Trek: Discovery](#)

On November 2, 2015, it was announced that a new *Star Trek* TV series is in development by **Alex Kurtzman**.^[46] Netflix is funding the show. The new series will premiere in the United States and Canada on **CBS All Access**, while Netflix and will stream the show outside the United States.^[47] While originally scheduled to be released in 2017, the premiere has been delayed indefinitely.^[48]

4 Feature films



The reboot film series logo

Main article: [Star Trek \(film series\)](#)

Paramount Pictures has produced thirteen *Star Trek* feature films, the most recent being released in July 2016.^[69] The first six films continue the adventures of the cast of *The Original Series*; the seventh film, *Generations* was designed as a transition from that cast to *The Next Generation* television series; the next three films, 8–10, focused completely on the *Next Generation* cast.^[Note 6] Starting with the eleventh film the movies take place in an alternate timeline with a new cast playing the original series characters. Leonard Nimoy portrays as an elderly Spock in these films, providing a physical link to the original timeline. This alternate timeline has been named by CBS, for the computer game *Star Trek Online*, the Kelvin Timeline. *Star Trek, Into Darkness*, and *Beyond* occur in a separate timeline from the rest of the series.^[70]

5 Merchandise

Main article: [Star Trek spin-off fiction](#)

Many licensed products are based on the *Star Trek* franchise. Merchandising is very lucrative for both studio and actors; by 1986 Nimoy had earned more than \$500,000 from royalties.^[71] Products include novels, comic books, video games, and other materials, which are generally considered **non-canon**. It was estimated that Star Trek Merchandise has generated \$4 Billion for Paramount by 1999.^[72]

5.1 Books

Main article: [List of Star Trek novels](#)

Since 1967, hundreds of original novels, short stories, and television and movie adaptations have been published. The first original *Star Trek* novel was *Mission to Horatius* by **Mack Reynolds**, which was published in hardcover by **Whitman Books** in 1968.^[73]

The first publisher of *Star Trek* fiction aimed at adult readers was **Bantam Books**. In 1970, **James Blish** wrote the first original *Star Trek* novel published by Bantam, *Spock Must Die!*.^[74] **Pocket Books** is the publisher of *Star Trek* novels.

Prolific *Star Trek* novelists include **Peter David**, **Diane Carey**, **Keith R. A. DeCandido**, **J. M. Dillard**, **Diane Duane**, **Michael Jan Friedman**, and **Judith and Garfield Reeves-Stevens**. Several actors from the television series have also written or co-written books featuring their respective characters: **William Shatner**, **John de Lancie**, **Andrew J. Robinson**, **J. G. Hertzler** and **Armin Shimerman**. *Voyager* producer **Jeri Taylor** wrote two novels featuring back story for *Voyager* characters, and screen authors **David Gerrold**, **D. C. Fontana**, and **Melinda Snodgrass** have penned books, as well.

A scholarly book published by Springer Science+Business Media in 2014 discusses the actualization of *Star Trek*'s holodeck in the future by making extensive use of artificial intelligence and cyborgs.^[75]

5.2 Comics

Main article: *Star Trek* (comics)

Star Trek-based comics have been almost continuously published since 1967. They have been offered by several companies, including **Marvel**, **DC**, **Malibu**, **Wildstorm**, and **Gold Key**. **Tokyopop** is publishing an anthology of *Next Generation*-based stories presented in the style of Japanese *manga*.^[76] As of 2006, **IDW Publishing** secured publishing rights to *Star Trek* comics^[77] and published a prequel to the 2009 film, *Star Trek: Countdown*. In 2012, they published Volume I of *Star Trek – The Newspaper Strip* featuring the work of Thomas Warkentin.^[78]

5.3 Games

Main article: *History of Star Trek games*

The *Star Trek* franchise has numerous games in many formats. Beginning in 1967 with a **board game** based on the original series and continuing through today with online and DVD games, *Star Trek* games continue to be popular among fans.

Video games of the series include *Star Trek: Legacy* and *Star Trek: Conquest*. An MMORPG based on *Star Trek* called *Star Trek Online* was developed by **Cryptic Studios** and published by **Perfect World**. It is set in the TNG universe about 30 years after the events of *Star Trek: Nemesis*.^[79] The most recent video game, set in the new timeline debuted in J. J. Abrams's film, was titled *Star Trek*.

On June 8, 2010, **Wiz Kids Games**, which is owned by **NECA**, announced that they are developing a *Star Trek* collectible miniatures game using the **HeroClix** game system.^[80]

5.4 Magazines

Star Trek has led directly or indirectly to the creation of a number of magazines which focus either on science fiction or specifically on *Star Trek*. *Starlog* was a magazine which was founded in the 1970s. Initially, its focus was on *Star Trek* actors, but then it began to expand its scope.

In 2013, *Star Trek Magazine* was a significant publication from the U.K. which was sold at newsstands and also via subscription. Other magazines through the years included professional magazines as well as magazines produced by fans, referred to as "fanzines". *Star Trek: The Magazine*

was a magazine published in the U.S. which ceased publication in 2003.

6 Cultural impact

Main article: *Cultural influence of Star Trek*

The *Star Trek* media franchise is a multibillion-dollar in-



Prototype space shuttle Enterprise named after the fictional starship with Star Trek television cast members and creator Gene Roddenberry.

dustry, owned by CBS.^[81] Gene Roddenberry sold *Star Trek* to **NBC** as a classic adventure drama; he pitched the show as "*Wagon Train to the Stars*" and as **Horatio Hornblower in Space**.^[12] The opening line, "to boldly go where no man has gone before," was taken almost verbatim from a U.S. **White House** booklet on space produced after the **Sputnik** flight in 1957.^[82] The central trio of Kirk, Spock, and **McCoy** was modeled on **classical mythological storytelling**.^[12]

Star Trek and its spin-offs have proven highly popular in syndication and are shown on TV stations worldwide.^[83] The show's cultural impact goes far beyond its longevity and profitability. *Star Trek* conventions have become popular among its fans, who call themselves "trekkies" or "trekkers". An entire subculture has grown up around the show^[84] which was documented in the film *Trekkies*. *Star Trek* was the highest-ranked cult show by *TV Guide*.^[85] The franchise has also garnered many comparisons of the *Star Wars* franchise being rivals in the science fiction genre with many fans and scholars.^{[86][87][88]}

The *Star Trek* franchise inspired some designers of technologies, the **Palm PDA** and the handheld mobile phone.^{[89][90]} Michael Jones, Chief technologist of **Google Earth**, has cited the **tricorder's** mapping capability as one inspiration in the development of **Keyhole/Google Earth**.^[91] The **Tricorder X Prize**, a contest to build a medical tricorder device was announced in 2012. Ten finalists have been selected in 2014, and the winner will be selected in January 2016. *Star Trek* also brought teleportation to popular attention with its depiction of

“matter-energy transport”, with the famously misquoted phrase “Beam me up, Scotty” entering the vernacular.^[92] The *Star Trek* replicator is credited in the scientific literature with inspiring the field of *diatom nanotechnology*.^[93] In 1976, following a letter-writing campaign, NASA named its prototype space shuttle *Enterprise*, after the fictional starship.^[94] Later, the introductory sequence to *Star Trek: Enterprise* included footage of this shuttle which, along with images of a naval sailing vessel called *Enterprise*, depicted the advancement of human transportation technology. Additionally, some contend that the *Star Trek* society resembles communism.^{[95][96]}

Beyond *Star Trek*'s fictional innovations, its contributions to TV history included a multicultural and multiracial cast. While more common in subsequent years, in the 1960s it was controversial to feature an *Enterprise* crew that included a Japanese helmsman, a Russian navigator, a black female communications officer, and a Vulcan-Human first officer. Captain Kirk's and Lt. Uhura's kiss, in the episode “Plato's Stepchildren”, was also daring, and is often mis-cited as being American television's first scripted, interracial kiss, even though several other interracial kisses predated this one.^[97] In an interview Nichelle Nichols, who played the black female communications officer, said that the day after she told Roddenberry she planned to leave the show, she was at a fundraiser at the NAACP and was told there was a big fan who wanted to meet her. Nichols said,

I thought it was a Trekkie, and so I said, 'Sure.' I looked across the room, and there was Dr. Martin Luther King walking towards me with this big grin on his face. He reached out to me and said, 'Yes, Ms. Nichols, I am your greatest fan.' He said that *Star Trek* was the only show that he, and his wife Coretta, would allow their three little children to stay up and watch. [She told King about her plans to leave the series.] I never got to tell him why, because he said, 'You can't. You're part of history.'

When she told Roddenberry what King had said, he cried.^[98]

6.1 Parodies

Early TV comedy sketch parodies of *Star Trek* included a famous sketch on *Saturday Night Live* titled “The Last Voyage of the Starship Enterprise”, with John Belushi as Kirk, Chevy Chase as Spock and Dan Aykroyd as McCoy.^[99] In the 1980s, *Saturday Night Live* did a sketch with William Shatner reprising his Captain Kirk role in *The Restaurant Enterprise*, preceded by a sketch in which he played himself at a *Trek* convention angrily telling fans to “Get a Life”, a phrase that has become part of *Trek* folklore.^[100] In *Living Color* continued the tradition in a

sketch where Captain Kirk is played by a fellow Canadian Jim Carrey.^[101]

A feature-length film that indirectly parodies *Star Trek* is *Galaxy Quest*. This film is based on the premise that aliens monitoring the broadcast of an Earth-based TV series called *Galaxy Quest*, modeled heavily on *Star Trek*, believe that what they are seeing is real.^[102] Many *Star Trek* actors have been quoted saying that *Galaxy Quest* was a brilliant parody.^{[103][104]}

Star Trek has been blended with Gilbert and Sullivan at least twice. The North Toronto Players presented a *Star Trek* adaptation of Gilbert & Sullivan titled *H.M.S. Starship Pinafore: The Next Generation* in 1991 and an adaptation by Jon Mullich of Gilbert & Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore* that sets the operetta in the world of *Star Trek* has played in Los Angeles and was attended by series luminaries Nichelle Nichols, D.C. Fontana and David Gerrold.^[105] A similar blend of Gilbert and Sullivan and *Star Trek* was presented as a benefit concert in San Francisco by the Lamplighters in 2009. The show was titled *Star Trek: The Generation After That*. It presented an original story with Gilbert and Sullivan melodies.^[106]

Both *The Simpsons* and *Futurama* television series and others have had many individual episodes parodying *Star Trek* or with *Trek* allusions.^[107] An entire series of films and novels from Finland titled *Star Wreck* also parodies *Star Trek*.

In August 2010, the members of the Internal Revenue Service created a *Star Trek* themed training video for a conference. Revealed to the public in 2013, the spoof along with parodies of other media franchises was cited as an example of the misuse of taxpayer funds in a congressional investigation.^{[108][109]}

Star Trek has been parodied in several non-English movies, including the German *Traumschiff Surprise - Periode 1* which features a gay version of The Original Series bridge crew and a Turkish film that spoofs that same series' episode “The Man Trap” in one of the series of films based on the character Turist Ömer.

6.2 Notable fan fiction

Main article: *Star Trek* fan productions

Although *Star Trek* has been off the air since 2005, CBS and Paramount pictures have allowed fan-produced shows to be created. While not officially part of the *Star Trek* universe, several veteran *Star Trek* actors, actresses, and writers have contributed their talents to many of these productions. While none of these films have been created for profit, several fan productions have turned to crowdfunding from sites, such as Kickstarter to help with production costs.^[110]

Two series set during the *TOS* time period are *Star Trek*

Continues and the Hugo award nominated *Star Trek: Phase II*. Another series, *Star Trek: Hidden Frontier*, takes place on the Briar Patch, a region of space introduced in *Star Trek Insurrection*. It has had over 50 episodes produced, and has two spin-off series, *Star Trek: Odyssey* and *Star Trek: The Helena Chronicles*. Several standalone fan films have been created including *Star Trek: Of Gods and Men*. Future fan films include *Star Trek: Axanar*.^[111] Audio only fan productions includes *Star Trek: The Continuing Mission*. Several fan film parodies have also been created.

The original *Star Trek* series is also notable for giving rise to *slash fiction*, a genre of fan-produced in-universe fiction where normally non-romantic same-sex characters are portrayed as being a romantic couple, notably “Kirk/Spock” stories. These began appearing in the early 1970s, generally written by female fans of the show.^{[112][113]} Over the intervening decades, especially with the advent of the internet, slash fanfiction has become its own thriving fandom.^{[114][115]}

In 2016, Paramount and CBS instituted strict fan guidelines on fan films. Notable guidelines include a maximum length of 15 minutes, a maximum fund limit of \$50,000, and a ban on using individuals previously associated with *Star Trek* productions.^[116] This has shut down all of the highly publicized fan film productions ending what has been called a “golden age of amateur *Star Trek* films”.^[117]

7 Awards and honors

Of the various science fiction awards for drama, only the *Hugo Award* dates back as far as the original series.^[Note 11] In 1968, all five nominees for a Hugo Award were individual episodes of *Star Trek*, as were three of the five nominees in 1967.^{[51][Note 12]} The only *Star Trek* series not even to get a Hugo nomination are the animated series and *Voyager*, though only the original series and *Next Generation* ever won the award. No *Star Trek* feature film has ever won a Hugo, though a few were nominated. In 2008, the fan-made episode of *Star Trek: New Voyages* entitled “World Enough and Time” was nominated for the Hugo for Best Short Drama.^[118]

The two *Star Trek* series to win multiple *Saturn awards* during their run were *The Next Generation* (twice winning for best television series) and *Voyager* (twice winning for best actress – *Kate Mulgrew* and *Jeri Ryan*).^[Note 13] The original series retroactively won a Saturn Award for best DVD release. Several *Star Trek* films have won Saturns including categories best actor, actress, director, costume design, and special effects. However, *Star Trek* has never won a Saturn for best make-up.^[119]

As for non science fiction specific awards, the *Star Trek* series have won 31 *Emmy Awards*.^[120] The eleventh *Star Trek* film won the 2009 Academy Award for Best Makeup and Hairstyling, the franchise’s first Academy Award.^[121]

8 Corporate ownership

At *Star Trek*’s creation, Norway Productions, Roddenberry’s production company, shared ownership with *Desilu Productions* and, after *Gulf+Western* acquired *Desilu* in 1967, with Paramount Pictures, the conglomerate’s film studio. Paramount did not want to own the unsuccessful show; net profit was to be shared between Norway, *Desilu/Paramount*, *Shatner*, and *NBC* but *Star Trek* lost money, and the studio did not expect to syndicate it. In 1970 Paramount offered to sell all rights to *Star Trek* to Roddenberry, but he could not afford the \$150,000 (\$925,000 in 2007) price.^[16]

In 1989, *Gulf+Western* renamed itself as *Paramount Communications*, and in 1994 merged with *Viacom*.^[16] In 2005, *Viacom* divided into *CBS Corporation*, whose *CBS Television Studios* subsidiary retained the *Star Trek* brand, and *Viacom*, whose *Paramount Pictures* subsidiary retained the *Star Trek* film library and rights to make additional films, along with video distribution rights to the TV series on behalf of *CBS*.^{[122][16]}

9 See also

- Outline of *Star Trek*
- Timeline of science fiction

10 Notes

- [1] Members of the human species are occasionally called “Terrans” in *Star Trek*, although usage has been inconsistent.
- [2] However, the show had been first telecast two days earlier in Canada on the CTV Television Network at 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time. “Today’s TV Previews”, *Montreal Gazette*, September 6, 1966, p36
- [3] Roddenberry did, however, co-author two scripts for the third season.
- [4] This episode count includes the animated series, and the original pilot, “The Cage”. Two-part episodes that were not originally aired at the same time are considered two separate episodes. Ten feature-length episodes were originally aired as two-hour presentations and are sometimes considered single episodes, however in this count they too are seen as two individual episodes. The *Star Trek* wiki *Memory Alpha* differs from the count listed because it includes the feature films in its total and it uses the method that counts feature-length episodes as single episodes. This makes that wiki’s total release count 728.
- [5] Originally titled *Star Trek*, it has in recent years become known as *Star Trek: The Original Series* or as “Classic *Star Trek*”—retronyms that distinguish it from its sequels and the franchise as a whole.

- [6] Film titles of the North American and UK releases of the films no longer contained the number of the film following the sixth film (the sixth was *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country* but the seventh was *Star Trek Generations*). However, European releases continued using numbers in the film titles until *Nemesis*.
- [7] Several characters from the original series have cameos in *Star Trek Generations*. William Shatner plays a major role in that film. A few *Star Trek: Voyager* characters play cameos in *First Contact* and *Nemesis*.
- [8] *Star Trek* (2009), *Into Darkness*, and *Beyond* are often considered to be, and referred to as, a “reboot”. They are also a continuation of the franchise that establishes an alternate reality from the previous films. This was done to free the new films from the restrictions of continuity without completely discarding it, which was deemed to be “disrespectful”. This new reality was informally referred to by several names, including the “Abramsverse”, “JJ Trek”, the “alternate timeline” and “NuTrek”. It was named the “Kelvin Timeline”, as opposed to the “Prime Timeline” of the original series and films, by Michael and Denise Okuda for use in reference guides and encyclopedias. The name Kelvin comes from the USS Kelvin, a starship involved in the event that creates the new reality in 2009’s *Star Trek*. Leonard Nimoy plays an older version of Spock in the film *Star Trek* to help link the two timelines.
- [9] While the official release date of the eleventh *Star Trek* was May 8, 2009, the film premiered internationally in Buda, Texas on April 6, 2009.
- [10] While the official release date of *Star Trek Into Darkness* was May 16, 2013, the film premiered internationally in Sydney, Australia on April 23, 2013.
- [11] Although the Hugo Award is mainly given for print-media science fiction, its “best drama” award is usually given to film or television presentations. The Hugo does not give out awards for best actor, director, or other aspects of film production. Before 2002, films and television series competed for the same Hugo, before the split of the drama award into short drama and long drama.
- [12] The other two films nominated for the Hugo in 1967 were the films *Fahrenheit 451* and *Fantastic Voyage*.
- [13] The science fiction Saturn Awards did not exist during broadcasting of the original series. Unlike the Hugo, the Saturn Award gives out prizes for best actor, special effects and music, and also unlike the Hugo (until 2002) movies and television shows have never competed against each other for Saturns.
- [3] Reagin 2013
- [4] “Gene Roddenberry”. The Museum of Broadcast Communications. Retrieved October 19, 2011. Roddenberry described *Star Trek* as a ‘Wagon Train to the stars’ because, like that popular series, its stories focused on the ‘individuals who traveled to promote the expansion of our horizons.’
- [5] See David Alexander, *Star Trek Creator. The Authorized Biography of Gene Roddenberry* and interview with Roddenberry in *Something about the Author* by Gale Research Company and chapter 11 of *Trash Culture: Popular Culture and the Great Tradition* by Richard Keller Simon
- [6] Snyder, J. William, Jr. (1995). “Star Trek: A Phenomenon and Social Statement on the 1960s”. self-published. Retrieved October 19, 2011.
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13 External links

- Official website
- Memory Alpha: *Star Trek* wiki
- *Star Trek* at DMOZ
- *Star Trek* at NASA - Enterprising Nebulae

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