

= Where No One Has Gone Before =

" Where No One Has Gone Before " is the sixth episode of the American science fiction television series Star Trek : The Next Generation , ( episode 1 - ' Encounter at Farpoint ' is a two part episode ) originally aired October 26 , 1987 , in broadcast syndication in the United States . A high @-@ definition , remastered version of the episode received limited theatrical release for one day ( with the episode " Datalore " ) to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the series on July 23 , 2012 . The story was originally developed with the title " Where None Have Gone Before " and was based on Diane Duane 's book , The Wounded Sky . Duane and Michael Reaves pitched the idea to David Gerrold and Gene Roddenberry , and then submitted a script . Their script was subsequently rewritten by Maurice Hurley , whose first effort was poorly received ; however , his rewritten version was filmed . The episode was the first of the series directed by Rob Bowman , who went on to direct twelve more episodes .

Set in the 24th century , Star Trek : The Next Generation follows the adventures of the crew aboard the Starfleet Starship Enterprise @-@ D. In " Where No One Has Gone Before " , the Enterprise is visited by Mr. Kosinski ( Stanley Kamel ) and an alien known as the Traveler ( Eric Menyuk ) . The Traveler sends the Enterprise to distant parts of the universe , and help is required from Wesley Crusher ( Wil Wheaton ) to bring the ship back home .

In this episode , Menyuk made the first of three appearances as the Traveler . Biff Yeager made his first appearance as the longest @-@ running chief engineer of the first season .

= = Plot = =

The Enterprise meets the USS Fearless to bring aboard Mr. Kosinski ( Stanley Kamel ) , a Starfleet propulsion expert who plans to run tests on the warp engines to improve their efficiency . With Kosinski is his assistant , an alien being from Tau Alpha C known as the Traveler ( Eric Menyuk ) . As Kosinski and the Traveler explain the tests to the engineering crew , Wesley Crusher ( Wil Wheaton ) quickly grasps what the tests are designed to accomplish and the Traveler expresses admiration for his problem @-@ solving abilities . The test quickly goes awry when the Enterprise speeds up , surpassing the known capabilities of warp engines . Jean @-@ Luc Picard ( Patrick Stewart ) orders the ship stopped , and the crew find themselves on the far side of the M33 Galaxy ( more than 2 @.@ 7 million light years from the Milky Way , the Enterprise 's home galaxy ) . Although Kosinski is pleased with the results , he is reprimanded by Picard and asked to simply redo the process to return home . Crusher attempts to warn Commander Riker ( Jonathan Frakes ) that during the warp test , the Traveler appeared to drift out of reality , but Riker dismisses him without listening . However , after Kosinski begins the second test , Crusher and Riker both observe the Traveler again drifting out , appearing more tired . The Enterprise again experiences a burst of speed , and when it stops , the crew cannot determine their position . Picard demands that Kosinski get the crew home .

While Kosinski , the Traveler and the engineering crew work on reversing the process , the rest of the crew begin experiencing lifelike visions of their past ( an effect of the strange space around them ) . After having a vision of his mother ( Herta Ware ) , Picard surmises that they have arrived at the theoretical Outer Rim of the universe , and issues a red alert to awaken the crew from their visions . Finding Picard at the spot where he saw his mother , Riker suggests that Kosinski may have had nothing to do with the warp jumps , which were more likely to be a result of the Traveler 's illness ; Trying to determine this theory , Picard has the alien moved to sick bay . Dr. Crusher ( Gates McFadden ) however cannot evaluate the Traveler 's alien biology , and is unable to treat him . When Picard visits him in sick bay , the Traveler explains his ability to channel pure thought into reality . He brought the crew of the Enterprise to the Outer Rim , triggering similar effects in anyone within it to ascertain if they were ready to experience thought as reality . The Traveler confides to Picard that he looks for scientific prodigies such as the young Crusher , and Picard should nurture him . When he returns to the engineering section , the Traveler asks Crusher to assist him in returning the Enterprise to known space . As they concentrate , beginning to return the ship home ,

the Traveler again phases out and finally disappears . The Enterprise suddenly stops , and the crew is relieved to find themselves back in Federation space . After the incident , Picard finally promotes Crusher to acting ensign ( following his own unspoken suggestion in " The Naked Now " ) on the Enterprise for his performance .

= = Production = =

= = = Writing = = =

The original story for " Where No One Has Gone Before " was developed before the start of Star Trek : The Next Generation , with Michael Reaves and Diane Duane invited to pitch story ideas . Duane did not belong to the Writers Guild of America ( a requirement to write for the show at the time ) , and doubted she would be asked to write a script . Duane and Reaves worked together on several ideas ; after a week , Reaves informed Duane that he developed an idea based on her Star Trek novel The Wounded Sky and asked her to collaborate with him . She worked on the story idea with Reaves , and they expanded the story slightly from Reaves ' original idea . One version of the script involved the Enterprise causing the birth of a new universe , with a play on the Genesis creation narrative .

They pitched the story to story editor David Gerrold , who brought them to Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry . Gene favored the story idea , suggesting changes which Reaves and Duane incorporated into a second draft . The episode was now entitled " Where None Have Gone Before " , differing significantly from the final version : Kosinski roomed with Picard at Starfleet Academy , fathering a son at that time . The ship 's travel differed ; the Traveller was replaced by a " warpdrive booster " with a miniature black hole . In this version , the situation was resolved with a second miniature Enterprise imagined and pushed into the black hole on the full @-@ sized ship . The interaction of the two black holes ( and an even @-@ smaller black hole on the miniature Enterprise ) returns the full @-@ sized ship near the location where it began to travel . After Duane and Reaves turned in the first version of the script based on that premise , nothing was heard from the TNG staff for two weeks .

The script was given to Maurice Hurley to rewrite . He took six weeks for the rewrite , and his initial version was received poorly by TNG executives . Hurley later said , " they absolutely hated it , I think they wanted to fire me , and they would have if I didn 't have a guaranteed contract " . He rewrote the script , and this version was filmed . Hurley was pleased with the result , saying that " everything about that episode worked " . The final version differed significantly from the original Reaves @-@ Duane script ; Duane later said that only two scenes remained : where Picard sees his mother , and where he nearly falls out of the turbolift into space . Reaves later said that the episode " came together much better on the screen than we thought it would when we read the script . We were lucky , because it was out of our hands " .

= = = Direction and casting = = =

Donald Petrie was originally signed to direct the episode , but dropped out to direct the film Mystic Pizza . Executive producer Robert Justman brought in Rob Bowman to direct his first Star Trek episode . Justman later said that this was one of his most @-@ significant achievements on The Next Generation . Bowman worked on storyboards and set blocking for twenty days before shooting the episode . He was initially nervous about working on the show , and felt he had to prove himself because of his relative inexperience as a director . Bowman said that after the second day of filming it became easier , and credited the crew with making him feel welcome . He went on to direct twelve more episodes of The Next Generation .

Eric Menyuk was cast as the Traveler . The actor had previously been runner @-@ up for the role of Data several weeks earlier ( the role went to Brent Spiner ) . He was a Star Trek fan since age six , and would later return as the Traveler twice more : in " Remember Me " and " Journey 's End " .

Menyuk 's return in " Journey 's End " would also mark the last on @-@ screen appearance of Wesley Crusher . Biff Yeager made his Next Generation debut in " Where No One Has Gone Before " as Chief Engineer Argyle , who would become the most @-@ frequently @-@ appearing chief engineer of the first season ( appearing twice ) . Geordi La Forge took over that role in the first episode of season two , " The Child " . Stuntman " Dangerous " Dennis Madalone also made his series debut as the ensign threatened by his own ( imagined ) fire . From season three onwards he was stunt coordinator for The Next Generation , and continued to portray a number of crew members . Viewers learned Picard 's mother 's first name in " Chain of Command " ; she was played in " Where No One Has Gone Before " by Herta Ware , who appeared in the 1985 science @-@ fiction film Cocoon .

= = = Visual effects and makeup = = =

Some effects in the episode were created in Robert Legato 's basement with water reflections and Christmas tree lights . The script was vague about what was seen at the end of the universe , so Legato played with the effects of water reflections on his basement wall . Shooting through BoPET film , he created multiple images which were layered over one another for the final effect ( which Legato described as " peculiar and bizarre " ) . Christmas tree lights were suspended and moved , to create the blinking effect seen on screen .

The Klingon Targ was created by dressing a tamed wild boar ( named Emmy Lou ) in an outfit created by costume designer William Ware Theiss . Executive producer Robert Justman later recalled , " That pig smelled horrid . A sweet @-@ sour , extremely pungent odor . I showered and showered , and it took me a week to get rid of it ! " To appear as the Traveler , Eric Menyuk wore a prosthetic piece ( created by Michael Westmore ) on his forehead which ran into his hairline . He also wore a pair of false three @-@ fingered hands , which were sold in the " It 's A Wrap ! " auction after the end of Star Trek : Enterprise . His Traveler costume was also sold at the auction .

= = = Music = = =

" Where No One Has Gone Before " was the second episode scored by Ron Jones . Some themes in the soundtrack were rearrangements of Jerry Goldsmith 's score from Star Trek : The Motion Picture . In the piece " Talk with Mom " ( played during Picard 's meeting with his mother ) , Jones tried to create an effect identical to the finale of Aaron Copland 's 1944 Appalachian Spring . Alexander Courage 's themes from The Original Series are included in a seven @-@ note ostinato in the pieces " Log " , " Visitors " and " Fly @-@ By " .

The score was recorded with a forty @-@ piece orchestra . Jones formatted the orchestra to generate a bigger sound than normally heard on television soundtracks to make it sound more like Goldsmith 's The Motion Picture score . Keyboards were used to make the cellos more prominent , and other changes included an increase in the mid @-@ range of the string section . The soundtrack to " Where No One Has Gone Before " was released ( as part of The Ron Jones Project box set of Star Trek : The Next Generation scores ) in a limited run of 5 @, @ 000 copies in 2010 by Film Score Monthly .

= = Reception = =

" Where No One Has Gone Before " aired in broadcast syndication during the week commencing October 24 , 1987 . It received Nielsen ratings of 10 @. @ 5 , reflecting the percentage of all households watching the episode during its timeslot . This was the highest ratings received by the series since " The Naked Now " three episodes earlier .

Several reviewers revisited the episode after the end of the series . Cast member Wil Wheaton later described the episode as " the first time The Next Generation really started to come together " . However , the episode was flawed in dialogue and in Picard 's changes in tone : " I 'm not sure if that was a deliberate choice , so he would appear as a conflicted man , or if it was Patrick Stewart 's

natural warmth and kindness coming through the gruff demeanour Picard was written to have . " When reviewing the show in 2006 for AOL TV , he gave it an overall score of B @-@ plus . Keith DeCandido reviewed the episode for Tor.com , praising the guest actors ; Stanley Kamel was " magnificent " and " ooze [ d ] arrogance , overconfidence , and bull in equal measure " , while Herta Ware brought " tremendous gravitas " to her role . He described the episode as the best of the first season , with strong performances from the main cast , and gave it an overall score of eight ( out of ten ) .

Zack Handlen reviewed the episode for The A.V. Club , saying that while it was an improvement on earlier episodes he had reservations about the use of Wesley Crusher . He called the " thoughts made flesh concept " a " cliché " , but was " gratified to see the series actually trying for something a little beyond their reach , this early in the game " . As for Wesley , Handlen thought that it was imposing a " Chosen One narrative " that brought " an unlikable character even further to the forefront of the action simply because some writer didn 't get enough pats on the head growing up " and gave the episode a B @-@ minus . Jamahl Epsicokhan , on his website Jammer 's Reviews , said that it was the first time in the series that space itself generated " awe and wonder " ; however , he thought the " fresh and intriguing " nature of the episode faded as it went along . He criticized Wesley Crusher , describing him as a " cloying geek " and " you just want to strangle him " . He gave the episode a score of 2 @. @ 5 ( out of 4 ) .

In Richard Hanley 's book The Metaphysics of Star Trek the appearance of the Traveler in " Where No One Has Gone Before " was described as a continuation of intellectually @-@ advanced aliens in Star Trek , beginning in The Original Series with Apollo in " Who Mourns for Adonais ? " and Gary Mitchell in " Where No Man Has Gone Before " . Metaphysics is referenced in this episode by Wesley Crusher , who asks if thought is the basis of existence .

= = Home media and theatrical release = =

The first home @-@ media release of " Where No One Has Gone Before " was on VHS cassette on April 1 , 1992 in the United States and Canada . The episode was later included on the Star Trek : The Next Generation season @-@ one DVD box set released in March 2002 .

The most @-@ recent release was as part of the season @-@ one Blu @-@ ray set on July 24 , 2012 . To celebrate the 25th anniversary of Star Trek : The Next Generation and promote the release of the first season on Blu @-@ ray , the episodes " Where No One Has Gone Before " and " Datalore " received a theatrical release in the United States on July 23 , 2012 in nearly 500 theaters . " Where No One Has Gone Before " was chosen by Star Trek experts Mike and Denise Okuda because of the unusual space special effects .