

= Carpenter Street (Star Trek : Enterprise) =

" Carpenter Street " is the sixty @-@ third episode of the American science fiction television series Star Trek : Enterprise , the eleventh episode of season three . It first aired on November 26 , 2003 on the UPN network in the United States . The episode was written by executive producers Rick Berman and Brannon Braga .

Set in the 22nd century , the series follows the adventures of the first Starfleet starship Enterprise , registration NX @-@ 01 . Season three of the series shows the ship enter the Delphic Expanse to search for a Xindi superweapon in response to an attack on Earth . In this episode , Captain Jonathan Archer (Scott Bakula) and Sub @-@ commander T 'Pol (Jolene Blalock) travel back to early 21st century Earth to find a group of Xindi @-@ Reptilians who were seeking to wipe out the human race by using a biological agent .

The production of the episode used several different methods to represent 21st century Detroit , including exterior shots in Los Angeles , the Paramount studios downtown New York standing sets and exterior sets at the Lacy Street Production Center . The guest cast featured Matt Winston returning as Temporal Agent Daniels , and Jeffrey Dean Morgan as a Xindi @-@ Reptilian . It had the lowest number of viewers of season three at that point according to the Nielsen ratings , a decline that was attributed to pre @-@ Thanksgiving travel . Critical response was mostly negative , with criticism directed at the nature of the plot .

= = Plot = =

Temporal Agent Daniels informs Captain Archer that three Reptilians have traveled back in time to Detroit , Michigan , to the year 2004 , where they intend to produce a bio @-@ weapon to annihilate Humans . The Xindi Council had banned the use of bio @-@ weapons , forcing the Reptilians to take extraordinary measures . Daniels sends Archer and Sub @-@ Commander T 'Pol back in time to investigate , and provides Archer with temporal tags to bring back anything foreign to that time @-@ frame .

Using a hand scanner , Archer is able to steal a vehicle , and T 'Pol locates the Xindi bio @-@ signs leading them to an abandoned factory on Carpenter Street . They notice Loomis , a blood bank employee , exiting the building . Suspecting something , they follow him home . After he tries to escape , T 'Pol uses the Vulcan nerve pinch to stop him . When he awakes , he believes that Archer and T 'Pol are police officers , and requests a lawyer . Archer punches him , and he admits delivering six bodies to his mysterious employers , one for a different blood type . Archer comes up with a plan , and decides to pose as one of the victims .

After being delivered by Loomis , Archer realizes that they are developing some sort of a bio @-@ weapon . Archer begins destroying their technology , and kills one of the three Reptilians . Two others try to escape with the deadly bio @-@ agent , and Archer kills another one as they flee . The last Xindi escapes due to the interference of Loomis , who T 'Pol stuns with her phaser . On the factory 's roof , Archer corners him as he attempts to release the bio @-@ agent . Archer and T 'Pol tag all non @-@ 21st @-@ century artefacts , and return to Enterprise . Loomis , still groggy in his car , is apprehended by real police officers and attempts to explain the " lizard people " and their " ray guns . "

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Rick Berman and Brannon Braga , the executive producers of Star Trek : Enterprise . It was directed by Mike Vejar , his sixth episode of the series . He previously directed episodes for three other Star Trek series . When asked about the use of time travel stories in Star Trek in relation to " Carpenter Street " , Scott Bakula said that " Obviously it 's something you want to be careful of , and yet at the same time I 'm told that the fans love the time travel episodes , and there 's certainly an effort on Rick and Brannon 's part to write things that they hope the fans will love . This particular journey back in time is very grounded in story . " He added that he believed that

the setting for the episode was chosen because the production values were " easily accomplished " and that " because the episode deals with germ warfare , and that certainly is a relevant topic today . "

Guest stars on the episode included Matt Winston , who appeared for the fourth time as Temporal Agent Daniels , having previously played the role most recently in the second episode of " Shockwave " . Returning to Star Trek , but appearing for the first time in Enterprise , was Leland Orser , who played Loomis . The actor had previously appeared in the Star Trek : Voyager episode " Revulsion " , as well as the Star Trek : Deep Space Nine episodes " The Die Is Cast " and " Sanctuary " . Jeffrey Dean Morgan , who would later become better known for portraying Denny Duquette in medical drama Grey 's Anatomy and as The Comedian in the 2009 superhero film Watchmen , strongly disliked portraying a Xindi Reptilian in " Carpenter Street " . He later explained to Entertainment Weekly that " I had to pay my bills . I knew I 'd play some guy saying some stuff . Then I got a call saying I needed to go in for a prosthetic fitting . I remember them dripping goop on my face , and I had straws sticking out of my nose . I couldn 't eat lunch . I was claustrophobic . I 'd go home in tears . This was the job that made me want to quit acting . "

Filming began October 10 , 2003 , on the standing Enterprise sets as well as a temporary set which represented Loomis ' apartment . This filming continued on the following Monday , where filming was shared with production on both " Twilight " and " Similitude " . On October 13 , the location filming began for " Carpenter Street " in downtown Los Angeles . As these scenes take place in darkness , filming did not start until dusk and the shoot was conducted overnight . The filming on the first night comprised the scenes where the characters were in 21st century vehicles , and the rest of the week was spent at the Lacy Street Production Center , which had urban settings which could represent the downtown Detroit area . During the following week , the production moved back to the Paramount lot where the standing New York Street backlot was used ; this included the use of one area where a scene from Francis Ford Coppola 's The Godfather (1972) had been shot . The episode finished filming on October 23 , including an overlap with the production of " Chosen Realm " on October 22 .

= = Reception and home media release = =

" Carpenter Street " first aired on November 26 , 2003 on the UPN network in the United States . It received a Nielsen rating of 2 @. @ 9 / 4 percent , meaning that it was watched by 2 @. @ 9 percent of all adults and 4 percent of all adults watching television at the time of the broadcast . This was the lowest ratings received by any episode during the third season . This slump had been attributed to the date of the broadcast , which had taken place on the night before Thanksgiving , a day which typically sees a large number of people travel , thereby decreasing the overall ratings of television shows .

In her review for the website TrekNation , Michelle Erica Green said that the episode entertained , but was a " ultimately pointless time @-@ travel episode that redeems its existence primarily by not requiring a reset button . " But she thought that Orser was " superb " as the " repugnant " Loomis , and the episode was " entertaining fluff " but was " warm and witty and well @-@ done . " Jamahl Epsicokhan on his website " Jammer 's Reviews " , called the episode a " turkey " and said that it was " a mediocre time @-@ travel bore with barely enough plot for me to accuse of not making sense . " He criticized the lack of explanation given to the Xindi 's involvement in the Temporal Cold War , and said that the plot itself was akin to " swiss cheese " due to the number of plot holes . He gave the episode a score of one and a half out of four .

The only home media release of " Carpenter Street " has been as part of the season three DVD box set , released in the United States on September 27 , 2005 . The Blu @-@ ray release of Enterprise was announced in early 2013 , and released on January 7 , 2014 .