

= The Big Goodbye =

" The Big Goodbye " is the 12th episode of the American science fiction television series Star Trek : The Next Generation . The episode first aired in broadcast syndication on January 11 , 1988 . This was the second writing credit of the series for Tracy Tormé following the episode " Haven " . Rob Bowman planned to direct the episode , but he was switched to " Datalore " due to delays in its production . With Bowman working on another episode , Joseph L. Scanlan became the director .

Set in the 24th century , the series follows the adventures of the Starfleet crew of the Federation starship Enterprise @-@ D. In this episode , the crew are sent to open diplomatic ties with the Jaradan . While taking a break from preparations , a computer malfunction traps Captain Jean @-@ Luc Picard (Patrick Stewart) , Lt. Cmdr. Data (Brent Spiner) , and Dr. Beverly Crusher (Gates McFadden) in a 1940s @-@ style gangster holodeck program with Captain Picard playing the role of detective Dixon Hill .

" The Big Goodbye " is the first episode to significantly feature the holodeck . Tormé credited Gene Roddenberry with the idea for the detective novel , with Tormé employing the film noir style using references to The Maltese Falcon (1941) . Lawrence Tierney , who previously appeared in film noir movies in the 1940s , guest stars as Cyrus Redblock . The Dixon Hill setting reappeared in two later episodes in the series and in the film , Star Trek : First Contact (1996) .

11 @.@ 5 million viewers watched " The Big Goodbye " ; critical reception was mixed . One reviewer found it too similar to The Original Series episode , " A Piece of the Action " . Other reviewers complained about the holodeck , but praised Tierney 's performance . The episode won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Costumes for a Series and is the only Star Trek episode to ever win the Peabody Award .

= = Plot = =

The Enterprise heads to Torona IV to open negotiations with the Jaradan , an insect @-@ like race that is unusually strict in matters of protocol . After practicing the complex greeting the Jaradan require to open negotiations , Captain Jean @-@ Luc Picard (Patrick Stewart) decides to relax with a Dixon Hill story in the holodeck . Playing Detective Hill in the holoprogram , Picard takes up the case of Jessica Bradley (Carolyn Allport) , who believes Cyrus Redblock (Lawrence Tierney) is trying to kill her . Picard decides to continue the program later and leaves the holodeck to affirm their estimated arrival at Torona IV . He invites Dr. Beverly Crusher (Gates McFadden) and visiting historian Dr. Whalen (David Selburg) to join him in the holodeck . While Crusher is still preparing , Picard and Whalen are ready to enter the holodeck when Lt. Cdr . Data (Brent Spiner) arrives , having overheard Picard 's invitation . Entering the holodeck , the three discover Jessica has been murdered in Picard 's absence . As Picard explains that he saw Jessica at his office the day before , Lt. McNary (Gary Armagnac) brings Picard into the police station for questioning as a suspect in her murder . Meanwhile , the Enterprise is scanned from a distance by the Jaradan , causing a power surge in the holodeck external controls . Dr. Crusher later enters the holodeck , first experiencing a momentary glitch with the holodeck doors , and joins her friends at the police station .

The Jaradan demand their greeting earlier than the agreed time and are insulted at having to talk to anyone other than the Captain . The crew try to communicate with Picard in the holodeck but find it impossible ; the Jaradan signal has affected the holodeck 's functions , preventing the doors from opening or allowing communication with the crew inside . Lt. Geordi La Forge (LeVar Burton) and Wesley Crusher (Wil Wheaton) attempt to repair the holodeck systems , while inside the holodeck , the group returns to Dixon 's office . Mr. Leech (Harvey Jason) appears having waited for Picard , demanding he turn over an object he believes Jessica gave him . When Picard fails to understand , Leech shoots Dr. Whalen with a gun , and the crew discovers that the safety protocols have been disabled as Whalen is severely wounded . As Dr. Crusher cares for his wound , Picard and Data discover the holodeck is malfunctioning and they are unable to exit the program . Mr. Leech is joined by Redblock and continues to demand the object . Lt. McNary arrives and becomes involved in the

standoff . Picard tries to explain the nature of the holodeck , but Redblock refuses to believe him .

Outside , Wesley finds the glitch , however he cannot simply turn off the system for fear of losing everyone inside . Instead , Wesley resets the simulation , briefly placing Picard and the others in the middle of a snowstorm before finding themselves back in Dixon 's office . With the reset successfully clearing the malfunction , the exit doors finally appear . Despite Picard 's warnings , Redblock and Leech exit the holodeck , but dissipate as they move beyond the range of its holoemitters . As they leave the holodeck , Picard thanks McNary for his assistance , who now suspects that his world is artificial and asks whether Picard 's departure is " the big goodbye " , to which Picard replies that he simply doesn 't know . Picard reaches the bridge in time to give the proper greeting to the Jaradan . The Jaradan accept the greeting , heralding the start of successful negotiations .

= = Production = =

The initial idea for Picard 's detective based holodeck program came from series creator Gene Roddenberry and other writing staff . Tracy Tormé received credit for writing the episode . Tormé said he added film noir elements , including references to *The Maltese Falcon* (1941) . Redblock and Leech represent the characters played by Sydney Greenstreet and Peter Lorre . The production staff attempted to create the same layout of the detective office from the film . Dixon Hill was originally named Dixon Steele in reference to *In a Lonely Place* (1950) , a film noir starring Humphrey Bogart . However , the name was changed due to similarities with the name of the title character in the American television series , *Remington Steele* . Tormé expanded the Jarada a great deal , but because of budgetary restraints , they are only heard in the episode . After the episode " Haven " , " The Big Goodbye " is the second writing credit of the series for Tormé . Rob Bowman was originally scheduled to direct the episode , but following problems with " Datalore " , the filming order was switched , so Joe Scanlan directed " The Big Goodbye " instead .

Scanlan and Tormé recommended filming the holodeck sequences in black and white , but Rick Berman and Bob Justman disagreed with the idea . " The Big Goodbye " was the first episode based on the holodeck in the *Star Trek* franchise . The holodeck would appear later in the season in " 11001001 " , as well as a number of other episodes in various series , and would eventually become a regular feature . Because of the differences between the Dixon Hill scenes and those set on the *Enterprise* , Scanlan treated the diverse settings as if he was filming two unconnected episodes .

Tierney was well known for playing villains in 1940s film noirs , including *Dillinger* (1945) and *The Devil Thumbs a Ride* (1947) . After his performance in *Star Trek : The Next Generation* , Tierney gained new fame playing Joe Cabot in Quentin Tarantino 's film , *Reservoir Dogs* (1992) . Wheaton later recalled he felt intimidated by Tierney during filming , as he was 15 and Tierney had a reputation for having a character similar to the tough guys he typically played . Tierney returned to *Star Trek* in 1997 to play an alien Regent in the *Deep Space Nine* episode , " Business as Usual " . Wheaton said that after 12 previous episodes in the series at the time , he and the cast and crew preferred " The Big Goodbye " as it allowed them to play a period piece . The Dixon Hill holoprogram reappeared in the second series episode " Manhunt " , the fourth season episode " Clues " and the film *Star Trek : First Contact* (1996) . The Dixon Hill characters are also featured in the licensed novel , *A Hard Rain* .

= = Reception and home media release = =

The episode first aired on January 11 , 1988 , receiving Nielsen ratings of 11 @. @ 5 million . It was the first new episode broadcast since the previous November , when 10 @. @ 3 million viewers watched " Haven " . " The Big Goodbye " received more viewers than the following episode " Datalore " , which also had only 10 @. @ 3 million viewers . In recognition of its " new standard of quality for first @- @ run syndication " , the episode was honored with a Peabody Award in 1987 . " The Big Goodbye " was also nominated for two Emmy Awards in the categories of Outstanding Cinematography for a Series and Outstanding Costumes for a Series , with costume designer William Ware Theiss winning the award in the latter category .

After its initial release , a review in TV Guide criticised the episode for its similarity to The Original Series episode " A Piece of the Action " , which featured a planet based on 1930s gangland Chicago . Several reviewers re @-@ watched the episode after the end of the series . Keith DeCandido of Tor.com praised the " stellar guest casting " and said that Tierney " own [ed] the episode " . He compared the episode to The Maltese Falcon , and said that the episode featured " charming performances " by the entire cast . DeCandido gave the episode a score of seven out of ten . Cast member Wil Wheaton called the episode a " fantastic collaborative effort , from Tracy Torme 's script , to Joseph Scanlan 's direction , to Ed Brown 's cinematography , to every actor 's performance . There 's a reason ' The Big Goodbye ' is the only Star Trek episode to win a Peabody . " He gave the episode an A grade .

Writing for Den of Geek , James Hunt said that the risk of disintegration on the holodeck was " insane " and was rectified in later episodes . He thought that the episode stood out from the others in the first season due to the prototype holodeck story . " The holodeck will break again and again over the years , but rarely in a way any more interesting than this . Not that The Big Goodbye was particularly interesting , but it has the rare fortune of being first , " Hunt wrote .

Michelle Erica Green of TrekNation praised the dialogue but felt the episode did not " hold up to a lot of logical analysis " . However , she also said it was a " fun " episode that " set the stage " for holodeck episodes featuring the sentient Professor Moriarty hologram in " Elementary , Dear Data " and " Ship in a Bottle " . Writing for The A.V. Club , Zack Handlen observed " a certain flatness " in parts of the episode and considered it " very silly " for the characters to slowly disintegrate after leaving the holodeck . Although he said the holodeck in " The Big Goodbye " was similar to " an Xbox that periodically eats your cat " , he gave the episode an overall grade of B- .

" The Big Goodbye " was released on VHS cassette in the United States and Canada on August 26 , 1992 . The episode was released on the Star Trek : The Next Generation season one DVD box set in March 2002 . The season one Blu @-@ ray set was released on July 24 , 2012 .