= Haven (Star Trek : The Next Generation) =

" Haven " is the 11th episode of the first season of the American science fiction television series Star Trek : The Next Generation , originally aired on November 30 , 1987 , in broadcast syndication in the United States . Directed by Richard Compton , the story was originally created by Lan O 'Kun , and developed into the final script by Tracy Tormé .

Set in the 24th century , the series follows the adventures of the crew of the Starfleet starship Enterprise @-@ D. In this episode , Deanna Troi (Marina Sirtis) deals with the commitment of an arranged marriage after the arrival of the wedding party , including her mother Lwaxana (Majel Barrett) . Meanwhile , the Enterprise must deal with a plague ship approaching a paradisical planet .

The episode marked the first appearance of several guest actors in The Next Generation , including Barrett , Carel Struycken and Armin Shimerman . Tormé disliked the final version of the episode , and the critical response to the episode was mixed , with the performance of Barrett both praised and criticised .

= = Plot = =

The Federation starship Enterprise arrives at the planet Haven , where the ship 's Betazoid Counselor Deanna Troi has been summoned by her mother Lwaxana . Troi had previously been set into a pre @-@ arranged marriage to the young human doctor , Wyatt Miller (Robert Knepper) , and his parents have since tracked down Lwaxana to enforce the marriage . After Lwaxana and the Millers are welcomed aboard the Enterprise , the parents argue over whose racial traditions will be honored at the ceremony . Troi and Wyatt attempt to get to know each other but find it difficult , as Troi is still in love with Commander William Riker (Jonathan Frakes) . Wyatt has had numerous dreams of another woman with whom he has fallen in love , and had initially believed her to be Troi communicating telepathically with him .

The Enterprise then learns of an unmarked vessel approaching Haven . Captain Picard (Patrick Stewart) recognizes it as Tarellian , a race that they had thought to be wiped out by a highly lethal and contagious virus . When they contact the ship , they find a handful of Tarellian refugees that have been travelling at sub @-@ light speeds to Haven in hopes of finding an isolated location to live out the rest of their lives in peace . Picard insists they cannot go to the planet for fear of spreading the virus , and has the Tarellian vessel placed in a tractor beam . Wyatt recognizes one of the Tarellians , Ariana (Danitza Kingsley) , from his dreams , and she too recognizes Wyatt . Wyatt tells Dr. Crusher (Gates McFadden) that he will transport some medical supplies to them , but transports himself along with the supplies . When the crew discovers this , Wyatt 's parents demand Picard bring Wyatt back to the Enterprise , but Picard insists that he cannot return , as Wyatt would now carry the Tarellian virus . Wyatt promises his parents , Troi , and the rest of the crew that he knew that this would be destiny , and is happy to try to help cure the Tarellian virus . Wyatt convinces the Tarellians to leave Haven and search for help elsewhere . Picard orders the tractor beam to be dropped and allows the vessel to depart the system .

= = Production = =

The episode 's plot originated from one which Lan O 'Kun submitted entitled " Love Beyond Time and Space " , although at one point , the episode was called " Eye of the Beholder " . O 'Kun 's script was on the verge of being cut from the show when it was handed to Tracy Tormé for re @-@ writes . Tormé later described it as a " no @-@ lose " situation as he felt that O 'Kun 's script was so bad anything would be an improvement . Tormé changed the script from O 'Kun 's serious outline to something more comedic , although he felt that a lot of the comedy elements were later removed before filming . He didn 't like the overall result , saying " I didn 't particularly like the episode when it first aired . It 's still one of my least favourite shows that I 've been involved with " . Because of the work on the episode , Tormé was recruited as executive story editor .

The episode was directed by Richard Compton , who had previously appeared as Lieutenant Washburn in The Original Series episode " The Doomsday Machine " . " Haven " began filming twenty years to the day after Compton filmed his scenes in " The Doomsday Machine " . Dennis McCarthy composed the music for " Haven " , which was so strongly disliked by executive producer Rick Berman that McCarthy thought he might be fired . " Haven " was the fifth episode to be filmed , but was broadcast as the eleventh episode .

" Haven " marked the first appearance of Majel Barrett as Lwaxana Troi . She had previously appeared as Number One in the first Star Trek pilot , " The Cage " , and as Christine Chapel in Star Trek : The Original Series and movies . She would go on to re @-@ appear as Lwaxana on average once per season for the rest of the run of The Next Generation . Dutch actor Carel Struycken also made his first appearance as Mr. Homn in " Haven " , which also marked the only time during his several appearances alongside Barrett that he had a line of dialogue . Robert Ellenstein appeared as Steven Miller ; he had previously appeared as the Federation President in Star Trek IV : The Voyage Home . " Haven " also marked the first filmed appearance of another actor who would regularly appear in the Star Trek franchise . Armin Shimerman appeared as the face of the Betazoid gift box in this episode . This was his first filmed appearance , but his first broadcast appearance was as the Ferengi Letek in " The Last Outpost " . He would later appear as the Ferengi Bractor in the season two episode " Peak Performance " before being cast once more as a Ferengi , but this time in the main cast , as Quark in Star Trek : Deep Space Nine .

= = Reception = =

" Haven " aired in broadcast syndication during the week commencing November 29 , 1987 . It received Nielsen ratings of 10 @.@ 3 , reflecting the percentage of all households watching the episode during its timeslot . This was the lowest ratings received by the series since " The Last Outpost " six episodes earlier .

Several reviewers re @-@ watched the episode after the end of the series . Cast member Wil Wheaton watched the episode for AOL TV in May 2007 , saying that " this could have been an absolutely dreadful ' shotgun wedding ' episode that was as predictable as it was tedious , but Tracy 's script , aided by very good guest star casting and great acting from everyone involved , made it one of the better episodes in season one . " He gave the episode a grade of B. James Hunt for the website Den of Geek , watched the episode in November 2012 . While he was mostly negative of the episode , saying that " Troi episodes tend to test the patience of even the most devoted Trek fan " , he said that " Haven " marked the first time that the series would " properly execute the idea that TNG episodes can have an A and B plot which dovetail nicely in the final act " .

Keith DeCandido reviewed the episode for Tor.com in June 2011 . He described the episode as " painful to watch " and one that where " all the worst sci @-@ fi TV show clichés are in evidence " . He criticised the out of date sexist values of the plot in which Troi would have been forced to leave the ship to be with Wyatt . He did praise the appearance of Majel Barett , describing her as " ever @-@ radiant " and the " saving grace of the episode " . He gave it a score of three out of ten . Zack Handlen watched the episode for The A.V. Club in April 2010 . He described Majel Barrett as " agonizing " and the episode was " full of lazy shoulder shrugs and half @-@ finished ideas " . He gave the episode a grade of D.

= = Home media release = =

The first home media release of " Haven " was on VHS cassette , appearing 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 , and then released as part of the season one Blu @-@ ray set on July 24 , 2012 .