

= Acquisition (Star Trek : Enterprise) =

" Acquisition " is the nineteenth episode of the first season of the American science fiction television series Star Trek : Enterprise that originally aired on March 27 , 2002 , on UPN . The episode was developed into a teleplay by Maria and Andre Jacquemetton from a story by Rick Berman and Brannon Braga , and was directed by James Whitmore , Jr .. Set in the 22nd century , the series follows the adventures of the first Starfleet starship , Enterprise , registration NX @-@ 01 . In this episode , a group of interstellar alien thieves knock out the Enterprise crew and begin looting the ship . Commander Charles " Trip " Tucker III (Connor Trinneer) is the only one left to stop them .

The Ferengi first appeared in the Star Trek : The Next Generation episode " The Last Outpost " , and first contact with the race was described in " The Battle " , which meant that " Acquisition " attempted to not alter that . In addition , a Ferengi language was developed by the writers which was based on French . The episode also had a number of guest stars who had previously appeared in Star Trek ; Clint Howard , Ethan Phillips and Jeffrey Combs . It was poorly received by critics , but according to the Nielsen ratings , it received a 5 @. @ 2 / 6 % audience share during broadcast .

= = Plot = =

As Enterprise drifts in space , an unknown alien cruiser scans the ship , then docks with it . As part of an unconventional and criminal first contact , two Ferengi , Muk and Grish , board wearing breathing filters , and the crew appear to have been knocked unconscious . In Engineering , the two locate and deactivate a gas @-@ machine that the Starfleet crew brought up from the surface of a nearby moon . Unknown to the intruders , Commander Tucker is still conscious and makes his way to Engineering and uses the ship 's sensors to monitor the aliens as they plunder the ship .

Captain Archer is confined in Cargobay , and the aliens are unconvinced that Enterprise carries no currency or valuable materials . They set @-@ off to find the vault themselves , leaving Krem and Archer to transfer the loot . Archer sees Tucker and sends him to the launch @-@ bay to retrieve the Ferengi 's hypospray . Doing so , Tucker revives Sub @-@ Commander T 'Pol , and they try to find a way to stop the Ferengi . She assumes the gas @-@ machine was intentionally placed on the surface as a ' Trojan Horse ' . In Sickbay , three of the four Ferengi search for the non @-@ existent vault , and T 'Pol uses a PADD to distract and then start an argument between them .

In Engineering , Archer tries to negotiate with Krem , who is tempted when Archer says that he will throw in T 'Pol . In Archer 's quarters , Muk and Grish try interrogating Porthos , Archer 's pet Beagle . Muk goes to the launch @-@ bay and finds Tucker , who escapes , but Ullis subdues him with his electro @-@ whip . The Ferengi , Archer and Trip meet in the launch @-@ bay where Archer plays along with Tucker 's deception about " the vault " . T 'Pol assists in subduing the intruders , and the crew oversee the return of the stolen goods . Archer tells the Ferengi not to go within a light year of a human or Vulcan vessel ever again (and they indeed do not reappear until some 200 years later in episode The Last Outpost) .

= = Production = =

The writers of " Acquisition " , Maria and Andre Jacquemetton , developed a spoken language for the alien race known as the Ferengi . Although they had been seen previously on screen in previous incarnations of Star Trek , including throughout Star Trek : Deep Space Nine , a spoken language had not been developed . The pair wrote the dialogue initially in English , before translating it into French and then breaking it down into syllables . They described it as " fun to write " . The pair had intended for the Ferengi throughout the episode to speak their new language , but this was reduced to only the first act . This was the third episode written by the duo , after " Breaking the Ice " and " Dear Doctor " .

Story editor André Bormanis explained in a web chat just before the airing of the episode that they had sought to ensure that Jean @-@ Luc Picard was Captain who made first contact with the Ferengi officially ; Bormanis commented that he thought the episode was funny . The Ferengi made

their first appearance in the Star Trek : The Next Generation episode " The Last Outpost " , having been created by franchise creator Gene Roddenberry and producer Herbert Wright . The events of the episode " The Battle " established that it was Picard on board the USS Stargazer at the Battle of Maxia that made the official first contact with the race on behalf of the Federation .

The guest cast featured three former Star Trek alumni including Clint Howard who had appeared in the Star Trek : The Original Series episode " The Corbomite Maneuver " as Balok . Ethan Phillips had appeared as Neelix , a main cast character in Star Trek : Voyager , as well as the Ferengi doctor Farek in The Next Generation episode " Ménage à Troi " . The third alumni was Jeffrey Combs who had appeared as several characters such as Weyoun and the Ferengi Brunt in Star Trek : Deep Space Nine . Combs had already previously in Enterprise as the Andorian Shran , and would continue to do so for the rest of the series . He said that being asked to appear as a Ferengi once again took him by surprise , but that Krem was " a world 's away " from the Brunt character , which pleased him .

= = Reception and home media release = =

" Acquisition " originally aired on UPN on March 27 , 2002 . According to Nielsen ratings , it received a 5 @. @ 2 / 6 % share , meaning that it was seen by 5 @. @ 2 percent of all households , and 6 percent of all households watching television at the time of the broadcast .

Herc , in his review for Ain 't It Cool News , compared to the Die Hard inspired episode of Alias entitled " The Box " . He thought that the Enterprise episode wasn 't as good and suggested it might have been a filler episode . He gave it a rating of two and a half out of five . Alasdair Wilkins , at the A.V. Club described the episode as " Star Trek comfort food " , but also that it demonstrated " a show unable to carve out its own identity , content to rehash old stories when the show 's very premise demands new storytelling " . He also said that it was a " blatant example " of Enterprise repeating the story mechanics of previous seasons . Chaz Lipp at The Morton Report called " Acquisition " a " goofy " episode , and one of several which were " weak and uninspired " .

The first home media release of the episode was on VHS in the UK on September 23 , 2002 . It was first released in the United States on DVD , having been released as part of the season one box set during May 2005 . The Blu @- @ ray release of Enterprise was released in the United States on March 26 with the UK release following on April 1 .