

= Captive Pursuit =

" Captive Pursuit " is the fifth episode of the first season of the American science fiction television series *Star Trek : Deep Space Nine* . The episode was written by executive producer Michael Piller and Jill Sherman Donner , and was directed by Corey Allen . Set in the 24th century , the series follows the adventures on Deep Space Nine , a space station located near a stable wormhole between the Alpha and Gamma quadrants of the Milky Way Galaxy . In this episode , Tosk ( Scott MacDonald ) arrives on the station and befriends Chief Miles O 'Brien ( Colm Meaney ) , but is soon pursued by the Hunter ( Gerrit Graham ) , who follows him through the wormhole .

Scott MacDonald would later appear in several further roles in the franchise as well as a recurring character during season three of *Star Trek : Enterprise* . Graham , who appears in a guest role as the Hunter , had previously been considered for the main cast role of Odo . Michael Westmore designed the make @-@ up for Tosk to resemble an alligator ; his initial design for the Hunters was changed for budgetary reasons . The episode was praised by the cast and crew , and received a Nielsen rating of 12 @. @ 9 , placing it as one of the four most watched episodes of the first season . Critical reception was mostly positive , with critics approving of Meaney and MacDonald 's performances , but disliking the formulaic nature of the plot . The episode won an Emmy Award for best make @-@ up for a series .

= = Plot = =

A damaged , unidentified vessel from the Gamma Quadrant docks at Deep Space Nine for repairs . Its reptilian pilot , identified only as Tosk ( Scott MacDonald ) , is the first known life @-@ form from the Gamma Quadrant to visit the station . Chief Miles O 'Brien ( Colm Meaney ) suspects Tosk is running from something , due to evidence of weapons fire on his vessel . O 'Brien befriends Tosk and tries to help him repair his ship . However , Tosk attempts to steal from a weapons locker and is put in a holding cell by Security Chief Odo ( René Auberjonois ) .

Uniformed aliens arrive in the Alpha Quadrant through the wormhole , beam onto the DS9 promenade , and start a phaser battle with a team led by Commander Benjamin Sisko ( Avery Brooks ) . The aliens fight their way into the brig where Tosk is being held . Sisko , O 'Brien and Odo enter the room as one of the aliens , the Hunter ( Gerrit Graham ) removes his helmet and expresses his disappointment to Tosk for capturing him alive . He commands Sisko to lower the forcefield and release Tosk , but Sisko refuses . They discuss the issue and the Hunter agrees to place the Bajoran Wormhole out of bounds for future hunts . As much as he detests this practice , Sisko believes that under the Prime Directive he must release Tosk to the aliens .

After talking to Quark ( Armin Shimerman ) in his bar , O 'Brien realises that he can change the rules of the hunt before Tosk is taken away by the Hunters . He lies to Odo and convinces him to release Tosk into his care , claiming it is a Starfleet , not a Bajoran matter . O 'Brien escorts the Hunter and Tosk to an airlock , but the Chief has it rigged to overload , knocking out the Hunter , allowing O 'Brien to help Tosk escape . In Ops , Sisko is informed about the situation and tells Odo to pursue the duo at a leisurely pace , giving O 'Brien time to help Tosk escape the station with the Hunters in pursuit . Later , an angry Sisko reprimands O 'Brien for his actions ; the Chief expresses his surprise at not being apprehended immediately by Odo . Sisko claims that he must have slipped up and gives O 'Brien a wry smile .

= = Production = =

Originally titled " A Matter of Breeding " , director Corey Allen said the episode intended to move away from the " squeaky clean " plots of *Star Trek : The Next Generation* . After the franchise 's creator Gene Roddenberry banned disagreements between characters in *The Next Generation* , this became one of the main elements that the producers wanted to include in the new series . In the episode , this was shown by O 'Brien releasing Tosk , but originally , during the teaser segment at the beginning , it was intended to show dabo girl Miss Sarda propositioning Commander Sisko . "

We had long conversations on that and ultimately came down on the conservative side , but we 'd never even had that kind of conference on TNG " , Allen explained . Executive producer Michael Piller wrote the episode with writer Jill Sherman Donner , who had previous credits on television shows such as Magnum P.I.

Michael Westmore designed the make @-@ up in the episode , drawing inspiration from an alligator he saw in National Geographic magazine to create Tosk 's appearance . The Hunters were initially intended to appear more alien @-@ like , with steam rising out of their masks as they opened to reveal a demonic face with huge eyes and scaly skin . However , due to budgetary restraints , the original costume and make @-@ up plans were scrapped and the description was revised to become " a rather mundane humanoid face , not far off human . " The transporter effect used by the Hunters was inspired by the science fiction film Metropolis ( 1927 ) , specifically by the scene in which the robot Maria undergoes a transformation .

" Captive Pursuit " marked the first appearance in the Star Trek franchise for both Scott MacDonald and Gerrit Graham . MacDonald appeared a week later in The Next Generation episode " Face of the Enemy " as Subcommander N 'Vek . He would also appear in the DS9 episode " Hippocratic Oath " and the Star Trek : Voyager pilot " Caretaker " . In Star Trek : Enterprise , he was cast in the recurring role of the Xindi @-@ Reptilian antagonist Guruk Dolim through the third season . Graham was once considered , along with René Auberjonois and Andrew Robinson , for the role of Odo , which went to Auberjonois . Robinson was later cast as Elim Garak . Graham later gained the role of Quinn , the second Q in Voyager , in the episode " Death Wish " .

The episode was positively received by the cast and crew . Meaney called " Captive Pursuit " a " classic Star Trek story " and praised MacDonald 's performance , naming the episode his favourite of the first season . Michael Piller said it was one of his favourite episodes of the season , while Rick Berman said it was his favourite out of the first six episodes of the series and noted that the connection between Tosk and O 'Brien was " charming " .

= = Reception and home media release = =

" Captive Pursuit " was first released in broadcast syndication on January 31 , 1993 . It received a Nielsen rating of 12 @.@ 9 percent , placing third in its timeslot . This was the fourth highest rated episode of the season , behind " Emissary " , " Past Prologue " and " A Man Alone " . It won the Emmy Award for outstanding individual achievement in make @-@ up for a series .

Writing for Tor.com , Keith DeCandido praised " Captive Pursuit " despite , in his opinion , the weakness of the first season of DS9 prior to the episode " Duet " . DeCandido noted that " Captive Pursuit " was a good Prime Directive themed episode with interesting alien cultures . He described Colm Meaney as " magnificent " , and said that Scott MacDonald gave a " superb performance " . DeCandido gave the episode a rating of 7 out of 10 , calling it a " good , solid , well @-@ put @-@ together episode anchored by two excellent performances . "

Zack Handlen , in his review for The A.V. Club , said that the episode was formulaic , lacked substance , and was simply designed to give Meaney something to do . He praised the dynamic between Meaney and MacDonald , but said that " while not a classic , [ the episode was ] entertaining enough " and it helped to set up O 'Brien 's character as one to balance the complexity of some of the newer characters introduced on the show .

The first home media release of the episode was on VHS cassette in the United States on September 10 , 1996 . It was part of the initial launch of cassettes by Paramount Home Video which saw the first six episodes released and was on a single episode cassette . It was released on DVD as part of the season one box set on June 3 , 2003 .