

= Space Seed =

" Space Seed " is an episode of the American science fiction television series Star Trek . It is the 22nd episode of the first season and was first broadcast by NBC on February 16 , 1967 . " Space Seed " was written by Gene L. Coon and Carey Wilber and directed by Marc Daniels . Set in the 23rd century , the series follows the adventures of Captain James T. Kirk (William Shatner) and his crew aboard the Starfleet starship USS Enterprise . In this episode , the Enterprise crew encounter a sleeper ship holding selectively bred superpeople from Earth 's past . Their leader , Khan Noonien Singh (Ricardo Montalbán) , attempts to take control of Enterprise . The episode also guest stars Madlyn Rhue as Lt. Marla McGivers , who becomes romantically involved with Khan .

Wilber conceived the general plot for a different series , Captain Video and His Video Rangers , which featured humans from Ancient Greece who were preserved in cryogenic suspension and revived . The script changed numerous times during preproduction as producer Bob Justman felt that it would be too expensive to film . Eventually Gene L. Coon and series creator Gene Roddenberry also made alterations . These revisions include the marooning of the criminals at the end of the episode , and the change of the primary villain from a Nordic character to a Sikh . Roddenberry attempted to claim the primary writing credit for " Space Seed " , a request turned down by the Writers Guild of America .

Montalbán was the casting director 's first choice for Khan and described the role as " wonderful " . Despite being planned as an inexpensive bottle episode , the special sets and shots using starship miniatures caused the episode to go over budget . On first broadcast , the episode held second place in the ratings for the first half @-@ hour with 13 @.@ 12 million viewers , but during the second half it was pushed into third place . " Space Seed " has been named one of the best episodes of the series by Cinefantastique , IGN , and other publications . The 1982 film Star Trek II : The Wrath of Khan serves as a sequel to this episode . Plot elements of the episode and The Wrath of Khan were also used in the 2013 film Star Trek Into Darkness , and references to it appear in episodes of Star Trek : Enterprise .

= = Plot = =

On stardate 3141 @.@ 9 , the Federation starship USS Enterprise finds the derelict SS Botany Bay floating in space . Botany Bay was launched from Earth in the 1990s . A landing party comprising Captain James T. Kirk (William Shatner) , Doctor Leonard McCoy (DeForest Kelley) , Chief Engineer Montgomery Scott (James Doohan) , and historian Lieutenant Marla McGivers (Madlyn Rhue) beams over to the freighter . The landing party finds a cargo of 84 humans , 72 of whom are alive in suspended animation after nearly 200 years . McGivers identifies the group 's leader . The occupant begins to revive , but Kirk brings him to Enterprise for a medical examination when his chamber fails .

Kirk has Botany Bay taken in tow by a tractor beam , and Enterprise sets course for Starbase 12 . In sickbay , the group 's leader awakens and attacks McCoy but , impressed by McCoy 's bravery , releases the doctor and introduces himself as " Khan " (Ricardo Montalbán) . Lt. McGivers marvels over Khan , a living relic from the 20th century , her field of interest . First Officer Spock (Leonard Nimoy) discovers that their guest is Khan Noonien Singh who , along with his people , are products of 20th @-@ century selective breeding designed to create perfect humans . The genetic superhumans instead became warlords and conquered more than a third of the planet , sparking the Eugenics Wars , Earth 's last major global conflict . Between eighty and ninety of the superhumans were unaccounted for at the end of the war ; Khan is listed as the most dangerous .

Khan is placed under guard in quarters . McGivers is sent to brief him on current events . Taking advantage of McGivers ' attraction towards him , Khan tells her he means to rule mankind again and needs her help to take over Enterprise . Reluctantly , she agrees , beaming Khan to Botany Bay , where he revives the rest of his superpeople . They return to Enterprise and assume control of the ship . Khan throws Kirk into a decompression tank , and threatens to slowly suffocate him unless Kirk 's command crew agree to follow Khan . Having a change of heart , McGivers frees Kirk from

the chamber . Kirk and Spock vent anesthetic gas throughout the entire ship to disable Khan and his cohorts . Khan escapes the gas and heads to Engineering , where he attempts to destroy Enterprise , but Kirk confronts him and a brawl ensues . Though outmatched by Khan 's superior strength , Kirk uses a tool as a club to knock the superman unconscious .

Kirk holds a hearing to decide the fate of Khan and his followers . The captain decides that they should be exiled to Ceti Alpha V , a harsh world that Kirk believes would be a perfect place for Khan to start his kingdom . Khan claims he is up to the challenge of taming the world and accepts Kirk 's offer . Instead of a court @-@ martial for Lt. McGivers , Kirk allows her to go into exile with Khan . Spock notes that it would be interesting to see what Khan makes of Ceti Alpha V in 100 years .

= = Production = =

= = = Writing = = =

Carey Wilber was hired to write a script for an episode of Star Trek . His idea was based on an episode he wrote for the television series Captain Video and His Video Rangers (1949 ? 1955) . His work on that show featured Ancient @-@ Greek @-@ era humans transported in suspended animation through space , with the people of the future finding that they have mythological powers . For " Space Seed " , Wilber replaced these mythological powers with abilities that were enhanced due to genetic engineering . Wilber had briefly worked with Gene Roddenberry on the television series Harbormaster . His science fiction extended beyond Star Trek : he also wrote scripts for Lost in Space and The Time Tunnel around the same time .

In Wilber 's first proposal for the story that became " Space Seed " , dated August 29 , 1966 ? shortly before the first episode of Star Trek aired ? the villain was Harold Erickson , an ordinary criminal exiled into space . He sought to free his gang from Botany Bay , seize Enterprise , and become a pirate . Parts of the story were inspired by the use of penal colonies in the 18th century , and characterizations were based on descriptions from the series ' writer 's bible . As a result , several elements of the draft proposal differed from how the characters behaved in the actual series ? for example , the draft includes a scene where Spock defeats Kirk at chess by cheating . Producer Gene L. Coon told Wilber that his work was the best outline he had seen during his time on Star Trek . Fellow producer Bob Justman was less enthusiastic ; he compared it negatively to Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers , and felt the concept would be too expensive to film . There were also concerns that an unsolicited script submitted by science fiction author Philip José Farmer resembled the proposed plot which , as Roddenberry had corresponded with Farmer , might lead to litigation .

NBC executives reviewed the plot for " Space Seed " and approved it , but Justman reassessed the outline , saying that it needed to be heavily revised . In September , Wilber was given a list of suggested changes including asking him to remove any mention of the setting , as the producers did not want to say how far in the future Star Trek was set , and to remove the chess scene . Wilber submitted a second draft , but Roddenberry still had problems with basic elements of the script . He did not believe common criminals would be fired into space as a solution and strongly disliked the notion of space pirates . The second draft introduced the idea that Kirk marooned Erickson and his crew on a new planet ; this remained in the final version . Wilber was not asked for a third draft ; Coon was tasked with the re @-@ write ; he submitted it on December 7 and updated it twice over the following five days . Wilber accepted Coon 's re @-@ writes , and left the staff after the submission of his second draft as his contractual obligations were complete .

Coon proposed that Erickson should be a rival to Kirk , a genetic superman who had once ruled part of Earth . Roddenberry and Justman were still unhappy with the script , and Roddenberry revised it once more a week before filming was due to begin , after Montalbán had been cast . In this draft the blond Nordic character of Erickson became closer to the version seen on screen . In Roddenberry and Coon 's script , the character was renamed Sibahl Khan Noonien . The name Govin Bahadur Singh was suggested by the DeForest Research company , who checked scripts for potential errors on behalf of the production company ; the Singh name was suggested in part

because it was closer to actual Sikh names . Coon and Roddenberry settled on Khan Noonien Singh ; Roddenberry had an old Chinese friend named Noonien Wang that he had lost touch with , and hoped that Wang would see the episode and contact him . In the final draft , Roddenberry listed himself as the primary writer , Coon as co @-@ writer and Wilber was absent , but the Writers Guild of America turned down Roddenberry 's request to be credited ; Coon received the main credit ; Wilber was given co @-@ writer and " story @-@ by " credits . Wilber did not often watch his own work , and nearly thirty years later had never seen " Space Seed " . Coon was later credited as Lee Cronin for his part in production of the script .

= = = Casting = = =

Mexican actor Ricardo Montalbán was cast as the genetic superman Khan Noonian Singh , having been the first choice for the role . He had been suggested by casting director Joseph D 'Agosta , who was not looking to cast an actor of a particular ethnic background due to Roddenberry 's vision for the series ; Roddenberry wanted to show his perceived 23rd century values by not requiring any specific ethnicities when casting actors in guest roles . Montalbán had previously appeared in a television movie created by Roddenberry , The Secret Weapon of 117 (also referred to as The Secret Defense of 117) , which was the writer 's first attempt to create science fiction on television and aired more than ten years before Star Trek . Montalbán called his role as Khan " wonderful " , saying that " it was well @-@ written , it had an interesting concept and I was delighted it was offered to me " . The main cast were enthusiastic about working with Montalbán ; DeForest Kelley later said " I enjoyed working with Ricardo the best . I was privileged . He is a marvelous actor . "

Madlyn Rhue , who portrayed Lt. Marla McGivers , had previously worked with Montalbán in an episode of Bonanza in 1960 as his on @-@ screen wife ; she later appeared with him in a 1982 episode of Fantasy Island . Montalbán and Rhue also appeared in separate episodes of Roddenberry 's previous NBC television series , The Lieutenant (1963 ? 1964) . Main cast member George Takei did not appear in " Space Seed " ; the character of Hikaru Sulu was replaced by Blaisdell Makee as Lt. Spinelli . It was the first of two appearances in Star Trek for Makee , who would return in the episode " The Changeling " as Lt. Singh . John Winston appeared for the second time as Lt. Kyle , and would go on to make nine further episodic appearances in that role . Following positive feedback from the producers and the network regarding James Doohan , " Space Seed " was the first episode to feature a more prominent role for his character , Chief Engineer Montgomery Scott .

= = = Filming , costumes and post production = = =

Filming of " Space Seed " began December 15 , 1966 , and concluded on December 22 after six days of shooting . Roddenberry , Coon and Wilber 's rewrites resulted in a shooting script of nearly 60 pages and 120 scenes . Marc Daniels was hired to direct the episode ; he had previously worked on The Lieutenant . The first day 's filming coincided with the airing of the episode " Balance of Terror " , and Daniels allowed the cast and crew to go home early to watch it . The other five days ran to schedule , to the extent that there was an early finish on the final day of filming , allowing cast and crew time to return home to watch a repeat of the episode " What Are Little Girls Made Of ? " which had replaced " Arena " on that evening 's schedule . A scene filmed but later cut from the episode depicted a discussion between McGivers and Angela Martine (Barbara Baldwin) , intended to show that McGivers was looking for a forceful man . Further scenes were trimmed after filming following input from NBC . For example , scenes shot on the Botany Bay were cut as executives felt the costumes worn by the newly awakened crew were too revealing .

The character of Khan required five costumes , more than any other guest star in the entire series . This meant that the staff working on costumes had less time to devote to any one costume . Montalbán 's athletic physique was such that when his measurements were passed to them , staff thought there had been a mistake . Costume designer William Ware Theiss found it challenging to produce the outfits in the time allotted , to make the materials seem suitably futuristic and to fit his

own preferences in design . Two of Khan 's outfits re -used previous costumes , while three were specifically created for Montalbán . The production built two new sets for the episode : the decompression chamber in sickbay , and the set on board Botany Bay . A doorframe from that set was later reused as an overhead unit in McCoy 's research lab , which appeared later in the series .

Post production on " Space Seed " began on December 23 , 1966 , and ran through February 5 the following year . The Westheimer Company produced the majority of effects in the episode , but the scenes of Enterprise and Botany Bay in space were produced by Film Effects of Hollywood who were not credited on screen for their work . Botany Bay utilized a design Matt Jefferies created prior to the USS Enterprise . It had been previously labeled " antique space freighter " , and was built by Film Effects of Hollywood . The creation of the ship miniature caused the episode to go over budget by more than \$ 12 @, @ 000 ; " Space Seed " actually cost a total of \$ 197 @, @ 262 against a budget of \$ 180 @, @ 000 . By this point , the series was nearly \$ 80 @, @ 000 over budget in total . The Botany Bay model was later re -used purposed as a freighter for the episode " The Ultimate Computer " .

The sound effects team borrowed effects and manipulated them in order to achieve the " painted sound " effect sought by Roddenberry . Although a number of sources were used , they attempted to avoid most science fiction television series as they wanted an authentic sound . The sound archive of the United States Air Force was used , although the photon torpedo sound was created from the 1953 film The War of the Worlds . " Space Seed " was awarded the Golden Reel for sound editing on television by the Motion Picture Sound Editors society .

= = Reception = =

= = Broadcast = =

" Space Seed " was first broadcast in the United States on February 16 , 1967 , on NBC . A 12 @-@ city overnight Trendex report compiled by Nielsen ratings showed that during the first half @-@ hour , it held second place in the ratings behind Bewitched on ABC with 13 @. @ 12 million viewers compared to Bewitched 's 14 @. @ 44 million . The episode beat My Three Sons on CBS . During the second half @-@ hour it was pushed into third place in the ratings by the start of the Thursday Night Movie on CBS , the Western film One @-@ Eyed Jacks starring Marlon Brando , which received 35 @. @ 5 percent of the audience share compared to 28 percent for " Space Seed " .

A High Definition remastering of " Space Seed " , which introduced new special effects and starship exteriors as well as enhanced music and audio , was shown for the first time on November 18 , 2006 , in broadcast syndication . It was the eleventh remastered episode to be shown . This meant that the episode was made available to over 200 local stations across the United States with the rights to broadcast Star Trek , and depending on the station it was broadcast either on November 18 or 19 .

= = Critical reception = =

In 1967 , The Indiana Gazette described " Space Seed " as " a good piece of science fiction " . The Kokomo Tribune called it " imaginative " , and also said that the episode was " particularly interesting " for " its commentary on the scientific know @-@ how of the late 1990s " .

Later reviewers watched the episodes several decades after broadcast . Zack Handlen of The A.V. Club gave the episode an ' A ' rating , noting its strong characters and the interplay between Kirk and Spock that emphasizes their friendship . Michelle Erica Green called the episode " legendary " in her review for TrekNation . She thought that Khan made the " perfect foil " for the trio of Kirk , Spock and McCoy and said that the episode was not dulled by later episodes and films based on " Space Seed " . In Mark Pickavance 's review at Den of Geek , he said that it remained an " obvious choice of great source material " to be followed up in a film .

The review by Eugene Myers and Torrie Atkinson on Tor.com criticized the attraction between

McGivers and Khan , saying that it was " really uncomfortable to watch her immediate attraction to him and her easy acceptance of his abusive and controlling behaviour " . However , both praised the episode , Myers giving it a five out of six , and Atkinson a six out of six rating . Also at Tor.com , in Ryan Britt and Emily Asher @-@ Perrin 's list of the ten most under @-@ appreciated elements of Star Trek , they placed " Space Seed " at number three saying that " As an introductory story to what old school Star Trek was all about , ' Space Seed ' is perfect . It presents an original science fiction concept , grapples with notions of human technology and ingenuity creating a monster , and features Captain Kirk beating the crap out of someone with a piece of Styrofoam . What more could you want ? "

Entertainment Weekly named the episode the second best of the series , while IGN ranked " Space Seed " as the fourth best , praising the fist fight between Kirk and Khan . It appeared in the top ten episodes listed by Cinefantastique and was also included in a list of ten " must see " episodes on The A.V. Club . Reviewer Zack Handlen said that it " features a terrific performance from guest star Montalban , gives the franchise one of its greatest villains , and sets the stage for one of best science @-@ fiction adventure movies ever made . "

= = Home media release and other adaptations = =

The first adaptation of " Space Seed " was as a re @-@ working into a short story by author James Blish as part of the novelization Star Trek 2 . This book contained seven short stories , each based on an episode of The Original Series and was published in 1968 . The adaptation of " Space Seed " appeared as the final story in the book . The first home media release of " Space Seed " was on a single @-@ episode VHS cassette in 1982 by Paramount Home Video . It was one of the episodes of The Original Series published on Capacitance Electronic Disc , alongside " The Changeling " , released on November 1 , 1982 . A LaserDisc of the episode , alongside " Return of the Archons " was released in 1985 . Further releases of all episodes of the series were made on VHS and Betamax . These releases reverted to a single episode tape as in the original 1982 version .

The episode was released on DVD paired with " A Taste of Armageddon " as part of the general release of the series in 2000 . There were no additional extras added to that entire series of releases , except the DVD containing " Turnabout Intruder " . " Space Seed " was later released within a DVD box set of the first season in 2004 ; all three seasons of The Original Series were released as full @-@ season box sets that year . The episode was included in the remastered season one release on DVD and Blu @-@ ray in 2009 . This release featured CGI remodels of Enterprise and other space scenes , including the Botany Bay . The most recent release is as part of the Star Trek : Origins collection on Blu @-@ ray , which was released in 2013 .

= = Legacy = =

= = = Khan = = =

The events of " Space Seed " are followed up in the 1982 film Star Trek II : The Wrath of Khan . Harve Bennett was hired to produce a sequel to Star Trek : The Motion Picture having never seen the television series ; he therefore watched every episode in preparation and latched onto Khan from " Space Seed " as the compelling villain he considered to be lacking from the first film . In resuming the role of Khan , Montalbán worried that fans would see him only as Mr. Roarke from Fantasy Island but felt that he managed to recapture the character after re @-@ watching " Space Seed " . The film set a record for the opening weekend gross of \$ 14 @. @ 3 million , and went on to take \$ 78 @. @ 9 million domestically within the United States , making it the sixth best @-@ selling film of the year .

The movie features errors in continuity when compared to " Space Seed " . Because of re @-@ casting , Khan 's followers appear not to have aged from their appearance in the episode and Khan recognises Pavel Chekov ? the character did not join Star Trek until season two , after this episode

took place . This latter error was described in Deborah Cartmell and Imelda Whelehan 's book *Adaptations : From Text to Screen , Screen to Text* as the " gaff notorious throughout Star Trek fandom " . An explanation was presented in the novelization of *The Wrath of Khan* , which stated that Chekov was working on the night shift at the time .

A non @-@ canon novelization by Greg Cox was later released in 2005 to fill in the timeframe between " *Space Seed* " and the film , titled *To Reign in Hell : The Exile of Khan Noonien Singh* . This book expanded on Khan 's romance with McGivers , and the author wanted to " give her a spine " as he felt that she was not " the pride of Starfleet , and even less of a feminist role @-@ model " in her appearance in " *Space Seed* " .

Events of both " *Space Seed* " and *The Wrath of Khan* were also directly referenced in 2013 's *Star Trek Into Darkness* , in which Benedict Cumberbatch portrayed Khan . The film took \$ 70 @.@ 1 million on the opening weekend , and \$ 467 @.@ 3 million internationally throughout the cinematic release . As part of their line of licensed Star Trek comic books , IDW Publishing launched a five part mini @-@ series titled *Star Trek : Khan* which described the early part of Khan 's life and how the events in *Star Trek Into Darkness* diverged from those seen in " *Space Seed* " . One of the writers of the film , Roberto Orci , was the story consultant on the comic series . This series also explained how Khan changed physically in order to be represented by Cumberbatch in the film . A retro @-@ style film poster for " *Space Seed* " was created by Juan Ortiz in 2013 , released around the same as *Star Trek Into Darkness* .

The television series *Star Trek : Enterprise* makes several further references to the events first described in " *Space Seed* " . In " *Twilight* " , the survivors of the Xindi attack on Earth eventually resettle on Ceti Alpha ? V. The development of Khan and his followers were said to have been through selective breeding in " *Space Seed* " . American sociologist William Sims Bainbridge said that this method would have been unable to create genetic supermen in such a short space of time and that today the less implausible method of genetic engineering (directly changing the DNA code) would be used . In fact , subsequent references to the creation of Khan and the other supermen , such as in the *Star Trek : Deep Space Nine* episode " *Doctor Bashir , I Presume* " , substituted genetic engineering .

= = = The Eugenics Wars = = =

The Eugenics Wars , first mentioned in " *Space Seed* " , are stated in the *Star Trek Chronology* by Michael and Denise Okuda as taking place between 1992 and 1996 . They considered it fortunate that these events did not come to pass in the real world , and noted that the development of the Botany Bay in 1996 as an instance of where " *Star Trek* 's technological predictions have missed by a significant margin . " The war itself has been referenced elsewhere in the *Star Trek* franchise . The first mention of the wars following " *Space Seed* " was in the *Star Trek : The Animated Series* episode " *The Infinite Vulcan* " , in which a cloned version of Dr. Stavos Keniclius , a scientist from that era , clones Spock . Later , during the production of " *Doctor Bashir , I Presume ?* " , writer René Echevarria , seeking a secret past for Doctor Julian Bashir , noted that coverage of the issue of eugenics in *Star Trek* had been limited to Khan and his followers . Fellow writer Ronald D. Moore decided to link the background of Bashir to genetic engineering . However , " *Encounter at Farpoint* " and *Star Trek First Contact* confused matters by saying WWII (aka The Eugenics Wars) had occurred in the 2050s . Furthermore , when Echevarria wrote that the Eugenics Wars took place 200 years before the *Deep Space Nine* episode " *Doctor Bashir , I Presume ?* " , he took the time interval directly from *The Wrath of Khan* , failing to factor in the additional century between the events of the *The Original Series* (and its associated films) .

Novelist Gary Cox first mentioned the events of the Eugenics Wars in his non @-@ canon novel *Assignment : Eternity* , which followed up on the events of the episode " *Assignment : Earth* " and included the characters of Gary Seven and Roberta Lincoln . In it , he mentioned that Seven and Lincoln were involved in overthrowing Khan during the Eugenics Wars . He had not intended to explore this any further , but he was prompted to do so by his editor at Pocket Books . He wrote a story , split into two books , about the specific events of the Eugenics Wars , entitled *Star Trek : The*

Eugenics Wars : The Rise and Fall of Khan Noonien Singh . As the Eugeneics Wars were already meant to have taken place , he decided to describe them as being a massive conspiracy that was not discovered until generations had passed . He also felt that this approach would make the books consistent with the Star Trek : Voyager episode " Future 's End " in which the crewmembers travel in time to the same period of Earth 's history as the Eugenics Wars , but find no such wars taking place . A further version of the Eugenics Wars was presented in the Star Trek : Khan comic book mini @-@ series .

The Enterprise season four episodes " Borderland " , " Cold Station 12 " and " The Augments " showed a further group of genetic superpeople produced from embryos produced in the same era as Khan and his crew . This was a deliberate link by the producers of Enterprise to both " Space Seed " and The Wrath of Khan , and was one of several plots during the fourth season of the show to include elements of Star Trek : The Original Series in the hope that this would boost ratings .

= = Annotations = =