

= Affliction (Star Trek : Enterprise) =

" Affliction " is the fifteenth episode of the fourth season of the American science fiction television series Star Trek : Enterprise , and originally aired on February 18 , 2005 . The script was written by Mike Sussman from a story by executive producer Manny Coto . It was the second episode of Enterprise to be directed by Michael Grossman . The episode is the first of a two @-@ part story , which concludes with " Divergence " .

Set in the 22nd century , the series follows the adventures of the first Starfleet starship Enterprise , registration NX @-@ 01 . In this episode , the crew investigate the kidnapping of Doctor Phlox (John Billingsley) , and the ship is attacked by a new type of Klingon . Meanwhile , Phlox is taken to a Klingon colony to work on a cure for a plague whose effects include the removal of the Klingon 's cranial ridges .

The episode sought to answer the question of why Klingons looked different in Star Trek : The Original Series than in other series of the franchise . It featured a number of guest stars who had previous connections to the franchise , including James Avery who was in the running for the part of Worf in The Next Generation , John Schuck who played a Klingon Ambassador in two Star Trek films , and Eric Pierpoint who had appeared in several other episodes of Star Trek previously . Some of the standing sets were redressed to appear as the interior of the Columbia , and some scenes were filmed outside at the Paramount Studios lot in Los Angeles , California . The initial ratings equalled the highest ratings of the fourth season , and although critical reception was mixed , it has subsequently been considered to be one of the best story @-@ lines to be featured on Enterprise .

= = Plot = =

Enterprise returns to Earth in time for the launch of the second NX class starship , Columbia , and Commander Tucker prepares for his transfer . Meanwhile , Ensign Sato and Doctor Phlox are attacked in San Francisco , and Phlox is kidnapped . Captain Archer and Lieutenant Reed investigate the scene , and Reed is given a secret assignment by a secretive agent that he seems to know . Commander T 'Pol , seeking information from Sato , conducts her first mind @-@ meld , and the two realize that the attackers spoke Rigelian . They discover that a Rigelian freighter recently left orbit and head off in pursuit .

On Columbia , Tucker ruffles a few feathers with his new team , and Captain Hernandez asks the reasons behind his transfer . Later , T 'Pol and Tucker have a shared vision despite being on different ships . Enterprise locates a destroyed Rigelian ship , and while investigating , they are suddenly attacked and boarded . MACOs repel the attack and a captured alien is taken to Sickbay , where scanners show that he is in fact Klingon . Archer then discovers Reed 's complicity in evidence tampering and confines him to the brig . Archer also learns that the boarders sabotaged the ship , and he orders maximum speed in order to prevent the warp core from overloading . The ship increases speed to warp 5 @. @ 2 , the fastest it has ever been .

Phlox is taken to Qu 'Vat , a Klingon colony where General K 'Vagh and Doctor Antaak seek his help to cure a Klingon plague . To Phlox 's horror , K 'Vagh kills an infected Klingon so that an autopsy can be performed . Phlox determines that the victims DNA has been supplemented with that of a genetically augmented human . Phlox also learns from Antaak that they experimented with augmented DNA after the events seen in " Borderland " , but it self @-@ mutated and escaped . Antaak and Phlox are told that they have five days to cure the outbreak before it is too late . Antaak suggests that the only course of action is to create stable augmented Klingons , but Phlox refuses to assist further .

= = Production = =

The storyline in " Affliction " answers an ongoing question which had begun with the pilot episode of Enterprise , " Broken Bow " . In The Original Series , Klingons appeared mostly human , with no

applied prosthetics . However , in Star Trek : The Motion Picture , they first appeared with forehead ridges and continued to appear this way through the remaining movies as well as The Next Generation , Deep Space Nine and Voyager . The DS9 episode " Trials and Tribble @-@ ations " references the change , with Chief O 'Brien suggesting that Klingons had been genetically modified and Doctor Bashir assuming a viral mutation had taken place .

Theories created by fans included the idea that the ridgeless Klingons were from a specific part of the home world , but this was discounted when three ridgeless Klingons from The Original Series appeared with ridges in the Deep Space Nine episode " Blood Oath " . The Original Series had a restricted budget , and there was no funding for any prosthetic make @-@ up for the Klingons until The Motion Picture . During The Original Series , it was decided to use them more frequently than the Romulans , whose prosthetics were more expensive . The original ridgeless design was created after suggestions by John Colicos , who based them on Genghis Khan and the people of the 13th and 14th century Mongol Empire . When " Broken Bow " aired , it featured Klingons with forehead ridges , despite the series being set prior to The Original Series . On the episode 's script , the old style Klingons were referred to as " type @-@ two " and " semi @-@ Klingons " .

The storyline was one of several in the fourth season of Enterprise which show runner Manny Coto sought to connect the series to The Original Series . Coto also revealed in an interview with the Chicago Tribune that the episode would see the start of Section 31 . The episode also featured the first appearance on @-@ screen of the Rigelians , despite first being mentioned in The Original Series and again in DS9 . " Affliction " marks the fifth writing credit of the fourth season for Michael Sussman , while director Michael Grossman had previously directed the episode " Hatchery " .

Filming took place from December 3 , 2004 through to December 12 . Several of the standing sets were redressed to appear as the locations on the USS Columbia , including the bridge , Captain 's mess and the engineering section . The exterior scenes where Phlox and Hoshi were attacked were filmed on the Paramount lot in Los Angeles . As the New York streets backlot had already been used earlier in the season for the opening episode " Storm Front " , this sequence was instead filmed in the area between the studio 's Administration building and a building which had previously doubled for the high school in the sitcom Happy Days .

= = = Casting = = =

James Avery was cast as the Klingon General K ? Vagh . He underwent a three @-@ hour make @-@ up process for the role , something he later described as a nightmare . He had previously been involved with Star Trek in 1987 , when he was the runner up to Michael Dorn to be cast as Worf in The Next Generation . He became better known as Phil Banks in The Fresh Prince of Bel @-@ Air . " Affliction " also featured a cameo by Marc Worden as a Klingon prisoner , who had previously appeared in the Deep Space Nine episodes " Sons and Daughters " and " You are Cordially Invited ... " as Worf 's son , Alexander Rozhenko .

John Schuck was cast as the Klingon doctor Antaak , having previously appeared as the Klingon Ambassador in both Star Trek IV : The Voyage Home and Star Trek VI : The Undiscovered Country . Schuck had also appeared in episodes of both Deep Space Nine and Voyager . Eric Pierpoint had previously appeared in several episodes of Star Trek across the various television series , including the TNG episode " Liaisons " as well as episodes of DS9 and Voyager . He had also appeared in the Enterprise episode " Rogue Planet " .

Brad Greenquist appeared as a Rigelian in this episode in his second appearance on Enterprise , he too had also previously appeared in episodes of DS9 and Voyager . The other Rigelians were played by stuntmen Brian Williams and Tom Dupont , whilst Linda Park was stunt @-@ doubled by Diana Inosato . It was the second appearance of Seth MacFarlane , the creator of the animated television show Family Guy , in a role in Enterprise . He had previously appeared as an unnamed character in the third season episode " The Forgotten " but gains the name Ensign Rivers in " Affliction " .

= = Reception and home media release = =

" Affliction " originally aired on UPN , on February 18 , 2005 . It received a 1 @. @ 8 / 3 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 1 @. @ 8 percent of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds , and 3 percent of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This equals the ratings received by the previous episode , " The Aenar " , which received the highest ratings of the fourth season so far . It finished behind programs on NBC , The WB , ABC , CBS and Fox .

Michelle Erica Green reviewed this episode for TrekNation , and described it as a " rollicking good ride " . She thought that linking the reason for the Klingons ' appearance change to the augmented humans from earlier in the season was a clever idea , but the introduction of Section 31 was suspect as they hadn 't been mentioned at all through the season three Xindi arc . She was pleased with the level of detail shown on screen , such as the targs and Tucker changing the patch on his uniform when he transfers to the Columbia . Green said that John Billingsley " excels " in this episode , and that the ending was " perfect " . Jamahl Epsicokhan on his website " Jammer 's Reviews " , gave the episode a score of three out of four , saying that it was " solid and entertaining , but with no real signs of greatness " and thought that the cliffhanger ending was unnecessary . The two part story featuring the episodes " Affliction " and " Divergence " were subsequently ranked the fifth best story of Enterprise by Den of Geek writer James Hunt .

The only home media release of the episode is on DVD ; having been released as part of the season four box set on November 1 , 2005 in the United States . The Blu @- @ ray edition was released on April 1 , 2014 .