

= Blood Oath (Star Trek : Deep Space Nine) =

" Blood Oath " is the 19th episode of the second season of the American science fiction television series Star Trek : Deep Space Nine , and originally aired on March 27 , 1994 in broadcast syndication . The story was created by Peter Allan Fields and the episode was directed by Winrich Kolbe . The choreography of the ending fight scene was created by Dan Curry and Dennis Madalone , while the score was created by Dennis McCarthy .

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 , three legendary Klingon warriors come to the station to meet with Jadzia Dax (Terry Farrell) before going off on a crusade of vengeance .

The episode featured the return of John Colicos , William Campbell and Michael Ansara to the Klingon roles of Kor , Koloth and Kang , respectively . Each of those actors had previously portrayed the roles in episodes of Star Trek : The Original Series . The story was based on the films Seven Samurai and The Magnificent Seven , and scenes were filmed on location in Pasadena , California as well as on sound stages at Paramount Studios . The episode was watched by 8 @.@ 4 million viewers , and the opinions of critics were mixed .

= = Plot = =

Security Chief Odo (René Auberjonois) is having a succession of problems with Klingons . First , Quark (Armin Shimerman) complains about an elderly drunken Klingon monopolizing a holosuite . Odo removes the man , Kor (John Colicos) , and takes him to a holding cell . A short time later , another Klingon , Koloth (William Campbell) , comes to release him , but changes his mind when he sees he is still quite drunk . Jadzia Dax (Terry Farrell) overhears their names and realizes why they have come , which is confirmed when they are joined by a third Klingon , Kang (Michael Ansara) . Eighty @-@ one years ago , the three Klingons destroyed the power base of a pirate leader known as " The Albino " (Bill Bolender) . The pirate retaliated by infecting each of their firstborn sons with a deadly virus . Curzon Dax , a close friend of the three Klingons , was godfather to Kang 's murdered son , and the four of them swore a Klingon " blood oath " to find and kill the Albino . Now , eighty @-@ one years later , Kang says he has finally found him .

Jadzia confides in Major Kira Nerys (Nana Visitor) that she feels obligated to pursue Curzon 's oath , but Kira warns her about what killing someone will do to her . Kang , likewise , tells Jadzia that she is not bound by Curzon 's oath , but she insists on joining their quest . Kor , as buoyant as ever , is delighted to have her along . Koloth is dismissive , until she shows him her skills with a Klingon bat 'leth . Kang refuses to accept her , until she shames him with his own devotion to Klingon honor , and insists that she have the chance to avenge her godson . Before Jadzia can request a leave of absence , Commander Benjamin Sisko (Avery Brooks) confronts her in her quarters , refusing her request before she can make it . Jadzia tells him that she is going and begs him not to make her disobey a direct order . He does not give her permission to go but does not stop her either .

Whilst en route to the Albino 's hideout , the four plan their attack . Kang suggests an aggressive frontal assault , which the Klingons agree to . Jadzia confronts him afterwards and finds out that he had already been in contact with the Albino who offered him a glorious death at the hands of forty of his best men , and Kang accepted as he believes the Albino 's defences are impenetrable . Dax creates an alternative plan to disable all energy weapons in the Albino 's base , requiring them to use hand @-@ to @-@ hand combat only . Kang agrees to the new plan . They transport to the surface and find that the Albino attempted to booby trap the main gate to kill Kang and the others before a fight started . The four move through the compound and confront the Albino in his chambers . During the fight , Koloth is killed and Kang is mortally wounded . Jadzia disarms the Albino and allows Kang to kill him , before he dies himself . Kor and Jadzia leave the compound as the Klingon sings a song to his fallen comrades .

= = Production = =

" Blood Oath " featured the return of Colicos , Campbell and Ansara in the Klingon roles that they had previously portrayed in Star Trek : The Original Series . The story by Peter Allan Fields originally featured new Klingon characters , but Robert Hewitt Wolfe suggested the use of the characters from The Original Series . There were concerns that the three actors were no longer working , but the casting team on Deep Space Nine tracked down John Colicos and Michael Ansara but couldn 't find William Campbell . They subsequently discovered he was doing Star Trek conventions on cruise ships and signed up to appear once he was approached . Each of the previous appearances of those Klingon characters had been before the Klingon forehead ridge make @-@ up was in use , and so " Blood Oath " was the first time that each of these characters had been seen with the ridges applied . There was a consideration by the producers about whether or not to use the make @-@ up style as seen in The Original Series , but ultimately decided not to mention the change on screen .

The story was originally entitled " The Beast " and was intended to be a play on both the 1954 Akira Kurosawa film Seven Samurai and the 1960 remake , The Magnificent Seven . Fields had concerns that this didn 't come across in the final script , but intended for Koloth to represent Britt from The Magnificent Seven , whilst Kang was intended to be Yul Brynner 's character , Chris . Kor instead was based on Falstaff , who appeared in three plays by William Shakespeare . Colicos appeared as Kor , who had previously appeared as the first Klingon in the Star Trek franchise in The Original Series first season episode " Errand of Mercy " . Jordan Hoffman at the official Star Trek website described Kor as a " bumbling old uncle " and Koloth simply as a " grump " . He said that only Kang seemed similar to his original persona . Colicos would return a further two times as Kor on Deep Space Nine , in the episodes " The Sword of Kahless " and " Once More Unto the Breach " . The episode is one of several which follows up on the actions of Curzon Dax , the previous host of the Dax symbiont . A member of the Trill species is typically composed of a host and symbiont , with the symbiont passing to a new host upon the death of the previous one . Curzon was the host immediately prior to Jadzia .

Campbell had appeared as Koloth in " The Trouble with Tribbles " , although he had also portrayed Trelane in " The Squire of Gothos " . It had been an intention to feature Koloth as a recurring character within The Original Series but he was unavailable for the following appearance and so it was rewritten to feature another character . The character of Koloth returned in the Star Trek : The Animated Series episode " More Tribbles , More Troubles " but was voiced by another actor , James Doohan . Ansara returned as Kang , who had previously appeared in The Original Series third season episode " Day of the Dove " . Ansara returned as Kang once more in the Star Trek : Voyager episode " Flashback " which also guest starred George Takei and Grace Lee Whitney from The Original Series as well as several actors from Star Trek VI : The Undiscovered Country . He also returned to Deep Space Nine in the episode " The Muse " , to play Jeyal , the husband of Lwaxana Troi , who in turn was played by Majel Barrett who not only did the voice for the computer in TNG , VOY , & DS9 , and was married to Gene Roddenberry , but had also played Number One and Christine Chapel in The Original Series . Terry Farrell was interviewed during the third season of the show and described " Blood Oath " as one of the best episodes so far .

The Millard House in Pasadena , California was used to represent the outside of the fortress of the Albino , while the interior was filmed on Stage 18 in the Paramount lot . The fight scenes were jointly choreographed by Dan Curry and Dennis Madalone , with the scenes filmed over the course of two days . Direct Winrich Kolbe left the choreography completely in Curry and Madalone 's hands , but gave them instructions not to go overboard . Whilst filming the scenes , Kolbe had Richard Wagner 's opera Götterdämmerung played on a loop throughout . This operatic theme was taken forward by composer Dennis McCarthy in his score for the episode , who said that he abandoned all subtlety , and told the orchestra to " play the battles as battles " .

= = Themes = =

Star Trek frequently shows death , in that crew members are killed in the line of duty . However , "

Blood Oath " addresses the topic of pre @-@ meditated murder for revenge purposes . In order to gain perspective on her moral dilemma about whether or not to join the three Klingons in revenge , Dax discusses it with Kira , a former Bajoran terrorist . Her response is not clear cut , but recalls how murder left an impact on her that could not be fixed . Despite not dissuading Dax , she tells Sisko , who commands Dax not to go . After Dax returns , having helped the Klingons kill the Albino , both Sisko and Kira stand silent in disapproval of her actions .

= = Reception and home media release = =

" Blood Oath " was first broadcast on March 27 , 1994 in broadcast syndication . It received Nielsen ratings of 8 @. @ 4 million . This placed it in sixth place in the timeslot . This was a decrease from the episode aired the previous week , as " Profit and Loss " gained a rating of 8 @. @ 8 million . It was higher than the episodes aired on the following three weeks , which were all repeats .

Several reviewers re @-@ watched the episode after the end of the series . Michelle Erica Green reviewed the episode in January 2004 for TrekNation . She didn 't like the changes to The Original Series era Klingons , and was disappointed that plot threads that the characters faced in their previous appearances such as the fate of the tribbles in " The Trouble with Tribbles " weren 't resolved . She thought that the episode was one of the better ones to place Dax in a central position and ignored any inconsistencies because she was a fan of cross @-@ generational episodes . Jamahl Epsicokhan at his website " Jammer 's Reviews " thought that " characterizations are flawless " and that the fight scene at the end of the episode was impressive . He gave the episode a score of three and a half out of four . Zack Handlen watched the episode for The A.V. Club in June 2012 . He thought that the episode worked , but wasn 't as powerful as it could have been and said " it ? s too formal and too solemn to really rouse up the blood , and the most intriguing aspects of the plot are put to the side in favor of keeping things as straightforward as possible . "

The first home media release of " Blood Oath " in the United States and Canada was on VHS on October 6 , 1998 . It was later released on DVD as part of the season two box set on April 1 , 2003 .