

= Anomaly (Star Trek : Enterprise) =

" Anomaly " is the 54th episode of the American science fiction television series Star Trek : Enterprise , the second episode of the third season . The episode was written by co @-@ producer Mike Sussman and directed by David Straiton , his fifth for the show .

Set in the 22nd century , the series follows the adventures of the first Starfleet starship Enterprise , registration NX @-@ 01 . Season three of Enterprise features an ongoing story following an attack on Earth by previously unknown aliens called the Xindi . In this episode , the Enterprise is attacked by an Osaarian vessel , and in pursuit they discover that the aliens have information on the Xindi which they must retrieve to help them on their mission .

The guest cast included Robert Rusler , who had previously appeared in Babylon 5 , and Julia Rose , who wore a costume originally created for Hilary Swank in the 2003 film The Core . The episode received ratings of 2 @.@ 6 / 5 percent according to Nielsen Media Research , which was the same as previous episode " The Xindi " . It was watched by 4 @.@ 29 million viewers which was an increase and the fourth highest so far in 2003 . The actions of Captain Jonathan Archer (Scott Bakula) received criticism in this episode , but the special effects and action sequences were praised .

= = Plot = =

As Enterprise travels through the Delphic Expanse , the ship is damaged by destructive spatial anomalies . With most of the primary systems off @-@ line , Ensign Mayweather notices another ship nearby but no life @-@ signs are detected . Captain Archer leads Lieutenant Reed and several MACOs on an away mission , and discover the crew are all dead . Taking what they can , they return and resume their mission .

Soon another vessel approaches Enterprise , and a group of aliens beam on board , stealing weapons , food and equipment . The crew finally prevails , and one of the aliens , an Osaarian called Orgoth , is captured . Archer hopes to recover the stolen items , but the Osaarians have masked their ion trail . He then confronts Orgoth in the brig . He explains they were traders attempting to find new trade routes , but after being hit by the spatial anomalies they were unable to leave and resorted to piracy .

The crew are able to track the Osaarian vessel , finding a large 1 @,@ 000 @-@ year @-@ old sphere constructed out of a single alloy . Archer and his away team discover a series of habitat modules containing most of the stolen items . The crew also finds a cargo manifest , and Ensign Sato soon learns they had also recently attacked a Xindi ship . Archer once again confronts Orgoth , demanding to know everything about the Xindi . He then drags the Osaarian to an airlock , initiating the decompression cycle . Orgoth soon relents , revealing they downloaded the Xindi database , while providing the access codes to their computer . When the alien ship returns , Mayweather maneuvers Enterprise close enough for Sato to download the bulk of it . Archer sends Orgoth back to his people .

= = Production = =

Writer and co @-@ producer Mike Sussman , wrote the script the episode , originally intending for it to show the origins of the Orion species . But this was changed to a new species , the Osaarians , during rewrites . The episode was shot over seven days , with the majority of filming taking place on standing ship sets for the Enterprise . The Command Centre set was used for the second time , having previously appeared in the first episode of the season . It had been introduced as a new set for the third season as an area on the Enterprise where the crew would plan their next move in the mission against the Xindi . A new set was created for the brig , where the Osaarian Orgoth was held prisoner . One day of filming was on sets to represent the Osaarian base , with the majority of those made up using green screens that would allow the sets to be digitally inserted in post production .

Julia Rose made her debut as MACO Corporal McKenzie , having beaten between 25 to 40 other

actors to get the part . The spacesuit costume that she wore in the episode was reused , having been created originally for the 2003 Paramount Pictures film The Core where it was worn by Hilary Swank . Rose was a fan of Bakula from his time on Quantum Leap and described him as the " Dad " on set . Nathan Anderson returned as Sergeant Kemper for the second time . Robert Rusler , who appeared as Orgoth , had previously appeared in the cast of the second season of Babylon 5 as Warren Keffer . " Anomaly " was the fifth episode to be directed by David Straiton .

= = Reception = =

" Anomaly " was first aired in the United States on UPN on September 17 , 2003 . According to Nielsen Media Research , it received a 2 @. @ 6 / 5 percent share among adults . This means that it was seen by 2 @. @ 6 percent of all households , and 5 percent of all of those watching television at the time of the broadcast . It was estimated that " Anomaly " was watched by 4 @. @ 29 million viewers , which was the highest since " Future Tense " in February 2003 was watched by 4 @. @ 62 million and the fourth highest of 2003 so far .

Michelle Erica Green , writing for TrekNation , compared the actions of Archer in this episode to those of Kathryn Janeway in the second part of the Star Trek : Voyager episode " Equinox , but felt that here it came across as " callous and horrific " . She felt that Archer 's actions were typical of a " Hollywood fantasy (or nightmare) post @- @ 9 / 11 leader " but thought that they were realistic . She also praised other elements such as the special effects such as the derelict ship , calling it " creepy , vivid , [and] entirely believable . " Jamahl Epsicokhan at his website " Jammer 's Reviews " , called the episode " proof that action @- @ centric Trek can indeed work , and work well . " He thought it was a vast improvement on the previous episode and found the stronger version of Archer interesting . He praised the soundtrack by Jay Chattaway which he felt suggested that the typical Star Trek music was being revised . He gave the episode a score of three and a half out of four .

The only home media release of " Anomaly " has been as part of the season three DVD box set , released in the United States on September 27 , 2005 . The Blu @- @ ray release of Enterprise was announced in early 2013 and season three is expected to be released in January 2014 .