

= Extinction (Star Trek : Enterprise) =

" Extinction " is the fifty @-@ fifth episode of the American science fiction television series Star Trek : Enterprise , the third episode of season three . It first aired on September 24 , 2003 , on the UPN network in the United States . This was the first episode following the addition of the prefix " Star Trek " to the title of the series . 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 , while investigating a planet visited by the Xindi , several crewmembers including Captain Jonathan Archer become infected with a virus that mutates them into another species . The crew of the Enterprise must prevent an alien race from exterminating the mutated crew @-@ members while developing a cure themselves . The episode was written by story editor André Bormanis and directed by Star Trek : The Next Generation alumnus LeVar Burton .

" Extinction " was shot across seven days , with the soundstage transformed into an alien jungle for filming . John Eaves designed a Xindi pod , as well as an alien spaceship which he strongly disliked . Jolene Blalock , Scott Bakula , Linda Park and Dominic Keating were each required to undergo extended make @-@ up sessions during six days of the shoot in order to show their characters in various states of mutation . Around four million viewers watched " Extinction " on first broadcast , but the critical reception was mixed . Although the actors who underwent additional make @-@ up were praised , the plot was found to be similar to previous episodes in the franchise and the ending was poor .

= = Plot = =

On Enterprise , Sub @-@ Commander T 'Pol is called to the command center by Captain Archer . Archer tells her that he has located a nearby planet that the Xindi recently visited . Both then travel down to the surface with Lieutenant Reed and Ensign Sato . They discover a Xindi shuttle along with two dead crewmembers , one of whom has been incinerated . With little warning , Archer , Sato and Reed suddenly begin to transform physically into a new species , but T 'Pol seems somehow resistant to the changes .

T 'Pol is able to communicate with Archer after gaining use of the universal translator . She learns they have been overcome with an overwhelming instinct to reach a city called " Urquat " , the homeland of their species . Meanwhile Commander Tucker and an away team of MACOs , equipped with biohazard suits , manage to capture and return Reed to the ship . Archer and Sato flee and T 'Pol opts to stay with them . Doctor Phlox soon determines that they were infected by a mutagenic virus , and concludes that T 'Pol 's Vulcan genetics rendered her immune .

Two " containment ships " soon arrive , demanding access to Enterprise in order to stop the virus that killed millions of their people 60 years ago . Tucker refuses , but invites their leader , Tret , aboard . Tret explains that the original inhabitants of the planet , the Loque 'eque , created the virus in an effort to continue their species . Believing it impossible to cure , he sends a team to the planet 's surface to neutralize Archer and Sato . Archer leads Sato and T 'Pol to Urquat , but they find it in ruins . Tucker then beams down with a team of MACOs and rescues them . Enterprise then warps away , but the alien ships pursue and attack the ship . Tucker asks Tret to allow Phlox more time to synthesize an antidote , but Tret refuses . Before he can board the ship , Phlox arrives with Archer and Sato ? now mostly restored ? and promises Tret a sample . Later , as Phlox plans to destroy the last vial of the virus , Archer tell him to keep it as a legacy of the now extinct species .

= = Production = =

The episode was directed by LeVar Burton , who had previously directed more than twenty other episodes of the franchise . He had also previously played Geordi La Forge in Star Trek : The Next Generation . Scott Bakula praised Burton 's work on Enterprise , saying that he had a " great energy

and a great sense of fun " and said that the flame @-@ throwers in " Extinction " got the former TNG actor " excited " . The writer , André Bormanis , was previously the science advisor for the various Star Trek series and was the story editor on Enterprise . Joining the cast in a guest role as Tret was Roger Cross , who had appeared in several science fiction series such as The X Files , Stargate SG @-@ 1 and Andromeda . He also appeared alongside Burton 's The Next Generation co @-@ star , Patrick Stewart , in X2 : X @-@ Men United . Returning in the same role in played in " The Xindi " , the first episode of season three , was Daniel Dae Kim as Corporal Chang .

Filming on " Extinction " began on July 31 , 2003 , with a shoot that lasted the following seven working days . To represent the jungle of the alien planet , the soundstage was inundated with foliage . A Xindi landing pod was created to appear in those same scenes . Several of the main cast were required to undergo extended make @-@ up sessions lasting three or four hours every day for six days of the shoot in order for their characters to appear in a number of different stages of mutation . The make @-@ up on Jolene Blalock was not as extensive as that on Scott Bakula , Dominic Keating and Linda Park due to her character 's Vulcan anatomy . Both Bakula and Keating had to wear bladders on their throats as a special effect which were inflated when they growled . Following the experience , Park praised John Billingsley , who in his role as Doctor Phlox has to undertake similar make @-@ up regimes for every episode .

Both the Xindi landing pod and the alien spaceship were designed by John Eaves . He also produced a series of designs for a Vulcan shuttle which ended up being written out of the episode . The Xindi pod went through three designs being approved , while the alien spaceship was accepted on the first submission . However Eaves regretted this , as he had submitted a spaceship design which he strongly disliked , calling it " by far my least favorite of anything I have ever drawn " . It was based on a hatchet housed in a tool pouch . Eaves also developed the concept artwork for the alien temple .

This was the first episode of the series following the title change from Enterprise to Star Trek : Enterprise , and so it was the first time that the new title card appeared . Also , " Extinction " was dedicated to Jerry Fleck , which appeared at the end of the episode before the credits . He had died in his sleep during the filming of the episode " Twilight " and was working on pre @-@ production for another one , " North Star " .

= = Reception and home media release = =

" Extinction " was first aired on September 24 , 2003 , on UPN within the United States . It received a 2 @.@ 5 / 4 percent share of the television audience , meaning that it was seen by 2 @.@ 5 percent of all households , and 4 percent of all households watching television at the time of the broadcast . It was viewed by approximately four million viewers , making it the lowest viewed episode of season three at this point .

Michelle Erica Green reviewed the episode for TrekNation , saying it was a typical " crewmembers transform into scary aliens " episode . She compared it to similar episodes from elsewhere in the Star Trek franchise such as " Masks " from Star Trek : The Next Generation and " Threshold " from Star Trek : Voyager . She had hope for a twist in the story , but instead found the ending of the episode " superfluous " and " sanctimonious " . She did praise the performance of Jolene Blalock for " keeping T 'Pol credible and sympathetic " , as well as Linda Park and Scott Bakula for the scenes in which they played the transformed versions of their characters .

The first home media release of " Extinction " was 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 released on January 7 , 2014 .