

= The Forge ( Star Trek : Enterprise ) =

" The Forge " is the seventh episode of the fourth season of the American science fiction television Star Trek : Enterprise , and originally aired on November 19 , 2004 on UPN . Directed by Michael Grossman , the script was written by Judith and Garfield Reeves @-@ Stevens , and formed the first part of a three @-@ episode arc which continued in " Awakening " and concluded in " Kir 'Shara " .

Set in the 22nd century , the series follows the adventures of the first Starfleet starship Enterprise , registration NX @-@ 01 . In this episode , the crew investigates the bombing of the Earth embassy on Vulcan . The evidence lead them to suspect a group called the Syrrannites , and Captain Archer and Commander T 'Pol seek to cross an unforgiving Vulcan desert , known as " The Forge " , in order to find them . Meanwhile on the ship , the crew discover that the evidence was planted by elements linked to Vulcan High Command .

The episode picks up on several references from Star Trek : The Original Series and The Animated Series . Scenes were filmed in Simi Valley , California to represent the Vulcan Forge itself , which was augmented with additional CGI to represent the firestorm and a Vulcan animal called the sehlat . The ratings for " The Forge " saw a decrease from the previous two episodes .

= = Plot = =

Enterprise is ordered to Vulcan after 31 humans die in the bombing of the United Earth Embassy , including Vice @-@ Admiral Forrest , who is killed saving the life of Ambassador Soval . Captain Archer meets with the head of the Vulcan High Command , Administrator V 'Las , who concedes that the Syrrannites , a Vulcan faction , might have been responsible . This is possible since although they claim peaceful tenets , they follow a " corrupted " form of the teachings of the Vulcan philosopher and father of Vulcan logic , Surak . Further , initial video and DNA evidence lead to a Vulcan named T 'Pau , a known Syrrannite .

Koss arrives on board Enterprise to speak to his wife , T 'Pol . He gives her an IDIC pendant from her mother , who he explains is also a Syrrannite . The pendant projects a map showing a path across a desert on Vulcan called ? the Forge , ? which Archer believes will lead them to both T 'Pau and T 'Pol 's mother . T 'Pol and Archer leave the ship and begin to make the crossing , following the map . They soon encounter another traveller , calling himself Arev , who assists but remains distrustful of them . A sand @-@ fire storm kills Arev , but before he dies , he forcefully performs a mind @-@ meld with Archer to transfer his katra . After burying him , a focussed Archer leads T 'Pol directly to the concealed T 'Karath Sanctuary , where they are quickly captured .

Back on Enterprise , Doctor Phlox discovers that the DNA was planted . He and Commander Tucker then examine security scans near a checkpoint in the Embassy and single out a hooded man holding a suspicious package . Furthermore they notice that the guard at the checkpoint seems to already know who the bomber is . Unfortunately , the guard is in a coma from the blast , and Archer and T 'Pol are incommunicado . Even though it violates standard Vulcan ethics , Phlox and Tucker consider a mind @-@ meld , and Soval decides to perform it himself . To his surprise , he discovers that the suspect is Stel , a Vulcan investigator attached to V 'Las . Soval then resolves to inform the High Command .

= = Production = =

Production on the episode began on September 14 , 2004 and ran through to September 22 . The standing sets were used for the first three days of filming . Further sets were created to represent the Vulcan Embassy and portions of the Forge . The final two days were filmed on site in Simi Valley in southern California , which doubled as the main areas of the Forge . The property used in the valley was owned by mining company P.W. Gillibrand , which was nearby property owned by Vulcan Materials Company . Optical effects were added to represent the firestorm and the sehlat . The CGI sehlat was based on one which previously appeared in Star Trek : The Animated Series episode "

Yesteryear ". Visual effects producer Dan Curry said that the team " looked at the animated series and it just looked nice and pleasant , so I did a couple of sketches to do a reinterpretation of it to make it look scary , but not be too radical a departure from the original ". Eden FX modelled the CGI under supervision by staff visual effects supervisor Art Codron . Additional care was taken to create the fur so that close @-@ ups could be used if required . The only physical portion of the sehlat to be created was a single paw . " Yesteryear " was set in the Vulcan city Shi 'Khar , which reappears in " The Forge " , and it is also the first mention of the area on Vulcan called the Forge . A further reference was made to " Vulcan 's Forge " in the Deep Space Nine episode " Change of Heart " .

" The Forge " and the following two episodes make reference to a time of savagery in Vulcan history known as the " Time of Awakening " . This had been previously mentioned in The Original Series episodes " Balance of Terror " , " All Our Yesterdays " and " The Savage Curtain " as well as The Next Generation episode " Gambit " . The story mentioned the Vulcan T 'Pau , who had previously appeared in The Original Series episode " Amok Time " presiding over the fight between Kirk and Spock , with the elder T 'Pau portrayed by Celia Lovsky . Michael Reilly Burke returns as Koss , having previously appeared in the role in the season four episode " Home " . Robert Foxworth appears as Administrator V 'Las , having previously appeared as Admiral Leyton in the Deep Space Nine episodes " Homefront " and " Paradise Lost " .

Husband and wife duo Judith and Garfield Reeves @-@ Stevens had previously written a number of Star Trek related novels and books , including a series of collaborations with William Shatner and the novel Federation . They had also written several non @-@ fiction books on the behind the scenes productions of the Star Trek series such as Star Trek : Phase II - The Lost Series and Star Trek : The Next Generation - The Continuing Mission . " The Forge " was their first script together for a Star Trek series , but they had previously written scripts for other shows including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle 's The Lost World and Once a Thief . They joined the Enterprise writing team shortly before working on the story for this episode which formed the first part of a planned " Vulcan arc " . The arc was created to address the differences between Vulcans seen in the early seasons of Enterprise and those seen in Star Trek series set in later periods . Executive producer Manny Coto said that during the storyline " we will begin to see Vulcans approaching what they were in the later eras " . In Enterprise , Vulcans were more emotional and deceptive than they had been seen in earlier aired series . The storyline was one of several in the fourth season of Enterprise which Coto sought to connect the series to The Original Series . " The Forge " was director Michael Grossman 's second episode of Enterprise , having previously directed the third season episode " Hatchery " . He went on to direct the episode " Affliction " later in season four .

= = Reception and home media = =

" The Forge " received a 1 @. @ 9 / 3 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 1 @. @ 9 percent of all households , and 3 percent of all of those watching television at the time of the broadcast . This resulted in UPN placing last out of the major networks with NBC leading during the timeslot with a 6 @. @ 3 / 11 % rating for Dateline . Joan of Arcadia on CBS was close to NBC 's numbers with a rating of 6 @. @ 2 / 11 % . " The Forge " saw a decrease from the 2 @. @ 1 / 4 % share received by the previous two episodes " Cold Station 12 " and " The Augments " .

Michelle Erica Green of TrekNation approved of the episode with some reservations . She said that it " beautifully melds together threads from every Star Trek series in a way that 's deeply satisfying to this lifelong Trekker " , However , she was disappointed at the lack of anything for Hoshi Sato or Travis Mayweather to do , and the obviousness of the use of some green screens in some scenes . Jamahl Epsicokhan of the website " Jammer 's Reviews " described the episode as a " jam @-@ packed story that cares about the history of Star Trek " . He gave it a score of 3 @. @ 5 / 4 , saying that it was " an intriguing outing . It 's like a cross between Enterprise , The Original Series , and Deep Space Nine , all at once . " When later summarising the fourth season , he described " The Forge " as " easily Enterprise 's best episode of the season " .

The first home media release of " The Forge " was in the season three DVD box set of Enterprise , originally released in the United States on November 1 , 2005 . The Blu @-@ ray edition was released on April 1 , 2014 .