

= Storm Front (Star Trek : Enterprise) =

" Storm Front " is the first and second episodes of the fourth season of the American science fiction television series Star Trek : Enterprise . They were first broadcast on October 8 , and October 15 , 2004 , respectively , on the UPN network within the United States . They were written by executive producer Manny Coto , and directed by Allan Kroeker . The episodes resolved the cliffhanger at the end of the third season finale , " Zero Hour " . It was Coto 's first episodes as the new show runner for the series .

Set in the 22nd century , the series follows the adventures of the first Starfleet starship , Enterprise , registration NX @-@ 01 . In this episode , after destroying the Xindi weapon , Enterprise finds itself in the 20th century during World War II with Nazis in control of the North Eastern USA . Captain Archer (Scott Bakula) joins Silik (John Fleck) to stop the alien Nazis , restore the timeline , and end the Temporal Cold War .

The episodes featured the return of several recurring characters , as well as stunt casting in the form of appearances by Golden Brooks , Joe Maruzzo and Steve Schirripa . These were the first episodes of the franchise to be shot on digitally rather than using film stock , and the filming of the two halves were completed together over 14 days . The first part was seen by 2 @.@ 84 million viewers , increasing to 3 @.@ 11 for the second episode . " Storm Front " was poorly received by the critics , with complaints directed at the pace of the episode , the ending of the Temporal Cold War and the general premise itself .

= = Plot = =

= = = Part I = = =

Following the events of " Zero Hour " , Commander Charles " Trip " Tucker III (Connor Trinneer) and Ensign Travis Mayweather (Anthony Montgomery) survive the attacks by P @-@ 51 Mustangs on their shuttlepod and arrive back on Enterprise . Temporal Agent Daniels (Matt Winston) , near death , suddenly appears to Doctor Phlox (John Billingsley) in sickbay . He warns that an alien named Vosk (Jack Gwaltney) , the leader of a faction of the Temporal Cold War , has altered the timeline with catastrophic consequences . Enterprise was brought to the mid @-@ 20th century to end the Temporal Cold War between several factions including the Federation . On Earth , Captain Jonathan Archer (Scott Bakula) escapes from the Germans when American resistance fighters ambush his convoy .

Wounded , he is taken to a Resistance safehouse in Brooklyn . With the Germans controlling the U.S. Eastern Seaboard , it is revealed that the aliens , known as the Na 'kuhl , have sworn allegiance to Nazi Germany . Further , they are providing them with advanced weapons and technology in exchange for material and supplies to build a conduit that will take them back to their own time period . Meanwhile , Silik (John Fleck) , the leader of the Suliban Cabal , had boarded Enterprise and manages to steal a shuttlepod to fly to Earth . Tucker and Mayweather are then sent to find Silik along with the shuttlepod . Archer contacts Sub @-@ commander T 'Pol (Jolene Blalock) using a stolen communicator and is transported back to Enterprise . Before dying , Daniels asks Archer to stop the Na 'Kuhl from using the conduit and becoming even more dangerous . On Earth , the away team find and destroy the shuttlepod , but are captured and taken in for interrogation .

= = = Part II = = =

Lieutenant Malcolm Reed (Dominic Keating) finds the point of divergence in the timeline : the 1916 murder of Lenin , where witnesses claimed Lenin 's killer " vanished into thin air . " The removal of Lenin prevents the October Revolution from successfully taking place , causing Hitler to not perceive Russia as a threat . The full weight of the Nazi war machine was therefore directed at Western Europe and the United States . Vosk seeks an alliance with Enterprise , releasing Mayweather and

Tucker in hopes of forging a new understanding with Archer . Medical scans soon reveal that Tucker is actually Silik in disguise and he and Archer realize they need each other 's help . They enlist the help of the Resistance to destroy the shields of the Na 'kuhl complex and to help rescue Tucker .

Before they can complete the mission , Silik is killed by a guard near the conduit , and Archer is nearly shot by a confused Tucker . With the alien shields down , Enterprise then completes an atmospheric entry , flying over New York City and destroying the alien facility with photon torpedoes . The episode ends with Daniels showing Archer the threads of the timeline resetting themselves back to normal , as the Temporal Cold War finally ends with the death of Vosk . Archer demands that Daniels should never visit or bother Enterprise again . With their mission completed , Enterprise finally arrives back in its proper time period , where the crew are welcomed and escorted by an entire squadron of Starfleet vessels .

= = Production = =

= = = Premise and writing = = =

The decision to introduce a Nazi threat in Enterprise was decided upon when the producers were wrapping up the third season . Executive producer Brannon Braga explained afterwards that " I can 't remember who said ' Nazis , ' but we just somehow ended up with Nazis . Then that didn 't even feel like enough , so we decided to make them alien Nazis . " Only scene featuring the Nazis was filmed during the previous episode , " Zero Hour " . The intention was to resolve this quickly at the start of the fourth season and avoid a lengthy storyline .

Further changes occurred prior to the start of the fourth season ; executive producers Braga and Rick Berman both took a step back from the show and brought in Manny Coto as the new showrunner for Enterprise . Coto found that after he got through the Nazi story leftover from season three , he would have greater freedom to connect the series to Star Trek : The Original Series . He described that cliffhanger as one in which the characters needed to be written out of , as there was no set plan in place on how to resolve it . He made the decision to switch the story from being purely @-@ time travel based to one which featured alternate history , while resolving the Temporal Cold War , and wrote the script for both parts himself .

= = = Casting = = =

Fleck and Winston resumed their recurring roles on Enterprise in both parts of " Storm Front " , as Silik and Daniels . J. Paul Boehmer resumed his role from " Zero Hour " as an SS Agent ; he had previously appeared as a Nazi in the Star Trek : Voyager episode " The Killing Game " , as well as the Vulcan Mestral in the Enterprise episode " Carbon Creek " . Two other actors who returned in " Storm Front " from previous Voyager appearances were Tom Wright who had appeared as Tuvix in the titular episode , and Christopher Neame who played Unferth in " Heroes and Demons " .

There were also several Star Trek debuts in " Storm Front " , including Golden Brooks , better known for her main cast role in UPN 's Girlfriends ; and Joe Maruzzo and Steve Schirripa , who both appeared in HBO 's The Sopranos . These three appearances were described as " stunt casting " by UPN President Dawn Ostroff . Jack Gwaltney was cast as Vosk , the villain of the two @-@ parter .

= = = Filming = = =

Filming began on July 15 , 2004 , and marked the first occasion that an episode of the Star Trek franchise was shot digitally rather than using traditional film stock . Director of photography Marvin V. Rush later explained that this was an easy transition , and added that this made the filming process easier as a high @-@ definition monitor was available on set allowing departments , such as make @-@ up , to make immediate adjustments . Directing Enterprise once again was Allan Kroeker for the first half of " Storm Front " , who had helmed the previous episode " Zero Hour " .

The production of the two parts intermingled over 14 days , with the second half directed by David Straiton . The initial two days of filming took place on the standing sets representing the Enterprise and the shuttlepod . The shoot moved to Stage 9 on the Paramount lot when it resumed after a weekend break , which had been set up to represent the interior of a New York City apartment .

Subsequently , an area of the Paramount backlot was dressed to appear as the exterior areas of a Nazi occupied New York City . This included a reproduction of a boxing poster previously shown in The Original Series episode " The City on the Edge of Forever " , as well as a number of references to the production crew . A couple of locations which had appeared before in the franchise were shown , including a street corner shown in the Enterprise episode " Carpenter Street " , The Next Generation 's " Time 's Arrow " and the Voyager episode " 11 : 59 " . Furthermore , a bus stop from Voyager 's " Non Sequitur " was also re @-@ used .

Most of the filming for the second half of the episode wasn 't on the standing sets . Scenes were shot elsewhere , including on site shooting at Griffith Park , which had previously been used in the Voyager episode " Future 's End " . Other locations used included the re @-@ dressed Paramount backlot , as well as an alleyway elsewhere on the same site . A night shoot was required for a firefight sequence featuring explosions and stunt work . Additional post production work was required to show Silik 's shapeshifting , although Fleck appeared in a number of scenes without the prosthetics he normally wears for that role .

= = Reception = =

= = = Broadcast = = =

The first part of " Storm Front " debuted on October 4 , 2004 , at a gala evening on the Paramount lot hosted by Kevin Frazier . The screening was followed with a panel discussion featuring Coto , Braga , Kroeker , Rush , Bakula , supervising producer Peter Lauritson , and Sony executives Yasuhiko Mikami and Andrew Stucker . The fourth season of Enterprise was moved to Friday nights on UPN network . The first episode of " Storm Front " was broadcast on October 8 , watched by 2 @.@ 84 million viewers . When the second part was shown the following week , the number of viewers had increased to 3 @.@ 11 million .

= = = Critical reception = = =

Charlie McCollum for the Knight Ridder newspapers said that the first half fell flat on promises made to rejuvenate the series , adding that " Storm Front " represented " a confusing premise , flat production and recycled stories . " Jamahl Epsicokhan , at his website Jammer 's Reviews , gave both parts two and a half out of four stars . He wrote that the episode " inherits so much nonsensical time @-@ travel baggage from previous episodes (including last season 's final 60 seconds) that the premise is all but indefensible " and ultimately the episode " breaks down the entire temporal war (at least I think it does) to a single battle in Earth 's past , that revolves around a single sci @-@ fi MacGuffin : Vosk 's conduit that the Nazis are constructing for him . "

At TrekNation , Michelle Erica Green described the first part as " thoroughly entertaining " but was uneasy that the series was producing something so " irrelevant " . However , she felt that the episodes were a refreshing change from the Xindi arc in the third season . She said that the second part inherited the same issues from past episodes , but that the opening was strong with the fake newsreel footage of Adolf Hitler arriving in New York City . She didn 't like that the Temporal Cold War storyline ended without any clear resolution , and the lack of character moments in the episode .

KJB of IGN gave the first half 3 out of ten , adding that the first episode suffered from a lack of pace , and described it as " awful " . The second episode was rated four out of ten and called " thin on plot " , but Coto was praised for killing off " long term pain " Silik , adding that the Suiliban were " still the worst aliens ever created for the Trek franchise " . KJB closed on a hope that " With some of the

conceptual flotsam flushed away , Coto may actually have a chance to give Enterprise a decent final run before its inevitable and grisly end . "

Ronald B. Moore , Daniel Curry and David Takemura won the award for Best Visual Effects in a Broadcast Series at the Visual Effects Society Awards in 2004 for their work on the second part of " Storm Front " . The other nominees were the pilot episode of Stargate : Atlantis and " Lost City " , a two @-@ part episode of Stargate : SG @-@ 1 .

= = Home media release = =

Both parts of " Storm Front " released on home media in the United States on November 1 , 2005 , as part of the season four DVD box set of Enterprise . The Blu @-@ ray edition was released on April 1 , 2014 .