

= United (Star Trek : Enterprise) =

" United " is the 13th episode of the fourth season of the American science fiction television series Star Trek : Enterprise and the 89th episode overall . It was first broadcast on the UPN network on February 4 , 2005 . It is the second of a three @-@ part story which included the previous episode " Babel One " , and the following episode , " The Aenar " . " United " was written by Judith and Garfield Reeves @-@ Stevens from a story idea by show runner Manny Coto . It was directed by David Livingston , his third of the season .

Set in the 22nd century , the series follows the adventures of the first Starfleet starship Enterprise , registration NX @-@ 01 . In this episode , two of the crew are trapped on the Romulan drone ship while Captain Jonathan Archer (Scott Bakula) on the Enterprise attempts to gain the co @-@ operation of the Andorians and Tellarites in tracking down the drone . His plan is complicated when Commander Shran (Jeffrey Combs) challenges a Tellarite to a duel , causing Archer to step in . After he defeats Shran , the races work together and force the retreat of the Romulan vessel and the missing crewman are recovered .

The episode was filmed over seven days , utilising the standing sets and those created for the previous episode . The duel was choreographed by Vince Deadrick Jr . , and the Ushaan @-@ Tor weapon itself was created by Dan Curry . " United " was watched by 2 @. @ 81 million viewers on the first broadcast . Critics responded favourably to the episode , comparing it to the Star Trek : The Original Series episode " Amok Time " and the Andorians ' actions to those of Klingons elsewhere in the franchise .

= = Plot = =

" United " continues from the events in " Babel One " . On Romulus , Admiral Valdore (Brian Thompson) , Romulan scientist Nijil (J. Michael Flynn) , and their pilot continue to control the mysterious " marauder " , cloaking it to look like Enterprise and then using it to destroy a Rigelian vessel . Despite this success , Senator Vrax (Geno Silva) chastises them for losing full control of their drone since Commander Charles " Trip " Tucker III (Connor Trinneer) and Lieutenant Malcolm Reed (Dominic Keating) are still on board . Valdore and Nijil then work to trap Tucker inside a service junction as he attempts to divert power . After incapacitating him with leaked radiation coolant , Valdore then orders Reed to re @-@ establish the damaged warp matrix on the drone or see his crewmate die . Reed complies in order to rescue Tucker .

Meanwhile , aboard Enterprise , Commander T 'Pol (Jolene Blalock) and Ensign Travis Mayweather (Anthony Montgomery) devise a surveillance grid that will require the coordinated effort of 128 space ships . After seeking help from Earth and Vulcan , Captain Jonathan Archer (Scott Bakula) realizes that he will need to obtain Andorian and Tellarite support too . Archer 's attempt hits a snag when Lieutenant Talas dies from the phaser wound sustained earlier . A devastated Commander Shran (Jeffrey Combs) openly challenges Naarg (Kevin Brief) to a blood @-@ duel using Ushaan @-@ Tor , an Andorian ice @-@ miner 's tool . Realizing that a death will derail trade negotiations , Archer announces himself as the Tellarite 's substitute . The duel proceeds and Archer is fortunately able to win , and spares Shran 's life after severing an antenna .

With the duel completed , Shran promises continued Andorian support for the grid , and the Tellarite 's Ambassador Gral (Lee Arenberg) does the same . Enterprise , as a flagship , soon relocates and re @-@ engages the drone . Reed and Tucker , caught in the crossfire and unable to be transported out , narrowly escape death by ejecting themselves into open space . A mixed fleet of " allied " vessels then arrive , forcing Vrax and Valdore to recall the drone at warp speed to Romulan space . Archer then invites the Andorians and the Tellarites to begin their negotiations early and no @-@ one aboard suspects that the drone 's pilot is actually an Andorian albino .

= = Production = =

" United " forms the second of a three part story , beginning with " Babel One " and concluding in "

The Aenar " . It was written by Judith and Garfield Reeves @-@ Stevens , who were newly hired writers for the fourth season of Enterprise . It was their third script after " The Forge " and " Observer Effect " . Manny Coto , the showrunner for the series , devised the story for " United " . David Livingston directed the episode , his third of the season after " Borderland " and " Kir 'Shara " .

Filming for the episode took seven days between November 11 and November 19 , 2003 , with half the shoot taking place on the standing ship sets representing the Enterprise itself , and the remainder on the Romulan drone and command center sets which had been created for " Babel One " . For " United " , the entire guest cast returned from the previous episode , as well as Geno Silva who played the Romulan senator Vrax and Scott Rinker as the albino Andorian revealed at the end of the episode . Neither actors had previously appeared in the franchise . The Reman race made their debut in the episode , as they had only previously appeared in the film Star Trek : Nemesis . The prosthetics seen in " United " were reused from that film .

Stunt co @-@ ordinator Vince Deadrick Jr. choreographed the Ushaan fight scene between Shran and Archer , with stuntmen Gary Wayton and Kim Koscki doubling for Combs and Bakula in wide shots . The Ushaan @-@ Tor itself was created by Dan Curry , whose previous work had included a variety of Klingon weapons including the bat 'leth . The script had simply called for " a dangerous @-@ looking Andorian weapon " , with the design fully coming from Curry . To demonstrate the different physiology of the Andorians , the make @-@ up department created a quantity of blue blood for use in that scene . It was also seen in an intravenous therapy prop in sickbay and for an earlier scene where Shran pours a quantity of it onto a Tellarite to issue his challenge .

= = Reception and home media release = =

" United " was first broadcast in the United States on February 4 , 2005 on UPN . It was watched by 2 @.@ 81 million viewers , which was more than the 2 @.@ 53 million who saw the previous episode , but less than the 3 @.@ 17 million who watched " The Aenar " .

Alasdair Wilkins described " United " as the containing the most pivotal moment in the series when writing for the A.V. Club . The moment where the founding races of the Federation worked together to defeat the Romulan plot . He also praised the work of Combs as Shran , adding that the duel between Shran and Archer was " the kind of larger @-@ than @-@ life presence the often staid Enterprise most benefits from " . Jamahl Epsicokhan , at his website Jammer 's Reviews , gave the episode three out of four stars . He compared the fight scene to the one from the Star Trek : The Original Series episode " Amok Time " , and felt that it showed the Andorians as being similar to the Klingons seen elsewhere in the franchise . He felt that the main storyline wrapped up in " United " , despite the twist at the end .

Michelle Erica Green also compared " United " to " Amok Time " in her review for TrekNation , placing Archer in the same role as Captain James T. Kirk in that episode . She said that this made sense for the sake of entertainment , but questioned why one of the marines on board the ship couldn 't have fought Shran instead . Green felt that the Andorians finally showed a series of similarities to the Klingons and pondered why they hadn 't become allies due to their similarities . She liked the episode , and posed one last question ; " Where were these sort of episodes when Enterprise still had a chance ? "

" United " was 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 .