

= Christine Chapel =

Christine Chapel is a fictional character who appears in all three seasons of the American science fiction television series *Star Trek : The Original Series* , as well as *Star Trek : The Animated Series* and the films *Star Trek : The Motion Picture* and *Star Trek IV : The Voyage Home* . Portrayed by Majel Barrett , she was the ship 's nurse on board the Starfleet starship USS Enterprise . Barrett had previously been cast under her real name as Number One in the first pilot for the series , " The Cage " , due in part to her romantic relationship with the series creator Gene Roddenberry . But following feedback from the Network executives , she was not in the cast for the second pilot .

The character made her first appearance in " The Naked Time " following a re @-@ write of the script by Roddenberry . He had been inspired after Barrett read a proposal for the episode " What Are Little Girls Made Of ? " and bleached her hair blonde to better fit a role in that episode . The change of color caused Roddenberry to believe that NBC executives might not notice that Barrett had returned against their wishes . The executives immediately recognized Barrett . The character was featured in several episodes covering several broad themes , such as showing her feelings for Spock (Leonard Nimoy) , and why she joined Starfleet . By the time of *The Motion Picture* , Chapel was a Doctor and during the events of *The Voyage Home* , she was stationed at Starfleet Command .

Executive producer Robert H. Justman was initially critical of Barrett 's performance as Chapel , but recanted this opinion after her appearance as Lwaxana Troi in the *Star Trek : The Next Generation* . Barrett herself was not fond of the character , and David Gerrold felt that she only served to demonstrate Spock 's emotionless behaviour . Critics saw the character as being a degradation for Barrett compared to her first character . While the position of nurse was seen as a stereotype , the character 's promotion to doctor was praised . Certain episodes featuring her were criticised , such as " Amok Time " where the plot prevented her from having a relationship with Spock , and " What Are Little Girls Made Of ? " where it was suggested she was featured to the detriment of other characters . Among fans , she was initially unpopular due to her feelings for Spock , but prior to the 2009 film *Star Trek* , there was a desire to see her return .

= = Concept and development = =

Prior to working on *Star Trek* , Gene Roddenberry had been developing a variety of television pilots for Screen Gems . One actress he auditioned saw was Majel Leigh Hudec , later to use the name Majel Barrett . Later when he created the drama series *The Lieutenant* , he cast her in the episode " In the Highest Tradition " . They quickly became friends , and entered into a romantic relationship although Roddenberry was married at the time . During the development of the first pilot for *Star Trek : The Original Series* (" The Cage ") , Roddenberry wrote the part of Number One (the ship 's second in command) specifically for Barrett . There was reluctance from the NBC executives to agree to an actress who was almost unknown . Roddenberry did see other actresses for the part , but no one else was considered .

Executive producer Herbert Franklin Solow attempted to sell them on the idea that a fresh face would bring believability to the part , but they were aware that she was Roddenberry 's girlfriend . Despite this they agreed to her casting , not wanting to upset Roddenberry at this point in the production . After the pilot was rejected , a second pilot was produced . While it was generally explained that the network disliked a female character as the second @-@ in @-@ command of the Enterprise , Solow had a different opinion of events . He explained that " No one liked her acting ... she was a nice woman , but the reality was , she couldn 't act . " " Where No Man Has Gone Before " successfully took *Star Trek* to a series order . Barrett had been given the role of voicing the computer on the USS Enterprise , but was demanding that Roddenberry write her into the main cast .

After seeing the initial proposal for " What Are Little Girls Made Of ? " , Barrett felt that she could play the woman who went into space to find her fiancé . She dyed her hair blonde in an attempt to fit the role . Barrett sought to surprise Roddenberry at his office , but he walked right past her , not

recognizing who she was . It was only when he came back out give his secretary some papers that he realized it was Barrett . They had the idea that it might get her past the NBC executives and back onto the show . The character of Christine Ducheaux was subsequently changed to Christine Chapel by Roddenberry , as a play on the Sistine Chapel . No other actresses were considered for the role .

At the same time , story editor John D.F. Black wrote the initial script for " The Naked Time " , also early in the first season . The story featured a virus being transmitted amongst the ship 's crew , which removed their inhibitions . One element of Black 's story featured the addition of a nurse in sickbay , working to Doctor Leonard McCoy . Chapel was written into both these episodes by Roddenberry . The deception didn 't work , with NBC executive Jerry Stanley commenting simply " Well , well ? look who 's back " to Solow . Roddenberry saw to it that the character of Christine Chapel would become a recurring one throughout the series , on @-@ par with Uhura . She remained unsatisfied with the role , but appreciated that since NBC had already fired her once , Roddenberry couldn 't expand the role .

For Star Trek : The Animated Series , Barrett was initially set to reprise the role of Chapel as well as voicing Uhura . Likewise James Doohan was to voice both his own Scotty as well as Hikaru Sulu . However , following the intervention of Leonard Nimoy , Nichelle Nichols and George Takei were both brought back to voice their own characters . Barrett returned in Star Trek : The Motion Picture as Chapel , which she described as a " very minimal role " , saying that " If no one had called me Commander Chapel , the audience wouldn 't really know that I was there . " Barrett said in the film franchise Chapel got lost along the way , not appearing in the second or third films despite her view that she was a main character in The Original Series . Nimoy brought back the character for Star Trek IV : The Voyage Home , and Barrett was grateful for his decision . The character was subsequently mentioned in the 2009 film Star Trek , which saw the characters from The Original Series re @-@ cast . Chapel was one of the suggested possibilities for Alice Eve to play in the sequel , Star Trek Into Darkness . It was later revealed that she was portraying Carol Marcus .

= = Appearances = =

In " What Are Little Girls Made Of ? " , it is explained that Chapel abandoned a career in bio @-@ research for a position in Starfleet . She had hoped that this would reunite her with her fiancé Dr. Roger Korby (Michael Strong) , incommunicado following his expedition to the planet Exo III . Five years after Korby 's disappearance , Chapel was assigned to the USS Enterprise , under the command of Captain James T. Kirk . She served as head nurse , working under Dr. McCoy (DeForest Kelley) .

While on @-@ board the ship , she began to develop feelings for Spock (Leonard Nimoy) , admitting as such in " The Naked Time " . Her actions in that episode resulted in the Psi 2000 intoxication unwittingly being further spread among the crew . The ship reached Exo III in " What Are Little Girls Made Of ? " . Captain Kirk (William Shatner) and Chapel beam down and discover Korby had been exploiting a sophisticated android manufacturing technology on the planet . After Chapel is horrified to find out that Korby had transplanting his personality into an android replica , he kills himself in despair . Roddenberry later co @-@ wrote in The Making of Star Trek that the actions of that episode resulted in Chapel breaking her ties to Earth devotes herself to Starfleet service .

After Korby 's death , Chapel doubted if she should stay aboard , but elected to remain with the Enterprise throughout the five @-@ year mission . Chapel 's feelings for Spock were revisited and alluded to only a few times in the series , most notably in " Plato 's Stepchildren " . In the episode , the Platonians telekinetically force Chapel and Spock to kiss passionately . This humiliates Chapel despite her long @-@ standing feelings for him . In the episode " Amok Time " , she brings Spock some soup to help him through a sacred Vulcan ritual , the Pon farr . He angrily refuses the soup and throws it at the wall , but later thanks Chapel for her thoughtfulness .

Chapel appeared in two of the Star Trek films featuring The Original Series cast . In Star Trek : The Motion Picture , Chapel had become a doctor on @-@ board the Enterprise . Her second appearance was in Star Trek IV : The Voyage Home , where she and Janice Rand (Grace Lee

Whitney) were stationed in Starfleet Headquarters in San Francisco . In the 2009 film Star Trek , a Nurse Chapel is mentioned by McCoy (Karl Urban) . In the 2013 film Star Trek Into Darkness , Carol Marcus (Alice Eve) tells Kirk (Chris Pine) that after being with him , Chapel left to become a nurse .

= = Reception = =

= = = Cast and crew = = =

Executive producer Robert H. Justman didn 't care for Chapel ; he described her as a " wimpy , badly written , and ill @-@ conceived character . " He added that the additional camera lenses used by director Jerry Finnerman in that episode for close @-@ ups of her quivering lip only " served to emphasise the lack of character written into the character . " He had complained to Roddenberry of Barrett 's acting skills , but stopped when he became aware of their relationship . It was only after Barrett 's first appearance as Lwaxana Troi in the Star Trek : The Next Generation episode " Haven " , that he came to realise that it was the Chapel character he disliked , not Barrett herself and told her that his opinion had changed . Barrett also didn 't care for the character of Chapel , saying " I 've never been a real aficionado of Nurse Chapel , I figured she was kind of weak and namdy @-@ pamdy . "

Writer David Gerrold , who worked with the staff of The Original Series following his work on the episode " The Trouble with Tribbles " , described Chapel as being one of a second @-@ tier set of characters including Uhura , Scotty and Sulu , who were not given as much exposure during the series as the main characters of Kirk , Spock and McCoy . He explained that she was the only one of the second level of characters whose motivations were explored , however , her primary focus on @-@ board the ship was simply to be in love with Spock . Gerrold explained that there was a need to demonstrate the " aloofness " of the Vulcan character , and so this resulted in a character whose love of him needed to be rebuffed , thus giving Chapel her purpose . He suggested that this caused Chapel to be disliked the fandom because " Female fans saw her as a threat to their own fantasies and male fans saw her as a threat to Spock 's Vulcan stoicism . " But added that those fans were surprised when they met Barrett at science fiction conventions , as they found her likeable in person . By the time of the 2009 film Star Trek , the character had become more popular among fans , who were asking if she would appear in the new films .

= = = Critical reception = = =

In her essay " The Audience as Auteur . Women , Star Trek and ' Vidding ' " in the book Gene Roddenberry 's Star Trek : The Original Cast Adventures , Francesca Coppa said that she saw the switch from Number One to Chapel for Barrett as " degradation on every level : role , status and image " . The role was described as " consolation " in Cary O 'Dell 's book June Cleaver Was a Feminist ! : Reconsidering the Female Characters of Early Television , but it was felt that Barrett " made the most of it " . The position of a nurse was described by O 'Dell as a traditional female role , but that Chapel would stand up to McCoy 's orders when required . Her promotion to Doctor in The Motion Picture was praised by author Gladys L. Knight in her book Female Action Heroes : A Guide to Women in Comics , Video Games , Film , and Television .

Reviewer were critical of her relationship with Spock , with Jan Johnson @-@ Smith describing Chapel in American Science Fiction TV as " a woman condemned to forever lust after the elusive Vulcan " , and that she was one of several female characters in the series who were " depicted as recognisable stereotypes " . Coppa also discussed this , calling the character as being a typical damsel in distress , existing " merely to pine " . But the relationship was also seen positively , with Torie Atkinson , at Tor.com , said of Chapel in " Amok Time " that " her affection is so transparent and sweet . " In The Making of Star Trek by Roddenberry and Stephen E. Whitfield , her feelings towards Spock are said to not be unique as they are shared by many of the female crew on @-@

board the Enterprise . It is also further explained that McCoy is aware of her feelings , but displays " fatherly affection " towards her and never " childses " her for this .

Her appearances in episodes were commented on , with Wei Ming Dariotis critical that the single @-@ mindedness of the plot for " Amok Time " in not allowing Spock to have sex with Chapel , or any other woman , and thus solve the problem of his Pon farr . But Eugene Myers at Tor.com praised Chapel , saying that the most interesting part of " What Are Little Girls Made Of ? " was that it was based primarily on her , while Keith DeCandido said that this resulted in the episode being the " Kirk @-@ and @-@ Chapel show " to the detriment of the other characters .