

= Terra Prime =

" Terra Prime " is the 21st episode of the fourth season of the American science fiction television series Star Trek : Enterprise , and originally aired on May 13 , 2005 . The story was developed by Judith and Garfield Reeves @-@ Stevens , along with André Bormanis , and developed into a script by the Reeves @-@ Stevenses and show runner Manny Coto . The episode is the second of a two @-@ part story , which started in " Demons " . The episode was directed by Marvin Rush , his second 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 , John Frederick Paxton , the leader of the xenophobic human group Terra Prime , threatens to use an array on Mars to destroy Starfleet Command , unless all aliens leave Earth immediately . Enterprise , Captain Archer and an away team covertly take a shuttlepod to the array and attempt to stop Paxton and rescue their crew @-@ mates .

The guest actors who appeared in " Demons " were joined by Derek Magyar and Eric Pierpoint , who appeared earlier in the season in " Affliction " , while Joel Swetow had previously appeared in episodes of Deep Space Nine and The Next Generation . The script called for a reference to the United States space program and so the Carl Sagan Memorial Station and the Mars Exploration Rover Sojourner were included in a shot added in post production . " Terra Prime " received a Nielsen rating of 2 @. @ 0 / 4 % and it was praised by critics who described it as a " real " episode and there were suggestions that had Enterprise gone into a further season then the story could have acted as an ongoing subplot . It was ranked as the best episode of the series by Empire magazine .

= = Plot = =

Commander T 'Pol and Commander Tucker remain captives of Paxton , who continues to broadcast his demand on all channels and frequencies . Paxton 's action has an unsettling effect on the interspecies conference since it is clear that not all humans support it . On Mars , Paxton allows T 'Pol and Tucker see the baby , and T 'Pol uses her scanner to learn that the child is unwell (and that Paxton has been using Rigelian gene therapy to treat himself) . Seeking to fine @-@ tune their attack , Paxton then threatens T 'Pol to force Tucker to optimize the targeting system of the array .

Enterprise is then ordered to Mars to destroy the array , but is turned away when a warning shot from the weapon damages the ship . Gannet Brooks , now in the brig , reveals to Ensign Mayweather she is a Starfleet Intelligence operative , and that Terra Prime probably has an operative aboard . Under the urging of Minister Samuels , the crew of Enterprise conceive a way to approach the deadly station undetected , using a shuttlepod hidden inside the tail of a comet . Captain Archer elects to lead the away mission , along with Lieutenant Reed , Doctor Phlox , and Mayweather .

En route , the shuttle 's systems suddenly fail , nearly causing it to crash . Landing on Mars , the team then infiltrate Paxton 's ship . Teaming up with Tucker , who has escaped his cell , they battle the Terra Prime followers in the control room . During the shoot out , Paxton manages to lock the firing sequence ? fortunately , Tucker has altered the targeting , and the beam misses . With Paxton under arrest , the hybrid child , named Elizabeth after Tucker 's sister , is delivered to Phlox who unfortunately cannot do anything to save her . Investigations also reveal that Ensign Masaro was the spy , and he dies by his own hand . Back in Starfleet , Archer makes an impassioned speech to convince the delegates to explore the universe 's mysteries together .

= = Production = =

Judith and Garfield Reeves @-@ Stevens created the story with André Bormanis and developed it into a script with show runner Manny Coto . Because of the nature of the two @-@ part episode , revisions to the scripts for both " Demons " and " Terra Prime " were required as changes occurred in the other script . The Reeves @-@ Stevens felt that a " ticking clock " was required for " Terra Prime " , and so the 24 @-@ hour deadline set by Paxton 's group was written into the end of "

Demons " . However , that exact ending was changed on several occasions which resulted in modifications to the " Terra Prime " script . Other changes were made following the filming of " Demons " as the Reeves @-@ Stevens changed some of the dialogue for Paxton after seeing Peter Weller 's performance . Shran , played by Jeffrey Combs , was written out of the episode as the decision was made to have the character appear in the series finale instead .

Filming began on " Terra Prime " on the afternoon of February 15 , 2005 and continued until February 25 . It was the second episode to be directed by Marvin Rush , who had previously worked on the second part of " In a Mirror , Darkly " . Rush was normally the director of photography on Enterprise . Whilst the majority of sets created for the Martian array had been created for the previous episode , a set was created to appear as an access tube specially for use in " Terra Prime " . In order to represent the shuttlecraft entering the comet , rather than using camera movement , the set was placed on rollers and physically moved to appear turbulent . The Martian landscape was inserted using a green screen where the away team enter the array , and the actors had make @-@ up applied to represent the red dust of the Martian landscape .

Several guest stars who had appeared in " Demons " continued in their roles in " Terra Prime " ; Harry Groener , Peter Mensah , Adam Clark along with Weller and Watts . A reference to Weller 's former show Odyssey 5 is included in the episode , when his character is diagnosed with " Taggart 's Syndrome " , where Taggart was the name of his character on Odyssey 5 . They were joined in this episode by several actors playing recurring roles , including Gary Graham who had played Ambassador Soval since the series pilot and Derek Magyar and Eric Pierpoint , who had played Commander Kelby and Harris respectively earlier in the season in " Affliction " . Joel Swetow also appeared in " Terra Prime " as an Andorian Ambassador , who had previously appeared in the pilot of Star Trek : Deep Space Nine and the The Next Generation episode " Firstborn " as well as performing voice roles for several Star Trek video games . The baby in the episode was played by a pair of twins , whilst the pointed Vulcan ears were applied to the child in post production .

The script requested two post production shots to be added as references to the American space program , which would have been shown as the shuttlepod landed on Mars . These included the Mars Exploration Rover Sojourner which appeared in the opening titles of Enterprise , now lying dormant and covered in dust . A further shot showed a plaque which denoted the landing spot of the rover on board the Carl Sagan Memorial Station . Following the cancellation of the series two episodes earlier , Coto stated that he considered " Demons " and " Terra Prime " to be the actual finale of the Enterprise storyline , rather than the final aired episode " These Are the Voyages ... which would be a goodbye to the franchise . "

= = Reception and home media release = =

" Terra Prime " was first aired in the United States on UPN on May 13 , 2005 . The broadcast saw the episode come in fifth place during the timeslot , with a Nielsen rating of 2 @. @ 0 / 4 . This means that it was seen by 2 percent of all households , and 4 percent of all of those watching television at the time of the broadcast . It gained higher ratings than The WB , which aired re @-@ runs of What I Like About You and Reba , but was behind the other four major networks with a CBS special on Elvis Presley receiving ratings of 7 @. @ 8 / 14 . This was the same ratings received by " Demons " , but was less than the final episode , " These Are the Voyages ... " which received ratings of 2 @. @ 4 / 4 when it was aired immediately after " Terra Prime " .

Michelle Erica Green reviewed the episode for TrekNation , saying that it felt like a " real Star Trek episode " but wasn 't sure about the characterisation for T 'Pol seen in " Terra Prime " . She would have preferred to see more of Mars , but was pleased with the glimpse of the Carl Sagan Memorial Station . She summed it up by saying that the two episodes were " no means perfect episodes , but they 're reaching very earnestly for what Star Trek was in the beginning " . Jamahl Epsicokhan at his website " Jammer 's Reviews " said that while there were plot holes in the story , and that elements were clumsy such as the showdown towards the end , the overall story was " sound " . He said that the episode was a " much more satisfying as a send @-@ off for the Enterprise crew " than " These Are the Voyages ... " . He gave " Terra Prime " a score of three out of four .

The review from IGN said that " In a perfect world , Enterprise would have gotten another year and could have used Terra Prime as a running subplot . " While they thought that the message was heavy @-@ handed , it was the type of stories that Enterprise should have been covering all along . They gave " Demons " and " Terra Prime " a score of four out of five . Jay Garmon , whilst compiling a list of the best episodes of Enterprise , listed " Demons " and " Terra Prime " as the third best . He thought that Peter Weller " stole the show " , and that it created a " solid conclusion " to the show despite the following episode , " These Are the Voyages ... " . Empire magazine ranked " Terra Prime " as the best episode of the series .

" Terra Prime " 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 .