

= The Augments =

" The Augments " is the sixth episode of the fourth season of the American science fiction television series Star Trek : Enterprise , the eighty @-@ second episode overall . It is the last of a three @-@ story episode arc , preceded by " Borderland " , and " Cold Station 12 " . " The Augments " was directed by LeVar Burton , from a script by Michael Sussman . The series follows the adventures of the first Starfleet starship Enterprise , registration NX @-@ 01 . In this episode , " Augments " , genetically enhanced humans , and Doctor Arik Soong , their surrogate father , escape Cold Station 12 after stealing frozen Augment embryos from storage . Soong plans to hide out with the Augments and raise the embryos , but Malik , their leader , is tired of hiding and attempts to instigate a war between Starfleet and the Klingons .

The production of the episode reunites fellow Star Trek : The Next Generation alumni Burton as the director and Brent Spiner as Arik Soong . On The Next Generation , Burton previously played Geordi La Forge , while Spiner played Data . Most of the guest cast from the previous two Enterprise episodes in the story arc returned for " The Augments " ; Mark Rolston makes an appearance as Klingon Captain Magh . The sets were also reused , but a new one was built for the Klingon escape pod used by Soong . UPN first aired " The Augments " on November 12 , 2004 , where it was watched by 2 @.@ 1 percent of the U.S. population . It received mixed reviews by critics , who spoke negatively of Malik 's character , but praised the performance of Spiner as Soong and the relationship between T 'Pol and Tucker .

= = Plot = =

At the end of " Cold Station 12 " , Doctor Arik Soong and the Augments he secretly raised depart the space station , taking with them 1 @,@ 800 frozen Augment embryos preserved from the time of the Eugenics Wars . Before leaving , Malik steals several pathogen samples from the station and sets the containment fields to fail . In " The Augments " , Captain Archer restores stasis around the central compound , and is beamed from space to safety , with the Enterprise in pursuit of Soong , Malik , and the Augments on their stolen Bird of Prey . Soong and the Augments arrive in Klingon space where he shares his plan : Soong intends to hide out in a region where Starfleet would have trouble tracking them down . Malik objects to Soong 's plan , noting that Khan Noonien Singh also ran away on the SS Botany Bay .

In pursuit of the Augments , Enterprise arrives in Klingon space having faked a Klingon warp signature . Soong releases a hostage on a Denobulan shuttle into a gas giant , forcing the Enterprise to abandon their pursuit and mount a rescue operation . Escaping , Malik proposes a new plan : trigger a war between Starfleet and the Klingons as a distraction by firing a pathogen @-@ filled torpedo at a Klingon colony . He reasons that Starfleet will be too busy fighting the Klingons to hunt down the Augments . Soong will have nothing to do with Malik 's genocidal proposal . On the Enterprise , Commander T 'Pol asks Commander Tucker about the distance between them after her recent arranged marriage (" Home ") , and he tells her he has come to terms with their new relationship .

Back on the Bird of Prey , Soong works on a way to remove aggressive behavior from the unborn Augment embryos . Malik , concerned by Soong 's plan to hide from Starfleet and his tampering with the embryos , leads a mutiny which confines Soong to his quarters . With the help of Persis , Soong leaves the ship in an escape pod . Enterprise , once again in pursuit , detects the pod and brings Soong on board . Heading towards the Klingon colony in high warp in an attempt to stop Malik 's plan , the Klingons detect their ship . Enterprise is forced to disable a Klingon cruiser when it tries to board . Malik kills Persis for her betrayal , and continues with his plan to attack the Klingons . Scans of the Qu 'vat colony reveal three main population centers ; the torpedo is armed with pathogens and prepared for deployment .

The Enterprise arrives late , just after Malik fires the torpedo , but Enterprise destroys it , saving the Klingon colony . Soong helps disable the Klingon ship , hoping to save some of the Augments . However , Malik scuttles the Klingon ship , killing the remaining Augments and the embryos , and

transports himself onto Enterprise in an attempt to kill Soong in revenge , but Archer manages to kill Malik first . The Klingons call off their retaliation against Earth , and Soong returns to the Starfleet Detention Center . In custody , he begins to doubt the feasibility of genetically engineering humans and wonders if perfecting artificial life has better prospects for the future .

= = Production = =

" The Augments " is the final episode in a three @-@ part story which began with " Borderland " and continued in " Cold Station 12 " . The return of genetically enhanced humans , as previously seen in the Star Trek : The Original Series episode " Space Seed " and Star Trek II : The Wrath of Khan , closely ties Enterprise to The Original Series .

The episode reunites Brent Spiner and LeVar Burton , two former Star Trek : The Next Generation alumni . Spiner previously played the role of the android Data on the show while Burton played chief engineer Geordi La Forge . Spiner appeared in all previous installments of the three @-@ story arc , while Burton only directed " The Augments " . Burton previously directed three episodes of Enterprise in the third season . To celebrate their collaboration as well as acknowledge the crew members who had remained with the franchise since their former series , Burton bought lunch on the final day of shooting for everyone on the set . The episode was written by Mike Sussman , his second of the season after " Home " .

Shooting began on September 2 and lasted for seven days , with the production taking time off for Labor Day . The majority of the sets on the episode were created for " Borderland " or " Cold Station 12 " . The scene depicting a Klingon escape pod required the construction of a new set . Spiner , as well as several other guest stars , resumed their roles from earlier in the story arc , including Alec Newman as Malik , Richard Riehle as Doctor Jeremy Lucas , Abby Brammell as Persis and Adam Grimes as Lokesh . Joining them was Mark Rolston as the Klingon Captain Magh ; Rolston previously appeared in The Next Generation as Walter Pierce in the episode " Eye of the Beholder " , and also played Kuroda in the Enterprise episode " Canamar " .

= = Reception and home media release = =

UPN first broadcast " The Augments " on November 12 , 2004 . According to overnight Nielsen ratings , 2 @. @ 1 percent of the population of the United States and four percent of those watching television at the time viewed the episode . " The Augments " received the same ratings as the previous episode , " Cold Station 12 " . However , it moved up to fourth place in the 8 p.m. timeslot , narrowly beating What I Like About You and Grounded for Life on The WB .

In a review for TrekNation , Michelle Erica Green said that Malik had become a " cardboard villain " by the time of " The Augments " , but she did not place the blame on Alec Newman for the failing . She also criticised the use of Persis ' death by Malik , saying that he defined her " even in death as a commodity for his use " . Green praised the relationship between T 'Pol and Tucker and the characterisation of Soong , noting that Spiner 's performance was the best of the three @-@ episode arc .

Writing for Jammer 's Reviews , Jamahl Epsicokhan gave the episode a rating of two out of four . Like Green , he also criticised Malik , noting that the " crux of the story is reduced to an unremarkable three @-@ character power struggle that is supposed to be a microcosm for the trouble that comes with genetically engineered super @-@ humans , but comes across instead as overly bland and tidy drama . " Spiner " delivers a good performance under the circumstances " , notes Epsicokhan , as his character has to believe that Malik will not overthrow his leadership of the Augments . Summing up the episode , Epsicokhan writes :

Perhaps this story was simply content to show absolute power corrupting absolutely . Unfortunately , aside from Persis , none of the Augments stop to think about what they 're doing or why , and the story of Malik is content to blandly repeat the story of Khan , but without the crucial personal motivator of revenge . I think the writers owed the material more than this .

Den of Geek writer James Hunt ranked the mini @-@ arc featuring the episodes " Borderland " , "

Cold Station 12 " and " The Augments " , the sixth best story of Enterprise . In a review for Big Shiny Robot , Andy Wilson said that the story arc represented the " personal journey " of Arik Soong from genetic engineering to cybernetics .

The first home media release of " The Augments " was originally released 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 .