STARFLEET ACADEMY
FLIGHT TRAINING CRAFT

TYPE: TRAINING CRAFT
IN OPERATION: 24th C
CREW: 1-2
LENGTH: 10.99 METERS
Contents

04: STARFLEET ACADEMY FLIGHT TRAINING CRAFT
10: DESIGNING THE SHIP
12: WIL WHEATON ON WESLEY CRUSHER
18: ON SCREEN

FLIGHT TRAINING CRAFT

TYPE: TRAINING CRAFT
AFFILIATION: STARFLEET ACADEMY
IN-OPERATION: 24TH CENTURY
LENGTH: 10.99 METERS
CREW: 1-2
PROPULSION: IMPULSE

Stand assembly:

Slide the stand over the back of the ship.

Find us on Facebook

SUBSCRIBE and receive exclusive free gifts –
www.startrek-starships.com

Call 0344 493 6091
Post the subscription form included with issues 1 to 5

BACK ISSUES
To order back issues: Order online at
www.startrek-starships.com or call 0344 493 6091

CUSTOMER SERVICES:
www.startrek-starships.com
UK: 0344 493 6091
startrek-ship@eaglemoss-service.com
Australia: (03) 9872 4000
bissett@bissettmags.com.au
New Zealand: (09) 308 2871
Fax: (09) 302 7661
subs@ndc.co.nz
South Africa: (011) 265 4307
service@jacklin.co.za
Malaysia: (03) 8020 7112
sales@allscript.com
Singapore: (65) 6287 7090
sales@allscript.com

OVERSEAS BACK ISSUES
Place your order with your local magazine retailer.

Warning! Collectable figurines.
Not designed or intended for play by children.
Do not dispose of in domestic waste.

Development Director:
Maggie Calmels

STAR TREK – The Official Starships Collection is
distributed worldwide.

EAGLEMOSS PUBLICATIONS
Acquisitions Notice: 2017

1st Floor, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road,
W14 8TS, London, UK. All rights reserved.

™ & © 2017 CBS Studios Inc. © 2017 Paramount
Pictures Corp. STAR TREK and related marks and
logos are trademarks of CBS Studios Inc. All Rights
Reserved.

Order binders, missing issues or
other Eaglemoss products at:
www.mycollectionshop.com

Find us on

Join us online for competitions, updates and more!
www.mycollectionshop.com

Order online for competitive prices and free delivery.
www.mycollectionshop.com

ORDERS

04: STARFLEET ACADEMY FLIGHT TRAINING CRAFT

SPECIFICATION

TYPE: TRAINING CRAFT
AFFILIATION: STARFLEET ACADEMY
IN-OPERATION: 24TH CENTURY
LENGTH: 10.99 METERS
CREW: 1-2
PROPULSION: IMPULSE

STARFLEET ACADEMY

FLIGHT TRAINING CRAFT

Telephone: 0131 459 6301
Email: info@eaglemoss.com
Website: www.eaglemoss.com

EAGLEMOSS PUBLICATIONS
Acquisitions Notice: 2017

1st Floor, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road,
W14 8TS, London, UK. All rights reserved.

™ & © 2017 CBS Studios Inc. © 2017 Paramount
Pictures Corp. STAR TREK and related marks and
logos are trademarks of CBS Studios Inc. All Rights
Reserved.

Welcome to Eaglemoss Collections

EAGLEMOSS PUBLICATIONS
Acquisitions Notice: 2017

1st Floor, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road,
W14 8TS, London, UK. All rights reserved.

™ & © 2017 CBS Studios Inc. © 2017 Paramount
Pictures Corp. STAR TREK and related marks and
logos are trademarks of CBS Studios Inc. All Rights
Reserved.

Order binders, missing issues or
other Eaglemoss products at:
www.mycollectionshop.com

Find us on

Join us online for competitions, updates and more!
www.mycollectionshop.com

Order online for competitive prices and free delivery.
www.mycollectionshop.com

ORDERS

04: STARFLEET ACADEMY FLIGHT TRAINING CRAFT

SPECIFICATION

TYPE: TRAINING CRAFT
AFFILIATION: STARFLEET ACADEMY
IN-OPERATION: 24TH CENTURY
LENGTH: 10.99 METERS
CREW: 1-2
PROPULSION: IMPULSE

STARFLEET ACADEMY

FLIGHT TRAINING CRAFT

Telephone: 0131 459 6301
Email: info@eaglemoss.com
Website: www.eaglemoss.com

EAGLEMOSS PUBLICATIONS
Acquisitions Notice: 2017

1st Floor, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road,
W14 8TS, London, UK. All rights reserved.

™ & © 2017 CBS Studios Inc. © 2017 Paramount
Pictures Corp. STAR TREK and related marks and
logos are trademarks of CBS Studios Inc. All Rights
Reserved.

Welcome to Eaglemoss Collections

EAGLEMOSS PUBLICATIONS
Acquisitions Notice: 2017

1st Floor, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road,
W14 8TS, London, UK. All rights reserved.

™ & © 2017 CBS Studios Inc. © 2017 Paramount
Pictures Corp. STAR TREK and related marks and
logos are trademarks of CBS Studios Inc. All Rights
Reserved.

Order binders, missing issues or
other Eaglemoss products at:
www.mycollectionshop.com

Find us on

Join us online for competitions, updates and more!
www.mycollectionshop.com

Order online for competitive prices and free delivery.
www.mycollectionshop.com

ORDERS

04: STARFLEET ACADEMY FLIGHT TRAINING CRAFT

SPECIFICATION

TYPE: TRAINING CRAFT
AFFILIATION: STARFLEET ACADEMY
IN-OPERATION: 24TH CENTURY
LENGTH: 10.99 METERS
CREW: 1-2
PROPULSION: IMPULSE

STARFLEET ACADEMY

FLIGHT TRAINING CRAFT

Telephone: 0131 459 6301
Email: info@eaglemoss.com
Website: www.eaglemoss.com

EAGLEMOSS PUBLICATIONS
Acquisitions Notice: 2017

1st Floor, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road,
W14 8TS, London, UK. All rights reserved.

™ & © 2017 CBS Studios Inc. © 2017 Paramount
Pictures Corp. STAR TREK and related marks and
logos are trademarks of CBS Studios Inc. All Rights
Reserved.

Welcome to Eaglemoss Collections

EAGLEMOSS PUBLICATIONS
Acquisitions Notice: 2017

1st Floor, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road,
W14 8TS, London, UK. All rights reserved.

™ & © 2017 CBS Studios Inc. © 2017 Paramount
Pictures Corp. STAR TREK and related marks and
logos are trademarks of CBS Studios Inc. All Rights
Reserved.

Order binders, missing issues or
other Eaglemoss products at:
www.mycollectionshop.com

Find us on

Join us online for competitions, updates and more!
www.mycollectionshop.com

Order online for competitive prices and free delivery.
www.mycollectionshop.com

ORDERS

04: STARFLEET ACADEMY FLIGHT TRAINING CRAFT

SPECIFICATION

TYPE: TRAINING CRAFT
AFFILIATION: STARFLEET ACADEMY
IN-OPERATION: 24TH CENTURY
LENGTH: 10.99 METERS
CREW: 1-2
PROPULSION: IMPULSE

STARFLEET ACADEMY

FLIGHT TRAINING CRAFT

Telephone: 0131 459 6301
Email: info@eaglemoss.com
Website: www.eaglemoss.com

EAGLEMOSS PUBLICATIONS
Acquisitions Notice: 2017

1st Floor, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road,
W14 8TS, London, UK. All rights reserved.

™ & © 2017 CBS Studios Inc. © 2017 Paramount
Pictures Corp. STAR TREK and related marks and
logos are trademarks of CBS Studios Inc. All Rights
Reserved.

Welcome to Eaglemoss Collections

EAGLEMOSS PUBLICATIONS
Acquisitions Notice: 2017

1st Floor, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road,
W14 8TS, London, UK. All rights reserved.

™ & © 2017 CBS Studios Inc. © 2017 Paramount
Pictures Corp. STAR TREK and related marks and
logos are trademarks of CBS Studios Inc. All Rights
Reserved.

Order binders, missing issues or
other Eaglemoss products at:
www.mycollectionshop.com

Find us on

Join us online for competitions, updates and more!
www.mycollectionshop.com

Order online for competitive prices and free delivery.
www.mycollectionshop.com

ORDERS

04: STARFLEET ACADEMY FLIGHT TRAINING CRAFT

SPECIFICATION

TYPE: TRAINING CRAFT
AFFILIATION: STARFLEET ACADEMY
IN-OPERATION: 24TH CENTURY
LENGTH: 10.99 METERS
CREW: 1-2
PROPULSION: IMPULSE

STARFLEET ACADEMY

FLIGHT TRAINING CRAFT

Telephone: 0131 459 6301
Email: info@eaglemoss.com
Website: www.eaglemoss.com

EAGLEMOSS PUBLICATIONS
Acquisitions Notice: 2017

1st Floor, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road,
W14 8TS, London, UK. All rights reserved.

™ & © 2017 CBS Studios Inc. © 2017 Paramount
Pictures Corp. STAR TREK and related marks and
logos are trademarks of CBS Studios Inc. All Rights
Reserved.
Starfleet Academy flight training craft were small, sublight ships used to train cadets in the art of extreme flight maneuvers and combat flying in the mid 24th century.

The training craft were 10.99m in length, and were similar in appearance to conventional atmospheric aircraft. They featured short, forward-swept stubby wings, a pointed nose and a glass canopy surrounding the pilot’s position.

The craft were designed for both atmospheric and space flight, and were highly agile. They were equipped with impulse engines and thrusters only, and were not able to achieve warp flight. They normally flew at speeds of around 80,000kph. They were also equipped with landing struts for touchdown on planetary surfaces, proximity alarms and emergency transporters.

COCKPIT LAYOUT

The training craft were normally operated by just one pilot, but could accommodate a second person or an instructor if necessary. Instrumentation included various computer readouts showing speed, course, g-forces and sensor information.

The flight training craft gave the cadets a practical education in the art of aerobatics, while also teaching them the fundamentals of starship operations. Students had to learn such disciplines as astrophysics and navigation, subjects that they would need once they had completed their training and were assigned to a starship.

Cadets who excelled during the flight exercises were picked to join an elite flight team at Starfleet Academy.

During the 24th century, Starfleet cadets learned flying skills and battle maneuvers at the controls of flight training craft.
Cadet First Class Nicholas Locarno was the leader of Nova Squadron. He was confident, charismatic and appeared to be a born leader. He engendered complete trust and loyalty in his fellow cadets, but he was hugely ambitious. He persuaded his squadron to perform the prohibited Kolvoord Starburst maneuver, so they would become legends at the Academy. When it resulted in a death, he tried to persuade the others to cover up what had really happened. This was an extremely prestigious position, much like making the football team at a traditional college, and only the most gifted and accomplished cadets were chosen. These cadets went on to learn and perform various complex formations and maneuvers as a demonstration of their flight prowess. Other students looked up to these cadets, and cheered them on when they competed against other flight schools in competitions like the Rigel Cup.

In 2368, Wesley Crusher, a former ensign aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise NCC-1701-D, was part of Nova Squadron, one of the elite flying teams at Starfleet Academy. This five-person team also consisted of Nicholas Locarno, Jean Hajar, Joshua Albert and Sito Jaxa, a Bajoran. Together they had achieved almost legendary status at the Academy by winning the Rigel Cup, which resulted in celebrations that according to groundskeeper Mr. Boothby, made the parties squares champion celebrations of 2324 look like a dinner party. Driven by the ambition of Locarno, the leader of Nova Squadron, they planned to put on a flight show due to be transmitted to the graduation ceremony of 2368 that no-one would forget. That was exactly what they achieved, but unfortunately for all the wrong reasons.

DATA FEED

Cadet First Class Nicholas Locarno was the leader of Nova Squadron. He was confident, charismatic and appeared to be a born leader. He engendered complete trust and loyalty in his fellow cadets, but he was hugely ambitious. He persuaded his squadron to perform the prohibited Kolvoord Starburst maneuver, so they would become legends at the Academy. When it resulted in a death, he tried to persuade the others to cover up what had really happened.

In the end, Wesley’s guilty conscience led him to tell the truth at the inquest. Locarno was expelled from the Academy, but in an impassioned plea he stated that he alone convinced the others to try the Kolvoord maneuver and it was his idea to cover up the truth. He sacrificed himself to save the rest of the squadron, and Wesley and the others were allowed to remain at the Academy. The training craft had a fairly flat cross-section and short wings. They were designed to be able to perform complex aerobatic maneuvers at speeds of at least 80,000 kph. These craft taught cadets not only the rudiments of flying, but also what was possible when they were pushed to extremes.
The Kolvoord Starburst was the name given to a spectacular, but highly dangerous, aerobatic space maneuver. Five training craft were needed to execute the display. They began by arranging themselves in a circular formation, coming extremely close together. They then bursted out simultaneously in different directions, igniting their plasma trails in their wake. This produced a spectacular ‘starburst’ effect, from which the maneuver took its name.

The display was certainly impressive, but a decision was taken to ban it, following the death of five cadets who attempted the stunt. Despite knowing this, Nova Squadron leader Nicholas Locarno wanted to attempt it, and persuaded his team to give it a go, even though they were not given official authorization. They found out firsthand how dangerous it was when the training craft collided during the maneuver and all five vessels were destroyed. Four team members managed to use their emergency transporters just in time and beam to safety, but one – Joshua Albert – did not and he died in the accident.

The Academy flight training vessels were fitted with a proximity alarm, which would alert the pilot if they flew too close to an object or another ship. If a collision was unavoidable, the pilot could use the craft’s emergency transporter to beam to safety.

DATA FEED

The Academy flight training vessels were fitted with a proximity alarm, which would alert the pilot if they flew too close to an object or another ship. If a collision was unavoidable, the pilot could use the craft’s emergency transporter to beam to safety.
DESIGNING THE ACADEMY FLIGHT TRAINING CRAFT

Rick Sternbach came up with a suitable design for a cadet training ship that included many typical Starfleet elements and styling motifs.

"As far as the design of the trainer craft was concerned, the basic idea was pretty simple," said Sternbach. "It wasn’t based on any existing craft, but it did get drawn up with known Starfleet styling. It was a case of designing a 24th-century equivalent of a jet trainer, like a T-38 Talon or a T-45 Goshawk."

"I added some small visual reminders that it could operate in an atmosphere, which meant including elements like wings and a streamlined nose."

Of course as a Starfleet ship, even one used by cadets, it had to have visual reminders of its origins. "The hull shape and details were all consistent with familiar Starfleet styling," said Sternbach. "Straight or gently curving lines and softened edges were all incorporated. Other details, such as hull surface divisions, RCS thrusters, conformal antennae, radiators, plant-on ‘greeblies’ and the like were also included to give it a familiar look."

FAMILIAR FEATURES

As always, Sternbach gave thought to how the craft would actually function, and what elements would be needed. "I added thin sensor strips around the fuselage," said Sternbach. "I also drew in anti-collision/ID light strips, as you would find on present day aircraft, and formation lights. There was no obvious navigational deflector, but there could have been an emitter tucked into the nose behind some EM-transparent panels. I didn’t see the need to include phaser emitters, especially if the point of the craft was to develop flight and navigational skills. Plus, there was the fact that Starfleet had never really been into small fighter craft."

Sternbach also gleaned other details of the trainer craft from the story synopsis, and made sure his illustration squared with what had been written. "This was a single seater, impulse-only craft," said Sternbach. "This was not to say that a craft of a similar size and design couldn’t be fitted with a warp system, but I didn’t include any visual cues like Bussard collectors or blue warp grilles in the illustration. I figured that the impulse system would work in two modes: as a heated-air ramjet for flight within a planetary atmosphere, and as a more familiar space-time driver coil system in space."

PRODUCING THE MODEL

Once Sternbach had completed his design for the trainer craft, his illustrations were sent over to the ‘Gregory Jein Inc’ workshop, where the studio model was built. As Sternbach remembers, "Almost everything on the miniature was in my original construction drawing. Greg usually built things really, really close to what was drawn, or he found little plastic parts that would be perfect for what was needed."

In fact, Jein did add one small decorative element that was not in the drawings. His physical miniature model, which measured about 14 inches in length, featured the Cobra symbol from the ‘G.I. Joe’ franchise on the nose of the ship just in front of the cockpit window. As a fan of the action figures and comics, Jein decided to include it as a bit of fun, knowing it would be much too small to be picked up on screen in the brief scenes in which the model featured in the episode.
In an interview, STAR TREK creator Gene Roddenberry gave in 1988, he said that Wesley Crusher was based partly on himself at the age of 14, although he hastened to add that he was no genius. Roddenberry certainly had an affinity for the character, as he gave him his own middle name: Wesley.

While Roddenberry had a soft spot for Wesley Crusher, the same could not be said for some fans of the show, as the character soon became unpopular with them. They expressed annoyance that Wesley always seemed to be the one to save the U.S.S. Enterprise NCC-1701-D, making the rest of the crew, including the hypersmart android Data, look like dunces. There were at least seven occasions on which Wesley ‘saved the day,’ even though he was on a ship filled with Starfleet’s best and brightest.

For Wil Wheaton, who played Wesley Crusher, it was hard to deal with the criticism of the character at the time. He was just 14 years old when THE NEXT GENERATION began, and it was lot to take on his young shoulders.

THE WESLEY PROBLEM

“I hated it at the time, and a lot of the criticism was directed personally at me, which I felt was terribly unfair,” said Wheaton. “(There was) a panel at a convention in LA the first year of THE NEXT GENERATION called ‘Solving the Wesley Problem.’ I walked into a room full of probably 500 people who hated me. I turned a lot of them around, and I felt really good about that. But I was not philosophical about it at the time; I was hurt and offended. I didn’t understand it.”

In subsequent years, Wheaton gave the ‘problem’ a lot of thought. “Behind everything Wesley did was this thing where he was really concerned about proving himself to the captain, fitting in with the crew, and helping out – to his detriment,” said Wheaton. “As audience members, we all got tired of the precocious kid. I believe that was Wesley’s great failure, and the writers got stuck on that.”

Wesley was introduced to the audience and Captain Picard after he fell into a river on the holodeck. While Wesley was undoubtedly brilliant academically, he often found himself getting into silly scrapes on the ship.

Doesn’t he look young? Wil Wheaton was just 14 when he began playing Wesley Crusher. He had previously appeared in films such as The Secret of NIMH, The Last Starfighter and Stand By Me.

Wesley was introduced to the audience and Captain Picard after he fell into a river on the holodeck. While Wesley was undoubtedly brilliant academically, he often found himself getting into silly scrapes on the ship.
they faced was irksome. That a ‘kid’ could find a emitter he created. To a miniature tractor beam using a theory based on Wesley saved the ship "I argued forcefully for years that we should have not something audiences could relate to. sweaters easily solving mysterious problems was character wear were hideous. The whole precocious kid with the annoying sweaters easily solving mysterious problems was not something audiences could relate to. "I argued forcefully for years that we should have seen a more human side of him," said Wheaton. "When did we love Picard the most? Not when he was kicking the Borg’s ass or lecturing some planet on the importance of the Prime Directive. We loved Picard when he was sitting around drinking tea. When we saw him being a human being. When did we love Data? Not when he was solving a problem. We loved Data when he was trying to solve what it means to be human. Those were the moments when we really identified with these characters. And those moments were few and far between for Wesley." NOT ALWAYS A HERO It was not until later seasons that Wesley began to evolve, and was seen as less than perfect and more identifiable as a character. He got involved in a cover-up when his fellow students performed the illegal and highly dangerous Kolvoord Starburst maneuver (The First Duty), and his scientific curiosity got the better of him when the “monstrosity” from his lab experiment got loose aboard ship (Final Mission). He was caught after his fellow Nova Squadron cadets performed a banned stunt that resulted in a death. Wheaton felt, though, that the writers missed other opportunities with his character, notably in the relationship with his mother, Beverly. "We rarely saw her be a mother," said Wheaton. "From the time your children are born until they’re about 12, 13, 14 years old, you manage their lives. As they become teenagers you consult with them and help them make the right decisions and learn from their mistakes, and you let them become adults. Dr. Crusher and Wesley should have been in that consultation area, and I don’t think they ever did that. They had her try to manage it a couple of times, and it didn’t really work." POSITIVE INFLUENCE Despite his frustrations, Wheaton felt he made a contribution as a good role model when playing Wesley. "I received a letter from a woman who said, ‘My son was doing nothing with his life, and saw STAR TREK and decided that he wanted to be Wesley. He turned all of his grades around and saw her be a mother,’ said Wheaton. ‘From the time your children are born until they’re about 12, 13, 14 years old, you manage their lives. As they become teenagers you consult with them and help them make the right decisions and learn from their mistakes, and you let them become adults. Dr. Crusher and Wesley should have been in that consultation area, and I don’t think they ever did that. They had her try to manage it a couple of times, and it didn’t really work.’" NOT ALWAYS A HERO It was not until later seasons that Wesley began to evolve, and was seen as less than perfect and more identifiable as a character. He got involved in a cover-up when his fellow students performed the illegal and highly dangerous Kolvoord Starburst maneuver (The First Duty), and his scientific curiosity got the better of him when the “monstrosity” from his lab experiment got loose aboard ship (Final Mission). "That was fun," said Wheaton. "Our great heroes are the best when they do heroic deeds but we see in them the human flaws that we have ourselves. Then we identify with them." POSITIVE INFLUENCE Despite his frustrations, Wheaton felt he made a contribution as a good role model when playing Wesley. "I received a letter from a woman who said, ‘My son was doing nothing with his life, and saw STAR TREK and decided that he wanted to be Wesley. His grades around and became a model student and wanted to be involved in space sciences because of your character.’ My purpose in life is to do the right thing and lead by example, and if I can be a positive role model, what better way to fulfill that purpose.” Wheaton felt also has fond memories of his fellow cast members. "I was extremely close to Brent (Spiner) and Jonathan (Frakes) and Michael (Dorn). I felt I had a rapport with everyone," said Wheaton. "My greatest regret is that I didn’t fully appreciate what I had when I had it. I don’t think any teenager can fully appreciate it. But I cherish my friendship with Brent. I cherish my friendship with Jonathan and with Patrick (Stewart), I felt very close to everyone.” He also looked back on some excellent shows. "There was one where we crashlanded the shuttlecraft and went into the cave and Picard was going to die and I saved him (Final Mission). The most fun was The First Duty, that was fun to shoot because I got to work with a bunch of actors my own age. That was really cool. It was with Robbie McNeil. I like him very, very much. He’s wonderful.” NEW GROWTH It was also during this episode that the writers felt that they fleshed out the character of Wesley more. “I felt this episode humanized Wesley in a way that he never had been, and maybe now would allow fans to actually like him,” said producer Jeri Taylor. “He wore this awful mantle of the genius child who always saved the ship, and in
that sense seemed remote from a real person. He was the perfect Wesley, and that was hard with people to identify with. He made a mistake, a bad mistake, he was flawed. It gave him something he had to work through. That made him a finer person in the end instead of just being a plastic perfect teenager.”

Writer and producer Ronald D. Moore wholeheartedly agreed. “We took that character in a really interesting direction and I think made him more accessible and human,” said Moore. “I was just really happy with what the episode became. It was probably my favorite episode of the year. It had a lot of meaty stuff; the Picard/ Wesley scene was powerful. When Picard looked up from behind the desk and got up, you thought he was going to slug him. Picard just had a real heartfelt anger in his face.”

TIME FOR A CHANGE

Even though episodes like this helped Wesley’s character to open up to some extent and won support among the fans, Wheaton decided things had to change. “I was 18 years old, and I’d been acting since I was seven,” said Wheaton. “I was stricken with a problem that most 18 year olds were stricken with, and that was I had all the answers to everything, and I knew what was best for everyone. Also I was trying very hard to have a career. To be an actor. At that time I was so frustrated, and I was bored. I had been used to doing a different character every four or five months; (on TNG) I had been doing the same character, with whom I was increasingly displeased, for close to five years. It felt like a very long time.”

HUGE OPPORTUNITY

Then came a dream offer of a role in a film made by director Milos Forman. But Wheaton needed time off at the beginning of a new TNG season, which was not possible due to the schedule. The disappointment was deep, adding to his frustrations. He left the show with the understanding that he would be available as a recurring character in future episodes. Wheaton said, “The reason I wanted to do that was because to take a character that had four years of development and to just vanish that character would be disturbing to the audience. So they brought me back a few times, and then eventually wrote me out.”

Another of Wheaton’s favorite episodes, and the one in which he appeared for the last time as a regular member of the cast, was “Journey’s End.” Wesley and Picard were involved in a shuttle crash and forced to work together to survive on a hostile desert moon.

FOREGIVEN BY PATRICK

So, Wheaton left the show, but there was one thing that really bothered him until he got an opportunity to set it right a few years later.

“I saw Patrick [Stewart] at the Screen Actors Guild Awards one year,” said Wheaton. “I genuinely adore Patrick. I respect and admire him. It was one of my greatest regrets that I felt I had not earned the right to relate to him as an adult. So I said to him, ‘I felt like I was loudmouthed and arrogant, and that I didn’t appreciate working with you when we were doing the show together. I wish that I had kept my mouth shut more times than I wished to see someone walk away from Starfleet with their head held high and just say, ‘It’s cool, but not for me.’ I was tired of everyone in the 24th century saying, ‘All I want to do is wear the uniform and serve on a starship.’ Hey, it was cool, but it was not for everyone. So I pushed to have Wes realize his destiny was elsewhere and have him walk away.”

Wheaton felt he had made the right decision in leaving the show, “I’d had these grave misgivings for everyone. So I pushed to have Wes realize his destiny was elsewhere and have him walk away.”

Wheaton now reflects on his time in Star Trek with enormous gratitude. He said it has played a huge part in who he is now, and while he has sometimes had a complicated relationship with it, he also feels it has been wonderful and a blessing.
ON SCREEN

TRIVIA
Robert Duncan McNeill played disgraced Cadet First Class Nicholas Locarno in the STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION episode The First Duty. The makers of STAR TREK considered bringing back Locarno as a regular character on STAR TREK: VOYAGER. This idea was later dropped, but they did bring back McNeill to play Tom Paris, a character partly based on Locarno. A picture of McNeill as Locarno would later appear on Admiral Owen Paris’ desk representing Tom Paris as a cadet in the VOYAGER episode Pathfinder (see below).

FIRST APPEARANCE: THE FIRST DUTY (TNG)
TV APPEARANCES: STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
DESIGNED BY: Rick Sternbach

KEY APPEARANCES
STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
The First Duty

En route to Starfleet Academy, where Captain Picard is scheduled to deliver the year’s commencement address, the crew learns that Wesley Crusher has been involved in a devastating accident. While practicing for a demonstration of precision flying in an Academy flight training craft, a collision occurred in which all five ships were destroyed and one cadet was killed. As an inquiry gets underway, the squadron leader, Nicholas Locarno, urges the four surviving members to stick together, even if it means being economical with the truth.

To help get to the bottom of what happened, Picard runs his own parallel investigation aboard the Enterprise. It is not long before it becomes clear that there are flaws in the cadets’ account. While there is no concrete proof, Picard suspects that the accident was caused when the cadets attempted the Kolvoord Starburst – a maneuver so dangerous that it has been banned.

Picard urges Wesley to come clean and tell the inquiry what really happened. Wesley is torn between keeping quiet and remaining loyal to Locarno and his squadron, or confessing, which will probably end all of their careers with Starfleet before they have begun.

The First Duty establishes that Captain Picard graduated from Starfleet Academy in 2327. This would make Picard somewhere between 60-65 years old in 2368, while groundskeeper Boothby would have been around 100-110 years old.

Although the institution was spoken of since THE ORIGINAL SERIES, The First Duty was the first time that Starfleet Academy was shown on screen. A matte painting of the Academy was created that incorporated live action footage filmed on location at the Japanese Garden of the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in Van Nuys, California.

COMING IN ISSUE 98
U.S.S. RHODE ISLAND
NCC-72701

Inside your magazine
• In-depth profile of the U.S.S. Rhode Island NCC-72701, a 25th-century vessel from an alternate timeline commanded by Captain Harry Kim
• How Robert Bonchune of VFX house Foundation Imaging modified a Nova-class ship to create the Rhode Island
• A look behind the scenes at the making of the two-part VOYAGER episode Unimatrix Zero

The place to order your STAR TREK ships
• Use the special INTRODUCTORY DISCOUNT CODE STAR10 to get 10% OFF your first online order
• Sign up for the NEWSLETTER to be the first to hear about EXCLUSIVE ONLINE OFFERS
• All orders are delivered direct to your door. ANY DAMAGES REPLACED - NO QUESTIONS ASKED!

eaglemoss.com/shop

BINDERs
Order specially-designed binders to store your magazines. There are two designs to choose from.

BACK ISSUES
Complete your collection by ordering any missing issues, and sign up to the newsletter to be the first to know when rare items come back into stock.