TY’GOKOR
ORBITAL STATION
SPECIAL ISSUE

ORBITAL STATION
IN USE: 24TH CENTURY
LOCATION: TY’GOKOR
AFFILIATION: KLINGON EMPIRE
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A network of orbital stations helped to protect the Klingon planetoid of Ty’Gokor in the 2370s.
On stardate 49962.4 Chancellor Gowron of the Klingon Empire announced his intent to retake the Archanis Sector, giving Starfleet 10 days to abandon its bases and withdraw. Effectively declaring war on the Federation, Constable Odo of Deep Space 9 suspected Gowron of being a Changeling. This revelation saw Captain Benjamin Sisko embark on an audacious undercover mission that brought him to the fortified Klingon planetoid of Ty’Gokor.

Starfleet intelligence gathering indicated that Gowron had relocated Klingon military headquarters to the heavily-defended planetoid at the heart of an asteroid field in Klingon space. Among the extensive defenses protecting the planetoid were a series of orbital stations.

**ORBITAL DEFENSES**

The exact function of these orbital stations was unknown, although it was thought they were multi-function facilities providing defense monitoring and control, weapons deployment and support to the fleet of warships stationed in orbit. In addition to incoming and outgoing support vessels and bird-of-prey, up to 30 warships could be in orbit of Ty’Gokor at any one time.

The Ty’Gokor orbital stations were large, approximately 2km in height and 1.6km in diameter, based around a cylindrical central hub. The base of the cylinder comprised an antennae array for communications and sensors. Further antennae were located...
The stations comprised multiple docking ports for the orbiting warships. A trio of docking ports were ranged at intervals around the upper crown of the cylinder. These were supported by pylons sweeping down to the primary structure. A fourth, larger docking port was located mid-way down the primary cylinder.

HEAVILY FORTIFIED
A network of these orbital stations were placed at intervals in geostationary orbit of Ty’Gokor. They were at the heart of a major defense network marking out the planetoid’s crucial strategic importance to Klingon military operations.

To gain access to Ty’Gokor, ships had to navigate through an asteroid field which was protected by a tachyon detection grid. As tensions simmered between the Klingons and the Federation in the run-up to the Dominion War, Gowron’s paranoia saw the relocation of Klingon military command to the planetoid. In addition to the orbital defenses, the command center was protected from aerial bombardment by heavy shielding.

UNDERCOVER MISSION
After entering the Great Link and being judged for his crimes against the Changelings, Odo believed Gowron to have been replaced by one of his people. Fearing a plan by the Founders to foment war, Captain Sisko launched a plan to journey to Ty’Gokor and expose the Changeling.
Traveling to Ty’Gokor aboard Gul Dukat’s captured Klingon bird-of-prey, Sisko and DS9 officers Worf, O’Brien and Odo were surgically altered to appear to be Klingons. Navigating the asteroid field and establishing orbit of the planetoid, Sisko’s team beamed down to the Hall of Warriors.

Awaiting Gowron’s arrival to complete the Order of the Bat’Leth ceremony, the team prepared to expose the Changeling with a blast of polaran radiation. The plan failed and the Federation infiltrators were discovered by General Martok.

The General shared his concerns about Gowron’s recent behavior with Sisko, and Worf challenged the Chancellor to combat, ready to expose him as a Changeling…
The Ty’Gokor orbital station was built by an unsung hero of the art department, Anthony Fredrickson, AKA the King of Kludge.
STAR TREK has frequently called on the services of unsung heroes. One such hero was the late Anthony Fredrickson, who built the shooting model of the Ty’Gokor orbital station. “We go back to junior high school,” says Doug Drexler, a long time friend and fellow STAR TREK art department staffer. “I met him when STAR TREK was first run, 1966. We become closer than brothers, because you’ve been through so much. “We watched STAR TREK, we drew pictures of spaceships, and then we had the Federation Trading Post store in Manhattan. Anthony used to write articles for the ‘STAR TREK Giant Poster Book.’ He was with us through all the makeup years, he came out with us on ‘Dick Tracy’ and ran the lab.”

After winning an Oscar for make-up on ‘Dick Tracy’ (1990), Drexler went to work on STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION, eventually moving to the DEEP SPACE NINE art department. Fredrickson would eventually join his friend there. “We needed a PA,” recalls Drexler. “I said to Mike Okuda, ‘There’s this guy, I’ve known him my entire life, he knows the show.’ We brought him in as PA, then he was promoted to scenic artist.”

According to Drexler, Fredrickson had a skill for being able to build anything that was needed at short notice. “What Anthony really brought to the art department was that we used to call him the King of Kludge,” he laughs. “He could go and take junk and garbage and put it together into something.”

One kitbash built by Fredrickson was the Ty’Gokor station, which Drexler recalls, “The sewage strainer station! There were odds and ends, and Anthony was great at that. From time to time we’d do one together, we used to do that when we were 13! That was the thing he was best known for, being able to put together a bunker, or the Planitia model. We wrecked Herman Zimmerman’s office building that!”

While working on STAR TREK, Fredrickson met his wife Penny Juday, who served as a coordinator in the art department. Fredrickson passed away in 2016, just two months after Penny. “You can have talented people who don’t get it,” says Drexler, remembering his friend. “There are people out there who are just wired for STAR TREK. I’m continually wired for STAR TREK, and Anthony was too.”
Examples of STAR TREK regulars being transformed into different alien species.

In ‘The Enterprise Incident,’ Captain James T. Kirk is physically altered by Dr. McCoy to look like a Romulan – complete with those famous pointed ears. It was an enduring image to see a familiar character altered in such a way, and one STAR TREK’s producers saw as a useful promotional gimmick.

It was the beginning of a STAR TREK tradition that has lasted across the franchise for decades. There is something appealing about playing with STAR TREK iconography, to see Captain Benjamin Sisko transformed into a Klingon Warrior, or Data wearing Romulan ears.

The concept can be a humorous visual gag, or be the driving force of an entire script, adding depth to a character. Major Kira Nerys’ transformation into a Cardassian in ‘Second Skin’ cuts at the heart of her character in tragic, even horrific ways. And Picard’s time as Locutus of Borg is one STAR TREK’s most memorable and shocking images.

For STAR TREK’s regular cast members, a little time spent under the heavy prosthetics of an alien species for an episode gives them a new appreciation for what their fellow actors, such as Michael Dorn, experienced on a daily basis.

FACE OF THE ENEMY

From Romulans to Klingons, to Borg and Cardassians, STAR TREK crews have frequently worn other faces...
The Enterprise Incident (TOS, 1968)

The earliest example of a series regular adopting the features of an alien species came in the popular and entertaining ’The Enterprise Incident’ from season three of THE ORIGINAL SERIES. During an illicit mission into Romulan territory to steal a cloaking device, Captain Kirk apparently dies at the hands of his first officer. With Spock left aboard the Romulan ship, Dr. McCoy takes Kirk’s body back to the Enterprise, where he is revived. McCoy surgically alters his Captain’s features to resemble that of a Romulan – including pointy ears – and he returns to the enemy vessel undercover. During production of ’The Enterprise Incident’ in June 1968, William Shatner experienced what his co-star Leonard Nimoy endured in make-up every day when he was fitted with prosthetic ears. D.C. Fontana’s script started life as ’Ears’, in which Dr. McCoy also gained Romulan features. ”The idea of Kirk running around with ears was a funny one ... I said, ’What would happen if, you know...?’” Fontana said in a 2007 interview with Marc Cushman.

Who Watches the Watchers? (TNG, 1989)

In ’Who Watches the Watchers,’ a Federation observation mission of the Mintakans goes badly wrong, leading to Counselor Troi and Riker posing as the species. The episode examines the Prime Directive and medical ethics as Dr. Crusher beams a Mintakan to sickbay after being injured during repair of a Federation ’duck blind’. A memory wipe fails, leading the Mintakan to believe he has seen a god-like figure known as ’the Picard.’ To locate and rescue a still-missing Federation scientist, Dr. Crusher temporarily alters Riker and Troi’s features, changing their ears and facial structure allowing them to infiltrate a Mintakan settlement. ”My experience with being a Mintakan gave me great appreciation for what (Michael) Dorn goes through every morning.” Frakes told the ‘STAR TREK: THE GENERATION Makeup FX Journal.’ ”I think the makeup took something like two-and-a-half hours, but I don’t sit very well; I get very fidgety. I’ll do the occasional Mintakan, but I’m very thankful I have my own face.”
STAR TREK’s most-shocking transformation of a series regular into an alien species – came when Captain Picard was assimilated to become Locutus of Borg in ‘The Best of Both Worlds’ Parts I and II. Although not a case of a character being surgically altered for infiltration purposes, we see the much-loved lead character become something other, requiring Patrick Stewart to undergo a very different costume and makeup regime than he was used to. During shooting of ‘The Best of Both Worlds Part II, Stewart celebrated his 50th birthday on set dressed Locutus.

“The interesting situation for me was how to create this murderous, autonomous figure while retaining, behind all that, the shadow of Jean-Luc,” Stewart recalled in an interview for ‘STAR TREK: The Official Fan Club Magazine. “It principally for me was a way of trying to find out how technically to make the Borg character work. Of course, a lot of it was left to the makeup department and the special effects department. The makeup made a significant contribution.”

In his commitment to playing ‘the occasional Mintakan’, Jonathan Frakes sat in the makeup chair once again to pose as the Malcorian Rivas Jakara in ‘First Contact’.

In a dramatic cold open teaser, an alien resembling Riker is rushed into an emergency room after suffering injuries in a riot, but medical examination reveals his physiology is very different to Malcorian. Rivas Jakara is, in fact, Commander Riker, undercover as an advanced scout ahead of potential first contact between the Federation and Malcor. It does not go well...

“That was an intense makeup,” Frakes recalled in the ‘STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION Makeup FX Journal.’ “I got plugs stuck up my nose, and various other things, but it was even more intense after being beaten up. (Michael) Westmore does great beating up, as you can see from Mr. DeNiro.” THE NEXT GENERATION’s makeup supervisor Michael Westmore designed the prosthetics worn by Robert DeNiro in the boxing film ‘Raging Bull’ (1980).
To celebrate STAR TREK’s 25th anniversary in 1991, the producers of THE NEXT GENERATION planned a two-part story that would see Leonard Nimoy’s return as Spock. In ‘Unification’, Picard and Data travel to Romulus to investigate sightings of Spock, who is thought to have defected to the Romulans. To allow them to go undercover and remain undetected, Picard and Data wear prosthetics to pose as Romulans – although it is not clear how these are applied without the skills of Dr. Crusher on board the Klingon ship they travel on.

This was the second time Starfleet officers are seen to take on Romulan features following Kirk’s undercover mission in ‘The Enterprise Incident.’ In the middle of a dramatic episode, this plot element led to one of Picard’s infrequent moments of comedy in ‘Unification II,’ when in a lull aboard the Klingon ship he announces: “I think I’ll take this opportunity to remove my ears.”

Counselor Troi gets a shock when she wakes up to finds the face of a Romulan looking back. For TNG season six’s ‘Face of the Enemy,’ Troi is pulled into a plot to facilitate the defection of high-ranking Romulans by masquerading as Tal Shiar Major, Rakal. Like William Shatner and Patrick Stewart before her, Marina Sirtis was made-up as a Romulan – although she was reportedly not fond of the Romulan hairstyle!

Originally, Dr. Crusher was to adopt the Romulan persona, but it was felt that, as an empath, Troi would be better suited to a espionage. Co-executive producer Jeri Taylor, enjoyed Troi’s relationship with Toreth, played by guest star Carolyn Seymour. She recalled in ‘Captain’s Logs: The Unauthorized Complete Trek Voyager’: “It was a great role for Marina. I thought it was well written for her. I loved Carolyn as the Romulan Commander, she was outstanding […] I enjoyed seeing those two powerful women get a chance to sort of rise to the occasion and take off on each other.”
As Lieutenant Worf, Michael Dorn was made-up as the Starfleet’s first Klingon officer in 175 episodes of THE NEXT GENERATION and 102 episodes of DEEP SPACE NINE, along with four STAR TREK feature films. He spent literally thousands of hours sitting in the make-up chair over many years, but in one episode of THE NEXT GENERATION he was required to wear a different species’ makeup.

In ‘Homeward,’ Worf joins his adoptive brother Nikoli Rozhenko (Paul Sorvino) in helping a group of primitive villagers find a new home. To avoid breaking the prime directive, Worf is surgically altered to resemble a Booralan. The Booralan makeup was less taxing on Michael Dorn than his usual Klingon prosthetics, and ‘Homeward’ marked the first time he was seen in the series without Worf’s usual look. It would be several years later before the actor was spared the makeup chair, appearing with no prosthetics as baseball player Willie Hawkins in DEEP SPACE NINE’s “Far Beyond the Stars.”

The powerful DEEP SPACE NINE episode ‘Second Skin’ saw a tour de force performance from Nana Visitor when Major Kira is abducted by Cardassians. The Obsidian Order alter her features and attempt to convince her she is Illiana, the daughter of Leget Ghemor and an Obsidian Order agent. For Kira, who’s character was forged in her hatred and resistance to the Cardassians, this presented the most insidious attack carried out on her by an enemy she had fought for so long. The episode forces her to confront deep questions of identity, and like Locutus of Borg in ‘The Best of Both Worlds,’ it is chilling to see Kira as a Cardassian.

For Nana Visitor, shooting ‘Second Skin’ provided one of the actor’s most challenging episodes during her time working on DEEP SPACE NINE. Suffering from claustrophobia, Visitor would arrive at the studios at 1.30am to be made up as Illiana, the extended time in the makeup chair making her working day as long as 20 hours.
**Behind the Scenes**

**Faces (VOY, 1995)**

In ‘Faces,’ B’Elanna Torres suffers a crisis of identity when her human and Klingon halves become split, while Chakotay goes undercover as a Vidiian. The episode focuses on B’Elanna’s ordeal at the hands of a Vidiian scientist who extracts her Klingon DNA to create two separate beings while investigating the Phage. Meanwhile, Voyager launches a rescue mission with Chakotay being altered by the Doctor to pose as a Vidiian. Stepping into the role of a Vidiian proved challenging for Chakotay actor Robert Beltran, who experienced life on set from the inside of a heavy prosthetic mask. He told the ‘Official STAR TREK: VOYAGER Magazine’: “I was in that raw, wounded face, which made me feel very vulnerable as a person. It was a challenge for me, having to act in that much makeup.”

For Roxann Dawson, her makeup as the full Klingon version of B’Elanna was less subtle than her usual look, but took three hours to apply as opposed to the usual two hours.

**Apocalypse Rising (DS9, 1996)**

What do you do when the Chancellor of the Klingon Empire is suspected of being a Changeling ready to start a war in the Alpha Quadrant? Have yourself and a team of officers surgically altered to look like Klingons. That was the plan embarked on by Sisko, Worf, O’Brien and Odo in attempt to expose Gowron as one of the Founders.

“When Rene, Avery and Colm had to be in makeup, I was so happy!” Michael Dorn said in the documentary ‘What We Leave Behind,’ amused to see his co-stars experience his daily routine in makeup. While René Auberjonois found the process less challenging than his usual makeup as Odo, Colm Meaney had newfound respect for those who wear prosthetics on a regular basis. “All I remember from that show was the makeup,” he told the ‘Official STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE Magazine.’ “The makeup drove me insane. It gave me new respect for Michael. I don’t know how he or any of the other people who play Klingons on our show do it. I had to do it for six days, and I almost went insane.”
False Profits (VOY, 1996)

Having spent over two years under Neelix’s Talaxian makeup, for season three of VOYAGER, Ethan Phillips made a brief return to an earlier alien species he had played in THE NEXT GENERATION – the Ferengi.

In ‘False Profits’ – a sequel to TNG’s ‘The Price,’ – the Voyager crew find Ferengi Arridor and Kol lording it over a planet after arriving there through a wormhole from the Alpha Quadrant. The Voyager crew attempt to find a way to remove the two Ferengi without breaking the prime directive. They must make it profitable for them to leave of their own accord, leading to Neelix posing as the Grand Proxy, representative of the Grand Nagus.

Neelix’s performance as a Ferengi was helped by Phillips’ experience under the lobes as Farek in TNG’s ‘Menage a Troi’. “It was a lot of fun. It was funny to get the Ferengi make-up on again,” he told STAR TREK Monthly. “I was sick as a dog filming that episode, which was a shame because I wanted to have more fun with it than I did.”

Detained (ENT, 2002)

With Captain Jonathan Archer and Ensign Travis Mayweather detained by the alien Tandarans after straying into a militarized zone, the crew of Enterprise NX-01 must launch a dangerous rescue attempt. As part of the climax to ‘Detained,’ the plot device of disguising an officer as a member of an alien species was used, this time seeing Lt Reed (Dominic Keating) being altered to look like a Suliban.

Although ‘Detained’ was a dramatic episode, the surgical alteration of Reed by Phlox allowed for some dialogue humor. During the operation, perfectionist Phlox indicated he wasn’t totally happy with the nose. In the closing moments of the episode, Reed hopes Phlox is on hand to remove his disguise as his skin is itching.

Earlier, in season one’s ‘Civilization’, Captain Archer, T’Pol, Commander Tucker and Ensign Sato go undercover on the Akaali homeworld, disguised as Akaali. Ensign Sato is not impressed with the experience!
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