

Women at Warp Episode 145: Women at Warp: The Next Generation

KENNEDY:

vocalizing opening theme

ALIZA:

joins in vocalizing

KENNEDY:

Increases intensity BUM-BUMP *begins scatting* Okay. Sorry I couldn't help myself. Welcome! Greetings programs! Hello and welcome to Women At Warp: A Roddenberry Star Trek podcast. Join us on our continuing mission to explore intersectional diversity in infinite combinations. My name is Kennedy and thank you so much for joining in. With me today are...

ALIZA:

Hello, I'm Aliza Pearl!

SARAH:

Hi I'm Sarah Gulde

KENNEDY:

And together we make up your next generation of Women At Warp. That's right folks, you might have guessed hearing these new voices. We here at Women At Warp are expanding. Andi, Grace, Jarrah, and Sue reached out and invited us to join the crew as the next generation. So don't worry, they're not going anywhere. Ok? Relax it's all good. We are only going to shake up the status quo *just a little* bit. Going forward all of the hosts here will be rotating and you'll be hearing a lot more from us. So, we're taking this episode to introduce ourselves and talk about our favorite women characters just like the original series did back in episode 1. Ladies I am so excited.

ALIZA:

Me too! So excited!

SARAH:

I am excited, I am nervous, but I am looking forward to just like hanging out with women and talking about Star Trek all the time.

ALIZA:

Yeah, it's pretty much a dreamy dreamy place to be.

KENNEDY:

Can't beat it with a stick as my grandmother used to say. *laughs* But before we get into our main topic we have a little bit of housekeeping to do first. Our show is made possible by our patrons on Patreon. If you'd like to become a patron you can do so for as little as one dollar a month and get awesome rewards from thanks on social media up to silly watchalong commentaries. You can visit Patreon.com/womenatwarp for more info. You can also support us by leaving a rating or review on Apple Podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts. This episode is brought to you by Text Expander, but more from them later. I want to get into the meat and potatoes! Or I guess the Seitan and potatoes for those of you who aren't carnivorous. Hi ladies!

ALIZA:

Hi! Hi Kennedy!

KENNEDY:

This is so much excite!

ALIZA:

Yeah. Kennedy, also I just want to say you're *killing it*.

KENNEDY:

Oh yeah, well you know I've been doing this for a little bit. You know how it is. You know how it is. You were killing it the other day! I watched you on Day Of Honor.

ALIZA:

delighted voice Oh, thank you!

KENNEDY:

That was precious. I loved every piece of it.

ALIZA:

Oh my God. So much Klingon. It was really really fun.

KENNEDY:

It was tremendous. And Sarah, I've read a little bit of your blog too. Girls, we are out here killing it. And it's tremendous that not only do we have a platform like Women At Warp where we can just, like you all we're saying, to find like-minded individuals you can geek out about the things that you enjoy like *they* do. But also we have this platform to discuss things that don't necessarily always get talked about. You know? Trek is a well established long-standing fandom and in the *decades* that encompasses it a lot of things have happened. A lot of things have progressed socially, culturally. And to see how the show itself, which was so groundbreaking and so trendsetting, then be held accountable for the actual trends that are being set is a very meta thing and I'm so glad that this show in particular tackles it in such a very

cool way. I don't know about you all. I'm curious to hear about your experiences and your first impressions with Women At Warp.

SARAH:

I've been a guest on Women At Warp a couple of times, and I love it because I learn something new every time. And I think it doesn't matter how long you've been watching Star Trek. Every time you sit down to have a discussion about it with someone, you discover something new about it you never realized before. And so we can sit down we could talk about torture or we can talk about Klingons and you find there's all this depth these characters that you never fully appreciated until you hear someone else's point of view about it.

KENNEDY:

Definitely. What about you Aliza?

ALIZA:

Yeah. So I actually feel like I owe a debt of *honor* to Women At Warp. For me yeah because back like so when I first started getting into the fandom side of my own fandom I didn't know anyone, any Trekkies. I was just a little actor improviser started going to cons dressing as Guinan. Met people that way. And then I went to my first STLV and these ladies, Women At Warp, invited me on stage to speak on a panel. At my first STLV and I was just like a baby, like in the Trekkie fandom world. And I felt like *so seen* you know? And so validated and I didn't even realize how important that was for me until, you know, a few years later when I was like "Wow! I am now fully immersed in the Trekkie fandom" and I think- I don't know if I would have felt as comfortable just being in this space if it wasn't for the amazingly warm welcome that the Women At Warp team gave me.

KENNEDY:

That is so cool.

ALIZA:

For me to be able to be here now as a co-host with this team is just like overwhelmingly exciting and I'm so honored and grateful and have always *really* really loved this crew. And now I'm part of this group. What?!? *laughs*

KENNEDY:

Hey! Let's go. It's like getting promoted to the Enterprise. You're like *shocked voice* "Whaaaaaat?"

ALIZA:

Honestly, it feels like that. And the fact that we're calling us the Next Generation it feels like perfect, because I'm like "Yeah it feels like that! Oh my god! Oh my God it feels like that!"

KENNEDY:

It really does! So Aliza, were you a Trek fan for- you said you were pretty new to the fandom. Would you say it was within the past you know five years, ten years, was there some tenure there or are you like a brand new Trek Baby? Baby trek. *singing to the tune of Baby Shark* Baby trek *Aliza laughs* do-do-do-do. *laughs*

ALIZA:

So here's the funny thing. And Kennedy, we're from similar parts of the U.S. I'm from Newark New Jersey. I know you're from Philly right?

KENNEDY:

Eyyyyy!

ALIZA:

OK. So I don't know about you, but I grew up in a mostly black Caribbean Latino area in Newark New Jersey, and I loved Star Trek, growing up I watched it with my dad. We would watch the original series, we'd watch some like the Next Generation, some of Voyager, and DS9 and I have very fond memories of watching as a kid. But outside of my house I didn't really connect with anyone about it. It wasn't talked about. I didn't know what a convention was.*laughs* I didn't know what cosplay was. I grew up in this part of the world of the US where nerdism wasn't really *celebrated*. And so it wasn't until I moved to the west coast and then became an actor and then tapped into the outward side of my fandom that I realized that there's this whole world of Trekkies and cosplay and conventions and stuff and so- so yeah when I say that I was new to the fandom that's when I mean. I was new to like the *community* of fans. I'm not new to Trek but new to the community of fans. So yeah in that way I was a baby Trekkie.

KENNEDY:

Gotcha. Sarah what about you? Are you a veteran as well, or you have similar exposure to the community as Aliza?

SARAH:

So I started watching Star Trek in 1987 when Next Gen was on the air. And my first convention was actually back in it would have been like 93 or 94. And in the 90s Creation used to do tiny conventions all over the country. And so we had one in Portland with William Shatner just after after they finished filming Generation. So I have vague memories of this because I would've been like 13 14 years old but I wasn't really involved in fandom. I didn't really know there was a fandom. I saw the Shatner documentary about STLV in probably 2013 or so. And I thought "Oh that's really cool. I think I'll wait and I'll go to the big fiftieth-anniversary convention." That was in 2016 because I thought the people that fly Las Vegas every year for the Star Trek convention were insane. And so now I've been four years in a row? *laughs* I've made so many friends there, it's- the Star Trek community is so friendly and so welcoming. Like you go your first year to see Captain Picard and Data and all these people you grew up with on TV but you keep going because of the fans.

KENNEDY:

Yeah. That's for sure. This is definitely a unique fandom in that because the driving mission, *laughs* for lack of a better term, of this series of this franchise is to, you know, highlight and focus on how immensely beneficial combinations of people can be. Right? The more- I hate the term diverse. Let's say that, because he has such negative connotations to it. Like it almost makes me feel of a division right? And I like to instead say that it's a *more accurate* representation of humanity. Right? People across all walks of life saw themselves in Trek to some extent or another. Some groups certainly not as much as others. Right? Some groups barely any at all. So that's a cool thing about Trek, it's almost like a self-editing document because now with new series being on the air they have an opportunity to right some of those wrongs you know? But for me, I grew up on a Trek. Like I mean my mom raised me on it. So, I also watched the Next Generation when it came out and literally every series ever since. I also went to conventions coming up because it was my mom's jam like her and all her friends would get dressed up. It was- at that time it wasn't cosplay though right? It was called "going in uniform" because that's precise their fit was. Like everybody was pressed, like I remember in the mornings getting ready for those weekends. You know, everybody would be in the TV room getting into uniform and people were buffing their boots so they would *shine* for the photos. Like that's how *into it* they were. I remember being a kid and haggling somebody for latinum. *all laugh* Someone had bars latinum at a vendor table. I was like "How much is your latinum?" And he was like "Twelve dollars" or something "for a bar." *outraged* "Twelve dollars? This is not a big piece of latinum. You're crazy." He's like "Wait a minute where you going? What do you mean?" I said "Sir. This is *barely* the size of my finger." I'm like 13 *crew laughs* "This is barely the size of my finger. It is unreasonable to charge these prices for a *sliver* of latinum. You have lost your mind, sir. Good day!" He was like "Wait a minute. Come back, give me five dollars and it's yours." I said "Sir, you have struck a bargain!" *all laugh*

ALIZA:

Oh my God! Baby Ferengi. Oh, so sweet!

KENNEDY:

I straight up- I just couldn't see myself spending- when I tell you it was the size of my thumb I'm not exaggerating. Like, how dare you try to charge somebody fifteen, twelve dollars, whatever for this tiny fine piece of gold painted metal. Like it's not even gold pressed latinum. Come on dawg! Anyway, grew up on that. But like you all never really was outward with it. Because when I tried to express that with my schoolmates right? I got clowned for it mercilessly. I went to a private Catholic school as a kid, and you know science fiction was not cool for those kids. I was an outcast. I was one of a few black children in that entire school, so there was that, I was too weird for the black kids and too weird for the white kids. So I was just kind of like "Well! I guess I'll go watch some Trek then!" So to see now that people are so very enthusiastic about it again, it's like the whole community has been galvanized. It's been really something stupendous. Like, I went to Mission New York for it for the Fiftieth, and that was like my first Trek convention in a really really long time. Like I had seen certain stars and stuff at like other events at other conventions. But just being around that many people where I didn't have to explain what the

costume was, what a Klingon is. You know, why I've got pips on my collar, you know? And I just think it's incredibly important for shows like Women At Warp to continue to take up those spaces because life imitates art. And a lot of our voices aren't being heard, not only in the fandom itself but, you know, historically not so much in production as well. So I think it's great that we're here and having this platform, as well. But I too owe Women At Warp a great deal of a *Klingon voice* debt of honor. Because we did a show, gosh some years ago at this point, we talked about Klingon women. Surprise, on brand. *laughs* And enough people heard that episode, outside of the listening base that I thought I had already through my work with Black Tribbles, that my follow ship, follow ships? How do you? The follower count? Whatever you call that. Follow ships? Sure! You know, that expanded immensely. Right? People traveled from other states to come see me host panels that I was hosting. You know what I mean? Like, so that is something that I will never ever be able to quantify. Like the gratitude is so immense and I'm just I'm so happy to be here, in a very long-winded way to say it. *laughs* So yeah. This is great. What is, let's say, your favorite thing about Star Trek in general? Before we get into our lists, because ladies and gentlemen, boys and ghouls, we have lists of our favorite female characters in Trek. I don't know about you two, but I have a list. *Sarah laughs* I had 10 people I had to narrow it down for. But before we get into those individuals I'd like to throw this out to you two. We'll start with Sarah. What is one of your favorite things about Trek and, if you could think of one, one of your *least* favorite things about Trek?

SARAH:

Okay, so my favorite thing about Star Trek is Star Trek makes everybody feel seen. I'm half Japanese and I'm half white and the only family I remember seeing on TV growing up that looked like mine was the O'Briens.

KENNEDY:

Wow!

SARAH:

Yeah, and it's something I didn't even realize until I was an adult and it's like "Oh I wonder how I would have felt differently about myself if I didn't have the O'Briens on TV every week?"

KENNEDY:

Wooooow!

SARAH:

Oh and I also love how as an adult I am realizing all these lessons I learned from Star Trek, like that you just absorb without even thinking about when you're a kid. For example, I realized that growing up I probably learned from Geordi and Data how to be friends with the kids on the spectrum. Like, you just hang out, you don't judge, you know? And just, there are so many things you absorb when your media is representative, that if you don't see it you don't realize what you're missing. So it's important for women because the kid who's watching Discovery right now who's like 14 15 years old, and they're going to grow up and be managing a team. If

their team isn't half women like Discovery they're going to realize something is wrong. You know, whereas someone watching something else might not even realize "Hey, it's not OK that there's only one woman in this room."

KENNEDY:

Which is jarring at this point. Like, not only as a Star Trek fan because we're so accustomed to seeing representation. But whenever you go back and look at old programming, particularly like even as recent as the 90s just to see how few women, let alone how many- how few people of color are involved. Even in the background. You know what I mean? It's staggering! I like- I pity the fool who didn't grow up with Trek. *all laugh*

SARAH:

And I have been in those meetings or in those offices where they've hired *one woman* and they think "OK we're diverse now." So it's so important for these shows to be on the air and setting an example. So that may have been a tangent from what is my favorite thing about Star Trek, but there are many favorite things about Star Trek.

KENNEDY:

That this is a great start! *all laugh* That is a great start. Can you think of a least favorite thing about Trek?

SARAH:

A least favorite thing.

KENNEDY:

That's the tough question, because there's so many things to love.

SARAH:

A least favorite thing would have to be that Star Trek has a tendency to say "Okay racism doesn't exist anymore among humans" but it just kind of pushes its racism off onto other species. And so humans are still racist, they're just not racist against other humans and it doesn't always confront that.

KENNEDY:

And when it does, it's from a very imperialistic point of view. Aliza, what about you?

ALIZA:

Okay. My favorite thing about Star Trek is in line with what Sarah said. But just adding a layer to that, it's also the quality of the representation. Because growing up, you know, as a kid in you know 90s TV land we all know there was a lot of tokenism happening. And the quality of the representation of like "the one black girl" or "the one black boy" or "the one Asian kid" on a show, it was not very good because we wouldn't really get to know those characters as much. They would always be in service to the white main character's storyline, or growth, or learning,

or redemption. And so that was harmful in its own way, of seeing like the one black kid just be a tool in the white person's narrative, that affects you on a very deep level as a kid. And that kind of sets you up to be that in other people's lives as well. So Star Trek on the other hand did not lean on that. Did not- and I mean I think the exception would probably- and this is actually this ties into my least favorite thing about Star Trek. The exception would be the original series, which for its time was progressive. But now we know like, oh god they underused Sulu and Uhura. And there was so much more they could have done with those characters but also bringing in other characters of color and exploring the world through their eyes and their own narratives and letting them grow and learn. Just like the others. So my favorite and least favorite things about Star Trek are basically different sides of the same coin. This is like the quality of representation.

KENNEDY:

Fair. And the misuse of some of that quality when- or the missed opportunities to apply that same level of quality all the way across the board. Yeah.

ALIZA:

Yeah. And then we see it too like in TNG. I always forget the name of the episode, but the one that deals with the genderless species.

KENNEDY:

Oh you mean where Riker *just had* to put his dick in something? Like metaphorically. *laughs*

ALIZA:

Riker having to like white savior his way through this species.

KENNEDY:

He say "Hey girl. I like your haircut."

ALIZA:

laughs Your haircut!

KENNEDY:

smooth talking voice "Oh these? These are just my pips you know? Yeah, I'm a starship commander. Yeah. Go fleet! You know I'm saying? Class of 28. So I'm saying like, what you doing later though? *Aliza laughs* Wow, your skins so soft."

ALIZA:

"So hey you, what's your pronouns?" *all laugh*

KENNEDY:

Yeah, Riker was like "Eh, I'm trying to talk to *whomever* I want to talk to" Which is great, in the sense that, you know, here's this cis-gendered heterosexual white man being interested in

whatever right? Setting an example for other cis-gendered heterosexual white men to be like “Hey maybe it's not you know *terrible* to think outside of the box in this way.” But it's also like “Hey, here's this cis-gendered heterosexual white male literally trying to insert himself in a place he does not belong.” So I hear you with the two-sided coin thing there.

ALIZA:

And that whole- I mean I'm sure we will and can do a whole episode about *laughs* that episode alone. But yeah, another angle of that whole episode is that “Wow cool! We're seeing a representation of like a genderless society and people who are non-binary but they're oppressing so who is wanting to be binary” Like *that* sucks. It sucks that like, you know, for any NBs watching the show they're like “Oh snap! A genderless society. Cool cool cool! Oh, they're shitheads. Damn it.” Like, that's what I'm saying about the quality of representation is so important. And that doesn't mean that we always need marginalized characters to be in this positive light, because I don't want that either. I want to see people are complex and interesting. I want more Burnhams. I want someone who's like going to really fudge things up *laughs* in the pilot episode and then have to redeem herself over and over. Like, I think that's really good and interesting and complex. But we also, you know, we also do need to make sure like, wow if we're never seeing native characters and then the one episode that deals with native issues is making them out to be like shitty shitheads then that's not good either. And that reminds me of Code Of Honor too. Because *laughs* that's another things like, ugh! *singing* This is not good representation.

KENNEDY:

Oh that's the Black People planet? *Aliza laughs* What in the Sam- you know, I must have-

ALIZA:

What did you call it? You called it like “Bad Wakanda” or like “Bad-kanda” or something.
laughs

SARAH:

That was Jamala Henderson, who was a guest on a earlier show, and she called it “The worst Wakandans.”

ALIZA:

laughs Yes! Yes! The Worst Wakandans.

KENNEDY:

The Worst Wakandans! Whack-onda. It was! I don't remember watching that episode on the air. I think my parents specifically hid that one from me. Maybe. I don't know, I didn't watch it until I like a year or so. *Aliza laughs* I said “How did this- Who said this was OK? HOW DID THIS MAKE-” And on the one hand I was like “OK. Tasha Yar let's go.” But then I was like “Wait, what are they doing? This is- Noooo!” So I would say my least favorite thing about Star Trek was *that* episode. I guess I would say that my most positive, favorite thing is what you all were

saying right? Seeing yourself represented in a way that cemented your place in the future. Because that, I think, is the underlying appeal to science fiction from people in marginalized communities and from, you know, ethnic groups and orientational of groups that don't see themselves regularly. Right? If you are coming from a background of people who have always systemically been, in this country or others you know, oppressed economically, religiously, whatever the case may be. Envisioning a future for yourself is already going to be difficult. Because your day to day is so, you know latent with heavy heavy stuff, that when you go to turn on the TV, when you go to watch a movie, when you go to read a book in an attempt to step off of that heaviness and entertain yourself for just a minute then you still don't see yourself in ways that give you hope. And if you do see yourself, like you're saying, it's the quality of the representation is so terrible that it's like "Well what am I doing here?" I feel like people's potentials are hindered when they don't see themselves in that representation. And I remember distinctly a moment when I saw myself on that show. Well, I wouldn't say on that show but in that in this universe, this franchise in this series of series. The series's. But before I get into that, because that person actually stems into my favorite female characters here. I just want to let you all know that Text Expander boosts your business productivity by allowing your team to communicate smarter, faster, and more consistently across all our channels. The app is built with collaboration in mind so you don't have to reinvent common email or message replies every time you need to send them, just store them in Text Expander as snippets. Text Expander for teams makes it easy to share these snippets across your entire organization. Plus you can use your snippets anywhere you like. Slack, Trello, Google Docs, email, web browsers and it works across devices. Text expander is available on mac, windows, chrome, and IOS. Listeners to the show get 20 percent off of their first year. Visit TextExpander.com/podcast to learn more, and select Women At Warp from the drop-down menu when signing up so they know that we sent you. That's right. Get in there. Get your Text Expanded in all the ways that you possibly could. Good stuff. So I hope you all came up prepared with your list.

ALIZA:

Yeah, mine is just two characters who- I mean because I love *so many* of the characters. I'm just gonna talk about two today because they have impacted me the most. They're both from TNG, because obviously like Uhura is her own special list of impact and favorite-ness. So I'm not even really including her in this conversation. But I am including Guinan.

KENNEDY:

Of course.

ALIZA:

Yes Guinan has a special place in my heart. Several years ago I started doing a rewatch of all of Star Trek chronologically and when I got to TNG and I got to the Guinan episodes I was like "Oh yeah. Oh wow. this character was amazing. Why wasn't there more of her?" And as I continued on watching TNG- re-watching TNG I was super inspired by her, and I started writing things about her, and having ideas, and she's like Guinan- the character of Guinan as an adult just like unlocked my creativity in a special way that is very close to my heart. Guinan

specifically is one of my favorite characters because she is this woman who has lived a *long time* and is now bartending *laughs* on a starship. So you know like, if you're 500 years old and you've decided to now bartend on a starship you've done *everything* else. You have lived a life and you're like "Yeah, I'm just gonna sit behind this bar and talk to people." That is so cool! And so Guinan has always inspired me in terms of like, her clear wisdom and her steadiness and her beautiful presence. But also in like all the stories that could be told about her and just all the mystery behind like where she's been before. So yeah. So Guinan is one of my favorites, and then the other TNG lady who's like top of my list is like Lwuxana Troi.

KENNEDY:

Hey!

ALIZA:

I *adore* Lwuxana because she just gives no f**ks. *Kennedy laughs* None. I mean-

KENNEDY:

No tribbles. None.

ALIZA:

She gives no tribbles. *all laugh* Just like, and as a young girl even not having the lived experience of being an older woman who *pauses* you know what I mean? I still related to her because I was like "Aw it's so cool that she's like this kind of old lady who's just like super secure in her body and her sexuality" and you kind of always love to see Deanna roll her eyes when her mom is around like, it's just a fun character and a fun interaction on that show. And I also appreciated that we had a mother-daughter relationship on this show that was interesting and was different and was- yeah. Like, they didn't get along and it's not something new. We've seen relationships like that on TV and film, between mothers and daughters especially. But there was just, I don't know, I just felt it was cool that they were both very competent in who they are and what they do. They're both super strong women but in very different and opposite ways. And maybe because like my mom and I are very different but both very strong women in kind of opposite ways. Maybe that's why I related to it. Not saying that my mom is Lwuxana, at all. She's not. But yeah I appreciated that type of mother-daughter relationship getting so much screen time in TNG.

KENNEDY:

Cool. My favorite thing about Lwuxana is how she was so *convinced* of herself. Like you literally could not tell Mother Troi nothing about Mother Troi. Like she just knew. She was utterly and fully convinced, not conceited-

ALIZA:

Oh yes.

KENNEDY:

about her greatness. Daughter of the house! Come on! I love it. I love when women flex their power because- and power can be defined in many ways. Right? Some of it sexual, some of its physical strength, some of its mental strength. But no matter what the strength is in, I love seeing women flex on it. And I love watching men, particularly powerful men, be a little de-runged by it. So the fact that she was constantly putting Jean-Luc in his place, just serving him up just giant slabs of humble pie. "Here you go boo. Bam! Miss me? I know you did! I could tell. I can read your thoughts. You know I can hear you right. I can see. I see you. It's OK. I love me too. *Aliza laughs* If you love me that's fine. You will have to be like this. I'm just saying we can hang out like we can go hang out somewhere we can talk. We can go *riding* right?"

ALIZA:

singing "Let's take a long walk"

KENNEDY:

Right.

ALIZA:

That was her. She was Jill Scott-ing *all over*.

KENNEDY:

All over the place. Sarah what about you?

SARAH:

I've got a couple on my list here. I've got four. So first is Molly O'Brien.

KENNEDY:

gasps/Irish accent Little Molly.

SARAH:

Because I always felt like she was me, except she got to live on a spaceship and a space station which is really cool. Second on my list is Moogie. *all laugh*

KENNEDY:

excited Mooooogie!

SARAH:

You've gotta feel for a Moogie. She is like living in this patriarchal dumpster fire and she is all on her own. There is no movement she is a part of and she's like-

KENNEDY:

Thriving!

SARAH:

Yeah. "I'm just going to do my thing." Moogie dresses only for herself and not for the male gaze.

ALIZA:

Literally!

SARAH:

So she comes up with these fabulous velour dresses with like the fringe that came from her living room lamp across the front because that is what makes Moogie happy. And she doesn't put up with crap from Quark.

KENNEDY:

Nope. None at all. Moogie. Oh my God! Don't get me started because we can go on a- Moogie can have her own show!

SARAH:

Yes, we need a Moogie show, because she's fantastic. Next on my list is Philippa Georgiou, specifically Emperor Philippa Georgiou.

KENNEDY:

I was about to say "I kind of like the Emperor more than I like the captain." Am I wrong for that?

ALIZA:

Well, we've definitely seen more from the Emperor, but I agree. I agree. Like yeah, the Emperor is just incredible.

SARAH:

I definitely appreciate Captain Georgiou tremendously. Most specifically because in Discovery, the very second scene of Discovery is where they passed the Bechdel test for the series. Because it's Georgiou and Burnham talking, and Georgiou telling Burnham "Hey it's time for you to be a captain. When are we going to get this done?" And that ends up being a theme you see throughout all of Discovery, is women lifting up other women throughout the whole show. So I love that about Captain Georgiou but Emperor Georgiou is just so wonderfully complex. I love her relationship with Michael Burnham, how that's not her Michael but she still loves her because that's all she has left of her Michael. And then I also love the scene where she's standing next to Tyler holding the baby and she's making faces at the baby until Tyler starts to turn her way and she's like "Nope I wasn't doing anything" And it's just it's wonderful to see an Asian woman in a command role onscreen.

KENNEDY:

Yes. In principle. And it's great to see Michelle Yeoh have a chance to show range because we all know she can kick ass. Right? Historically in cinema, in media in general, so we know this. We also know that Auntie is an Auntie at this point, and doesn't need to be kicking everybody's

ass all the time. So the fact that she's had an opportunity as an actor to show her range as it has developed and culminated over the course of her career is really really important and impactful. So I appreciate the F out of it. Oh my gosh. Sarah, I can go on for days.

SARAH:

Yeah, but talk about a woman flexing on screen when she's dealing with Leland and she's like "Oh no you are not in charge of me. I don't care what your rank is." She is wonderful. But the top of my list, and has been for many years is Jadzia Dax. *noises of affectionate agreement* And this is one of those- another one of those lessons I think that I picked up subconsciously as a kid is that Jadzia because she is a joined Trill she completely ignores gender roles and she just does the things that interest her and that make her happy. So you see her throughout the series she is sparring with the Klingons. There she is playing Tongo with the Ferengi, she's like the only woman in the room. And I mean part of that's, you know, not the greatest writing at that time because it was the 90s but I love that I grew up seeing her doing those things on TV so I wouldn't be afraid to do those things myself in real life.

KENNEDY:

Mm-hmm yeah. Representation matters! Very cool stuff. Oh my goodness. So we might have a couple of double downs on my list. *Sarah laughs* And by that I mean repeats. I didn't have mine in any particular order because I feel like that is impossible. *laughs* We have a multitude of great characters that Star Trek has put in front of us. You know, femme and female-presenting and otherwise. Guinan is definitely on my list because *Guinan* you know? She's the only one outside of Sisko that gave Q issues. I wonder if you just can't handle dealing with black people?

ALIZA:

laughs Oh my God!

KENNEDY:

That's probably what it is. Because every time he's come toe to toe with somebody who is part of the cosmic African Diaspora, as I call it, he always gets either punched in his mouth or *laughs* threatened to get punched in his mouth. So I feel like If there's any consistence it's like "Please don't come for black Aunties, because you're going to get the writs put on her." And Whoopi Goldbergs little writs thing? On Q is still gold to this day watching John DeLancie recoil from that in horror is just so viscerally satisfying. *laughs* I can't put words on it. So definitely Guinan. I wanted to add the Borg Queen just because of the impact. Right? How formidable of an opponent is the Borg? And then to see that it's a queen that runs things? And so *beautifully* portrayed by Alice Krige that it's just like how could I not put her on my list? I also need to include Uhura because of the obvious reasons. Her being a communications officer. Her being a communication *bridge* officer I feel like is as impactful of her being you know visually seen in the show itself. Back though, when you think about the logistics of Starship communications back in the original series, like homegirl literally had an earpiece like the old operators did. That's how terrible it was. The universal translator worked sometimes but she was literally translating

across several frequencies in real-time in that tiny behind skirt and still look fabulous? Like, come on. Come on. Come on. Come on. I will never forget the episode where like, something happened on the bridge and there was an explosion under her console as she literally had to go under there, roll her sleeves up, and repair some of the wiring. So incredible to see! Not only *then* but *now*. Like she wasn't just a skirt on the bridge, like she was an actual officer. I think that's tremendous. I love love love love love love K'Ehleyr. I am all about seeing tall women posture against men. I'm about seeing women posture against men *anyhow* just because it's a long time coming and usually justifiable. *laughs* But particularly when the sightlines are the same. You know? So many men feel emboldened to say whatever they want to say and behave however they want to behave because of their physical imposing nature when it comes to dealing with women or femme presenting people. And it's like you're not going to sit here and tell me you're going to run off at the mouth when K'Ehleyr is looking at you. One, because she's gorgeous. Two, because she will beat your ass. So I really need you to stop and think about what it is you're about to say, and I really wish that the creative forces would have allowed that relationship to develop between her and Worf. Not that I dislike Worf and Jadzia because I do have a special place in my heart for that pairing. But K'Ehleyr and Worf would have been so immensely impactful to Worf's development as a character as well. That only would have ultimately impacted the empire too? Like ugh, missed opportunities. I want to add Sirella since we're talking about Klingons. I *lost my mind* when I saw Sirella in that episode where Worf and Jadzia were getting married. *Lost my mind*. In the episode where Sarah and I spoke with Mary Chieffo about Grilka and her influence on Mary's development as L'rell. I am like "Yeah yeah. Sure sure." Grilka was incredibly amazing, and you know, you can certainly go back and listen to that episode if you ever wanted to. Cross-reference. But Sirella for me, was *it* for me. because Martok practically genuflected when she got off of that ship. And to see Martok bend the knee and watching Worf and Sisko react to him bending the knee, was so impactful for me. I was like "This woman runs everything! I aspire. I will totally get down with some grizzled old war hero if he does what he's told in the House and respects me and adores me the way Martok respects and adores her." It was *incredible* to me.

SARAH:

Yeah I think probably the Federation and the Klingon Empire were very lucky that Lwuxana Troi and Sirella never joined forces.

KENNEDY:

Ooooooh! Could you imagine?

SARAH:

Like, nothing could stand in their way. Of anything.

KENNEDY:

My gosh Lwuxana Troi, oh my gosh, Sirella, and literally every single Cardassian Scientist because they were all women. Right? Every single Cardassian Scientist and those two? Revolution. Instant revolution. Instant uprising.

SARAH:

Okay, I'm gonna need someone to write this fanfic for my fanzine.

KENNEDY:

Yes! It needs to happen.

SARAH:

By the way, I have a fanzine. It's called Star Trek Quarterly. Please feel free to write articles and fanfic and send in art and any of that. I'll talk more information about that later.

KENNEDY:

Yeah we will! Because now my interest is piqued! OK I want to get through this list here guys. Oh my gosh, I'm sorry. So I talked about Sirella. I got to note, and this one is somebody who I did not like initially. This person had to grow on me as a character. And that is Seven of Nine. When Seven of Nine first got introduced to Voyager I said "What in Barbie hell is this? *crew laughs* Who asked for a Borg Barbie? Did you ask for a Borg Barbie? Because I didn't ask for a Borg Barbie! Why is she in here? Why is she so blonde? Why is she so fit?" Like I just had all the problems. You know what I mean? And it wasn't until I went back and rewatched, like you Aliza, all of the series's chronologically that I had a new appreciation for Seven. Seven is the most efficient thing to ever come in contact with Starfleet. Point blank period. To the point where even the Vulcan on the ship was like "Ey you know, you can kind of relax. *all laugh* You could chill out for a minute. You know?" Seeing the complexity of the relationship between Seven and Janeway was, I think, important because so many depictions of women on screen together whether they are, you know, superior and subordinate or peers lacks the complex, the depth right? Lacks the nuances of what that type of relationship can entail. And then you've got Seven and Janeway giving us all of that intergenerational stuff you know? The whole schmear. And now seeing her in Picard. I lost my mind seeing her on Picard. I felt so very proud. I felt proud of Seven, that she not only made it right but that she also was still very Seven even though she managed to regain her humanity to the extent that she was. Not to spoil it for anybody who hasn't watched Picard, but holy shit. When, homegirl plugged into the cube. I'm sure my neighbors thought I was dying *all laugh* because I lost. My. Mind. I was like *yelling* "Okay Seven! OK! You gotta upgrade?!?" I was like "Is Seven about to get a cube?! Is Seven about to get a bitch!?" I said "OK Seven let's go! OK Seven let's go!" Lost my mind.

ALIZA:

What's so awesome about that moment, and just yeah like Seven of Nine in Picard in general, is that again we're seeing another character who's like basically mixed race. Mixed heritage. And she- just like her being able to do that and come out on the other side still *as her* shows that she's mastered those two sides of herself. And she now like it's now her *superpower*, it's not her *weakness*. It is not this thing that's like "Oh is Seven going to go back to the Borg? Oh no! Are her nanobots gonna take over?" Like it's not that anymore. It's like she's overcome that urge and now has power over it. That was like a *really really* cool moment.

KENNEDY:

Yes. Speaking of nanobots. Speaking of our own personal human Borg hack, I would be remiss and we'll probably edit this part out. I don't care, I'm gonna let it rip. I would be remiss if I did not mention Admiral Katherine motherf**kin Janeway. Because that's her full name. OK? You have to say the full thing. Otherwise, you could be talking about literally anybody. Admiral Katherine motherf**kin Janeway. Because homegirl not only scienced her way back from the edge of the galaxy, she played by as many rules as humanly possible, folded in a half a crew of rebels who did not f**k with her OK? And *hacked the Borg*, stole a drone, got pretty much everybody home in one piece, and that was so good got promoted *past* Picard. OK? People like to forget that she got promoted past Picard, because in *Nemesis* he had to check in with Admiral Janeway. So let's be real for two shakes of a lamb's tail. Once she got back she was so dissatisfied by her production right? By the fact that she lost a few people along the way, but primarily she was so dissatisfied that her best friend was in the cognitive diminutive state that he was. Janeway went back the f**k in time, *laughs* to get her best friend back in one piece. Y'all can't tell me shit about Kathryn motherf**kin Janeway. You cannot. I'm not trying to hear it. And another one that you're not going to tell me anything about, because people like to talk about Voyager in a way that is I think unfair to what Janeway actually had to go up against. You know we don't- they don't think about the fact that Kirk would never have survived the Delta Quadrant, Picard could not have diplomacized his way out of the Alpha Quadrant, Sisko would it be like "Look I don't know who these people are but I'm going home" and he would have like left the caretaker to his own devices. So none of those dudes could have done what Janeway did. Certainly not in the time frame that she did it and not to the degree. So put some respect for her name.

ALIZA:

Love it. Love. It.

KENNEDY:

And since we're putting respect on people's names, let's include specialist Michael motherf**king Burnham. OK? Let's talk about homegirl and how she did not deserve to get the book thrown at her the way that she did. OK yes, she defied a direct order. That is inexcusable. But she didn't deserve all this OK? She did not deserve all this. They have totally made her the scapegoat. Oh my God. The time we hear "You're not *the* Michael Burnham?" UGH! *disgusted voice* "Oh Michael Burnham" "OK. But was I wrong? Was I wrong? Was I wrong in my suggestion at how we deal with the Klingons? Was I wrong? Because it looks like we got into a war that I tried to avoid. But y'all didn't want to listen to the black women. Again. Still. So now we in this war. I'm in this brig. So what's up? What do you guys need from me? What do you need from me? Oh, you need me to be exceptional in every single way possible? Got it. Because I'm Specialist Michael Motherf**kin Burnham."

ALIZA:

Commander now. She's Commander again.

KENNEDY:

That's right. That's right. Commander specialist *all laugh* Michael motherf**king Burnham. How can anybody, write any female character in science fiction and not see this bar that has been set? Sonequa Martin-Green's bar has been set so *high* that it's not even in a category that people can compare it to. Like, don't sit here and tell me that Michael Burnham isn't single-handedly the most influential person in Star Trek at this point. That we know of. Right? Because you can put your laurels on Kirk if you want to. You could put your laurels on Archer if you want to, for being instrumental in founding the federation, if you want to go that route. But Michael's conviction to her integrity, her sense of truth is the star of that show and it's the star of this galaxy, because anybody that managed to rattle Spock to the point that she did is an immensely tremendous person. So I've got to throw Michael Burnham on that list.

SARAH:

I feel like when she stopped them from blowing up Qo'nos that she saved the Federations soul. *noises of agreement* They might've won that war by doing it, but they would've lost.

KENNEDY:

Yes. Now I have some issues with Michael but that's only because I'm, you know, coming from a perspective as not seeing myself represented in media the way we should be. Right? There are a lot of tropes with Michael. She's the quintessential strong black woman character who is like "Whatever it is you need me to do, put me in coach. I got it." And I just like, yes that's great to see. But there are elements of that that can be damaging to people because it establishes this false hope that you know we're always going to come in and save the day. And I just *pause* I'm a little worried about where the character will go with all of this potential behind her for those reasons. Because you see that trope right, in my next character Raffi right? Who I love for different reasons. But Raffi was the go-to when Picard was like "I don't know who I'm going to go to." He didn't go to Troi first. He didn't go to Riker first. He went to Raffi. He went to that black woman. Picard always goes to black women. He goes to Guinan. He went to Alfre Woodard, he want to Lily. And now he goes to Raffi. So there is a strength there that is obviously recognized in the fandom but I just, I'm concerned that it will get, you know, misused. But you know, I digress. Raffi's character was so impactful to me because of her flaws. We finally talk about struggling with addiction, substance abuse. We talk about parental roles right? And how a woman's career path can impact the relationship with her child. And then seeing Rafi and Seven at the end of Picard like magically be a thing? I was like "Welp! This is my new favorite space couple. I didn't know I needed this." But you know apparently I needed it. And that need has been met. But to round this off because I know I'm getting terribly long-winded, and I wanted to make sure I mentioned this character. Like you two and like those of you listening at home and space and at sea *laughs* my experience with Trek has been at an early age. But it wasn't until I saw, and I was probably about 10 or 11 when I saw this for the first time. I saw Star Trek 4: the Voyage Home. In the first, I dunno, ten minutes of that film-

ALIZA:

gasps I know what you're talking about.

KENNEDY:

The captain of the USS Saratoga, Madge Sinclair. I had been watching Star Trek for a long time, but it wasn't until I saw her as a captain handling that crisis situation that I fell in love. That I finally saw myself. I said "Oh my God who is this woman? Will we get a series? Will we get something?" I never- we never- at that point, we didn't see women in Captain's roles anyway but we *definitely* didn't see a black woman. And I was just like "This is so fricken cool!" She never had a name, and Madge Sinclair, later on, came back to portray Captain Silva Laforge in an episode of Next Generation which was a nice little, you know, nod.

ALIZA:

I didn't realize I was the same actress!

KENNEDY:

Yeah! Madge Sinclair was greatest. Seeing her in that role in that film, even for you know the 30 seconds of screen time that she had, showed me that it was possible to obtain a position of power in Starfleet if and when we get there.

ALIZA:

Once again, I am going to call out the quality of representation. And also I am a black woman who is descended from African-Americans, Caribbean black people and Latin black people. And so seeing her with that accent being a Caribbean-ass starship captain. Oh my *God!* That was *incredible!* And it was like, yeah I totally agree. It really really galvanized Star Trek for me to see that character even so briefly.

KENNEDY:

Yeah, I agree. Sarah I'm still stuck on the O'Briens.*Sarah laughs* What you said-

ALIZA:

Blew my mind! Yeah, that was so awesome Sarah.

SARAH:

It kind of blew my mind too when I thought about it for the first time. Yeah. And also that they were just an ordinary family on Star Trek. Yeah. You know, they had their squabbles and- Yeah I just hate to think how I would feel about myself without them.

KENNEDY:

And to just recognize that that impact was there even though you weren't cognizant of it at the time is always staggering too. You know? When talking to people who didn't have Trek in their lives coming up hearing them, you know, not see themselves. I'm just like "Well you guys didn't watch Star Trek? Like what do you mean?" I'm everywhere in that. I might not always be in a

starring role, I might not always have line, I might be you know a red shirt so to speak but I'm there. I pity the fool who don't watch Star Trek because so much of my identity was enabled because I saw myself in that way. Man, the O'Briens. *sighs* I got mixed feelings about Miles, but their love for each other was always so tangible that it was just like Molly was my little sister, you know what I mean? Seeing Molly grow up on the show, using different actors but intentionally finding, you know, little girls who were half Asian and half white was just like "That's how you do it. That's how you do it!" Otherwise don't do it at all right? If you're not going to sit there and devote the proper attention and focus to ensuring that your experience is intersectional then you need to hire people to do that for yourself. But you also need to take a step back and look inwardly and realize, you know, it's hard to figure out at the very least why things are like this.

SARAH:

Yeah. Also props to TNG, because they had two different female Japanese characters on their show who weren't related or anything. There was also nurse Ogawa, who had nothing to do with each other. Two different Japanese characters, that also kind of blows my mind.

KENNEDY:

Yeah, that's true. When it's no longer about, you know having a quota filled like we were saying, but you have an opportunity to see the richness of a heritage group. People of that ethnic group might share some common roots in their heritage or their cultural expressions, but people don't always experience it the same way, and they don't reflect it in the same way. So it's great to see infinite intersectionality in infinite combinations! Like there's no other way to put it. Like it's *pause* it is what it is. Right? And it is immensely beneficial once it's done well. Otherwise, we fabulous girls wouldn't be here to talk about this fabulous stuff on this fabulous platform.

SARAH:

Yes. Should we talk about our new tagline?

KENNEDY:

Yes, go for it.

SARAH:

OK. The new tagline is "Intersectional diversity in infinite combinations." And I did want to make sure and talk about the term intersectional a little bit in the show because a lot of people may not be familiar with it. It was coined by Black feminist scholar Kimberly Crenshaw in 1989. She wrote a paper about the intersection of race and sex. And it's a *fascinating* paper. It's available on the Internet. You can go and read it. The full title is Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A black feminist critique of anti-discrimination doctrine, feminist theory, and anti-racist politics. And we'll make sure a link is available to that. And there's this amazing story she tells in it, and it's absolutely infuriating about how General Motors laid off all the black women in their company in the 70s. And so they filed a class-action suit and the court came back and said "well women are a protected class. But they didn't fire the white women, so they're not discriminating

there. And black is a protected class *Kennedy scoffs in disbelief* but all the black men are still there. So they're not discriminating against black people. So sorry black women you're just out of luck." And so her paper really examines the intersections of different things like race, class, sex, gender all these things. And it's so important to think about this when you're talking about diversity or when you're talking specifically about feminism, because you have intersectional feminism and you have white feminism. And white feminism takes the idea of a woman who is white straight cis middle-class able-bodied and non sex-working and says "This is the default idea of what it is to be a woman." And then all the rest of us are just deviations from this norm. And what that does is it kind of sets up a hierarchy where this default woman is at the top and all the rest of us kind of get the scraps. And what intersectional feminism does is that we are all women, we are all equal, we are different from each other, but no one is any higher than the other in this hierarchy. This hierarchy doesn't exist. And it expands beyond feminism into diversity. So it's so important to talk about intersectional diversity when you talk about Star Trek because Star Trek is more than tokenism. Star Trek is inclusive and it's inclusive of all of us and it's inclusive of all of us that live at different intersections of marginalization.

KENNEDY:

I agree.

ALIZA:

Yeah, well said.

SARAH:

Thank you.

KENNEDY:

Look at you, holding court. *Sarah laughs* Learnin' the children about some things.

SARAH:

I can't make jokes, but I can remember facts.

KENNEDY:

Hey, there's a role for all of us on the USS WAW. Let's talk about where people can find us on the Internet. Sarah, you were just on your soapbox. I imagine you still have one toe on it. Let's stay there for a minute. Tell us about where we can find you on the webs?

SARAH:

OK. So on Twitter, you can find me @Sarah Yoko S A R A H M as in Mary, I Y O K O. On Facebook, you can find me at my fanzine Star Trek Quarterly. Like the name, we publish once a quarter, and I'm always accepting submissions of articles, art, fanfic, anything that shows your love of Star Trek. You can also find Star Trek Quarterly on Twitter @StarTrek Q T R L Y.

KENNEDY:

Cool cool cool cool. Aliza what about you?

ALIZA:

All right. I am Aliza Pearl and you can find me on Twitter and Instagram @AlizaPearl. So A L I Z A Pearl. And I'm sort of on Facebook, kind of not, but you can find my Facebook page Aliza Pearl. *laughs* I also do a lot of Star Trek improv and RPG stuff so you can find one of my shows The Improvised Generation on Twitter and Instagram @improvisedgen, that's G E N. And then I have an all Klingon Livestream tabletop campaign called Blood Of The Void, and that's @bloodvoidRPG on Twitter and Instagram. Check us out. We actually play the last Monday of every month six thirty p.m. Pacific Time at twitch.TV/queuetimes.

KENNEDY:

That is so cool. But you can find more of my work at Black Tribbles. We are a long-standing media group talking about nerd culture through the lens of the black perspective. You can find us at Blacktribbles.com and of course all social media is @Blacktribbles. If you'd like to find out more about me, *laughs* if you dare, you can follow me on Instagram @thatMikeychick that's M I K E Y C H I C K. That Mikey Chick. Find me on Instagram, you could find me on Twitter at that handle as well. Just disclaimer if you follow me on Instagram I do post a lot of angry black woman stuff so I'll block you if you get in the comments.*laughs* If you go wild in the comments. Just so you know ladies, this has been incredible. To learn more about our show or to contact us. Visit WomenAtWarp.com or find us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram all @WomenAtWarp. You can also email us at crew@womenatwarp.com. And for more from the Roddenberry podcast network visit podcasts.Roddenberry.com. Aliza, Sarah, it's been wonderful. It's been grand *sings* it's been grand, it's been swell, and I can't wait to do more. I can't wait to boldly go with you ladies.

ALIZA:

Same here. Really excited y'all.

SARAH:

Next time.

KENNEDY:

Good stuff. Good night folks. Have a good day. Be good to each other, live long and prosper.

outtro music