

## Episode 14: Nana Visitor/Chase Masterson Interviews

JARRAH:

Hi and welcome to Women At Warp. Join us as our crew of four women Star Trek fans boldly go on our biweekly mission to explore our favorite franchise. My name's Jarrah and thanks for tuning in. Today we have with us the rest of our crew. Sue

SUE:

Hi everybody

JARRAH:

Andi.

ANDI:

Hey everyone.

JARRAH:

And Grace.

GRACE:

Hey y'all.

JARRAH:

And before we get started into the main bulk of our show, which is interviews that I did at Star Trek Las Vegas with Chase Masterson and Nana Visitor from Deep Space Nine, we wanted to take a minute to pay tribute to a awesome Star Trek guest star that passed away recently: Yvonne Craig. So Andi, do you want to start with that?

ANDI:

Sure. I mean, I know a lot of people know her from Batgirl. I sadly never got to see her as Batgirl and wasn't really familiar with her from that. So my first experience with her as an actress was from Whom Gods Destroy, which is a third season Star Trek the original series episode. And I think it's a really cool episode. And the main reason I like it is because of her character Marta, who is awesome, and funny, and dangerous, and just really really cool. I mean she dances, and she stabs Kirk, and she quotes Shakespeare but pretends she wrote it. I mean how do you get such a cool character all in one place like that? It was really awesome and that's one of my favorite characters they ever did.

JARRAH:

Yeah, for sure. I mean, I definitely know her more- I think of her more as associated with Batgirl cause I really like grew up on the 1960s Batman, and my friends that I used to play dress up. And I always used to like fight over being Batgirl cause she was like *a librarian* who kicked ass. \*laughs\* I think that, you know, the roles that she played at the time meant a lot to girls and

women and even still do today. Yeah, she actually did an equal pay public service announcement as Batgirl. There are so many episodes of that show where like Batman and Robin are like tied up in them, Batgirl kind of appears out of nowhere, and saves them. And I mean there are- there's damsel in distress episodes too, but a lot of times it kind of role reverses and then she disappears and they don't actually know her secret identity. So anyway.

GRACE:

She's the one holding all the cards in that relationship. It's pretty great. Yeah we've been seeing some beautiful tributes online to her. And I think the one that got to me the most was just Gail Simone repeatedly and repeatedly saying "Do you think I would have gotten into superhero comics back in the 60s if it hadn't been for Batgirl, honestly?" And just being able to acknowledge that a single character can have that much a wider effect on both the franchise and the general market of selling superheroes is *incredible*. And I think they owe a lot of that to Yvonne Craig because her performance was *great*.

ANDI:

Well, if she was anywhere as good as she was as Marta I will have to check it out. Because I'm still amazed that she's you know-

GRACE:

Just friggin delightful.

ANDI:

She is. I mean she's so funny, and she's so beautiful, but she's also like a little bit scary. I love it. It's so great to have that many characteristics into one female character was really fun to see.

SUE:

And kind of rare for TOS right? I mean a multi-dimensional character like that in the third season of TOS is kind of surprising, but really appreciated. \*laughs\*

JARRAH:

Do you have any more thoughts on Yvonne Craig?

GRACE:

She will be sorely missed.

ANDI:

Just as a side note, if you are interested in cool Star Trek posters, I think his name is Juan Ortiz? That his name?

GRACE:

Yeah, that's him.

ANDI:

There is an artist that does really really really cool original series posters, and the one for Whom Gods Destroy is Marta looking scarily over her shoulder with a knife behind her back. It's *awesome*. It's definitely my favorite poster he's ever done, so if you're interested you should check that out. It's a cool poster and a tribute to a cool character.

JARRAH:

Cool. So now we get into these interviews. So a couple weeks ago I was at Star Trek Las Vegas and while I was there, on behalf of Women At Warp, I interviewed two amazing Trek actresses who both played Bajoran women on Deep Space Nine: Nana Visitor and Chase Masterson. Both of them were so lovely. I had the absolute best time sitting down with them. actually at the beginning of the Nana Visitor one I'm like so nervous I'm kind of giggly. So apologies for that. But it was a really amazing experience.

ANDI:

I don't think we can blame you Jarrah. \*Jarrah laughs\* That's pretty amazing to be able to meet them.

JARRAH:

Yeah. My friend Amy, who's appeared on the show too, also did an interview for her blog with Nana. And she was saying like "If only I had known when I was getting bullied for liking Star Trek in high school that one day I would have Nana Visitor's cell phone number, and would sitting down to interview her." \*all laugh\* Yeah.

GRACE:

\*weepy voice\* It really *does* get better.

SUE:

So there!

JARRAH:

We're actually gonna start with the interview with Chase Masterson, who of course played Leeta on DS9. I actually first met her at Geek Girl Con a few years ago, and I've always been really inspired by her. She does an incredible amount of community work. And she's also spoken a lot, we didn't talk about in this interview, but at Geek Girl con when I first saw her you know, she experienced some really bad harassment and stalking as a result of her role on Deep Space Nine. And she has talked a lot about, you know, how awful and unfair that was and the issues that she had with, you know, having law enforcement basically be like "What do you expect? You're a sexy actress." So it's kind of awful that she went through that, but I'm so glad that she is continuing to speak out and be super awesome.

ANDI:

She sounds amazing.

JARRAH:

Yeah. \*laughs\* So we talked at her table in the vendors room. Oh! And then as you'll hear, part of the cool thing about interviewing in the vendors room is that about halfway through we were approached by an important figure from Trek women's history.

ANDI:

\*as dramatic music\* Dun dun dun!

JARRAH:

Enjoy.

\*transition\*

JARRAH:

So, hi! This is Jarrah Hodge and I'm here at Star Trek Las Vegas with, the fabulous Chase Masterson who, of course, played Leeta on Star Trek Deep Space Nine. Thanks so much for taking the time to chat with us.

CHASE:

Hi Jarrah! Thanks so much for having me. You guys are doing a really cool thing.

JARRAH:

Aw thanks! So I was wondering, to start off with what were your- how did you come about getting the role of Leeta and what were your first impressions of the character?

CHASE:

Oh thanks. It's a wild story. I had been in an acting class of 10 people in a city of 12 and a half million people, and three of those people were Jonathan Del Arco who played Hugh on Next Gen, Garrett from Voyager, and me. And, further, the class is being taught by Corey Allen who had directed quite a bit of Star Trek. And anyway, neither Garrett nor I were working at all much. I mean, I think I had done General Hospital and a couple of smaller jobs by then. But Jonathan had been on Next Generation, and he also was doing conventions, and he would go to these events worldwide, and come back and tell us how great it was. That he got to go to these events. He got to meet the people that make the show possible, which is you guys, the fans. And I thought "Wow, that is really cool. That's the show I want to be on." So actually DS9 is the one show I prayed to be on. And I made it a point to meet the casting director Ron Surma. It was one of these 30 dollar "pay to meet showcases" and I met him, once. And I went in and auditioned. And it was for the role of Marta, which was Jake's girlfriend I think in the second season. And she was a Bajoran dabo girl and I thought "How cool is that?" Bajoran being spiritual and dabo girl being fun, and I could relate to both of those things. And I thought "That'd

be great.” So I worked really hard on that audition and I got down to the final two, but I didn't get it. And then they *wrote* the role of Leeta for me.

JARRAH:

Oh that's so cool!

CHASE:

It was pretty cool. It was pretty cool. Thank you.

JARRAH:

So Leeta obviously, I think, evolved over the course of the show. She still was still spiritual and still fun. But I think that she got a bit deeper. And I was wondering how you feel about how her evolution went, and whether you had any say in how well she developed?

CHASE:

I love that Leeta got deeper. I wish frankly that there had been more time, more screen time to have her be stronger and \*pause\* more- just to show more of, I don't know, more of the sides that she showed like in Bar Association. You know, Leeta stood up for the right thing, and she stood up for the side of the common man, and the union, and she stood up against injustice, and she loved the guy that was only pretty on the inside. And a lot of very very Star Trek themes are present in Leeta. And it's also a very Star Trek thing that those themes would be present in someone where you least expect it. I mean most Dabo girls didn't have all that. And it was a really great blessing really. A really cool thing and I'm so grateful for it. And there are other sides of me that I've gotten to play in other roles that a lot of people don't- haven't seen that I, frankly, I wish that there have been more of that in this. Because more people have seen this but I'm still very very grateful.

JARRAH:

For sure. Do you have a favorite Leeta moment?

CHASE:

Oh boy. My favorite Leeta- no one's ever asked me that. That's so funny. You know, there were a lot of them. I think the one, you know, that- when Leeta and Rom got married and I didn't want us to be separated despite the fact that there would be danger to me. And that, I think, was really really powerful. You know? And I also think it was really powerful when I wanted- it was very short. You know, these are all done in one one page scenes. But when Leeta wanted to not have a prenup because she didn't want Rom and Leeta to ever split up, there was no question about it. I mean Leeta was *committed*. And those kinds of things. I love those! Ira Behr- sorry if I'm going on about this, but I'll tell you real fast. Thank you. Ira Behr told me that he wanted Leeta and Rom to be the happy couple on television. Yeah, and he mentioned that on TV there are rarely happy couples. That are- that have ongoing storylines. Usually there's some sort of infidelity, addiction, *something* that's going on. And he wanted to make the point that you can be happy and still be interesting.

JARRAH:

Yeah. I think that definitely came across.

CHASE:

It's a great life lesson. Leeta and Rom were like Lucy and Ricky of Star Trek, I think. Oh, and speaking of which \*'oh my gosh's in background\* cosplay Lucy just walked up.

JARRAH:

That's amazing!

LUCY:

If it wasn't for me, you guys wouldn't have jobs. \*Jarrah laughs\*

CHASE:

Oh my gosh! That is funny! Cosplay Lucy just walked up and she's saying, um cosplay Lucille Ball is saying "If it wasn't for me, you guys would never have had the show you had." And it's true! Thanks. You know, that's a great point to be making here.

JARRAH:

\*to Lucy\* I'm from the podcast Women At Warp so we're talking about women in Star Trek and part of that is the history of women behind the scenes, like Lucille Ball! Like-

LUCY:

Wow!

JARRAH:

Yeah. Oh it's great.

CHASE:

It's fantastic that you walked up to a female oriented podcast. And it's true, I mean, strong women do amazing things. We run the world in ways that a lot of people don't look at, and don't realize, and don't really appreciate it, and *that's* got to stop. You know. Anyway \*Jarrah laughs\* thank God there are more of us day by day.

JARRAH:

Yeah. So I just have a couple more questions. So, what is your favorite non-Leeta role you've played?

CHASE:

There are several. One role I'm very proud of is the role of the singer in Yesterday Was A Lie. It's the second lead in the film. It's- the name of this person is just Singer, because she's very mysterious, ethereal, and very strong knowing character. Yesterday Was A Lie is a film noir shot in classic black and white which is- it's a science fiction noir. And yeah, I sing four songs in the

film. I sing jazz and I sing golden era music. And so that was a real treat. We got phenomenal reviews, so check that out. Yesterday Was A Lie.

JARRAH:

I kind of wish we got to see you sing in Vics too now.

CHASE:

Oh I know! You know, they talked about it but there just wasn't enough screen time. You know by the time all that conversation started, the show was winding down. And so, you know, you got to think about with this many recurring characters \*looking for words\* that's part of why the world is so beloved, because that's how the world *is*. You don't *just* know six people well you know? You know the world of them. And with that many recurring characters, it was nice to get that kind of screen time as it is, you know? And to be here 16 years later celebrating that, and all the things that are important that we learned from Star Trek.

JARRAH:

Yeah absolutely. So just to finish up, one of the reasons that I know that myself and the other Women At Warp co-hosts are fans of yours is that you do so much awesome work in the community. And I know that right now you're working on the Pop Culture Hero Coalition but I was wondering if you could just tell our listeners a bit about that? Sort of brief overview and how they can find out more information?

CHASE:

Thank you so much! This is really close to my heart. I founded the Pop Culture Hero Coalition two years ago because I realized that nobody had ever made a stand against bullying at a comic con. And to me bullying encompasses racism, misogyny, and other forms of hate. And it's so important that we as science fiction fans, who know the kind of world that it should be, make a stand for these things. Heroism belongs in real life, not just on screen. And I love that you're doing the work that you're doing as well. So rock on! And I felt- I founded this with an anti-bullying expert named Carrie Goldman. We can tell you about how this whole foundation of the organization happened, but I'm really honored to be working with Carrie. She is one of the nationwide experts against bullying, and her roots in it started because she was standing up for her daughter, who you may have heard of, Star Wars Kid Katie. Katie was bullied by kids at school when she was 6 years old for bringing her star wars lunchbox to school, and all the kids said "You can't like Star Wars, you're a girl." Oh really? And so a bunch of us women in science fiction stood up for her, and Katie ended up- I'm sorry Carrie, her mom, ended up writing a book about it. And I helped Carrie get into the ComiCon scene. And said "Let's make this a big deal. Let's make a stand for equality" and we are. And I look forward to telling you more about it. It's pretty exciting. So in the meantime if you guys want to you can look it up, on Twitter we're @superheroIRL.

JARRAH:  
Awesome.

CHASE:  
And yeah, I'm pretty excited about things ahead.

JARRAH:  
Aw that's so great! Is there anything else you wanted to tell people before we wrap up?

CHASE:  
You know, if I could tell you one other thing about the work I'm doing: I have my own Doctor Who spin-off. It's-

JARRAH:  
Oh my God!

CHASE:  
Thank you. It's *fun!* Yes, I did a couple of the episodes of Doctor Who Big Finish. And It's a fantastic company. They do these audio adventures that are fully produced with lots of cool actors, and sound effects, and music, and all that, and *great* story. And they can do amazing stories because it's only audio. They don't have to spend one hundred- two hundred million dollars and they can still tell a great story. Well, I worked opposite a couple of the original Doctors, Tom Baker and Sylvester McCoy. And my character opposite Sylvester went over very well, and they spun it off. They said "Would you like your own Doctor Who spin-off?" So I said "Yeah. OK." And now we are in our third season. I play an impossibly glamorous mercenary assassin.

JARRAH:  
Yes!

CHASE:  
Fantastic, really smart, kick ass woman. But the coolest thing about this is I don't go after my enemies, the bad guys, with violence. I'm smart enough to make them undo themselves. And more often than not it's Vienna's brains rather than anything else that save the day. And I *love* seeing that in a woman.

JARRAH:  
That's so cool! I'm so looking forward to checking that out.

CHASE:  
Thank you! It's called Vienna and you can find it at [BigFinish.com](http://BigFinish.com). And yeah, rock on ladies! We're doing amazing stuff in the world. I'm so happy to be a part of this podcast, and I look forward to talking to you again.

JARRAH:

Thanks so much for your time Chase. And enjoy the rest of your convention.

CHASE:

Thank you. Oh, and I'll keep you posted on stuff. If you want to find me on Twitter I'm @ChaseMasterson.

\*transition\*

JARRAH:

So that was the interview with Chase Masterson. I have a *couple* thoughts. First of all I super super want to see that sci-fi noir film that she was talking about, Yesterday Was A Lie. Which, fun fact: also stars Kipleigh Brown, who played Jane Taylor on Enterprise. I was really touched at the end where she was talking about how science fiction fans know what the world should be and that it's our responsibility to make the world we have better. Because we can envision that better future. So that was super super cool.

ANDI:

That's basically our mission statement, so I love that.

SUE:

Yeah. I think that's very true of sci-fi fans in general, but specifically Star Trek fans. Because Star Trek really is the sci-fi that is always optimistic. Even, you know Deep Space Nine, which is considered the *war* show. It's looking towards a better future. So that's really wonderful.

JARRAH:

Yeah. I mean, she even talked about that a bit in the interview. About how her character was very optimistic, and committed, and had good principles. And I think that's true. I think that, you know, the way that Leeta starts out it would be very easy to pigeonhole her into a stereotype. But she doesn't continue in that narrow mold. She grows a lot throughout the course of the rest of the series.

ANDI:

I've just finished up the third book of These Are The Voyages, which I really enjoyed, but thinking about the Lucille Ball cosplayer. It was super interesting to see kind of behind the scenes on the original series how important she actually was, and we do really have to thank her for a lot.

GRACE:

Hail Queen Lucille.

JARRAH:

\*laughs\* That was super fun. I was really impressed with that cosplayer.

SUE:

That's a frickin genius cosplay.

ANDI:

It's so unique. I mean, people wouldn't think to do it, but she *does* have such a place in Star Trek history.

JARRAH:

Yes. She had a little like embroidered apron that said Desilu. And was wearing like a little polka dot dress sort of from the I Love Lucy show and the red wig. It was super cute.

SUE:

I'm going to have to steal that idea. \*all laugh\* It's got to happen.

ANDI:

I think you would make a great Lucille Ball Sue.

JARRAH:

The other thing- so Chase Masterson and I talked about the Pop Culture Hero Coalition, which I think is super important work both in dealing with bullying generally in fan communities and schools, but also at conventions. And it was slightly ironic that we're talking about this Star Trek Las Vegas, which I've always experienced to be very friendly. I've never had a problem there personally. But like, I personally believe that all conventions should at least have policies on harassment and bullying and they definitely don't. But it was cool that she was there. That was a main feature of her table was to promote that cause, and we didn't talk about her other work because we just didn't have time. But she's put extensive time into working on AIDS causes and with Homeboy Industries, which is an organization focused on providing job training education support to former gang members and high risk young adults in East L.A..

GRACE:

Wow!

JARRAH:

Yeah. Like she's really doing a lot of on the ground work. And she says- she had a quote in an interview I was reading that "It's important to serve causes that you can't relate to, to reach out in compassion to people with very different experiences to our own. Only then do we move beyond doing something for ourselves and really engage in changing the world for others."

SUE:

Now that's being an ally.

GRACE:

Yeah.

JARRAH:

Yeah yeah. Exactly. It's like "How do I use my privilege, and my position, and my time, and resources in a way that benefits them but isn't condescending?" if that makes sense. So, I think she's a really great role model honestly.

ANDI:

I'm glad you got a chance to talk to her.

JARRAH:

Yeah for sure. So next up, I spoke with Nana Visitor. *\*all make noises of excitement\** So of course she followed Kira on Deep Space Nine, my favorite woman character in Trek and a really important role model to me growing up.

*\*Transition\**

JARRAH:

This is Jarrah, here at Star Trek Las Vegas. And I am very very excited to be here interviewing the fabulous Nana Visitor, who is of course Kira from Deep Space Nine. Thank you so much.

NANA:

I'm thrilled to be talking to you.

JARRAH:

I was just saying that we at Women At Warp are big Kira fans. When we went over our favorite characters two out of four of us picked Kira.

NANA:

*\*delighted\** I love that!

JARRAH:

I don't know what's wrong with the other two. *\*all laugh\** I was wondering how soon did you realize how groundbreaking a character Kira was going to be, and the impact that she was going to have on female fans in particular?

NANA:

I didn't really, for a couple of years I'd say. My nose was to the ground stone so carefully. It was such hard work, and it was such an intense time in my life, that I really didn't understand. And to a certain degree I'd have to say it's *right now*, when women who grew up with me say "Here's my daughter and she loves it." And there are 12 year old boys who said "I love your character"

just *now*. I mean, the generations later that still go “I get who that person is. Who Kira was” and that's when I go “Oh my goodness.”

JARRAH:

That's cool. Yeah. I think that, you know, we- I know that it's only now kind of I appreciate how unique she was. I was listening to you being interviewed on the TrekGeeks podcast a while ago, and you sort of said that maybe you thought that Kira might have been different or maybe not wouldn't have been able to be written for a show today. And I wonder if you could tell me a bit more about that?

NANA:

Well, call her a freedom fighter, but she was a terrorist. And post 9/11, It's a different world in terms of what you- The fact that we could look at her without too much judgment really, and allow a leading character to have made mistakes, to have been so flawed in many ways. I did think that was groundbreaking. And in the first few years I got a lot of pushback. I got a lot of people, even within the Trek- the tight world of the Trek world, saying she was a bitch. And for some reason I was able to have the fortitude to not care. And to go “I know where this is leading and either you're going to get it or you won't but I'm not going to soften her.” Even though they did physically, you know, change my costume, change my hair, try this, try that, in the end they didn't change Kira.

JARRAH:

Yeah. That's super awesome. I think- like I was reading a quote from Ira Steven-Behr, who said “That some men feel threatened by Kira, but that's not because she's a bad character, but because we live in a screwed up society.”

NANA:

I love that!

JARRAH:

Yeah. \*laughs\* So I am glad that you stuck to your guns on that. I was wondering how you felt- well how was the experience for you being pregnant on the show? As well as how they portrayed that in Kira's storyline? And was there anything you would have done differently?

NANA:

Yes. There are. You have to understand it was a different time, and pregnancy was seen as a weakness. I mean, in the work world I mean. It was like something you could be fired for as an actor, for sure. And because they *didn't* fire me I felt beholden to have them- have *no one* be impacted by the fact that I was pregnant. So I was in labor on the set but would say nothing.

JARRAH:

Oh my gosh.

NANA:

Whenever someone said "Here's a chair." when I was waiting for an entrance I was like "No no I don't need it." I didn't want anyone to do anything for me out of the ordinary. And I think now I would see it in a very different way. I would go "I know this is part of the reality, and truth of my moment, and I embrace it." And, you know, just like you embrace and accept the fact that you've gained weight from a pregnancy, and deal with that. You know, the fact that you may need help and be vulnerable. I don't think I embraced that as much as I should have. The way they dealt with it on this show, I thought it was something to delve into the fact that she could hand a child over that easily. I would have loved to have seen, even just *one line* instead of just like "Yep. Here's your kid. Buh-bye! Done." \*Jarrah laughs\* you know? Yeah, I think that there's- having been pregnant, there's something that happens. You know? I can't believe Kira could be in a bath with the child and not have some kind of mental connection with it, and be so- have it be so easy to just hand over. But I guess they were tired of that storyline. It's like "OK you did it. You had your baby. We're done with that. \*Jarrah laughs\* Let's move on."

JARRAH:

And how was it having small kids while you were working long hours?

NANA:

I made a vow that the only one who was gonna pay for that was me. And I'm sure I didn't make that happen. I know that they had to pay. They grew up on Paramount. Not having me there to be just- I tried to have the boring time where they're doing something and I'm just sitting with them. But it was in a trailer on the Paramount lot. And when we went for walks it was to the paramount, you know, the famous fountain. You know, walk around the fountain, and we had this game that we played with our hands wetting them and making them- you know. But it maybe wasn't the childhood I would have loved to have given them, but it's- it was our situation at the time. And as I've said before, when Django was four someone said "Where are you from? You're not from New York." When we moved to New York. He said "No I'm from Star Trek Los Angeles." \*Jarrah laughs\*

NANA:

But he was. He definitely was.

JARRAH:

So I was wondering how you felt about Kira's relationship with Odo becoming romantic.

NANA:

I didn't want it to! I was not in favor of that. I love exploring intimate relationships that are not romantic or sexual. I think there's so much to be mined from that. But people want romance. You know, even in Star Trek land they want romance. So it happened, and that's the way it went. And- listen the fact that I got to work with Rene day in and day out? That was the ginger of the whole thing. That was fantastic. But yeah, I would have loved for them to have been real intimate friends the whole time.

JARRAH:

That's cool. Yeah, I think that's that's totally valid. I don't think we see enough variations on the possibilities of different relationships.

NANA:

Right. Exactly! So well put. That's exactly what I mean.

JARRAH:

Awesome! If you had got to make an episode that got Kira to do a thing that she didn't get to do, is there like one thing that you would have had her do that you wanted to happen but didn't happen? That was not the most eloquently phrased.

NANA:

No no. I get it. \*Jarrah laughs\* I get it. There's so many things that I've *got* to do. Yeah, I got to pilot the Defiant, you know, I got to sit in the chair. That was like, that was a big deal.

JARRAH:

Yeah.

NANA:

And Rene would always say "Nana, you know this isn't real. \*Jarrah laughs\* I mean, you're you're so excited to be in the chair. It's not actually happening."

JARRAH:

It's exciting.

NANA:

Yes, it was exciting. It was great. I mean I got to transport. I got all kinds of things. I- really the thing that I would have loved to have explored was the baby issue. Her giving the baby that grew inside of her. I just would have loved to have known what that relationship, what her emotions would be. Maybe nothing, but I would have been curious about that.

JARRAH:

Do you have a favorite Kira moment?

NANA:

Yes, I do. I'm in Ops and we are being attacked and I like this- for- I mean I look at Kira as if it's not me, and I go that's who Kira is. And she's knifed, and she's fighting, and she's knifed, and she keeps fighting, and she drops down because she has been knifed, but she stands back up and just keeps going like some kind of pit bull. And I think that was exactly who Kira was for me. You know, the mind over matter. Mind over pain. That circle.

JARRAH:

That's so cool. \*laughs\* Awesome. Are you working on other projects at the moment that you're excited about and want to share with our listener?

NANA:

My most exciting project, and it started out because I sat and went "What do I most want to do?" And it would be to work on stage with Rene, because he's such an amazing stage performer. So what I did is I sat down and I wrote a play. And now it's morphed into something more, that he may never do. I don't know, but he has- I've been showing it to him every step of the way and it's been a real passion project. When I was little I wanted to write and I always have, but bits and pieces never one piece. So I'm really interested in getting it produced. I'd love to do it.

JARRAH:

Can you tell us what it's about?

NANA:

It's kind of complicated. \*Jarrah laughs\* But it is one night in New York City, and it's a two hander, it's two people. Well, not quite. But it's an older actress who through a series of phone calls spirals down to the point where she's going to commit suicide, and she turns on the gas, and her cat starts talking to her. And of course Rene was the cat- is the cat. \*laughs\* Always will be my cat.

JARRAH:

Oh my gosh! This so exciting! \*laughs\* I will fly to go see this!

NANA:

\*laughs/claps\* And they have a conversation where the cat, through his innate simple wisdom, is able to bring her back from the edge. And it's funny. And It'll be a challenge. If it's not Rene and me and now- I mean it starts with a 12 page monologue. So I'm kind of hoping it's not me \*all laugh\* that's ultimately going to do it. That's a lot of work. But it will be challenging, and really really interesting.

JARRAH:

Yeah, that sounds so great! So exciting.

NANA:

Thank you so much. Yeah, it is exciting. Yeah. It's like a *baby*, it really is. It's very powerful for me to look at it sitting on the table and go "I did that" and I did it for Renee.

JARRAH:

Oh cool. I mean, obviously you're kind of brought up in that stage, and I think it brought a lot to Deep Space 9 to have that background as well.

NANA:

It is such a good discipline. It's such a good discipline, because I've danced in my youth with broken bones, and this, and that. It's just like it's- they used to call it Dr. Footlights, adrenaline. You just do what you need to do. The most important thing is the show goes on and everything else comes second. And that's how I felt about Deep Space Nine. That just was my priority.

JARRAH:

Did you have a favorite like, not one of the major principal cast, but a favorite sort of guest star recurring character that you enjoyed working with?

NANA:

Oh there were *so many*. But here's the thing. You know, a lot of our regular cast were guest stars in reality. So you know Garak and all these people they were- they were regular. They were one of us as far as we were concerned. So the whole extended cast was huge. But Rene is one of my favorite people on earth.

JARRAH:

How did you feel about the scenes with Gul Dukat throughout the show? They're so creepy!

NANA:

So creepy! Our Gul Dukat today would probably be Kevin Bacon. He almost approaches creepiness the way Mark Alaimo does. But Mark would be like it was almost like once he got into his scales he became Gul Dukat. And he'd always be like "Let's do this scene in front of the stars. Wouldn't that be romantic?" \*Jarrah gossed-out laughs\* And it was so creepy. I was like "Oh my God no! You're over there. I'm here. We're doing this scene this way."

JARRAH:

Wow.

NANA:

Yeah.

JARRAH:

Wow. \*Nana laughs\* That's so like- yeah. I can't even imagine, wow. And I think Kira also had a really interesting relationship with Kai Wynn too. Like-

NANA:

\*fondly\* Louise. I mean, talk about one of my favorites. And another creepy person who gets by her creepiness because she's saying these things but you go "But this is a sweet woman?" and the juxtaposition is- becomes creepy. And that's the point of Louise. Off screen she is the sweetest, funniest woman. I loved her, and still do. I love her.

JARRAH:

Aw, that's so great. Let me just see. I think that was most of my questions.

NANA:

Excellent questions.

JARRAH:

Aw thank you! Thank you so much again for taking the time.

NANA:

My pleasure.

\*Transition\*

ANDI:

I'm just excited that I can finally share in the Kira love with you guys, even a little bit because-

GRACE:

One of us! One of us!

ANDI:

Well, when we started we were doing our first episode on our favorite female characters and all three were like "Kira" and I was like \*sad voice\* "I don't know who that is."\*all laugh\* So now it's cool that, you know, it's only- but I mean that character already means a lot to me. So now I get to geek out with you about such a cool interview guest, and how much I love Kira, and there's more to come! Yay!

JARRAH:

Yaaay! I was so excited when she told me about the play that would have Rene as a talking cat.\*laughs\*

GRACE:

Why did I instantly imagine him in like a Hello Kitty suit? \*all laugh\*

ANDI:

I can't get it out of my head. Big whiskers-

JARRAH:

Amazing!

SUE:

I just love- I thought I was in the minority with not really loving Kira Odo relationship. But to hear her say that, that you're either coworkers or romantic I think that's exactly how I feel. I feel *validated* \*laughs\* with my opinion of that relationship now.

JARRAH:

Totally. I will- you know, when I was watching it when it first aired I was also like a teenager, and I was very into romantic storylines, and I totally shipped Kira and Odo. And I think the attraction for me was partly that like, Odo so deeply loved her for who she was, and I just really appealed to me, that she was never asked to change who she was for him.

GRACE:

He could do changing enough for both of them.

JARRAH:

\*laughs\* Yeah totally. And I liked that, you know, he- I mean he had to open up a bit to be able to express himself, but he also was a very unique character. And I like that idea of two people who are very much themselves coming together, and bonding, and he'd always been there supporting her, and been such a good friend that I do really like that relationship. But I was really interested, I've heard Nana talk a little bit about it before, and I totally see where she, and where you Sue, are coming from on that. That I don't think there are enough options in our media for the way that men and women can have relationships. It's kind of hetero-normative.

SUE:

There really are no super strong man woman friendships on DS9. And you can argue like Sisko Dax? But let's be real, Sisko is friends with Curzon. He's not really friends with Jadzia.

JARRAH:

Yeah. And I mean, I think like in the fact that we don't see those relationships it comes from and it reinforces this idea of like *friend zoning*. The idea that like, it's somehow an *insult* if a woman *only* wants to be friends with you, and that's super problematic in terms of like it reinforces a sort of a sense of entitlement to women. But it also it really cheats people out of strong opposite sex friendships. So I think that it would have been really cool to see that continue. But even though I did appreciate the romance on the show.

ANDI:

I mean, I've only seen it a little over a season of their relationship, but it's always really impressed me how clear it is that Odo knows her so well. And he's actually the one that comes in and kind of reminds her who she is sometimes like "Fight. That's who you are. Fight for what you believe in" and I just really like them together. I'll be interested to see, you know, how I feel when things start to change between them as a relationship. But I do dig their friendship right now.

JARRAH:

Yeah, absolutely. Oh! I'm- I totally forgot to mention that in the Chase Masterson interview she talks also about how she has a Doctor Who audio book series.

ANDI:

\*freaks out\* Yaas. \*all laugh\* When? How?

JARRAH:

She plays Vienna in the audio story The Shadow Heart and-

SUE:

Big finish?

JARRAH:

Yeah, the Big Finish stuff.

ANDI:

I may not have seen her yet-

JARRAH:

I mean-

SUE:

Do we know which doctor?

ANDI:

She's awesome, and that's awesome, and her awesome person plus Doctor equals Andi excitement.

JARRAH:

She \*pause\* worked with the Seventh Doctor.

ANDI:

Yes!

JARRAH:

Yeah. And she was a human interstellar bounty hunter..

SUE:

Best! \*laughs\*

ANDI:

Yeah, and the seventh doctor doesn't really have a whole lot of media that I can think of, ongoing media I mean.

JARRAH:

And I think she, on the other one, that she did I think was with Tom Baker.

SUE:

Love that. Big Finish has some great freakin stories.

JARRAH:

Sorry I forgot to mention that earlier. That was another thing I was super excited about. Yeah.

ANDI:

Question? This audio does it include Sylvester McCoy?

JARRAH:

Yes.

ANDI:

OK cool.

JARRAH:

Yes

ANDI:

\*gleefully giggles\* Well, I just- I really love Sylvester McCoy as an actor. I don't think his doctor got very good stories, which is too bad because I think he's awesome, and that he brought some really interesting stuff.

SUE:

I don't know what you're talking about because Greatest Show In The Galaxy is the best Doctor Who serial.

ANDI:

Well, I will have to check that one out. I haven't seen that one. \*Sue laughs\* I've seen a handful of them.

SUE:

It's about a psychic circus. It's so amazing.

ANDI:

That sounds perfect and exactly what I want from my Doctor Who. So I'll have to go check that out. \*Sue laughs\* I've seen like basically- I've seen like five or six stories from each Doctor to try and get a sense of them. So I have no means a complete knowledge of the original classic Doctor Who.

SUE:

Oh, neither do I. But I love-

ANDI:

Sylvester McCoy is amazing and he's really good at conventions too. So if you ever get a chance to see his youtube videos of him at conventions, he's *hilarious*.

SUE:

So you know he's a Dragon Con guest right?

ANDI:

Oh my gosh! Yay!

SUE:

I have to go find him while I'm wearing my femme seven costume.

ANDI:

You have a femme seven costume? \*freaks out\* We never discussed Doctor Who before Sue.

SUE:

Because this costumes debuting at Dragon Con this year. So excited!

JARRAH:

Which reminds me, before we wrap up Andi and Sue, you are going to be a Dragon Con as we just learned. \*Sue laughs\* If you hadn't heard that in a previous episode. So could you tell me where the podcast panel is gonna be, and what other stuff you're doing there?

SUE:

Sure. So first of all, Women at Warp is a Parsec Award finalist in the best new podcasters/team category. And those awards get given out at Dragon Con on Sunday night. I believe that they start at five thirty. They go for two and a half hours. And the funny thing is that the Women at Warp panel is Sunday night at 7:00 \*laughs\*.

ANDI:

So we'll be running. We'll be running from one to the other.

SUE:

Yeah. So we might miss our category at the Parsecs, but yes. So we'll be at Dragon Con, we are doing the we're gonna be at the Parsec awards, of course we're doing a Women at Warp panel. There is no real specific topic to the panel. We're gonna talk a little bit about the genesis of the podcast, and really be guided by the room. What you want to talk about, which characters you want to talk about. So come hang out with us. And I think both of us have multiple panels over the weekend.

ANDI:

Yeah I'm up to seven. Yeah I'm up to seven. So that should be fun. I'm not sure if Sue and I are actually going to see each other, because Sue's on one bajillion panels, and I'm on seven, and we're gonna be running all over the place.

GRACE:

\*concerned\* Are you planning to sleep at any point?

ANDI:

Sleep is for the weak!

SUE:

I sleep. I sleep at Dragon Con because I'm not a party person. But no, I'm still waiting on confirmation but I am either doing 12 or 13 events over the weekend so \*laughs\* you're not far behind.

ANDI:

I know I know, but I was just so excited that anybody wanted me to talk about diversity and Agent Carter. So I was like "Yes please!"

JARRAH:

I wish I could be there you guys!

GRACE:

So jealous.

ANDI:

And then Geek Girl Con coming up with Grace's panel on robots.

GRACE:

What what! Also I got added in to lead a panel about women's fears in horror films.

SUE:

That's awesome!

ANDI:

Interesting.

GRACE:

Yeah.

SUE:

That's October 10th and 11th.

JARRAH:

Yes. And you can find out more at [GeekGirlCon.com](http://GeekGirlCon.com). They usually sell out, so if you are in the Seattle area and interested in going you should buy your passes now. So \*pause\* awesome. Well, that is all very exciting. And it was great sharing our Star Trek Las Vegas interviews with you, but this is just one of the many topics being discussed on the Trek.FMnetwork recently. So here's a quick look at some of the other things you may have missed elsewhere on the network.

\*Trek.FM bumpers\*

JARRAH:

So before we go, I just wanted to remind you all that it would be awesome too if you would spare a second to review us on iTunes. iTunes ratings and reviews are part of the way that iTunes picks what content to show people, to suggest podcasts to them. So if you like the show head on over and give us a rating and a review. Tell itunes that you like us, so more people can find us. Also wanted to remind you about our Women At Warp Patreon. We have posted there some more content from Star Trek Las Vegas for our patrons. So if you head on over to [Patreon.com/womenatwarp](http://Patreon.com/womenatwarp), that's P A T R E O N.com/womenatwarp, and you pledge a small monthly donation you'll get access to that content. And there's also other perks for different levels of donation. So head on over and check it out. It helps us do things like when I was at Star Trek Las Vegas I was able to have some business cards printed to promote the podcast around, helping us spread the word to more Star Trek fans. And if you'd like to donate to the Trek.FM network, versus just our podcast, you could also do that at the Trek.FM Patreon. They have a Patreon at [Patreon.com/TrekFM](http://Patreon.com/TrekFM). [Patreon.com/trekFM](http://Patreon.com/trekFM). Every little bit helps keep the Star Trek podcasts up and running. And so once you're done with the show, please consider hopping on over to the Women At Warp and or the Trek.FM Patreons. So thanks a lot for listening today. Andi where can people find you on the interwebs?

ANDI:

The easiest place to find me is [@firsttimetrek](https://twitter.com/firsttimetrek), where I am livetweeting my first time through Star Trek and I am currently on DS9, learning more about Kira.

JARRAH:

Awesome. And Sue?

SUE:

You can find podcasts and blogs from me at [AnomalyPodcast.com](http://AnomalyPodcast.com).

JARRAH:

And Grace?

GRACE:

You can find me on Twitter [@Bonecrusherjenk](https://twitter.com/Bonecrusherjenk). Or you can read my writing on the [Mythcreants](http://Mythcreants.com) blog.

JARRAH:

And I'm Jarrah Hodge. You can find me at [TrekKieFeminist.Tumblr.com](http://TrekKieFeminist.Tumblr.com) or [@JarrahPenguin](https://twitter.com/JarrahPenguin) on Twitter. Thanks so much for listening!

ANDI:

Hashtag Marta lives. \*all laugh\*