

Women at Warp Episode S21: Talking with Jackie Cox

Sue: Hi, and welcome to another supplemental episode of Women at Warp. This is Sue with me today is Andi.

Andi: Hello!

Sue: And we are super excited today, because we have a special guest with us who you might recognize from the convention circuit, but who you also might recognize from season 12 of RuPaul's Drag Race. That is Jackie Cox!

Jackie: Salaam! How are you Women at Warp?

Sue: So good.

Andi: We're excited.

Jackie: I am excited! I am excited that we're just, we're like going to be super nerds today!

Sue: That's what we do all the time. *laughs*

Andi: Yeah. We're kind of super nerds every day. Its kind of our thing.

Jackie: Oh, I want to live in that world. *Andi laughs*

Sue: So, I mean, I first met you a couple of years ago at Awesome Con in your Deanna, Troi cosplay. And then, you know, a couple of years later to my surprise, there's Jackie Cox on my tv. And so many people in Trek fandom were kind of freaking out about like, "Look at this Trekkie on national television doing her Trek cosplay." So *laughs* I just want to know, like, how- what's your history with Trek? How did you become a fan? When did you become a fan? What's that story for you?

Jackie: Yeah. I think like most Trekkies, and I could be wrong, but I think Alex Kurtzman has talked about this as he's like become the new steward of the franchise. So I was like, "Oh yeah, that does feel valid" is- unlike some other big fandoms, I'm thinking Marvel Star Wars, Trekkies usually come of Trekkie age just a little bit later in that I feel like it's less kids under 10, and more like once you get to that like 9, 10, 11, 12 year old moment in your life, when you can start actually appreciating Star Trek for all of the like high concept stuff? Is when I know I got hooked. And I don't know about you two, but I feel like that's what I've felt from most of the fandom. So yeah, for me, it was big in middle school. So I moved around a lot as a kid, I lived in a different city for fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. So all of those grades were in different cities.

Andi: Oh my.

Jackie: And those are all like really formative years, right? And I remember, you know, that was the time when it was kind of, I guess, the heyday of Star Trek in the sense that Next Generation was just finishing its run, Deep Space Nine was on the air, and Voyager was starting up on UPN. And even though, you know, I didn't have a lot of constants in my life. I love Star Trek and I kind of loved that it was like mine. You know, my cousins were big Star Wars fans. They had all the action figures, which I dabbled in as well. And I love Star Wars, but I kind of loved that Star Trek was my thing. And that I could like, you know, feel like I was learning a lot about this like, mythos and all of these amazing cultures, you know, that are of course not real, but also based on the real world. And yeah, that was like- it was like my little escape and like somewhere that I could go every week and be myself. Be my nerdy, dorky self, and, you know, *laughs* explore the questions of the mysteries of the cosmos! *Sue laughs*

Andi: What was the first episode you remember watching?

Jackie: I think one of the first episodes I remember watching, it was definitely TNG. And I think it was the episode where they're all devolving into like *Andi laughs* prehistoric versions of themselves?

Andi: I call that episode Troi Frog. *laughs*

Jackie: Yeah. I love that. And it's- so my dad is an evolutionary biologist. And so I grew up kind of understanding the concept of evolution. And I remember that

having such an impression on me, being like, "Whoa! This is something that my dad's talked about, but now it's like an entertaining TV show." So it was like, I think that's a first episode I can remember watching, like really clearly. And then I started really getting into TNG, and then Deep Space Nine. And then the series that I watched from beginning to end, like live as it was airing, was Voyager. Which I- you know, whether or not people love it or hate it I loved it! I loved how strong Kathryn Janeway was as a captain. Of course I loved Seven, you know, and B'Elanna Torres was a huge role model for me as well. Someone who is kind of at conflict with the two sides of her heritage, which is like, in my mind, I was like, "That's like me." You know, like always like being like balancing back and forth between being like Persian and then living like, you know, in North America and feeling like an outsider in that way. So yeah, that series is definitely the one that I like hooked into the most. But, I love them all in their own ways. And the original series I love, mostly for the aesthetics. Cause I love the 60's.

Andi: Yeah. I was about to say like, it feels like aesthetically tos is the one that seemed to be closest to your drag aesthetic

Jackie: Completley. I mean, I just loved how honestly silly the tos aesthetic is? Not like in a ridiculous way. It's just like, this is-

Andi: It's campy.

Jackie: It's pretty campy, but it's gorgeous at the same time. And like,, I love it. I love, you know, I love everything about it. I- one of my favorite episodes of course, is Trials and Tribblation from Deep Space nine, where they go back and revisit that aesthetic and comment on it as well. Which I thought was so fun. You know, Dax in that like tiny little velour dress. I was like, "This is amazing."

Sue: It's so distinctly sixties, and yet so distinctly future, that it's the perfect blend that I feel like influenced so much of the retro futurism trend.

Jackie: Yeah. Completely. And, you know, I think, you know, the sixties was so optimistic when it came to the future. Right? You know? We'd won the war and now we were living in the atomic age and everything was going to be amazing. *all laugh* You know. And I think we'll never quite ever get back to that, I doubt, in terms of an aesthetic point of view. Of like, you know, all these like smooth lines, and this was like incredible that we could even do this with like clothing, and

graphics and aesthetic, but that they did in the sixties. But yeah, a huge influence on obviously on me and my drag. And just- yeah, I mean really fun. But then I love, of course I love Troi because I felt like I look the most like Marina Sirtis in and out of drag. *Andi giggles* So I was like, you know, and I love Troi as a character. And I will say, I think she was my favorite part of Star Trek: Picard, but we can get into all that. I'll let you ladies drive the ship. *all laugh*

Sue: Well, why not talk about when, I guess either when you started cosplay or when you started drag. Did they go hand in hand, did one lead to another? How did that work out for you?

Jackie: *sighs* It's so interesting. So it's- I didn't even really understand what cosplay was when I was young. I just knew that I wanted to have a Starfleet uniform *laughs* and wear it all the time.

Andi: Yeah. I don't think you're alone there.

Sue: Well, I mean that term wasn't a thing then. *laughs*

Jackie: Yeah, it wasn't as much a thing. But like, I remember going to my first Star Trek convention. I was living in San Francisco. I must've been like 10 or around that age. And I went, and I remember seeing grownups dressed up as Klingons and I was kind of scared, but also like amazed, you know? And I was like, "Whoa, this is so much commitment. Like, I could never do this, but how cool." You know, and then it's kinda like the same experience I had when I first saw drag. You know, first time I saw drag queens was a couple of years later in Chicago at Market Days and thinking like, "Whoa! This is amazing to look at."

And then I- I never really thought of anything for myself. And then in college, You know, I was doing a lot of theater and of course, you know, I love storytelling and I think cosplaying and drag are both different ways to tell stories either visually or performance wise. So for me, it always came back to like, what kind of story can I tell with whatever I'm wearing? I want to say- what is probably the first thing I bought? I'm trying to think. The thing I wanted the most as a kid was like, a tricorder to just walk around with. *Andi laughs* Of course now we like live with these things in our hands that are basically *laughs* tricorders.

Andi: I'm pretty sure cell phones were invented so nerds could have tricorders. And that's why they were flip phones when they started.

Jackie: Right? And it's like, literally we walk around and we carry them just like, you know, *Andi laughs* they've always carried tricorders. But I always wanted one. That's probably one of the first things I asked for. I think, I'm pretty sure I had as a kid I want to say it was like a medical tricorder, but like a Polly Pocket. That like you'd open up and it would be like a little sick bay and it had like a little mini Crusher. I'm like, I'm going to say 75% sure I either owned this or I dream manifested it. *Andi laughs* But I'm pretty sure I owned this. And it was like my favorite thing.

Sue: You did not dream it. Cause I have one on the shelf behind me. It's real.

Jackie: Okay, it's real! Oh my God. Amazing. Thank goodness. It's real. Cause I always wanted it. And then I had it.

Andi: Maybe Jackie, you dreamed it and manifested it for everyone else.

Jackie: Ooooh! *all laugh*

Andi: Yeah. See, it can be both. Why choose?

Jackie: Why choose? But then cosplaying kind of came about because I, you know, I've always loved Star Trek, but I never really had, you know, I'd kind of taken the drag route. And drag is- drag can be anything, which is amazing. But I was like, "I don't know how many people really want to see me do like a Star Trek number, you know, just like at a local bar or whatever." But then I got the opportunity to bring my drag to Awesome Con and WonderCon, and then the Star Trek Convention, and Comicon, and *laughs* I found the audience for it. And then I started *laughs* like, buying everything. So I think I have probably like at this point, I'm going to say I have like eight different Star Trek cosplays? It could- yeah. I think it's eight. Let me think. Cause I have a TNG uniform, I have Rebecca Romijn Number One uniform.

Andi: Ooooh. So you also cosplay Number One.

Jackie: Right? We have the uniform, I have the mirror to the Terran uniform, I have the skant. Of course. We love a skant. *Andi laughs* I'm trying to think what else I have. Well, I have at least those five, so let's say five to start. But I'm always looking for more, including my newest thing I want is a Lower Decks. The character I identify the most with on Lower Decks is Boimler. I just want to be Boimler for something.

Andi: Well, you could do the really awesome outfit. He puts on to-

Jackie: Yes! Like mix of like the Fonz and Doc Brown. And like, what is happening in this outfit?

Andi: I love when he just shows up, he was like, "Yeah, this'll impress her." And I'm like, - I love it. It's so good.

Jackie: So yeah, it's hard because you asked like what happened first? So the chicken or the egg. Like in my mind it all kind of blends together as like one thing led to another led to another. And it always, for me, it always ties back to usually a performance, is usually like how I think of like cosplay. As like, "Oh, what number could I do a built around this look?" So, yeah. That's kind of how I approach it. But I also just want cute cool things to walk around and Star Trek convention and wear.

Andi: I actually think drag and cosplay have a lot in common. Partly because, I feel like a lot of nerd culture, and drag culture, and queer culture in general have overlap. Like think of the fandoms for Seven of Nine, or Troi, Lwuxana Troi and like, their campy aesthetics and like really intense looks and stuff like that. I feel like there are a lot of us that fall right in the middle there, that if there's a Venn diagram of people who love drag and people who love, you know, Trek fandom, there's definitely an overlap there. And it includes me, and Sue, and you for one. And then there's a lot of people, I think, that really loved both. The theatricality of it.

Jackie: Totally. It's the theatricality. It's also the kind of ability to have the outward manifestation of you match, maybe, some things that are on the inside. You know? And I think for all of us nerds, like, you know, we have all of these things. I think one, maybe negative definition of a nerd is someone who like, is really smart and loves something that maybe other people don't think is cool. Right? I think

that's like one definition of a nerd, which is probably the negative connotation. But on the plus side, it means that like, then you arm yourself with cosplay, and with a community, and with a fandom, and with all of those kinds of outward things to kind of build yourself up and build your pride in what that is. And I think that's the same thing with queer pride, right? It's like, "I'm part of this queer community. And even though some people say I should be ashamed of it, I'm going to instead choose to live with pride and be proud of who I am." And I think that definitely applies for cosplay, for nerd fandoms, for that whole community and the queer community. It's like, "Okay, this is something that you tell me is something I should be ashamed of. Well, I'm going to turn it into a badge of honor." *Klingon voice* Honor! *all laugh* Right? Qa'apla! And I think that that's like something beautiful about the convention culture. About, you know, definitely the Star Trek fandom is these are people who like wear it with a badge as a badge of pride.

Sue: There's something about the decision to start cosplaying it's, at least from my perspective, is that you're giving yourself permission to be something different and it allows you to explore different parts of yourself. And I assume, because I have not done it, that it's similar for drag. Where you're letting yourself explore something, be something else, try different things. And there's a neat part of the cosplay community, at least the parts that I've been in, that, you know, you can play with the gender of a character and it doesn't matter. You can play with the expression of a character and it doesn't matter. And it's wonderful to see the creativity come out. And see people who maybe identify with a character who is visually or aesthetically like them, but to make it their own, if that makes any sense at all. *laughs*

Jackie: It totally makes sense. I love different interpretations of characters I see at conventions. Like, I love mashups of characters, I love genderbend characters. And I think drag is totally- that's a big part of drag and big part of cosplay. And I love to- like the, cause I dove deep sometimes into the online fandoms of like creating cosplays. And like the details that some cosplayers will like latch onto versus others, or like what makes a look iconic. Is it the, you know- there's so much debate around the number of seams in like a tos uniform, right? It's like all of those like little details I think are so incredible. And you can explore your expressive side, also your crafty side, you know? It's something that I think gives so many people joy and certainly has brought me joy for sure.

Andi: Showing your love for fandom with creation.

Jackie: Yeah. Yeah, that's a big part of it. I mean I mean, and now that I'm on the other end of a fandom, right? I've never been like- I've never been someone that other people are fans of. You know, I've never been that until this year. And seeing all of their amazing creative work, like they'll recreate make-up looks of mine, or they'll do these amazing drawings of me, or make these cool videos, or like do a dance interpretation of something that I've done. I'm like, "Whoa, this is like *laughs* really cool!" *all laugh*

Andi: That is exciting.

Jackie: It's incredible.

Andi: Kind of going back to when we were talking about like the overlap between queer culture and fan culture, how have you felt about some of the queer characters and queer interpretations of Trek? Like as such an iconic member of our community as you are.

Jackie: Well, I'm very very very glad that Trek is just finally openly becoming queerer and queerer. And I think it's always had a bit of a queer subtext, you know? And I've always thought that like, Spock is a coded queer character for one. And I think that there's always been that queerness to Trek. And now I'm just so grateful it's become overt and we can have numerous queer characters on the same show, you know with Discovery and even more to come in season three, which I'm excited about. And in Star Trek: Picard, I love that it was just kind of there, not even really discussed at all. And the validation that Sevens a queer character, *Andi laughs* I think is very exciting. I've said this before, but you know, Seven of Nine is the only girl whoever made it as a poster in my locker in middle school. So, you know, I'm just so excited that it's coming. And I appreciate that so many people who were involved, especially with the Trek in the nineties, have acknowledged their failure in bringing the queerness of the world to the world of the Federation. Right? And I'm just grateful that at least that's been acknowledged and now we can move forward as like an actually inclusive fandom that really represents who we are.

Andi: Definitely. Our show has had a couple of episodes when we've tried to explore the queer subtext or the trans subtext of a lot of these different

characters and plots and episodes and stuff. And we did an episode as well about queer coding and how often that is used in Trek. And one of the things that we've always kind of lamented is like, it's always been there, and queer people have always like embraced the show and these characters. I mean, if we're talking- like, Kirk and Spock are the granddaddies of slash fiction, you know?

Jackie: Totally.

Andi: So it's always been disappointing to us as queer fans that like, we're there, but they wouldn't acknowledge us, you know? And I think that this is why these new characters and the show finally being open about their representation has felt like it's been so long coming. And like, so necessary.

Jackie: So necessary. And also we're getting- you know. I'm almost- on the one level I'm glad that we've kind of skipped to now in the sense that now we have a flourishing of queer characters of different types. You know, we have sometimes curmudgeonly Stametts, we have wonderful Culber, we have very wry and witty, you know, Tig Notaro is just so incredible on the show. And then we have completely- something completely different in what's happening in Star Trek: Picard. And I know we're going to have even more new stuff happening in season three of Discovery. So, I'm kind of glad that we've just skipped to now, and it's not like the one perfect token queer character maybe we would have had in the nineties. And we've kind of just skipped to something maybe a little more real. But yeah, it's always been there. And from, you know, what we've heard from so many of the actors and writers, always wanted to be more. And so now I'm just happy that we've just skipped to the more part. *laughs*

Andi: I feel like anytime you hear Andrew Robinson doing interviews about DS9, it's like, "I just wanted to be gay! I wanted to be so gay!" Like, the DS9 documentary, I don't know if you've had a chance to see it, but in it he was basically. "Well, Garak wanted to sleep with Bashir." That's right off. I mean, he'd like explicitly said it and I was just like, "It came through, bro." It came through a lot. *Sue laughs*

Jackie: Oh yeah. I mean, talk about the amazing queer energy of Deep Space Nine in general, right? *Andi laughs* Major Kira is like so much queer energy. Right. And I think we now look back and like wish for things that could have been, or

maybe things would have been a little more explicit. And, you know, and it's okay. And I'm just happy that now we're moving forward in a more queer Trek.

Andi: Well, yeah, because now we'll have actual nonbinary representation instead of their accidental, like, "this is so alien and weird" of The Outcast. Like, "Can you imagine how alien and strange this is? This whole- they don't have genders. Amazing!" And now we're just like, "Yeah, we know." *Sue laughs*

Jackie: Yeah. Well, and what's interesting about that episode too, and I think what's interesting about queer theory and I think- uh, the understanding of the entire community by not only us, but by the outside world is, I think that episode was written to be more as being coding around sexuality, when it really isn't.

Andi: Yeah. We call it "A very special gay episode" when we talk about it, because that's what they were definitely trying to portray. And then they actually did a trans story by accident. *laughs* By accident!

Jackie: Right. And I think too it's because I don't think, you know, we didn't really have a good general understanding of being non-binary at that time. Right? I think it's amazing how much we didn't know, but that was always there. And that this is something real, but you know, the fact that it's supposed to be some kind of big allegory for like, "Well, what if there was no gender. Then what would you care if people slept with each other who looked the same or different or whatever." But that's not really what the episode ended up being about at all. But it's just interesting to me, you know. And then of course, to use hunky Riker right? *Andi laughs* In the middle of it. And that's something too. I love that Jonathan Frakes has always also been one of those actors who said, like, "I wish we'd done more."

Andi: Well, Frakes straight up said he thought that the actor cast should have been a man. Because he was thinking of it as a gay allegory, I'm sure. And not realizing that maybe we shouldn't cast a man for a trans woman. But, like that openness is still really cool.

Jackie: Right.

Sue: Well, in Trek every series has had their outsider character. Right? We have Spock, we have Data, we have Odo, somebody who isn't human, who doesn't fit in, who's trying to figure things out. And I just, I- one of the things I love about

Star Trek is that you can read that character in so many different ways, you know? That can be your nerd kid who was bullied at school. That can be your queer kid. That can be autism allegory. You know, so there are so many different ways that that character can mean different things to different people who are watching. But at the same time, you know, now in 2020 explicit representation is so important. And I think that's where, you know, some of the fans complaining about these things, "SJW Trek", you know, sign me up for that. *laughs* But yeah, we've had allegories, we've had metaphors before. But what allegories and metaphors do is allow people who don't want it there to ignore it. And when you have explicit representation, you can't ignore it anymore. It's part of who that character is..

Jackie: Right. And I think what's really important too, about the explicit representation of queer people, is that if we're saying in the year 2020, we've made this much progress so far for queer rights. Then by the 23 and 24 hundreds like, we better have a lot more. *laughs* It better not even be a question of whether queer people can serve in Starfleet or not. Right? And so I think that that's something that it's like, what is this really an allegory for? Because if you're telling me that like, in the future humanity has become enlightened, then you better prove it to me. *laughs* and one big way is to say, "Hey, we're actually accepting of fellow humans and who they are."

Andi: That's one kind of underlying tension that's always been present in Trek, is that they're trying to portray a utopian future, but they're still speaking the language of whenever they wrote the episodes. So there's a limiting of an imagination because they didn't have the language, they didn't have the societal understanding? And they tried, but there's always that kind of like, tension.

Jackie: Right. And I think that's kind of where we come in as the queer fans, is to or even just forget queer, as a female fan, as a fan who's just anything other than a straight white man. I think it's like, if you're- the fandom can do those little gentle pushes and nudges. And I think that's part of why we have an explosion of queer characters on Star Trek. More female led shows, you know, more female driven plots, hopefully passing the Bechdel test every episode. Right? These are all things that like, I think the fans have always pushed for. I think that's what led to Janeway. It's what led to, you know, everything that's happened now. So that tension is good. And I think it's on us to keep the temperature up, right? Keep the boiler plates hot and make sure that those creators- that we, you know, want to create this art that we respond to acknowledge that. It's the same thing almost in

any fandom. Right? I think, you know, flipping gears and a little bit, but I think it's the same thing in the drag fandom too. Kind of putting that pressure on the drag world to be more embracing of all genders in drag and all expressions of drag. I think these things kind of happen because we have strong, passionate fandoms who want the best for these franchises.

Andi: Yep. Pretty much welcome to our mission statement as a show. *all laugh* We're like, "No, we will not accept it." Our show started before this like new explosion of Trek. So there was definitely a bit of criticism of our show, especially at that time when we started in 2015?

Sue: Yep.

Andi: Thanks Sue. And like, why are we talking about this? Why are we critiquing shows that were made in the sixties and being like, this was sexist, this was racist, this was homophobic. Why are we doing that? It's, you know, it's over. No, the idea was always like, "Well, no, it's not over because we're still talking about Star Trek. So we still have to acknowledge these problems. And then when people make new Star Trek," which they then did, "we want to make sure we are very clear about what was not acceptable, what we will not accept in the future." And I think that's important and it's important to continue that conversation because art is not static. It's not dead now. Like tos is not dead. It's still a living, breathing entity because we still talk about it and people watch it for the first time today.

Jackie: I mean, there's still, in theory right, two huge parts of the franchise that are directly tied into tos. Right? The Kelvin movies are still very much a reboot of tos. If they continue on, if they don't, we don't know.

Andi: Knock on wood.

Jackie: We'll see. And the Strange New Worlds is a new series greenlit because of the love of tos. Right? I think this just speaks to what you were saying, is that the fandom is a living breathing thing that is also part of a living breathing franchise. And because we're so passionate about it, this is why CBS Viacom has made Star Trek a huge pillar of their growth because of people like you actually keeping the conversations alive. And I think and I hope that the Star Trek fandom is one that these big corporations who own these franchises actually appreciate how thoughtful most of us are and in our critiques and our hopes and our wishes. And

so I love things like this podcast, that we can actually explore these topics and not just be, you know, people yelling in all caps into a void. Right? So I think that there's a way that we, as the fans, can influence the things that we love to be even better versions of the things that we fall in love with.

Sue: Star Trek certainly has a history of that with it's fandom. *laughs*

Jackie: Completely, right? And I think that speaks to the strength, and the power, and the intellect of this fandom.

Sue: One of my favorite conversations to have, along these lines, is the things that when they aired, when they were made, were very progressive, but are seen as problematic today.

Jackie: Yeah.

Sue: And it's things that like, some- some fans, especially some longtime fans have some trouble wrapping their head around. Saying "No, but tos was progressive." and like, might've been progressive for 1967, but in 2020 we look at it a different way. And one of the things that I make sure is that we don't want to give it a pass. Right? You can acknowledge the context of when something was made. But you have to remember that there are people who are going to be watching this for the first time this year, and they're not going to have the context of 1960. So how are they going to see it 54 years later?

Jackie: Right. And I think and I hope that not giving something a pass doesn't mean to discount it entirely. Right? I think we can acknowledge that we all became fans of Star Trek before the year 2020, and prior to, you know- and even still there'll be things that we're watching that are coming up on season three of Discovery that we're gonna be so excited about and feel so happy about. And then in 5 or 10 years or one year, we'll say, "Oh, wait a minute. Maybe that was a little problematic" and that's okay. You know, it's okay to learn something new and apply it to something old. Right? I think that's growth. And that's what- certainly the ideals of the Federation and Starfleet and all of that if you want to get really meta about it. As it's, you know, Starfleet prides itself on being and doing better. And I think as fans we can do the same and not- I think guilt is not a useful emotion here. You know, you can't feel guilty about something you didn't know or something you didn't realize, and then when someone points it out to you don't

feel bad that you didn't know, just move forward from that moment. Right? And I think as we learn so much about this world and other people's experiences in it that are not our own, it's okay to add that knowledge to how we view things from our past and how we'll hold things accountable that are yet to be made that are in our future. Right?

Andi: Yeah. And I think one of the things that people misunderstand about us critiquing these shows is, we're not saying that you need to feel bad because you loved it. We love it too. You know, like you don't have to throw it away. You just have to keep it in mind while you're enjoying it, especially when it comes to tos.

Jackie: Oh, you don't think the captain should sleep with a different alien woman every week?

Andi: *laughs* Yeah. I had some serious trouble. I came to the fandom late.

Sue: Andi's a newcomer.

Andi: Yes.

Jackie: Welcome. Welcome, Andi.

Andi: Thank you so much. Most Trekkies, as you pointed out, kind of come to Trek in adolescence. And I came to it in 2013. So I was a grown woman and I was also- I seeing these things for the first time. And in some cases I was like really into it. And in other cases, I was like, *uncomfortable noise* you know? And it was kind of like a fresh eyed perspective. Because a lot of these conversations have been hashed over by the fandom for a long time. And so when I was coming in completely fresh, and didn't know anything, it was kind of an interesting dynamic, I guess. And so that's why I always keep new fans in my mind, because I was a new fan once, not that long ago. And there will be people that will start their Star Trek journey 10 years from now.

Jackie: Yeah. Yeah. It's something- it's so funny. You know, I was just, as you were saying all this, I kind of remember- if you think of someone like you know, our high holy priestess Majel Barret Roddenberry, may she rest in peace, and think about like Number One versus Christine Chapel. And like, the ridiculousness of how she had to like, change herself to be like a character that the network would want on

this show. You know, it's sad, but like she did it. And luckily for her, there was this amazing light at the end of the tunnel with an amazing history of characters she played in the nineties. Right? And the computer and all that stuff. It's interesting to me to think like, how expectations, our views, have grown and changed. And, you know, sadly the powers that be have often been very behind that. Right? So I'm just glad that the powers that be are catching up. And I do think a big part of that is the ability that we can hold companies- CBS Viacom publicly accountable. Right? We have those abilities now in the year 2020 and certainly in the past five years of being like, "Well, we are a strong, very loud army *all laugh* and we can make our points known." And especially when they're for things that are, you know, for the good of the franchise and for the good of underrepresented people.

Andi: Well, the hopeful thing is, you know, Number One was not- 1966 was not ready for her, but apparently 2021 will be. You know, that's the hope.

Jackie: I am so excited. I'm so excited. I'm just- can't even tell you.

Sue: I regularly say that Number One got more character development in The Cage than Nurse Chapel got in three years.

Jackie: Right? And just the ridiculousness of Nurse Chapel, right? Crying over Spock, like all of this stuff. I don't know. In my mind, I'm like, "I think she was just kind of grinning and bearing it." Right? *laughs*

Andi: She was. Like, she has talked pretty openly about how boring that character was for her. But, you know, at least she got to be in the episode with the dick rock. *Sue laughs* I mean, we did an episode about Christine Chapel, Jackie, and we talked about the dick rock for, I feel like a solid 10 minutes. *laughs*

Sue: We had to mark it explicit because of the number of times we said "dick rock".

Jackie: Oh my God. Well, don't do that to this episode. We can- we can bleep them out. *all laugh* But we can say that like, what an amazing comeuppance that she gets to play one of the most sexually liberated women over 40 that ever existed in television. You know, before Kim Cattral was doing it. Before, you know,

anyone was able to be this kind of sexually liberated that she was able to do that in the 90's is pretty cool.

Andi: "Auntie Mame in space".

Jackie: Yeah! But like even sexier. Cause I think, you know, Auntie Mame is- she's a sexually free woman for the mid 20th century. But I'm just glad. Lwaxana Troi could be like, a just very sexual woman. And there's nothing wrong with that.

Andi: And if we circle all the way back to aesthetics, *Sue laughs* she had some pretty strong aesthetics.

Jackie: Thank goodness.

Sue: But we- we've been talking about like the power of fandom as a whole. Before we finish up, I want to know about your interactions with Star Trek fandom, walking around in your Troi's or your uniforms at, at cons, what has your interaction been like?

Jackie: Great. I think the fans have been super like into it, you know? And this was obviously before Drag Race or anything. So it's not like anyone necessarily knew who I was and people still loved it and appreciated it. And Marina Sirtis herself loved it. She like, got up out from behind her table to come do pictures with me. You know, and she- I'll never forget what the one thing she said that like, always cracks me up, you know, with her British accent she's like, "Well you know, there's like the drag Queens, they impersonate like Barbara Streisand and Cher. And now I'm right beneath them!" *all laugh* So she like took it as such an honor, which is amazing. It's all been so great. Garrett Wong from Voyager was like, "Oh my gosh, you're reminding me of how fierce Kate Mulgrew was when she was being a Lady Chaotica" you know, *Andi laughs* all of those- oh, the Bride of Chaotica, excuse me. And you know, it's cool that like the stars appreciate it. The fans have always been like- I feel like all of us love whenever we see the effort, the energy, the passion. And I think I have not had a negative experience at any convention.

Andi: That's exciting.

Jackie: I will say. It's always scary, right? Because you never know who's in the fandom, right? But I've been lucky to say I've never had a negative interaction with anyone at a Star Trek Convention.

Sue: Last year at Star Trek Las Vegas one of the giveaways we had at our podcast table were pronoun buttons. And they were all Star Trek themed and everything.

Jackie: Amazing!

Sue: And it was so great to see the majority of people be really really excited. But the people who didn't know what it was would ask. Nobody got mad, that I recall anyway. But we had a lot of really interesting conversations and I hope helpful conversations with people who asked about, like, "Why would you wear a button with your pronouns on it?" So, yeah. It was- it's not something you would expect at every convention, but at a star Trek convention, it seemed like everybody who talked to us about it was at least receptive to the idea.

Jackie: I love that. And for those who are listening, who want to know my pronouns, I use any and all pronouns. So you can use he/him/his, she/her/hers, or they/them/theirs with me. And I consider myself gender expansive in that way.

Sue: Oh, awesome.

Jackie: So as long as everything is said with respect and love, you can use any pronouns with me. I will say, if I am in full drag, I would appreciate she her hers, but maybe I'm not doing it for you that day. *all laugh* so, you know. But- and of course during this podcast, I'm in full drag, right? I'm wearing heels right now in my living room to talk to you.

Andi: Yeah, it's too bad you all can't see it. Jackie is really serving right now.

Jackie: Yeah. Yeah. I'm full Bjayzl from Star Trek: Picard.

Sue: Oh my gosh.

Andi: Well, here's a question for you: is there a cosplay or a costume or a character that you would like to do in the future that you just haven't had a chance to tackle yet, but you're excited to do someday?

Jackie: Oh god, everything. But you mean now we've been talking about it, you know, I'm uh- I would love to do a Lwaxana Troi cosplay. I haven't done one yet.

Andi: *laughs* You would be so good at it. I would love that so much. Is there a particular look of hers that you'd want to do?

Jackie: Oh, God. I mean, there's so- it's too- I would have to just like really like hone it down and pick one.

Sue: I feel like the truly iconic one is the gold one with like the zebra print top and the like, reverse boob window. *Andi laughs*

Jackie: Is that the one where she's trying to date Odo, or is that a different one?

Sue: No, that's a different one.

Andi: Isn't she wearing a red number when she's trying to seduce Odo? Well, to be fair, she's tried to seduce Odo more than once. *Sue laughs*

Jackie: This is true. And who wouldn't? *Andi laughs*

Sue: The one where she tells him she can swim is like the blue lace dress and the pink wig.

Andi: *laughs/Jackie Ohhh's* I love Lwaxana so much.

Jackie: Work. I mean her, Bjayzl from the new- is it Bjayzl? That's how you say it, right?

Sue: Yes. Or Vag-azzle also acceptable.

Jackie: *laughs* Or that. I'd love to her. Yeah, definitely- oh, Ooh! What about the evil gold twin from a Star Trek: Picard? What was that character's name? Sort of an "S"-

Sue: Sutra?

Jackie: Sutra, yeah. Yeah, that sounds right. That'd be fun to do, do some AB crunches first, *all laugh* you know, love all that. I'm really hoping that we see some Lower Decks cosplay. Cause I think Tendi would be really fun to do. And of course I just feel like I am Boimler. So I just want to like hang out in that uniform and have like purple hair and be like, "Hey guys!" *Andi laughs* Very me out of drag. Yeah, because I think it's like the possibilities are endless.

Andi: That's the nicest thing about Trek. Like, I mean, there's still that- that episode that you might cosplay with his super cool jacket.

Jackie: I'm going to wear that like, around.

Andi: That episode came out, what, last week?

Jackie: I love it.

Andi: New things to cosplay every week, these days.

Jackie: Thank goodness. We're definitely living in, I guess, a Renaissance of Star Trek. So there's- the possibilities are endless. Sadly, the closet space is not. So we'll have to- I'll have to be choosy.

Sue: For real.

Andi: If I might make a suggestion, I think you would really pull off- I think her name is Andrea. In tos- in the dick rock episode, whatever that episode is called. She wears a pantssuit that's made out of scarfs.

Jackie: *sighs* Icon.

Andi: And I feel like you could rock that really hard with your aesthetic. Just saying.

Jackie: I'll do it.

Andi: Put a pin in that. *laughs*

Sue: Well, I just have one more question and that is about your interactions with Whoopi Goldberg.

Jackie: O M G.

Andi: You got to meet Whoopi!

Jackie: I got to meet Whoopi. You guys, she really is Guinan. *crew laughs* Just in case- people in the fandom know, she just in real life is- has that much kind of amazing prescient energy. Like, she can- she knows exactly what you need to hear and will say it to you. And it's almost like spooky, right? Cause it's like, this is a character she played on TV, but you're like, "Oh no, you're really that person. You're able to see what someone's problems or fears or insecurity are, and then help them move through that." and she definitely did that with me, which was, you know, something I will never forget. And then, yeah. What- how lucky right to, to have that kind of interaction with her. God, if she doesn't- if she isn't on Star Trek: Picard season two, I will be a very sad person. *Andi laughs*

Sue: She accepted that invitation on live television.

Jackie: On live television. So-

Sue: We're expecting it.

Jackie: And I just love the story of how Whoopi came into Trek, right? Because it's tied into so much of what we see as the beauty of Trek. Of her seeing Nichelle Nichols, of that being such an impact on her, of Gene Roddenberry not believing that she wanted to be on the show, and her finally having to like, get a hold of him. I mean, this story is legend at this point. But like, it ties back to so much of like the beauty of Star Trek and like how it does impact people, including a young Whoopi Goldberg. Which is like, how cool that then she was like, "I loved this so

much as a kid that now I want to, in a sense, give back." Right? Cause she was definitely the biggest star that they had on that show. Right? That she was at her super bookable prime peak in the nineties. And she was like, "Yep, I'm going to be on this TV show because I want to be."

Andi: I think that it kind of adds to the characterization is that Whoopi had such a say in it.

Jackie: Totally! And thank goodness she did. Right? I think it's an amazing character like, you didn't know you needed in the Next Generation, right? Because in theory the kinds of things that Whoopi maybe could have been doing, could have been things that Troi was doing. But I think they kind of moved Troi into a lot of different spaces, which I'm sure you've had many discussions about. *Andi laughs* You know, and I know Marina has had a lot of feelings about. But I think Whoopi had enough say and gravitas to be like, "Well, this is how I can help this show. And this is what I can do for these characters." *laughs*

Andi: She just had a tremendous empathy as Guinan. And I still remember when I was first watching the show, I started with TNG. And the first season of TNG is rough. I still like it, but it's rough. And then you get to the second season. And the turning point to me was the Measure of a Man, in which the moment was Guinan and Picard sitting at the bar, talking about human people and disposability of people. And how easy it is to de-humanize people and turn them into just, not a full person in your eyes. And that conversation, I was like, "Oh, I'm a Trekkie. Oh, okay. That's cool. That's- this is a show that I really care about now." And it was definitely- she was a huge part of that.

Jackie: Yeah. And I think, you know, as we move forward, I hope that that continues to be something she brings to the table. *crew laughs* We'll see.

Andi: We" add that to our many things we knocked on wood for in this conversation.

Jackie: It's going to happen.

Andi: Well, Jackie is going to manifest it the same way she manifested polly pocket-

Jackie: tricorder!

Andi: Yeah, tricorder.

Sue: Yeah, that's right over there. *all laugh*

Jackie: Oh my God. I'm coming over and looking at it. I don't know what I'm going to do. Whatever-

Andi: It's just across the bridge.

Jackie: Whenever the pandemic's over, I'm going to come look at it. *Andi laughs*

Sue: And you are welcome anytime to my wall of Beverly Crusher.

Jackie: Oh, yay! We love Crusher! By the way- and now another amazing interaction I had was with Gates. And she was- it was kind of interesting. Cause I think she saw me, and she started telling me the story and I was like, "Oh, it must have reminded her of someone." She started telling about her time in the eighties and nineties as a choreographer and a dancer. And how I reminded her so much of, you know, amazing young gay, queer, probably some trans women that she had met in that time in her life and how she missed so many of them, um, because we had lost so much of that community in that time.

Andi: Wow. That's amazing.

Sue: That's really lovely.

Jackie: It's kind of like, you know, it's kinda- it usually happens the other way. You know, usually fans will come and tell the star a story about something that happened in life. It is interesting that Gates saw me and she was like "You remind me of these dancers I used to work with who were amazing, that had beautiful long legs. And I- we lost so many of them." And it was just like, she just kind of was remembering it as she was telling me. It was a very touching moment. Yeah. There's- I mean, it's just, it's amazing because you know, we've been lucky in that most of the people who've worked on Star Trek have been amazing people. And so we're lucky that we still have so many of them to connect to and, you know,

interact with. Either on Twitter or at the convention. You know, that they've embraced it as well.

Sue: Absolutely. Well, is there anything that you want to share with our audience we didn't talk about today?

Andi: Anything you're doing in the future that you want to let us know, about future projects or..

Jackie: Oh my gosh. You know, it's- we're in a holding pattern here. *laughs*

Andi: Uh, wait a second. Are you telling me that pandemic has thrown off your life plans?

Jackie: It has. It has. You know, and on the flip side though, you know, originally I was going to be probably too busy to do any Trek kind of stuff. *Andi laughs* But now I'm like, "Hey, we could do it all!"

Andi: The silver lining.

Jackie: The silver lining is we can be actively watching all the new Trek. *Andi laughs* Whenever the conventions get rescheduled I'm going to try to be there. I mean, I'm a huge fan of this fandom and of Star Trek of course itself. So I can't wait to see where the future takes all of us.

Sue: And where can people find you on the social medias?

Jackie: I'm @JackieCoxNYC across all platforms. Twitter, Instagram, and Tik Tok *laughs* if you would like.

Andi: I just finally did Instagram and I'm already overwhelmed. I don't know what a story is. So I've just been like avoiding it mostly. Occasionally I upload a picture of my cat, and then I'm like, "Okay, cool. I'm hip again. All right. I'm leaving." Tik Toks too far for me. I don't know. I'm an old lady. I'm a grandma. I can't handle that.

Jackie: That's okay. You know, everything at your own pace in your own time. You'll just skip straight to the holodeck, that's my vision for you.

Sue: Absolutely.

Andi: Thank you. Please manifest that for me.

Jackie: Yeah.

Sue: One of the, the costumes I pull out every now and then is Grandma Tarkin.

Jackie: Oh!

Sue: Yeah. All of my- because I'm the same way about like, Tik TOK. What? Stories? What? Like all of my Star Wars friends just call me grandma now because I am not there for it. *laughs*

Jackie: That's okay. Everything in your own time, in your own way. And there are- I will say, I think Twitter is the most Trek- most Trekkie people I find are on Twitter.

Sue: Yeah. There's a big, big Trek community on Twitter. And speaking of such, for more from Women at Warp, you can find us at womenatwarp.com. Send us an email at crew, C R E W, @womenatwarp.com. Or find us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram @womenatwarp. Not Tik Tok though.

Jackie: Not yet.

Andi: Is we let Grace do Tik Tok our- we are going to go viral so fast. We should do that.

Jackie: It's gonna just be like, Tik TOK dances, but like in Starfleet uniforms.

Andi: *laughs* That would be great. All right. Well, we got pitch Grace on that.

Jackie: I'll come do one with her too.

Sue: Thanks everybody for listening.

Jackie: Bye!