

Women at Warp: Catsuits, Miniskirts and More (STLV 2019)

[Women at Warp theme]

Grace: For as long as we've had *Star Trek*, we've had fascinating women characters from all kinds of backgrounds in all kinds of fields and professions, from space princesses to scientists, from cybernetic overlords to geriatric revolutionaries, from Gladiatrix to diplomats who are just really into jogging. But across the gamut, as any red-carpet interviewer will tell you, there's only one real question worth asking. What is she wearing? That was the topic we chose to get into for the main Women at Warp panel this year at Star Trek Las Vegas. Without further ado, here's the audio, such as we have it, for that panel.

Sue: If you'd like to follow along with the panel, you can download a PDF of our slides and in our show notes on womenatwarp.com.

Male Speaker: Okay, guys. Hi and good morning. Welcome to the Kelly Auditorium. Let me introduce Ms. Sarah Golding, who will tell you about the next guest about women in costume. Ladies and gentlemen, Sarah Golding.

[Audience applause]

Sarah: Thank you. And I would like to welcome Ms. Grace Moore.

[audience applause]

Grace: Up next, we have Ms. Jarrah Hodge.

[audience applause]

Jarrah: And finally, our facilitator for this session, my co-host, Sue Kisenwether.

[audience applause]

Sue: Good morning. There it is. Hello.

Grace: You found your voice.

Sue: Well, as we start every podcast, welcome to Women at Warp, a Roddenberry *Star Trek* podcast. Join us as our crew of four-women *Star Trek* fans boldly go on our biweekly mission to explore our favorite franchise. My name is Sue, and thanks for showing up.

[audience cheers and applause]

Grace: Thank you all so much for showing up to such an early panel.

Sue: So, Jarrah and Grace are two of my regular cohosts, and Sarah is our guest here today. And we're going to be talking about women's costumes in *Star Trek* if you hadn't gotten that. So, what we're going to be doing today is going through some of the most iconic costumes. We put out calls on Twitter, on our Facebook, got a lot of feedback to see what people wanted us to talk about, and we will be scoring some of these costumes.

These are the criteria that we came up with to score up to 5 points each per costume, person on the panel. So, at the very end that means the total score will be out of 100. So, we'll be talking about-- Or we'll be thinking about functionality, as in, can you do what you

need to do in this situation wearing this costume? Design and aesthetics, how does it look? Because that is also important.

Grace: Is it fierce? [laughter]

Sue: Comfort, can you move around easily in this costume? Or to be more direct about it, how quick will your bathroom trip be? [laughter] Styling and accessories, how does it all work together. And expression, does this outfit speak to the character? Does it express their truth? So, as a warm-up, we're going to get started with some of our standard duty uniforms. And our panelists all have whiteboards here to show their scores. We come prepared. So, we start right at the beginning with our *TOS* standard duty uniform.

Jarrah: Oh, man. It was interesting because we came up with these criteria without knowing what costumes we were going to pick, and it actually really surprised me how it turned out. And *TOS* did actually pretty well, some of the costumes. And for the duty uniform, some of the things I really like about it is the look. I think it's pretty iconic. I just have to knock it down a couple points because in terms of functionality, great. It's very functional if you don't need to bend over. [laughter] And also, the fact that the velour shrinks. I have one of these costumes myself, and after like two or three cold water washes, it is now too short to wear and it started out like 2 inches longer than the screen version. So, those are where I knocked it down a little bit, but I'm going to give it 19.

Sue: Grace and Sarah, how would you score out of 25?

Grace: Well, I'm a fan of this. It's such an iconic look. It's a good look, as we've proven. But expression wise, it only speaks to a very specific type of person in terms of people who like to wear miniskirts, which some do, but not everyone. So, because of that and its iconic nature, I gave it a 15. The lights came up.

Sue: [laughs] And Sarah?

Sarah: I think I was really cranky when I scored these. So, I scored everything pretty low. I actually gave it a zero in function because you can't bend over, you can't raise your arms. That cuts you out of doing a lot of stuff you need to do in Starfleet. I also gave it a zero on comfort because there is some pretty serious shapewear going on underneath this costume. There is probably steel boning involved in making you the right shape to look good in that. I also, on a lot of the ones that are uniforms, I gave a zero on expression because it's not supposed to express the character. It's supposed to be a uniform, so I gave it a nine.

Sue: And for a lot of the similar reasons, I gave this one a 14. So, we will move on now to *TNG*, *DS9*, and *Voyager*. Now, as my panelists prepare their whiteboards, I will say, we know that there is a large range here in these costumes and that they changed over time. However, they are all still essentially a jumpsuit. So, that is why we grouped them together. Also, we only have 45 minutes.

[laughter]

Jarrah: And when we're done going through the duty uniforms, we're going to get you guys, with show of hands, to say which one you would score the highest so just keep in mind. But yeah, I gave this one an 18. I think they're pretty solid. I like that there's a color range. I have the *Voyager* jumpsuit. It's very comfortable, unless-- I mean, it's wool, so it's a little bit challenging if it's hot. But it's better than the spandex *TNG* in terms of comfort, so 18.

Grace: I understand that it's very comfortable looking. I mean, you're wearing a onesie. Pretty much going around in pajamas, awesome. But at the same time, I look at it and I think

I would not feel very confident wearing that, so I gave it a 15 just because, not for me. Not for me.

Sue: Sarah?

Sarah: I thought some of them looked more comfortable than others, like the ones that are very form fitting. Yeah, I wouldn't feel comfortable wearing that. That's not designed for all women. I didn't give it very high scores in styling or expression because, again, it's a uniform, but I did give it a 5 in function because you can do what you need to do, so it ended up being a 16 for me.

Sue: Awesome.

Jarrah: Also, I just need to mention, while we're on the *TNG* uniforms, that in the writer's book for-- Or, sorry, the costume book for the series Bible for season one of *TNG*, there's the line, "There will be no pockets," and for that, I cannot give it a perfect score.

Grace: Yeah. I knocked it down [crosstalk]

Jarrah: We all need pockets.

Sue: Jarrah stole my thunder a little bit.

Jarrah: Oh, sorry.

Sue: Dr. Crusher is the only woman in the 24th century who has pockets, so it gets a 17. [audience cheers and applause] All right, so *Enterprise*, a very big departure from what we have seen so far. Pockets, jumpsuit. Turtleneckage.

Jarrah: Yeah, but it can zip down. I feel like this is the first costume that some people might have real world experience with, as I am also, I'll say, a member of the 501st. I'm a Thai pilot, and I wear a flight suit when I troop. I know how comfortable they can be. I love having pockets. They're a pain in the butt to pee in. So, my score for *Enterprise* is a 15. This is also because we don't see any of our characters really altering or adjusting their costume, their uniform at all to express themselves like we do in *TNG* and *TOS*.

Sarah: Okay, sure. So, this one, I gave it fives in function and comfort. That's something I would love to wear for work every day and not have to think about it. Lower scores, I gave it three in design and styling and a zero for expression, again, because it's a uniform, so total 16.

Sue: Yeah.

Grace: I gave it marks in comfort and functionality, but I just don't like the look of them. I felt like they could have done more creatively speaking.

Jarrah: Okay, so these are jumpsuits. Also, the jumpsuit zips in the front, which is a big advantage over the *TNG*, but--

Grace: You don't need a friend to help you get dressed.

Jarrah: I gave this the lowest marks in expression because there's no range of colors and people don't seem to wear any accessories or there's no way you can customize it like Ensign Ro with a headband or Uhura with her earrings, so 14.

Sue: All right, *Disco* [unintelligible 00:09:15]. Not super comfortable. [laughter] But why don't we start at the end of the table again with Sarah?

Sarah: Okay. So, I love the design of this one, and the function is great. It looks like you can do what you need to do in it. I love the styling. Again, this one is a uniform, but I think I liked how it's styled as a uniform, I guess, is what I was going for on that one. Expression, still not high, so total of 17.

Sue: All right. Grace.

Grace: I went similar. I think it's a very chic uniform. I hope to God, there's pockets on them, but the color scheme, I think, really works for it. I love how bright and expressive the newer ones are. And I loved how, again, just tailored and well-made looking than the previous ones in the first season were, so 18. I'm a fan.

Jarrah: Okay. You guys. Starfleek. More like Starfleek, not Starfleet. [laughter] That is what I think about this uniform. I love it. I gave it 21 because also, bonus points for the fact that there are scant options. The only thing that I took off for is the fact that you have to wear the boots over the pants all the time. But overall, I think they're fairly comfortable and zip at the front. They're separate pants. So, yeah, love them.

Sue: Yeah. I also scored this pretty high for uniforms. I gave it a 19. And my biggest takeaway from this is that these are boots that actually have tread on them. If you're climbing stairs, if you're running down rocks, you won't slip and fall. There is an iconic scene when Captain Picard gets stuck in the elevator with the kids. He's climbing up that ladder, and they do a shot from behind. There is no tread on those boots. He would die.

Grace: That's not okay, Sue.

Sue: [crosstalk] [laughter] How? So, of our standard duty uniforms, I will say we did not share our scores with each other before this panel. So, I'm actually here writing these down and adding them up as well. I've got a lot going on. Our highest scoring uniform with 75 out of a possible 100 points, is the *Discovery* uniform. But we also want to know your favorite. So, by show of hands, *TOS*.

Grace: Okay, there's some love for the *TOS*.

Sue: *TNG*, *DS9*, *Voyager*. All right. I'd say that's a good 40% of the room. *Enterprise*? Practically, does not get many votes.

Jarrah: I mean, *Disco* uniforms have pockets too. They're just not as many of them.

Sue: But they do zip clothes.

Grace: They're kind of like you're wearing giant cargo pants.

Sue: All right. And *Discovery*, new *Enterprise*.

Jarrah: Nice.

Sue: Yeah, looks good. All right, let's move on to some of our more iconic guest stars, and we will start right here. [audience cheers and applause] And I know Grace has a lot to say about this costume.

Grace: I do, I really do. Now, I've got to say, if she's supposed to be a gladiator fighting in the ring, this isn't the most ridiculous pro-wrestling costume I've seen. [laughter] It's not even the most ridiculous pro wrestling costume in this episode.

Jarrah: Oh, yeah.

Grace: So, I did give it a mark for accessorizing because the boots are great and having a weapon really makes a statement with any look, honestly. I don't love the cut of the diaper bottom or the Jiffy Pop cleavage. I feel like those are really dangerous. And again, sort of the bikini brief cut of the bottom, that feels a little cruel. It is so hard to look good in that. And the fact that she's never known freedom but is have to known a bikini waxer is cruel.

[laughter]

I don't love the accessorizing either, because I feel like the combination of the costume and sexy space wear, which is definitely what this is, and giant beehive hair doesn't really say "forged in the pits of fighting" to me, but there it is, and that's why I gave it in total-- Even though it is, I absolutely acknowledge an iconic look, super great for Barbarella maybe, I give it an 8 in terms of for this character. If it had been on another character, I might have loved it.

Sue: Sarah, what's your score?

Sarah: I gave it a 25 [laughter]. And I'm going to tell you why. First, function, she can do what she needs to do in this outfit. I love the design because I actually really love Barbarella. I love the costumes in that movie. It looks actually more comfortable than swimsuits I have worn. I love the styling and the expression. And you know what? I've seen a lot of thin women wearing this costume. I would love to see a plus-size woman do this costume. I think this would look fabulous on a plus-size woman.

Jarrah: Okay, well, I'm going to flip it back to 9. [laughter] Mostly, for reasons Grace raised way in a way more funny way than I could have. But just let's have a real talk about the Will Theiss titillation theory for a second. This is not like maybe only example, but the idea like is the sexiness of the costume is proportional to how much it looks like it could fall off at any given moment. And let's show things that are not expected to be shown while covering up things that you have to actually show on TV. But real talk about how bras work for people. So, everyone in this episode sucks at fighting. So, yes, she can do what she does in this costume.

Grace: Not much of a curve to grade on.

Jarrah: Yeah. But all of these outfits, like the Droxine outfit and stuff in the Carolyn Palamas in *Who Mourns for Adonais* are taped underneath the boob and it doesn't actually hold anything in place. So, when Shahna has to fall on her back at several points, the bra just weirdly collapses and so I've got to give it 9.

Sue: Thus, Jiffy Pop.

Jarrah: Yeah, Jiffy Pop.

Grace: It deflates also.

Sue: Yeah. Basically, what Jarrah and Grace said for me. But her boots are flats, so I gave her 13. [laughter]

Jarrah: Yeah.

Sue: All right, we're going to try and move quick. We got a lot of costumes on our list. So, let's move on and talk about Keiko's wedding dress. So, I scored this one pretty high. I don't know how much. And we couldn't really find how much they did research on whether this is traditional or appropriated or what the costume designer did there is not much on it, but even so I gave this 23. I think this is a great costume.

Jarrah: I gave it 15. I only knocked it down because she's wearing those block sandals that look kind of hard to walk in. And also, the costume had a lace unitard underneath it, which fails our test of going to the bathroom easily.

Grace: I think it's very pretty. I think they could have gotten a little more creative with it. And again, I don't know how much actual research went into it. Love the hat though, 18.

Sarah: I gave this one also a 25 because it's beautiful, and I loved the fabric, and I'm actually half Japanese, like the O'Brien family. And this looks to me like something in the future that you would see in a Japanese wedding, because in a Japanese wedding, there's multiple costume changes, and some are traditional and some are western, and this would fit right in, I think. So, 25.

Sue: Awesome. So, I know pretty much everybody in this room is waiting for it. The Duras sisters. [laughter] Sarah, do you want to kick this one off?

Sarah Oh, wait, hold on. I have to add first.

Grace: Math.

Sarah: Someone else go.

Sue: We have our iconic boob window here. But I have to say, it is not very functional for actual fighting. One of our friends is a fencer and points out that in women's armor, you obviously want that area covered because that's where your heart is. Might be in a slightly different place for Klingons. But even so, if there's even an indentation in your chest plate, it's going to direct any weapon hit to the center of your body. So, if you're wearing real functional armor, you want your chest plate to be as flat as possible across your chest. So, that functionality brings stuff down. But this is iconic and just looks pretty comfortable because, I mean, once you get used to wearing corsets and armor, they're not that bad as long as you can sit down in them. So, I wound up giving these costumes 20.

Jarrah: I gave it 13, mostly the armor reason. Also, the skirts just look kind of hard to move in. That said, maybe this is just a good representation of the Klingon patriarchy at that point in their history.

Grace: Yeah, I love the silhouette. I love the accessorizing with weapons again. But at the same time, grown women wearing matching outfits with their siblings, 10. Give it 10 out of 25.

Sarah: And I gave it 17. It got marks for expression and styling because weapons are always appropriate with armor. But I just thought wearing a whole skirt made of armor looked really heavy and uncomfortable, so that knocked it down for me.

Sue: All right, now to a different era of the Klingon empire with our chancellor.

Jarrah: Well, you can see right away that the skirt's shorter. She's got these sort of leathery pants on underneath, which look pretty awesome. We had our Twitter audience vote on

which L'Rell look we should choose, and people really seem to like this look and how it made her look really regal. It's so super, super detailed, like all the *Discovery* costumes are, but this one does look pretty functional, looks super badass, and I kind of want it. So, 23.

Grace: I absolutely love the sort of gladiatrix, leader, Joan of Arc look, and I think it's amazing. I love what went into it. But at the same time, based on our judging criteria, I don't feel like it fully speaks to L'Rell as a person. Love the outfit. I feel like we could have something that speaks more to her though. So, I went with 16, out of love.

Sarah: I thought this especially compared to the previous Klingon kind of-- Well, it fills in the gap, obviously. And then, the skirt--

Grace: Literally. [laughter]

Sarah: Literally. And then the skirt part is much more functional with the pants going on there. So, I don't think expresses her as a person, but I think it expresses what she wants to communicate about herself as the Chancellor. So, I gave her 24.

Sue: And we saw some photos, Mary Chieffo shared a lot on her social media, over the season of her needing to be in like a resting chair in some of her costumes because she couldn't bend over. And we see very clearly with our center image here that she can sit. And again, as someone who wears armor on a semi-regular basis, that is an A plus thing to have. And I scored her 20 for this costume.

So, Seven of Nine.

Grace: We have opinions.

Sue: Look at that undergarment. That's not comfortable. That's really why I wanted to talk about this costume the most, because it's got to corset her, but then also have that ribbing be strong enough and large enough that it is then seen through those jumpsuits. And you can see in the maroon costume, those shoes are built into the pants. You cannot take your shoes off all day. I don't know how many people in this room have worn heels all day long, but taking your shoes off is kind of the best thing on the planet when that happens.

Jarrah: Is it such a big deal if she doesn't sit down or lie down? She just goes into a little pod. She used to do it with the heels on too.

Sue: Yeah, but still, not great. And well, you have a point that you want to make about Seven of Nine, but I will say that my score for this type of costume on Seven is 13.

Jarrah: I give this one a zero on comfort, because I'm thinking particularly, the silver outfit, which had the stronger ribbing and corset and literally was so tight that she had to have an EMT on staff because she would pass out wearing that costume. So, you don't get any points for comfort on that. But the other point I wanted to make was about speaking to the truth of the character, because I think it's important to remember that when Seven of Nine got to figure out what her fantasy looked like on the holodeck, she had herself in a regular uniform like everyone else. So, the fact what we should think about is did she actually want to look like that? Or that was just the outfit that was built for her, and she didn't really have a lot of choices for her? So, going to give 11.

Grace: I've never seen a scientist wear that type of garment honestly. I think the costume, while it's based mostly around how pretty it looks and how pretty it makes Jerry look, which is obviously very. I like what they did with the hair and the Borg jewelry there, but at the same time, it's a cat suit. So, pretty obvious 10 for me, that it is pretty, but--

Sarah: And I didn't realize until I added this up that I gave it a total of 9 minus 7 points, [laughter] 2, because that looks really uncomfortable and not fun to wear, and you can't do a whole lot in it. There's not a whole lot of styling involved. Yeah, it didn't work for me.

Sue: So, this is where our audio cut out.

Grace: Unfortunately, we had transporter ghost, Hoshi Sato, got into the system to try and signal us or something, and we just kind of cut off.

Sue: But fortunately, Sarah was wonderfully willing to talk to us again so we could recreate the second half of this panel for everyone. So, we're going to pick this up and talk about Miranda Jones.

Miranda is my perfect score. I think these costumes are absolutely gorgeous. She clearly can do not only what she needs to do in them, but her outfits are sensors that help her navigate the world. And this is clothing that is effective and useful for a person with a disability. And Diana Muldaur is just straight up gorgeous.

Jarrah: Yeah. I also gave this a perfect score, although, I admit, partly because we did talk a little bit about this one in advance, and I was like, "why am I not giving this a perfect score?" And I couldn't come up with a good reason. But the styling, she's got that cool little hair knot thing on top. It's pretty awesome. It goes well with visor that prevents you from seeing the ugliness of Medusans. It's pretty cool and practical and gorgeous.

Grace: I didn't give this one a perfect score, but I gave it one of my higher ones, and I gave it 20 because it, again, is a medical garment. And it's a lovely one as far as they go. She wears it with swagger. It's very well accessorized, again, with the hair and makeup styling. Looks good with the visor, and she wears it well, I must say.

Sarah: Yeah, I also gave it 20. I wasn't as crazy about as some of you guys. The main thing was, if I was wearing it, I'd be so worried about snagging the jewels or sequins or whatever those are under my arms all the time.

Grace: They're sensor sequins.

Sarah: They're sensor sequins, but I bet they still catch.

Grace: That's true. That's true, sensor or no.

Sue: [laughs] All right, so that gives Miranda Jones a combined score of 90, which is our highest so far. And we move on to Kaitaama from the *Enterprise* episode, *Precious Cargo*. And let's be real, this is a Forever 21 junior prom dress right off the rack.

Grace: It's so junior prom looking from the color to the cut.

Sarah: But tell us how you really feel about it?

Sue: [laughs] Well, I gave this one 10, because in order to actually do anything useful, she literally has to rip her dress in half.

Jarrah: Yeah. The best part of this dress is how easy it is to rip off because it's terrible. I gave it 9. But mostly what bothered me is this is a character who's supposed to be an alien. She's played by Padma Lakshmi. There's a lot of potential for you to have a wedding dress from an alien culture that is way more interesting than this, but it's not even interesting from

a human wedding dress perspective. Yeah, it's light pink. It's got really nothing interesting going on with the beading or the neck or the color or the length or anything. It's just way too meh for this character. Yes, it's super uncreative.

Grace: I will definitely agree with you on that front. It feels like you'd be hard pressed to have something that doesn't look great on Padma Lakshmi. The color is really boring. The cut of it, again, looks junior prom-ish. But I will say I gave it 13, and that's because with all of that, there is some interesting stylistic throwback to the sort of 1960s evening gown wear with the halter neck and with the silhouette and with the color choice and the shiny fabric. I feel like that is an interesting way of tying the early aughts aesthetics back to the 1960s. And I don't know if that was intentional or not, but I like that.

Sue: Sarah?

Sarah: I gave it 10 because it's an off-the-rack disaster. And I kind of wonder now if it looks so cheap because there was a line in there where she had to rip it. And so, they're like, "We have to work with this cheap fabric. Let's just go with it."

Jarrah: They should have just made it like a tearaway [unintelligible 00:27:08].

Grace: Tear away and she has a better costume on underneath it.

Jarrah: Well, if there's one thing we've learned from *Enterprise*, it's that they're never wearing anything better underneath it. [laughter]

Sue: Well, we certainly couldn't have done this panel without bringing up Lwaxana Troi.

Grace: Aah.

Sue: In this case, we are specifically looking at what she wears in the *Deep Space Nine* episode, *The Forsaken*. There are three different looks here, but I think they're all valid. I'm pretty sure the pink one we've seen before in *Next Generation*. It is corseted. We've got this blue lace number and then we've got the red dress at the end. We see Lwaxana wears a similar wig in each look. And this is the episode where she takes her wig off and trying to show Odo that it is okay to be vulnerable. And I think that's just a really lovely moment that certainly probably influenced my scoring in this case. But my one main concern with Lwaxana is as a diplomat, she needs to be taken seriously. And sometimes her looks might be so over the top that she is not taken seriously, so that dinged her a little bit on functionality, of all things. But she still gets 20 from me.

Jarrah: Yeah, I gave her 20 too. I have that issue, but also, I just wasn't sure how comfortable all the outfits would be. I get that they're a maxi dress, so generally pretty comfortable, but sometimes the sleeves look like they might be a little tight or just a little bit constricted. Or is it too heavy? Is it too hot? I wasn't always confident they'd be the comfortable things to wear. But I love all of these looks. My favorite is definitely the blue lace thing with the bright orangey red wig. And of course, I love and I think I've said on the podcast before, I love the moment. The red dress is definitely the most basic look, simple look of these, but the moment where she does take off her wig to Odo as a bald lady, that meant a lot to me. So, yeah.

Grace: Lwaxana, I've got her tied with my highest score for this panel. I've got her at 22. I know the highest score I'm willing to give. I reserve the right to be picky. I love her costumes. I really do. I love that it looks like they're visually very fun, both like something that the character would enjoy in the sense of needing and wanting to be the center of attention and just like something that the costuming people had fun putting together and got to get creative

with. I love the contrasting we see with her wig colors and her dresses, and I love using wigs as accessories. I really do. And it speaks to the character so much, just about being bright and effervescent and over the top.

And again, I love any time we get to see older women characters get to be that level of over the top and not treated like they're meant to be sort of mumsy and forgotten, which is something that we see a lot both in Western culture and in pop culture.

Sarah: Well, I gave her 24. The only thing I dinged her on was comfort, because it looks like there's some shapewear going on under most of her costumes.

Grace: Beauty knows no pain.

Sarah: Well, she sacrificed comfort for expression. I would have given her 200 for expression if I could, because all of these outfits just scream Lwaxana. And I love that even though there's not a specific Lwaxana outfit or dress or hairstyle, there's a specific Lwaxana look. It's iconic. That's what I love about her, the expression. She's fantastic.

Sue: Moving on to another very expressive lady, we have Ishka, specifically from *Family Business*.

Grace: Oh, Ishka.

Sue: AKA Moogie.

Grace and Jarrah: Moogie.

Sue: And, Sarah, this was one of your requests for this panel, so I'm going to throw this to you first.

Sarah: Yeah. I especially want to talk about Moogie, because in the culture she's from, she's not dressing for anyone else at all. It just sounds so freeing. She designed this completely to please herself. So, she liked this pattern. She liked the gold chains. She liked the fringe on her living room lamp, and she put it all together, and this is what she loves. This is who she is. I love it. I gave her 23. I dinged her a little bit on design and styling, because it is kind of a crazy mess.

Grace: There is that Ali Wong bit about how once you reach a certain age as a woman, you just have to go, "Eh, screw it. I want to be shiny. I'll do what I want." So, I gave her 14 based on the fact that she is very clearly doing what she wants, but at the same time, it's a big old beaded mu'umu'u. And as much as I don't want to judge, but I am here judging, that can't be comfortable. You've got the best part of the mu'umu'u and the least comfortable part of anything you could possibly wear. How are you going to sit down on all that beating, I ask you?

Jarrah: Ishka is so extra. If you do not think that she is badass just because she's standing up to the Ferengi patriarchy, consider the fact that she's wearing this, what looks to be a very heavy earring-necklace combo. We don't often see Ferengi with pierced ears. Also, presumably on Ferengis, the women also have the ears as an erogenous zone. So, I'm going to take her seriously. I'm not going to be messing with her. So, yeah--

Grace: She's walking around the house with those. She's showing them off in front of her kids. [laughs]

Jarrah: Yeah, not just anybody does that.

Grace: You do you, Ishka.

Jarrah: So, I gave her 21.

Sue: Oh, her function, what she needs to do in this costume is just wear this costume, because that alone is smashing the patriarchy of Ferengi culture, right?

Grace: Yeah. The mu'umu'u of patriarchy smashing.

Sue: The only thing I dinged this on was the placement of the beaded fringe because it's along the inner seam of the arm. And I feel like that would get really annoying, so she gets 24 from me.

Grace: This mu'umu'u bashes the patriarchy. [laughter]

Sue: Well, this is the point in Las Vegas that went into our speed round because we were running out of time. We have no time limits here today.

Grace: We don't have to do that.

Sue: We are going to go through these next few. Still try and keep it fast, but not as fast as Las Vegas. So, if you've heard it before, maybe you haven't. The next one on our list is Ardra, of course, from *Devil's Due*. I dig this main costume quite a lot. And the only real detriment to it, in my opinion, is how the shoes and the pants-- It's basically a bodysuit with a skirt and shoes built in. But I think it looks great and she can do what she needs to do in it, which is be intimidating, so I gave this 20.

Jarrah: I also gave it a 20. I think similar reasoning, just dinged it on comfort a little bit.

Grace: I give it 15. I like it for all those out aspects. I like that it's pretty much Catwoman formal wear, but at the same time, there's too many different visual things going on at once for me to love it. I just felt like the combination between the corset pants, the shoulders, and the detailing on the front of it, it's all a little much altogether. If we had just detracted a few of those things, I would have adored it.

Sarah: Yeah, I liked it too. I gave it 21. I love the sheer skirt over the pants look. I did think it needed a little more in the earrings department and maybe lose some of the decoration on the front there. But overall, I liked it and I thought she looks fierce and that's what she needed to do.

Sue: Awesome. So, next up is Janeway, specifically in her white tuxedo.

Grace: Oof.

Sue: I scored this 20 as well, and I think that my dings are the same as Jarrah's, so I'm just going to let her handle it.

Jarrah: Yeah, I feel like this was a great choice for Janeway in *The Killing Game*. She's classy. She already had some comparisons to Marlene Dietrich even before you put her in a similar time period. So, putting her in a tuxedo is pretty awesome. I mostly love this outfit, but, oh, man, you can't eat or drink anything while you're wearing it, so that takes off some marks for me. I also just didn't think that-- Like the hair is okay, but I didn't think that the styling or accessories was particularly creative. But I love this outfit and generally how they costumed the character for this episode.

Grace: Same. I'm a big fan of the Janeway tux and her big Janeway energy that it gives her, which is why I gave it 20 out of 25. Again, I love it. I think she wears it very well. It's just not very tailored, and I felt like they could have done more styling wise with it.

Sarah: Yeah, this one, I had somehow missed it when I was doing my original scoring, so I had to score it on the spot in Vegas and I gave it 22 which, looking at it now, I think that was a little high. Because, really, I don't think-- I'm all for women wearing tuxes, I think that's great, but I don't think you need sequins on the lapels unless you're actually in a musical. So, I'd probably revise that down to 20.

Grace: Maybe at the end of the night, she goes into the "so long farewell" number, telling everyone "You don't have to go home, but you can't see. Get out my bar."

Sue: [laughter] All right, so let's move on to Emperor Georgiou. For me, this is functional armor, and my big ding against this costume was comfort, because even if it's functional, it's not always comfortable. But still, she gets 20.

Jarrah: I give this 21. I don't have a ton else to add. It looks amazing, I think. When we interviewed Gersha Phillips, the costume designer for *Discovery*, talking about some of the ways that they did things a bit differently, this idea that *Discovery* has about the Mirror Universe being a bit different and how you can show the same kinds of lines that you saw in like *Mirror, Mirror* in *The Original Series* without making everyone bear their Midriff. Yeah, so 21.

Grace: I gave this a 22. It ties with Lwaxana for my highest score in that. Oh, my God, look at it. For one thing, I love-- One of the things I've always loved about the costuming with *Discovery* is we get some very creative silhouettes with it that we I don't think got to see as much as we could have with some previous costuming. But this one, I really love what they did with it and the cut and sculpture of the shoulders and neck making it very much an intimidation-based outfit. But there's a sort of cutesiness to the hair thing in it that makes it feel like she's-- She knows she's intimidating, but she finds it funny that we find her intimidating.

Sarah: I give it 21. I think it's an interesting combination of the very functional armor, but the very unfunctional status symbol cloak/coat thing. Looks gorgeous. I just don't like the thing on her head because it looks like she saved the bow off a Christmas presentation.

[laughter]

Grace: See, I thought that was funny. I thought that was kind of "Oh, you think I'm scary? Look at me with my bow."

Sarah: I think it's a weird juxtaposition of armor that's meant to intimidate, the coat that's meant to intimidate. And then, here's a little bow on my head.

Jarrah: Yeah. You can see sort of similar techniques with L'Rell with like big capes and awesome sort of like leathery pants and boots, so I'm down with this look for badass ladies of the future.

Grace: As am I. I for one, welcome our emperor overlord if it's going to look this good.

Sue: All right, so moving on. We go next to Admiral Satie and I'll just say, my score was 19 for this. Not everybody can pull off that neckline, but I will throw this to Jarrah as it was one of her picks.

Jarrah: I love this bow-- So, she sort of has these two sets of robes with very subtle differences. One has like a very fine blue braid around like the neck and the sleeves, and the other one has sort of a pink thing that goes inside of it. Definitely a look not everyone can pull off but I feel like her function is to look authoritative and badass and like be-- I mean, a judge is someone who in a lot of places wears kind of ridiculous-looking robes. In Canada, our Supreme Court justices definitely look like Santa. So, I don't think that takes away from her functionality at all. Super bonus points for the fact that her necklace looks like a noose. I don't know if that was intentional, but I feel like it fits with this episode. I guess my only mark is I feel like maybe just a tiny touch too much matching eyeshadow.

Sarah: Is that a necklace? I totally assumed that was a zipper pull.

Grace: Oh, same here. I thought it was just a super-sized 1990s [crosstalk]

Jarrah: A pendant thing. Pendant thing.

Grace: It is a multipurpose piece of hardware on the front of her robe.

Jarrah: Yeah. And it is slightly subtly evil looking. So, yeah, 23 is what I gave her.

Sarah: I'm just going to jump in and say I gave her a 22 because I really like the interesting neckline, but I think maybe because I was assuming that was a zipper pull, it's almost borderline housedress or bathrobe to me. So, I don't know, I wanted to-- maybe it needed something to look a little more formal. I think there were some scenes where she was wearing some awesome earrings with it that helped.

Grace: Yeah, I agree that it's interesting, it's authoritative looking, it's intimidating, definitely, but I just feel like it's a little on the cheaper side looking. I felt like there could have been more put into it. It looks like kind of if Uniqlo had a line of super-villain wear. So, I felt like it could be just more intense looking. But for what it is, it works.

Sue: I just think it takes some guts for any member of Starfleet to decide, "I don't need to wear a uniform. I'm above that." And we see that every now and then, including on the bridge. So, let's go next to Guinan. We have a couple different designs here and they're all pretty similar. They all seem to have the same shape and just in different colors. I mean, you find something you like and you buy it in every color. I get that.

My biggest issue here is that one of these designs is drawn with bare feet, which like if you're in food service, not great. [laughs] Also, a few of the sleeves have those cuffs that come up and like wrap around your hand or go around the thumb. And to me, that doesn't seem conducive to handling drinkware either. But even so, I still give Guinan overall 20.

Jarrah: Was anyone else disappointed that when she was fencing with Picard, they didn't make her like a fencing outfit that had a big flat hat underneath it?

Sue: Huge missed opportunity.

Grace: Yes. [laughs]

Jarrah: [sighs] Anyway, I generally have no problems with what Guinan wears. I just feel like because there's a few different looks here, I don't like them all equally well. I feel like the bolder colors do better than like the light pink, and early on I think she has like an orange one. And also, when the costume designer changed to Robert Blackman and her hats got bigger, I think that generally those looks are better. So, I gave it sort of 21 on average.

Grace: I gave it 20. You do you Guinan. You rock the look as you see fit. I also think she looks better in dual tones and big hats and in space forever.

Sarah: I gave this a perfect score of 25-

Grace: Ooh.

Sarah: -because I think she looks amazing. It's an iconic look. I mean, you wear something flowy and the flat top hat, it doesn't matter what color it is, everyone's going to recognize that you're dressing up like Guinan. And this is like the most comfortable outfit ever. It's basically pajamas and then something to cover your head so you don't have to do your hair. It's perfect.

Sue: [laughs]

Jarrah: If you were out in the sun, it would be even more useful. I'm just not sure how big the hat needs to be inside.

Grace: It's big enough to express how you feel.

Sarah: It's extremely functional.

Grace: And fun.

Sarah: And fun.

Sue: Alright, next up we go to Leeta, specifically from *Bar Association*. I like the look of this costume quite a bit and may have spoken a bit to Chase Masterson, right before we did this panel the day before, who said that the costume, like the body of it was comfortable to wear, but that similar to the Seven of Nine costume, the shoes were built into the bodysuit. So, you couldn't slip your shoes off, you couldn't easily use the restroom. But I really like the little chiffon-- It's not really a full skirt, but the little chiffon pieces that come off from the waist and move around her as she moves in this costume, and I gave it 18.

Jarrah: Gave it 15. I gave it like slightly above-- I gave 3 out of 5 on everything, actually. I think the comfort issue and the functionality issue of not being able to pee super easily is a big, serious issue. I don't love the look of this as much as some of her other outfits. I think maybe it's like the combination the sort of like green color that doesn't really say anything to me. But also, in terms of expressing who she is as a character, I feel like the fact that we see her away from work wearing maybe usually a bit darker, richer colors and certainly not quite as showy means that I don't think it expresses an essence of her character. It's part of who she is, but it's not definitively who she is. It's who she puts on for work.

Grace: And I gave it 13 because I feel like it works with the aesthetic of the show and with her job as a Dabo girl, cocktail waitress, but I don't love it. And it's not an outfit that ages very well, I don't think, especially with the color palette were talking about.

Sarah: I gave it 22 because it's functional for her job. And I actually really like the color palette. It's stuff that I could never wear, so I like seeing it on someone else. But yeah, I enjoyed it.

Sue: Alright, just two more left. The next one is our Romulan commander. I absolutely love this, but I will defend it against my lower score of the *TOS* uniform because as commander, I think that this character has a slightly different function, which is to be intimidating. We're not

expecting her to go on away missions in this or carry out standard crew duties in this costume. So, I scored it differently based against that uniform. And I also just love the design, which is apparently something that I have to discuss with one of my panelists, [laughter] but I scored her at 19 in this costume.

Jarrah: I gave her 24, which was my second highest score after Miranda Jones. Just goes to prove that I was actually surprised how high most of my *TOS* scores came out, Shahna excepted, I guess. But yeah, I sort of agree with Sue that the function is a little bit different than the *TOS* uniforms. But I think the color's great. I like the use with the boots. It looks to me like it would be sort of comfortable and empowering to sit around in and command your troop.

Grace: Yeah. It's definitely a power look. I gave it 19 because I love the juxtaposition between two patterns and the little cape that comes off in the back and the chief sort of alien elements in it. Other than that, it's just a power mini dress. And I would have given it a higher score. I just felt like it could have been styled better. Other than that, as just a dress and as an alien costume, it works on equal levels, and I like it.

Sarah: So, I gave it 8. And most of that's for the thigh-high boots.

Sue: [laughs]

Sarah: No, I really didn't like it. I think the fabric is too thick. I don't like the patterns. I don't think it's super flattering. I'm not very intimidated by someone who looks like she forgot to put on her pants under her sweater.

[crosstalk]

Grace: [laughs] She's doing power knitwear. Power knitwear.

Sue: Fair critique. Fair critique. [laughs]

Grace: Agree to disagree.

Sue: I still love it.

Grace: I'd wear it.

Sue: All right. And our last costumes, which got a resounding laugh, I guess, from the crowd in Las Vegas, are the costumes from *Justice*.

Grace: Wow. If you're listening and you are at a computer, just take a minute to look the costume up again for the full moment of just saying wow.

Jarrah: And specifically, we're talking about if you had to pick which costume, the one that Rivan wears, who's the main named woman character, the one who comes out to the Enterprise, because the men's costumes in that are just a whole other thing. Some of the same issues, but a whole other thing.

Sue: These aren't helpful for anybody in any way and I scored these 6.

Jarrah: I give it 8, including a zero on the metric of comfort, because you try jogging with no undergarments whatsoever, and see how that goes for you.

Grace: Yeah. And definitely not a great look. I gave it 8. And I feel like that's pretty high in terms of how much I dislike a lot of the sort of diaper-y cut of a lot of them. But we have proven with Megan Rapinoe's Sports Illustrated photo shoot that this can work if it's styled correctly.

Jarrah: [Laughs]

Sarah: Yeah. Something tells me that unlike these people, Megan Rapinoe did not have an entire roll of double-sided tape under her swimsuit. [laughter] You just look at the picture and tell there's tape everywhere under those things making them stay put because, yes, something like that is not meant to be clothing. [laughs]

Jarrah: Yeah. Watching this episode with my friend was the first time I learned the term moose knuckle.

[laughter]

Jarrah: We weren't talking about the men's costumes, but just so you know, yeah, that tells you all you need to know about *Justice*.

Sarah: Yeah. I gave it a zero, by the way.

Jarrah: [laughs]

Grace: Oh, my gosh.

Sue: All right, so that's the end of our costume list. Miranda Jones stayed in the lead with a total of 90 combined points-

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: -out of 100. And Rivan/Justice came in with 22. [laughs]

Grace: Why would you give her a perm with that outfit? Why?

Jarrah: The other thing that we're missing in our recordings because of my memory card running out of space, is that we did have some good audience questions. One of them was about the question about whether it's fair to or how we are applying styling criteria for the duty uniforms given that they're sort of quasi military and how is reasonable for them to balance aesthetics versus the need for a military command structure and discipline.

Sue: So, in terms of styling or expression, what I was going on was what it appeared the characters were allowed to do. So, we saw in *TOS*, we have a lot of different hairstyles. We have, I think, the only earrings we ever really see on the women crew members. In *Next Gen*, you've got rose headband, you've got Bajoran earrings. You've got different things that characters can do to either reflect their religion or their belief system or their culture and that seems to disappear somewhat as we get to *Enterprise*.

Jarrah: Mm-hmm.

Sue: And we haven't really seen much of it on *Discovery* either.

Grace: I briefly touched on, and again, I was going into this with no military knowledge or background whatsoever that I feel like there's different ways to wear a garment that could have been expressed. You can roll your sleeves up. You can have it done up all the way or

all the way down in the front. When you've got that layering going on, you can layer it differently. But I did have a gentleman come up to me afterwards with a military background saying that probably would be seen as unacceptable in a lot of military organizations.

Jarrah: Yeah. And certainly, we see Picard reacts very poorly to the chain earring thing at first. So, there's clearly some tension around that in universe in *Star Trek* as well. And we weren't saying that the ideal would be a uniform that everyone could just customize infinitely, but just that there's some ability to customize generally was, we thought, a good metric for evaluating costumes.

But in *Disco*, at least you do see that you can choose now a scant or pants. And they do seem to have some variety of shoes sometimes, maybe it's just like when you're hanging out on the ship versus you're on duty, but there's-- Sometimes, you see them wearing kind of like Vans and they got the *Disco* T-shirts. So, they have at least exercise versions of the uniforms-

In unison: Yeah.

Jarrah: -athleisure look. And on *DS9*, [crosstalk]

Grace: Run on over to Jamba Juice after Starfleet classes.

Sue: I think you mean [unintelligible 00:52:59].

Grace: [laughs] You got me.

Jarrah: On *DS9*, they also made the uniforms so that Miles could roll up his sleeves, particularly as like a working man.

Grace: Blue collar with a gold trim.

Sarah: As someone who goes to a lot of cons and wears a lot of outlandish outfits at them, I'm someone who also wears nothing but black and white for everyday wear. And I imagine, especially in a future where they have a holodeck and you can wear whatever you want pretty much whenever you want, it's kind of a relief to just go back to a plain old uniform and not have to think about it day to day.

Jarrah: Probably for some people. Yeah.

Sue: What was the other question you remember?

Jarrah: Oh, well, someone came and said, what do you think about Quark in *Profit and Lace*? I definitely said, I have a hard time evaluating Ferengi fashion because it's so over the top that it's hard to say to what extent it should mesh with our fashion ideals versus just Ferengi fashion is ugly and that's okay. Does that make it good because it's fashionable on Ferenginar? But obviously acknowledging that episode is basically a love letter to transphobia and didn't really do much for me on an aesthetic perspective because I was so distracted by how offensive it was.

Grace: Yeah. And I think this episode kind of did Quark dirty on the sense that he's already a flamboyant dresser. He's kind of got a clothes horse streak to him. He's got a lot of different outfits. He has sparkly footy pajamas. And I refuse to believe that he wouldn't already own something in his wardrobe that could be considered somewhat unisex that could work for him presenting as female and the idea that he goes straight from the look we know him for to hot pink [unintelligible 00:54:47] Not buying it. Not buying it.

Sarah: And it kind of says something that when Ishka chooses her own outfit, it's a Mu'umu'u. And when Quark comes dress up as a woman, it's super tight and revealing.

Grace: Yeah. Quark doesn't think highly about the idea of himself presenting as a woman, and it shows.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Sue: One I remember is it was along the lines of what could be done for the duty uniform, specifically of the *Enterprise* era, to improve their score? And I hope I represented that question correctly, because that is how I answered it. To me, the *Enterprise* uniforms, it is difficult to tell division because the division colors are just kind of in one place and very thin piping around the shoulders. And it's also difficult at times to tell rank. And in even a quasi-military environment, you want to be able to see somebody's rank right away. You want to know in an emergency, who's in charge and who you're answering to. We didn't really talk about the movies at the time, but this was also an issue in the Kelvin Universe for the first two films.

Grace: I'm not going to pretend I'm an expert on flight suits, but we have proven in other media that there are a way they can be really flattering and look pretty sexy. I'm thinking the *Top Gun* flight suits right now and Captain Marvel, they could have been done better. I can't fully articulate how. I just know that you can do a flight suit better looking than this.

Sarah: Yeah, they didn't even read flight suit to me. They read more car mechanic.

Grace: Yeah, maybe that was the problem there.

Jarrah: So, someone else also asked about T'Pol and do we think T'Pol's catsuits are logical?

Sue: No, no.

Jarrah: No, we very much don't. I believe I brought up the example of the episode where her and Archer are kidnapped by the Andorians and she's very cold and he has to lend her his Starfleet jacket. And I'm going like, "The Vulcan Science Academy would never let that happen, guys."

Grace: Why would you dress illogically for the weather where you're going?

Jarrah: Yeah. No.

Grace: Also, for a culture that's really into flowy robes the idea of her just wearing a unigarment that's very tightly cut doesn't make a lot of sense to me.

Sarah: Strange how no Vulcan men came to the conclusion that would be a logical thing to wear.

Grace: Right? It's so funny how that works.

Jarrah: And not even those bell ringer dudes.

Sue: [laughs]

Grace: My main caveat, anytime the women of an alien species are shown to have an inordinately sexy outfit versus the men is I'd have no problem with it if we saw the guys wearing it too.

Sue: Justice.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: Yes. [laughter] That's the one plus for *Justice*, I guess.

Jarrah: I would still think it was illogical if you're going to be cold and everyone else has pockets except you, but I agree on principle that I wouldn't find it sexist if the guys were also wearing it.

Sue: Well, all of our scores, not our like individual this is my functionality score, this is my styling score but our total scores for each of us and the total scores for all of the costumes will be available in our show notes. We've made a document for that so you can go and check it out if you'd like to, as well as we should have said it at the beginning, but a PDF of the slides we used so you can see the costumes that we're talking about if you'd like to follow along.

Jarrah: Awesome.

Grace: And we hope you do, really.

Jarrah: And maybe if you're lucky, they'll let us talk about the movie costumes or something else costume related next year because we certainly only touched the tip of the iceberg.

Sue: Absolutely.

Grace: Guys, I just love costuming so much.

Sue: Jarrah, where can people find you on the internet?

Jarrah: You can find me [@jarrahpenguin](#) on Twitter. Or you can find me at [trekkiefeminist.com](#).

Sue: And, Grace?

Grace: You can find me on Twitter [@bonecrusherjenk](#), and also online laughing at, but also kind of coveting the Forever 21 catalog.

Sue: [laughs] And, Sarah?

Sarah: And Sarah, you can find me on Twitter [@SarahMiyoko](#). Or you can get involved in my new online fanzine on Facebook. It's called Star Trek Quarterly.

Sue: Yay. And thank you again so much for coming back to chat through this with us one more time for the listeners. And I'm Sue, you can find me on Twitter [@spaltor](#). As always, our show is entirely supported by our patrons on Patreon. If you'd like to become a donor or patron, you can visit us at [patreon.com/womenatwarp](#). If you'd like to get in touch with us, you can do so on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook [@womenatwarp](#). Or shoot us an email at [crew@womenatwarp.com](#).

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