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VIDIIAN WARSHIP TYPE: WARSHIP

IN OPERATION: 2370s

LENGTH: 300 METERS

MAX SPEED: WARP 9.6

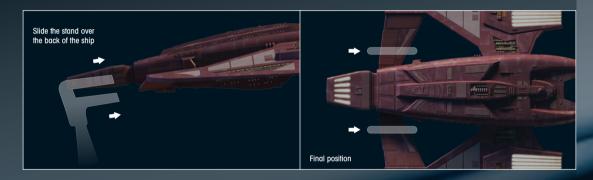
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Development Direct Maggie Calmels

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VIDIIAN WARSHIP

SPECIFICATION



OPERATED BY: THE VIDIIAN SODALITY

TYPE: WARSHIP

IN OPERATION: 2370s

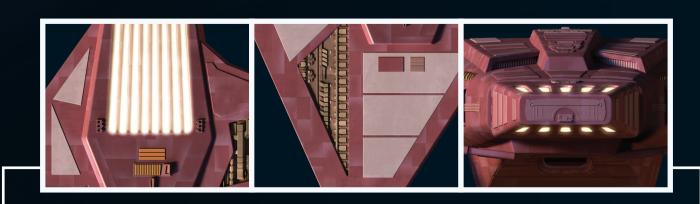
LOCATION: DELTA QUADRANT

LENGTH: 300 METERS (APPROX.)

TOP SPEED: WARP 9.6

WEAPONRY: PARTICLE BEAM EMITTERS,

TORPEDO LAUNCHERS



he Vidiian warship was one of several similar types of vessels used by this race in the latter half of the 24th century. Its appearance resembled that of a manta ray, with two horns, similar to cephalic fins, jutting out the 'head' of the ship on either side of a u-shaped indentation at the front. The bridge of the ship was situated on top of a flattened main body that spread out into broad wings. The entire ship appeared to measure at least as wide as it was long.

Commander Chakotay commented that it was "loaded with weaponry," which included particle beam weapons and torpedoes. A smaller Vidiian starship was equipped with a type of dampening field that could drain energy from Voyager's warp nacelles at a rate of seven per cent per minute, and it was likely that

the warship also possessed this ability. Similarly, a much larger Vidiian vessel, which had a crew numbering at least 350, was armed with hyperthermic charges and grapplers, which were used to access captured ships. The charges were used to neutralize the weapons of a targeted ship, while the grapplers were used to bore a hole into the hull, so it could be boarded.

In terms of technology, the Vidiian warship was

on a similar level to that of the U.S.S. Voyager NCC-

74656. It was capable of high warp speeds, and

MEDICAL NECESSITY

Much of Vidiian technology, and particularly their ships, was shaped by their health needs. For more than 2,000 years, the species had been suffering from a disease known as the Phage. It literally devoured their bodies and destroyed them at a cellular level. Despite their extensive medical knowledge, they had been unable to develop a cure, and they survived by stealing healthy

Vidiian warships were therefore outfitted with the means to neutralize other vessels, rendering them unable to fight back or flee, before boarding them and kidnapping the crew. Transporter technology

■ The Vidiian warship looked

like it had pincers at the front,

organs from compatible humanoids.

DATA FEED

Many Vidiians served as *honattas*. This term referred to an individual whose duty it was to obtain organs for another Vidiian, who was afflicted by the Phage.

◄ Vidiians who suffered from the Phage had alien skin grafted

demeanor. It was certainly a ship to be wary of, as the Vidiians used it to neutralize other starships, so they could abduct their crews. These captives were then used for medical experiments, and their organs were even harvested to help keep the Phage-infected Vidiians alive. VIDIIAN

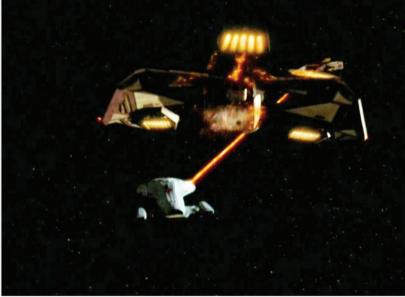
Heavily armed, the Vidiian warship was a powerful vessel used by this Delta Quadrant race in the 2370s.

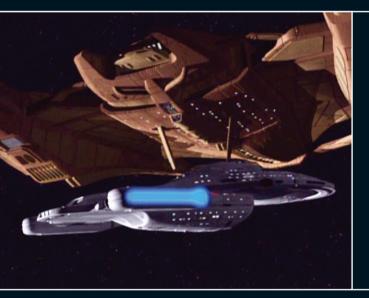


◀ The Vidiian warship had white energy signatures in their equivalent of the warp nacelles and the impulse engine at the rear. It had similar warp and combat capabilities as Voyager.

► Voyager contacted a convoy of Vidiian warships in the hope that they knew a cure for the virus that Janeway and Chakotay had contracted. The Vidiians said they would help, but attacked instead.







Captain Janeway and Commander Chakotay were forced to remain on a planet they named 'New Earth,' after they were infected by a disease through an insect bite. Some property within the planet's environment stopped the disease from becoming fatal, but it meant they could not leave without a cure.



▶ Once the antidote to the virus had been beamed aboard Voyager, the crew fired a photon torpedo into a canister of antimatter they had beamed into space near the Vidiian warships. A split-second later, Voyager jumped to warp, just as the antimatter detonated in a huge explosion, disabling the Vidiian warships.



▲ Surrounded by Vidiian warships, Voyager was pummeled by weapons fire. The Starfleet ship was evenly matched against one warship, but it stood little chance against three. The attack was relentless, but Voyager could not simply flee, as the crew needed the anti-viral medicine that the Vidiians had to cure Janeway and Chakotay.

Another Vidian ship, larger than their warship, used hyper-thermic charges to disarm Voyager, before using grapplers to bore a hole in its hull. The Vidiians could then board Voyager and kidnap the crew.

could then be used to remove healthy organs from to contact them to ask for help, even though they the captured species, or these unfortunate souls would be used for medical experiments as the Vidiians continued to look for a cure.

In 2372, Voyager reluctantly sought the help of the Vidiians after Captain Janeway and Commander Chakotay were bitten by an insect and infected with a virus while exploring a planet. The virus would have proved fatal if they had been and Denara Pel, a Vidiian who had previously removed from the planet, but something about its environment kept it in check. With the Doctor unable to formulate a cure, the crew of Voyager were forced to leave Janeway and Chakotay behind as they continued on their journey.

Six weeks later, *Voyager* detected a convoy of Vidiian warships. Knowing that the Vidiians had extensive medical knowledge, the crew wanted

knew there was a strong chance that the Vidiians would try to abduct them for their organs.

WORTH THE RISK

Tuvok, who had become the acting captain, was eventually persuaded to take the risk and contact the Vidiians. At first, they seemed happy to help, become friends with the Doctor, told them she had an anti-viral agent that would provide a cure.

As Voyager closed in on the meeting coordinates, they were suddenly surrounded by three warships. The Vidiians refused to answer hails and launched an attack. Overwhelmed by the particle beam weaponry of the Vidiian warships, Voyager's shields were soon down to 47 percent,

while the Starfleet ship's weapons had little effect on stopping the assault.

A more inventive tactic to repel the warships had to be used, and they still had to acquire the antiviral agent for Janeway and Chakotay. Voyager briefly dropped its shields, and in that second the Doctor beamed the medicine from a Vidiian ship to his medical lab. Voyager then ejected an antimatter container into space, which they detonated with a photon torpedo. Simultaneously, Voyager jumped to warp, escaping the resultant explosion, while the Vidiian warships took the full brunt and were disabled.

The timing of this plan worked perfectly as the Vidiians were unable to pursue, leaving Voyager free to take the antidote for the virus to the planet where Janeway and Chakotay had been left.

DATA FEED

Danara Pel was a Vidiian doctor who had been suffering from the Phage since the age of seven. In 2372, she was near death when *Voyager* answered her distress call. The Doctor put her body in stasis, while transferring her mind into a holographic body. The two fell in love while working together, and they successfully came up with a way to prolong her life. She returned to her own people to continue her efforts to cure the Phage.



VIDIIAN WARSHIP OVERVIEW

PLAN VIEWS

VIDIIAN NIGHTMARE

In 2373, Captain Janeway and Commander Chakotay had an encounter – of sorts – with a Vidiian warship. They were aboard one of Voyager's shuttles, the Sacajawea, in the atmosphere of a planet when it was hit by lightning. They were forced to perform an emergency crash landing, but Janeway was badly hurt in the impact.

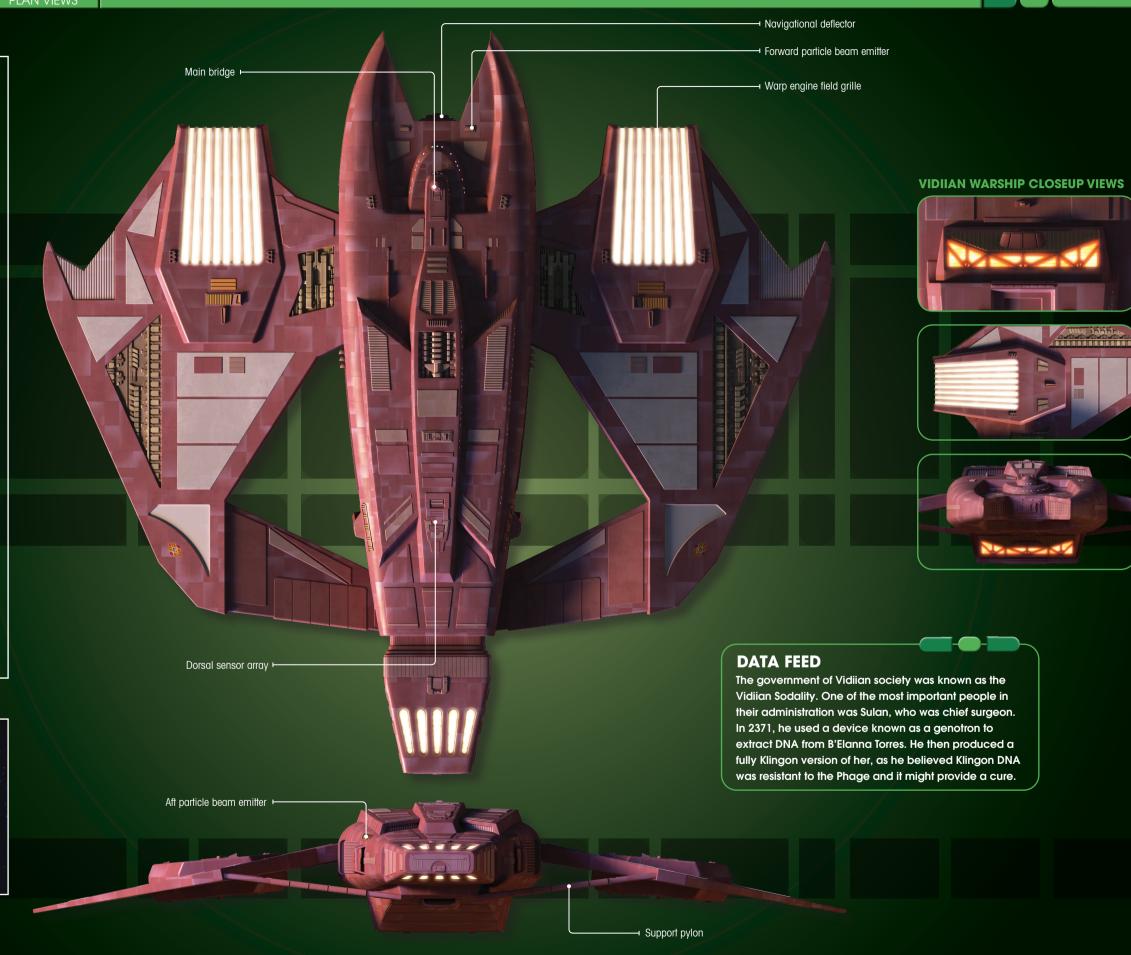
Upon investigation of the shuttle, phaser burns were found that matched the energy signature of a Vidiian warship. A few moments later, Vidiians arrived and one shot Chakotay, while another grabbed Janeway around the throat and strangled her.

The next moment, Janeway and Chakotay were back on the Sacajawea, reliving a conversation they had just been having. The next moment they were shot out of the sky by a Vidiian warship, but then the situation reset itself again. This time they were pursued by two Vidiian warships, but when they released a tachyon burst, the ships simply vanished.

This made them believe they were caught in some kind of repeating time loop, being placed back at the point just prior to the arrival of the Vidiian warship. In fact, all the events since the first crash landing, had been a hallucination experienced by Janeway. They were caused by a non-corporeal alien wanting to lure her spirit away, so it could feed on her body after she died.



▲ After suffering a near-fatal crash landing, Captain Janeway experienced several delusions in which the shuttle she had been traveling on was attacked and shot down by a Vidiian warship.



NEW PRIORITIES

Before the Phage infected the Vidiians, the species was known as great

PHAGE CURE

In 2375, the 'Think Tank,' a diverse group of alien scholars who traveled the Galaxy solving problems for a price, claimed to have cured the Vidiians of the

ORGAN TRANSPLANT

In 2371, a Vidiian named and implanted them into his friend Motura's body using a device that could from one person to another. In order to save Neelix's life, Kes agreed to donate one of her lunas



DESIGNING THE

VIDIIAN WARSHIP

▲ The impressive studio model of the Vidiian warship was built for STAR TREK: VOYAGER's second season episode Resolutions, and it also appeared in the season three episode Coda. The open-winged ship featured fully-functioning lighting, and various camera mounting-points to make filming easier.

Visual effects producer Dan Curry came to the rescue when he designed a new Vidiian starship that was needed in a hurry.

The first Vidiian starship that appeared in STAR TREK: VOYAGER was in the episode Phage. This was a redress of a studio model that originally started out as the

Merchantman, and was designed by Nilo Rodis for STAR TREK III: THE SEARCH FOR SPOCK. The model was redressed several times for various appearances before it appeared as the Vidiian ship, by which time it had been modified quite extensively. This model set the general look for Vidiian ships.

The Vidiian warship that first appeared in *Resolutions* was designed by

VOYAGER's visual effects producer
Dan Curry, and he gave it an ominous,
poweful look that was also consistent
with the cultural aesthetic that had
already been established for the
Vidiians. It was unusual for anyone
outside the art department to design a
starship, but as was sometimes the case
when they were pressed for time, the

VFX department came to the rescue.

The studio model of the warship was built largely from fiberglass. The surface was covered in suitably futuristic components that helped give it a sense of depth by creating shadows and texture, while it was painted in various shades of burgundy and cream.

The model was equipped with fully

functioning electronics, including tiny lights for the windows and larger lights for the engines in the wings.

The model measured approximately 84cm x 91cm and was auctioned at the Christie's '40 Years of *Star Trek'* sale in 2006. The bidding for the model was expected to reach \$2,000-\$3,000, but it actually sold for an incredible \$5,040.



STAR TREK MAKEUP

In his long and illustrious *STAR TREK* career, Michael Westmore created some incredible-looking aliens, including the gruesome Vidiians.

he Vidiians were one of the first adversaries that the crew of the *U.S.S. Voyager* NCC-74656 encountered after they were whisked off to the Delta Quadrant by the Caretaker. When devising the series, the producers came up with a number of ideas of what sort of aliens Captain Janeway and her crew would face.

According to co-creator and executive producer Jeri Taylor, the Vidiians emerged from an idea about "a culture that was dying of an incurable virus and would go to any lengths to make their species stay alive." She imagined them

as being similar to the Mayan civilization, especially in regards to their practices of human sacrifice.

Fellow co-creator Brannon Braga, who was a big fan of the horror genre, stated that the Vidiians were also partly inspired by Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein*, in that they would be monstrous to look at, but they would also be, at least partially, portrayed as sympathetic. He said that another part of the inspiration came from wondering what humans would be like now had the bubonic plague not been wiped out, and what we would have done to survive.

▲ The Vidiians were one of STAR TREK's most hideous-looking aliens. Makeup supervisor Michael Westmore created their design by making it appear that their faces were rotting, and that they had tried to patch them up with skin grafted on from the body parts of other aliens.



◄ In the episode Faces, there was the ghoulish and unsettling sight of a Vidiian scientist who stole a VOYAGER crewman's face and grafted it on to his own, in the hope that it would impress Torres.

Braga remembered, "I thought it would be interesting to create a species that was really creepy-looking and Frankenstein-like, with cobbled together body parts. This was because they had to steal organs to survive, but they had a very sympathetic backstory."

ENGINEERING A PESTILENCE

The producers turned to their science consultant André Bormanis to come up with a believable type of plague that could infect and threaten to wipe out an entire species.

"We wanted to suggest a really vicious kind of a virus, something that ravaged this whole population of people, the Vidiians, and had driven them to this desperate situation where they had to harvest organs from other compatible species in order to survive," said Bormanis. "And a bacteria phage is a real thing. That was a good choice for describing the deadly pathogen, the virus that had come so close to doing in the Vidiians for good."

In fact, the aliens were originally going to be called the 'Phages,' but this was later changed to the 'Vaphorans.' However, when they were filming the script, it became clear that the actors were all pronouncing the name in different ways. It was therefore decided in post-production to overdub 'Vaphorans' with 'Vidiians.'

Once the concept behind the Vidiians had been established, it was up to makeup supervisor Michael Westmore to design the look of the Vidiians. The brief Westmore was given said that they were suffering from a dreadful disease called the Phage, and the only way they could survive was by harvesting body parts from different alien species and then grafting them onto themselves. Exactly how this would look was up to him and the makeup department.

"We started off with this patchwork quilt type of makeup," said Westmore. "The skin was just a variation of colors. As we kept doing more shows involving the Vidiians, we started doing kind of silly things like adding a chunk of flesh that had an ear

■ Each Vidiian had a unique face that was made up of skin taken from a variety of alien species, including patches of Talaxian spots or even an ear that had been attached in an unusual place.





▲ In the episode Lifesians, the Doctor saved the life of a Vidiian Danara Pel. He was able to download her synaptic patterns into a holobuffer and create a holographic body for her. This gave us a chance to see what the Vidiians would look like without the rotting flesh caused by the Phage.

in it! There was one that had a Vulcan ear stuck to the back of its head. There was another one with a very obvious chunk of Talaxian skin. We started doing things like that to make each one of them a little different."

MIXTURE OF SKINS

Ultimately, despite each Vidiian's head resembling a patchwork quilt of alien skins, Westmore decided to use merely a single mask for each Vidiian, each I started making a series of teeth that had a fang mask covering their respective wearer's entire head. The different skin textures were sculpted onto each mask, and then painted with a variety of colors. "It was all sculpted into one piece with different textures," said Westmore, "so it looked like" one of the Vidiians wanted to look attractive to overlapping chunks of stuff.

"We would make a chunk of skin spotted and the next one striped, then we started punching

different kinds of alien hair into it, to make it seem as if they had added some type of alien to themselves with various types of hair. Then we started flocking areas on it, so there would be a fuzzy chunk next to a smooth chunk. That led us into working with textures on the skin surface.

"I also made teeth for them," continued Westmore. "I thought it would look strange for them to have nice human-looking teeth. So, in it or something unusual. The teeth tended to look like a variation of different alien species in

In Faces, one of Westmore's favorite episodes, B'Elanna. So, he killed a *Voyager* crewman and grafted his face onto his own.

"The same actor played the Starfleet officer and

➤ Over the years, Westmore created the look of hundreds of aliens. The Cardassians were one of his favorites, although he believed given more of a budget he could have made them look even better.

the Vidiian," said Westmore, "At one point, he had to peel his face off, so we made a rubber copy of the actor's face. We also gave him contact lenses, a different color in each eye. Those were the shows that really got interesting for us."

The producers were extremely happy with the ideas behind the Vidiians, believing that they were the first really successful aliens on VOYAGER, and they were also delighted with the outstanding makeup job Westmore did on them.

This really was not surprising at all, as Westmore had been doing incredible work on STAR TREK for some years by this point. During his STAR TREK career, which started in 1986 on THE NEXT GENERATION and went through all the way to the end of ENTERPRISE, Westmore garnered 31 award wins and nominations, including winning five Emmy Awards.

GALLERY OF ALIENS

Westmore came up with dozens of elaborate STAR TREK makeup creations over the years. The richness of the alien cultures we saw was a tribute to Westmore's skill and creativity. Notable among them were the Borg, the reptilian Cardassians, the shapeshifting Odo and fearsome warriors such as the Jem'Hadar and the Hirogen.

Westmore cast his net wide for inspiration. "What I used for a lot of my research were things on Earth that people know, instead of trying to just create something silly," said Westmore. "I would relate it to animals, amphibians, birds, dinosaurs, things that people know are good or bad, and I would put that into the character. I had books all around, and I also had a file of pages I'd torn out of magazines, all to do with humans - ears, noses, chins, throats, pieces of skin, eyes."

Having created this wonderful cast of characters, which one was Westmore's favorite? "The Borg were interesting, and the evolution of the Borg, but I think out of all the characters, the ones I enjoyed the most were the Cardassians. We could have made them even better for a feature

➤ Westmore was very pleased with the makeup for the Borg, whose look evolved a long way from the days of THE NEXT GENERATION, and was really helped by the extra budget for STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT.





STAR TREK MAKEUP





film, but for a TV show the design was fine. We didn't have the time or the need to redesign them to maybe make them better by adding little multi-layers of scales down the shoulders, and do some feature refining.

"On ENTERPRISE, I really enjoyed redeveloping the Orion characters from THE ORIGINAL SERIES," continued Westmore. "But, the Xindi-Reptilians, with porcupine quills coming out of them, were gorgeous."

UP AGAINST THE CLOCK

Westmore not only came up with all these incredible creations, but he did it while under enormous workloads and strict deadlines. The producers were always mindful of the pressures on Westmore and his team. "If it was something big, Brannon Braga tried to give me maybe two or three weeks' notice. With the Hirogen, he gave me an extra week's notice. But we didn't have time to wait for an actor. I had molds of heads - large, medium and small heads - so Brannon said, 'We're hiring great big guys to do this, 'and we'd core up our biggest head and pre-sculpt the thing, but left the face open, so when they finally cast the real actor we made a piece that fitted on. But the head was all pre-made."

Westmore had no time to compile a personal archive of all the things he'd created. "I didn't have time to pull my camera. Once I knew the camera was rolling and everybody was done, then I'd got miles of paperwork I had to go through, including the next day's layout - we called it the battle plan. It was an assignment where everybody was told what they were going to do the next day, what time they were coming in. They were told where they were going and what they were going to be doina."

The pace was absolutely relentless, and when Westmore first started working on STAR TREK, he was often at the studio from 5 o'clock in the morning until 10 o'clock at night - working 85hours a week.

- ▼ TOP For the Jem'Hadar, Westmore wanted a look that would enhance their strength and aggressiveness. He started off basing the race on the rhinoceros by placing multiple versions of its horn around their heads. He said the top of their heads was more like a dinosaur.
- BOTTOM In designing the Hirogen, Westmore built their look on the mottled skin of a Gila monster, the venomous lizard. Many of the face appliances for the Hirogen had to be made larger to fit some of the huge actors that played the fearsome Hirogen.



ne he did for Captair ard in *THE NEXT*

Westmore was an

"Three times they literally took me home due to exhaustion," said Westmore. "One time I was having to hold on to a rail – I couldn't stand up. They threw me in a car, drove me to the doctor and he said, 'You're exhausted.' So little by little things eased up, by getting more help and more help. At the end my week was more like 60 hours.

DEALING WITH THE PRESSURE

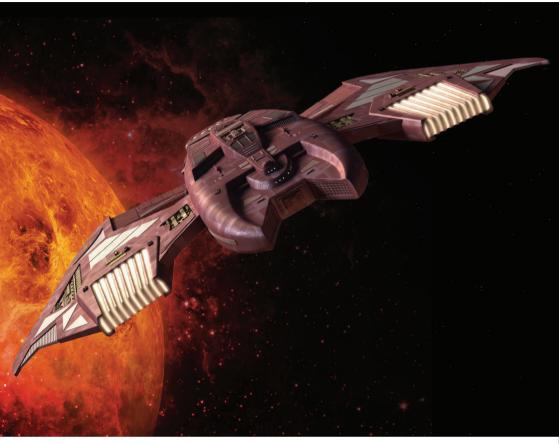
"If I was a highly emotional person I couldn't have functioned, because you would go crazy with all of the last minute things that were thrown at you. You needed people who were willing to jump in at the last minute and do whatever they could do."

After nearly 20 years as STAR TREK's makeup designer, Westmore could not have been happier with his job satisfaction and what he achieved. "I can honestly say in all the years of working on STAR TREK, there was nothing that I have seen in any movie where I thought, 'I wished I had the opportunity to do that.' We'd already done it. We'd done so many old-age makeups, we'd done so many aliens, we'd done so many diseases, we'd done so many things that you could possibly think about in other movies, and we did it faster than a lot of films, just because of our timeframe."



species was one of out of their heads, whi

ON SCREEN



TV APPEARANCE:

DESIGNED BY:

Resolutions

both contract a deadly virus from an insect bite, and they are forced to remain on the planet where they were infected, as the environment prevents the disease from killing them. Janeway orders Voyager to continue its journey, but forbids the crew from contacting the Vidiians, who with their medical

Weeks later, *Voyager* encounters several Vidiian warships and the crew can't resist asking them for help. They say they have a cure, but it turns out to be a trap and they launch an attack.

TRIVIA

Alan Sims, who was property master on STAR TREK: VOYAGER, was responsible for finding an 'alien primate' for the episode Resolutions. This was easier said than done, but he found a spider monkey that could walk on its hind leas. At first, producer Rick Berman was not convinced that it would look 'alien' enough, until he saw photographs of what it could do. Berman was immediately satisfied and said, "That looks alien enough for me. Book him!"



Susan Diol reprised her role as the Vidiian Denara Pel in 'Resolutions' after earlier playing the character in the episode Lifesigns. The actress had previously played Carmen Davila [pictured below] in the STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION episode



The STAR TREK: VOYAGER episode Coda was written by Jeri Taylor. She included elements in the story that she had previously established in her novel *Mosaic* that dealt with events in Kathryn Janeway's life before she became captain. For instance, it included how her father drowned under the polar ice cap on Tau Ceti Prime

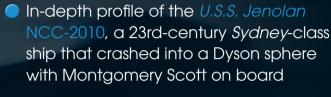
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U.S.S. JENOLAN









Inside your magazine

How the Jenolan studio model was created by Greg Jein out of an earlier model built for STAR TREK VI

In an interview with James Doohan conducted in 2000, the actor reveals how he came up with the name and the accent for the much-loved Scotty

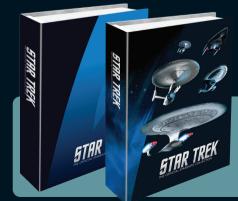
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BINDERS



STAR TREK: VOYAGER

Captain Janeway and Chakotay expertise may have a cure for the virus.

STAR TREK: VOYAGER Coda'

Captain Janeway and Chakotay mysteriously find themselves caught in a time loop, in which one or more Vidiian warships attack the shuttle that they are on, resulting in their deaths.

It appears that they cannot escape their fate, but during one of these 'episodes' Janeway's father appears to her and tells her that she is dead. He also tells her that she must let go and join him in death, allowing her crew to go on without her. These mind-bending revelations do not sit well with Janeway, and she soon comes to suspect that her 'father' has ulterior motives.

STAR TREK



