

RECEIVED

AUG 05 1977

GENE RODDENBERRY

B. Boyett  
M. Eisner  
A. Fellows  
B. Goodwin  
T. Keegan  
H. Livingston  
G. Nardino  
M. Ovitz  
G. Roddenberry ✓

Roddenberry expects within the next two weeks to have 8-10 writers working on episode stories. Presently 4 writers working on the two hour concept.

Our prime concern must be the two hour show for two reasons: (1) the opening of the series; and (2) enormous amount of worldwide potential in the first return of STAR TREK. February 1st answer print date is vital, and the film must be superb.

Roddenberry's feeling is that the more story ideas we can get in work, including series episodes, the more we will have to choose from to include in the two hour feature. For this reason all writers are working on cut-offs, with intention to give best material to top established writer.

MDE not concerned about writing costs, agreeable to whatever is necessary to insure best possible script "even if it takes a hundred or two hundred thousand dollars."

Eisner concerned over lack of director. Keegan awaiting word now on Gary Nelson. Keegan also meeting next week with Bob Collins for back-up director.

MDE stressed February 1st delivery date and concern that story must be firmed up quickly to allow sufficient pre-production. Fellows reports pre-production already under way, construction in progress but subject to delays for lack of competent personnel.

Roddenberry at this point cautioned "We'd be kidding you if I didn't say we have some problems on the February 1st date, but we're hoping to overcome them," to which Eisner responded, "If the two hour script is good enough, three million." He made clear he is not encouraging extravagance but concerned that we meet target date and the film be "visually fabulous," with a writer who can make the characters come alive, with a terrific director and a terrific story.

Kalcheim negotiating for Shatner. Roddenberry talked with Shatner today and he does want to be in the film.

Roddenberry concerned over tailoring script to fit Shatner and Nimoy, would prefer to eliminate Nimoy totally. MDE very strong on necessity for having both actors in the film (too great a fan following worldwide; both are essential to this film) and we must sign them, even at unreasonable figures. Roddenberry disagreed, based on his experience can almost promise us the excitement

generated by the return of STAR TREK with most of the original crew, aided by a publicity campaign to hype excitement over the "new, different type of Vulcan," would cancel out any disappointment over Nimoy's absence.

Eisner insisted Nimoy must be signed, even if only to appear briefly in opening scenes. This is acceptable, and even preferable, to Roddenberry and Goodwin, as a brief appearance will satisfy audience demand while allowing freedom to work with the new story and character concepts.

Nardino has an offer in to Nimoy which includes the two hour film, selected episodes, and settlement of his lawsuit against us. Nardino will now place a deadline (Friday 6 PM) on this offer, and then return with a new offer next week separating the items and negotiating only for the two hour film at whatever price we must pay (up to triple) but the deal with Shatner must be closed first to hold his cost down. It was also understood there is no interest in Nimoy for the series, although we may have to make a pay or play PTS commitment as incentive for the two hour film. MDE feels Nimoy would accept \$100,000 for 2 or 3 days work, and he would be agreeable to this figure if it becomes necessary.

MDE enthusiastic about story concept as described (see attached).

Roddenberry again questioned February 1st urgency; at which Eisner revealed he is trying to make commitment abroad to generate money on this property before it goes to TV; date is crucial, as is quality of the film. He made clear there is only one priority at Paramount: STAR TREK February 1st, big time movie; and has given full approval on money needed to move quickly to attain this goal. Specifically he will approve up to \$3 million budget "on these conditions: terrific director, terrific writer, Nimoy and Shatner." Consideration must be given to series (projected delivery in March) but cautioned against allowing series problems/deadlines to affect the two hour film. Approval given to put 13 scripts in work now.

Discussion of Magicam process and quality relative to theatrical film. Gene Roddenberry will view and make decision. MDE will accept Magicam if it "looks good at Radio City Music Hall."

:mh



STAR TREK CONCEPT as discussed 8/3/77

Kirk is aging, and the Enterprise is being totally rebuilt after many years of service, incorporating the latest technological advances and designed to serve as a model for future Star Fleet ships. Kirk has been assigned a desk job in charge of the project.

At the far edge of the galaxy, approaching fast, an enormous spaceship threatens Earth -- it's already destroyed several ships in its path. The new Enterprise, construction finished but only in the initial testing stages, is the only ship with the capability of meeting this threat.

The new, younger Captain of the Enterprise (now the youngest Captain in the Star Fleet) is reluctant to take up an untested ship, and insists that Kirk be in command, by virtue of his experience and intimate knowledge of the ship and crew.

Spock is sought and found, but is incapacitated or otherwise unable to actively participate. Kirk insists he be replaced by another Vulcan, as he has accustomed himself over the years to the unique thought processes of the Vulcan and feels this could be of critical importance in emergency situations.

A young Vulcan is found (introduced by Spock?) and subjected to much criticism and resentment from the crew, who are under the impression he has usurped Spock.

The Enterprise goes up, with the young Captain second in command to Kirk, and finds itself unable to control the intruder. Not until the story is half over do we become aware that this is not an invasion by aliens but by a totally new and unique life form, actually a machine -- an intelligent entity with the capacity to synthesize biological forms (swarms of poisonous bees which turn out to be mechanical, etc.) possibly to the extent of synthesizing a humanoid adversary.

At some point the Enterprise's computer joins forces with the machine but this is not understood -- crew thinks it is malfunction of the new system, to the point of extreme jeopardy.

By some brilliant quirk of the Vulcan thought processes, our new Vulcan saves the day, the Enterprise, and Gene Roddenberry's reputation.