

**Boston Legal Themes and Allusions in Comparison with Star Trek
 For Parallel Universe: Trek in the Courtroom for Boston-Legal.org
 Season Three, Episode 18: (03x18) Son of the Defender: airdate April 3, 2007
 by Debb from Montreal**

Theme 1: Where Past and Present Collide

Coincidentally (or not) the concept of using film footage from the past was featured in a Star Trek: Deep Space Nine episode entitled "Trials and Tribble-ations" that incorporated footage from The Original Series Star Trek "The Trouble with Tribbles." Using editing techniques perfected in the movie "Forrest Gump" the writers used scenes from the 1960's and placed them into context. The episode was broadcast for Star Trek's 30th anniversary. Similarly, Son of the Defender uses footage of William Shatner in the 50's and inserts them into the episode as flashbacks. The episode airs as William Shatner and David E. Kelly celebrate recent birthdays.



DS9: "Trials and Tribble-ations" TOS Captain Kirk and Commander Spock (William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy) are shown with DS9's Captain Sisko and Lt. Dax (Avery Brooks and Terry Farrell)
http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/a/a1/Kirk%2C_Spock%2C_Sisko_and_Dax.jpg



DS9: "Trials and Tribble-ations" Captain Kirk encounters Captain Benjamin Sisko (from the future) with Lt. Uhura (Nichelle Nicols) in the background on the bridge of the USS Enterprise.
http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/6/66/Sisko_meets_Kirk.jpg

Spot the difference:



TOS: "Trouble with Tribbles" Captain Kirk dresses down his crew for a bar room brawl with the Klingons in this screencap from the original sixties era episode.
http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/1/17/Kirk_Bas_hir_and_Obrien.jpg



DS9: "Trials and Tribble-ations" The 3rd guy from the left is digitally replaced by DS9's Chief Miles O'Brien (Colm Meaney). Along with James Doohan, Chief Engineer Montgomery Scott "Scotty", (left) Creating an encounter by two different generations of Engineers from the USS Enterprise.

What the heck is a Tribble anyways?:



Tribbles are furry androgenous creatures capable of self-pregnating and breed like rabbits. They are the scourge of the Klingons and the feeling is mutual.

They are often kept as pets and have a soothing purr. The tribbles in the photo at left ate the grain poisoned by the Klingons and are dead. (I'll let the fourth wall folk draw comparisons to the poisoned wheat gluten...)

Theme 2: Goes Nowhere, Does Nothing

When Brad gets stuck in the vent, every Trekker thought to himself... "well, he's polishing the "Jeffries Tube".

Memory Alpha Definition: Jefferies tubes, in the Star Trek universe, are small tunnels or corridors that provide access to critical starship systems. They can be vertically or horizontally oriented, and form a network that allows travel throughout large volumes of a starship even when the turbolifts are not functioning. Often they were marked with the letters **GNDN** which stood for "Goes Nowhere, Does Nothing".

The term "Jefferies tube" was coined by the original Star Trek production staff, and a reference to Original Series art director **Matt Jefferies**, the man who designed the original starship Enterprise. The US Air Force has taken the term for use within the Space Command community whereby any small or confined space is referred to as a "Jefferies Tube."

<http://www.thejeffriestube.com/mattjeffries.html> .



ENT: Lt Tripp crawls out of a jefferies tube.
Inset: Matt Jefferies.

http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/5/5a/Jefferies_tube_sweet_spot.jpg



Brad gets stuck in an air vent and ends up Going Nowhere, Doing Nothing.

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Captain Jean-Luc Picard crawls along a Jefferies tube in order to escape the Borg.

www.trekconnection.com

Star Trek Alumni: William Shatner (Denny Crane), René Auberjonois (Paul Lewiston), Gary Anthony Williams (Clarence/Clarisse), Mark L. Taylor (Attorney Adam Jovanka) (see 3x3 Desperately Seeking Shirley), Billy Mayo (Detective Sean Wilkins) (see 2x9 Gone), Stephen Lee (Aaron Sears), Lawrence Pressman (Judge Floyd Hurwitz), Michael G. Hagerty (Wally Bird)

Stephen Lee:



(TNG: "Gambit, Part I") Stephen Lee as an unnamed alien bartender.
http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/a/ab/Alien_bartender.jpg



TNG: "The Vengeance Factor" Stephen Lee as Chorgan, an Acamarian and the leader of the Gatherers in 2366.
<http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/0/04/Chorgan.jpg>



Stephen Lee publicity photo
[http://www.imdb.com/gallery/hh/0498280/HH/0498280/iid_960704.jpg?path=pgallery&path_key=Lee.%20Stephen%20\(I\)](http://www.imdb.com/gallery/hh/0498280/HH/0498280/iid_960704.jpg?path=pgallery&path_key=Lee.%20Stephen%20(I))

Lawrence Pressman:

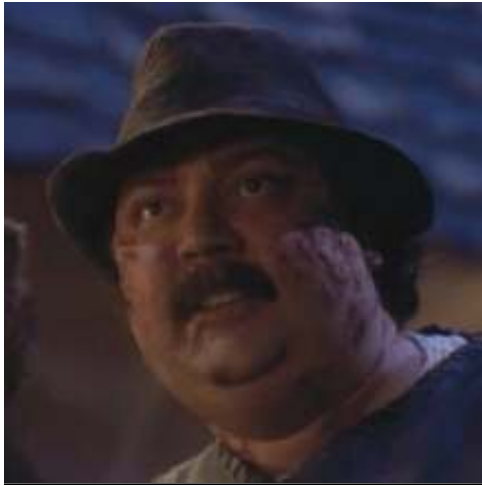


DS9: "Ties of Blood and Water" Lawrence Pressman as Tekeny Ghemor, a Cardassian Legate.
<http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/6/69/Tekeny-Ghemor.jpg>



DS9: "The Adversary" Lawrence Pressman as Federation Ambassador Krajensky
<http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/3/3b/Krajensky.jpg>

Michael G. (Mike) Hagerty:



TNG: "Thine Own Self" Michael G Hagerty as Skoran, a Barkonian
<http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/6/6b/Skoran.jpg>



TNG: "Redemption II" Mike Hargerty as Captain Larg, Klingon Defense Force
<http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/6/60/LargTNG.jpg>



Michael G Hagerty publicity photo
http://www.imdb.com/gallery/hh/0002235/Headshot.jpg.html?path=pgallery&path_key=Hagerty%20Michael%20G.&seq=5