

Trek Talk

Gazing Into The Future With Three Generations Of Star Trek

Recently, we became a part of *Star Trek* history by being present when, for the first time, three generations of *Star Trek* crew members came together over lunch to discuss the venerable history and visionary future they've helped create.

Present from the original series were **George Takei** and **James Doohan** (Sulu and Scotty respectively); representing *Star Trek: The Next Generation* was **Michael Dorn** (the resident Klingon, Lt. Worf); and from *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* was **Terry Farrell** (Trill Science Officer, Lt. Dax).

Q: Michael, this is the last season of *The Next Generation*. What are feelings among the cast members?

M.D.: I know it sounds cliché, but we are sort of looking forward to getting back out there. I think that everybody is looking forward to it with some excitement and... some trepidation.

Q: What about the possibility of a *Next Generation* movie? Is that a definite?

M.D.: It's possible. I've been told they're working on it. You just never know until the last minute what the deal is, y'know? At the last minute they could say, 'Let's do *Star Trek VII* instead of *Next Generation*. I mean it could happen, you just don't know.'

J.D.: And then there were also rumors going 'round that the old... or, uh, the original... or, uh, the classic...
(General laughter)

J.D.: I'll just say classic—classic is easier to say—is that we are supposed to be in the prologue. Then the *Next Generation* takes over. Then who knows, maybe *Deep Space Nine* is going to slip in there.

Q: Did you ever, when you were filming the original *Star Trek*, think that it would get to this point?

J.D.: Oh, no. How could we possibly imagine?

G.T.: If anything, while we were shooting the pilot, I told Jimmy, 'With this show I smell quality and that means we're in big trouble' because television is not known for giving too much longevity to a show with this kind of quality. And, I said, 'At best we're going to have two seasons. We're most likely going to be cancelled after the first season.' [to Jimmy] Didn't I say that?

J.D.: Mm—hm.

G.T.: Jimmy and I, y'know, we're real visionaries...!

(General laughter)

Q: Terry, after seven seasons *The Next Generation* will be off the air and *Deep Space Nine* will be the only *Star Trek* out there. How do you feel about that?

T.F.: It'll be weird actually; we'll miss everybody.

Q: Is there a lot of interaction between the two shows?

T.F.: Well, I don't know... [looks at Michael] It's like when you're in high school and you don't see everybody all the time, but there are seniors, and you're a sophomore, and they go by and go 'hi'. That's what it's like. You know, you're like, 'Oh, there they are...'

M.D.: We're the seniors?

T.F.: Yeah.

G.T.: Then what does that make us? Post grads..?

(General laughter)

Q: *Deep Space Nine* is really catching on, isn't it?

M.D.: Uh-huh.

Q: Do you see it having a pretty good future?

T.F.: I hope so... I hope so...

G.T.: It's doing well, ratings-wise. In the end, that's what determines it. Take it from someone who knows. You've all got a very bright future ahead of you.

J.D.: That's right, dear, we've seen it! (General laughter)

