

TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

When Gene Roddenberry created *Star Trek* he wasn't just imagining a future with better space ships and technology he also imagined better human relationships.

The first episode of *Star Trek* was broadcast on this day 60 years ago. The Cold War was at its height and American civil rights campaigners had not yet achieved their goals. So Roddenberry wrote a bridge with a black female officer (Uhura), a Japanese-American (Sulu) and later a Russian (Chekov) working together as equals, not enemies. Not to mention an alien from another planet. Nichelle Nichols as Uhura and William Shatner as Kirk portrayed the first interracial kiss ever seen on TV during Season 3 in 1968.

Roddenberry had wanted to include an openly gay character but feared the network wouldn't accept it. George Takei, playing Sulu would later come out publicly and become a prominent LGBT campaigner.

Some technology imagined by Roddenberry such as tablet computers, wireless earpieces, voice controlled computers have all come to exist in the real world in part inspired by Roddenberry's **franchise** which has expanded for 60 years and now includes over 900 TV episodes across 13 shows and 14 films.



- Have you ever seen any *Star Trek*? What's your favourite part of the franchise?
- Do you think we've made more progress towards Roddenberry's vision of technology in the future or humanity in the future?
- What would your Sci-fi set 300 years in the future have?

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When Gene Roddenberry created *Star Trek* he wasn't just imagining a future with better space ships and technology he also imagined better human relationships.

First broadcast 60 years ago today, *Star Trek* started at the height of the Cold War and during US civil rights movement. Roddenberry wrote a show where a black woman and Russians worked with Americans (and an actual alien) together as equals.

Star Trek had the first ever interracial kiss on TV during Season 3 in 1968.



Some tech that did not exist in 1968, imagined by Roddenberry, now exists for real, in part inspired by the **franchise**.

- Have you ever seen any *Star Trek*? What's your favourite part of the franchise?
- What would be in your Sci-fi set 300 years in the future?