

INFINITY

The Hook: Space shows ask for too many "buys" - a far future in which we build starships that look like malls, federations with arcane utopian ideals, colonies living in Earth-like worlds and - of course - "futuristic" uniforms that all look the same.

This is why spaceship shows have difficulty appealing beyond small cults of fans: why great TV like *Battlestar* gets the recognition but never the audience. *Infinity* will appeal to fans and the mainstream because it is about people from here and now: characters who dress, talk, and *think* like us.

The message? It's not what we will become in 500 years that makes us great, nor what we would be if fighting an evil empire, but what we are: a scrappy species that bounces back from adversity and prevails in spite and because of our imperfection.

Infinity is about a crew you would recognize from a NASA video - or from *Lost* or *Survivor* - recognizable, with real skills, trying to solve insurmountable problems, confront unimaginable opposition...and trying to find a way home.

The High Concept: From Mercury 7 on, every manned mission to space has witnessed a UFO - watching us. This was kept classified for decades...as was the moment when we made first contact and sealed our own fate.

In the opening of our pilot: during Apollo 13, Air Force F-14 Tomcats engage and shoot down a UFO - causing the famous malfunction that ultimately doomed the mission.

The wreckage of the alien ship was taken to a secret military facility where - for decades - the brightest minds poked and probed the thing with no result. For forty years, the alien vessel lay dormant in storage...until today.

Before going any further into the plot and characters of the pilot, let me tell you about **the series that goes with it:**

Infinity is a spaceship show in which:

- Every single journey is fraught with danger. Do you know that feeling you get whenever you see live footage of an American space mission? That feeling of "holy crap, the ship looks like

it could fall apart?" Imagine being lost in the farthest region of space in that ship. No transporter beams. No ray guns. No magical food replicators.

- Aliens are profoundly frightening. Every encounter will be difficult and confusing: our ability to communicate severely hampered by our technological and cognitive shortcomings.
- Our crew is the underdog: they do not come from an utopian version of humanity, and fear the unknown as much as our audience even as they marvel at the wonders they encounter.
- Our crew makes mistakes. Big ones. These are real people with rough edges and hidden agendas, and even as they must bond together to survive, none of them has all the answers or the wisdom to make it on their own.

Infinity is us.

Leaving the cradle too soon.

Traveling out into the unknown before our time.

Lost in space.

The Pilot Story: Starts with the earthbound lives of the crew of the greatest Hail Mary mission ever sent into space. **Our cast will be HUGE and introduced in the pilot because *Infinity* will be lost in space...that doesn't mean everyone has to appear in every episode...only that they are on board and used as needed.**

The pilot begins with MANUEL DE LANDA (27) - A once-promising engineer (top of his class at MIT, PhD in robotics from Carnegie Mellon), De Landa was consigned to the science gulag after HE TRIED TO DISPROVE ONE OF HIS PROFESSORS AND TOOK HIM DOWN. A shy guy (think of him as a Latino James Spader in *Stargate*), De Landa has, for years, toiled alone in a remote military facility: the sole scientist left working on reverse-engineering the alien technology.

Manuel knows how the engine works - but has no idea how to MAKE IT START until he meets LUCY MCANN (30). At first she merely looks like a co-ed sitting at the counter of the same Applebee's where Manuel eats every night...until she strikes up a conversation and explains that she is an entomology grad student doing work on how bioluminescent creatures communicate.

Lucy charms Manuel by musing on how bioluminescent insects use organic chemical reactions to transmit messages to one another

and wonders out loud: do garden variety fireflies speak their own unique chemical language?

Manuel rushes to the lab, quickly cobbles together the bioluminescent equivalent of a "control panel" and something happens. The equipment comes to life. A bubble of energy appears in the center of the lab...with a deafening sound, the far wall of the lab IMPLODES as the bubble ROCKETS to the other side of the place and VANISHES.

Manuel rushes to find Lucy - and he does - waiting in a limo. Lucy lied about being a student: she came to get him to test out her theory. She has a piece of the alien spaceship in her lab - a control panel - if he wants to know how to control the engine, he'd better meet her boss.

Soon, Manuel finds himself in a private 747 owned by ALAN WALKER (55) - CEO of Infinity Industries. Imagine Richard Branson with a dash of James Cameron. Diversified into airlines, computers, mobile telephony and internet, alternative energy and defense, his tendrils extend to every facet of your life. Walker has gone to the Marianas in a submersible of his own design, circumnavigated the globe in a solar-powered plane (also of his own design), and made HALO jumps from the upper atmosphere in his own sub-orbital plane (also of his own design). Alan Walker is charismatic, creative, ruthless and completely self-obsessed.

He is also Lucy's lover, which will cause no end of issues as Manuel falls for her - and she for him - over the series.

Walker has been obsessed with the conspiracy to keep the alien secret and spent his fortune spying on Manuel and his predecessors: acquiring downed alien tech from every UFO sighting around the globe. **Manuel has half the equation, Alan and Lucy have the other half - FOUND AFTER YEARS AND FORTUNES OF EXPLORATIONS FROM ANOTHER CRASH SITE: they have reverse engineered enough alien tech to know how to control the engine.**

A flight of F-18's pulls up, demanding that the plane land at a private airstrip. Alan Walker smiles.

Alan, Lucy and Manuel are taken to a military base, to meet A CADRE OF SPOOKS AND FOUR STAR GENERALS: they want to know what makes Alan Walker think that his high-level espionage and jeopardizing of scientific assets is going to keep the USA from burying him.

Alan Walker calls the president's bluff...does he mean the alien armada? The ship they have been building in orbit as part of a "secret Mars mission?" Manuel and Lucy look at Alan Walker, what is he talking about?

A second man is escorted in - CARL MALCOLM (35) - Science correspondent for MSNBC and best-selling author. A big personality - he argues for sport and never gives in - think of him as a latter-day Michael Crichton by way of Neil DeGrasse Tyson and Bob Woodward as played by Blair Underwood.

Carl Malcolm has been selected as the official "communicator" of the coming mission...**and his story has been intercut with Manuel/Lucy/Walker's**. While investigating a report, Carl Malcolm discovered a virus - like Stuxnet - preventing any telescope powerful enough from seeing a piece of the sky. When Malcolm realized this, he was picked up by the Secret Service, brought here, and given the choice to help the government tell the world the truth behind a possible alien invasion on its own terms or be detained forever. Manuel head spins - what alien invasion?

The President and Malcolm lay it out - there's an alien armada coming. It was discovered a year ago. They are traveling faster than the speed of light and are less than six months away.

- **They are the aliens we shot down during Apollo 13.**
- **They have not made contact.**
- **We don't know why they're coming, but they have a big armada, and that makes everyone nervous.**
- **The government has used black bag funds to build a secret mission to negotiate peace.**

Alan Walker takes over: except that the ship they are building in orbit just had a failed engine test, they can't hide the huge sums of money they have been spending any longer, and people like Carl are starting to figure it out. The cat's coming out of the bag soon, and the government will be caught with a useless starship. **There is no way for us to intercept the aliens in time unless Alan Walker tells us how to operate the alien engine.**

The General asks Alan what he wants. Walker shrugs: that they name the ship *Infinity* - after his corporation - give him exclusive rights to market the alien technology, name the alien engine "the Infinity Drive"...and give him a seat in the cockpit.

SMASH CUT TO

A desolate, rocky landscape. A team of astronauts in very high tech space suits enters frame. Are we on Mars? No - the illusion is broken by the arrival of several very ordinary-looking JEEPS.

The leader of the expedition takes off her helmet. She's HELENA KANE (37) - a former Air Force pilot and battalion commander turned astronaut, Helena Kane is a one-woman definition of "the right stuff." A tough and fair-minded leader with a single-minded devotion to being the best, Helena was the first of her working class, rust-belt family to finish college and reach the unthinkable height of commanding a NASA mission to Mars.

Now, here is the rest of the crew - all of them will be in the pilot, but some are major characters, some are minor. We won't be seeing all of them in every episode, but as with Lost, we will find ways of serving our twelve-person cast without watering down the series or busting the bank.

NAVIGATOR/PILOT NEAL GORDON (early 30's) - the textbook definition of "bro" - everyone's buddy: a go-along-to-get-along guy who can make small talk with anyone. He can pilot anything with or without wings. Characterized by his indomitable optimism, good will and spirit of "get it done," Neal has an indelible respect and loyalty to Helena Kane, whom he worships as a hero. He may also be in love with her, though he would NEVER romance a commanding officer.

FLIGHT SURGEON/BOTANIST SABRINA O'BRIAN (40's) - O'Brian has enhanced her knowledge of medicine by becoming a world-class botanist. O'Brian is tasked not only with the health of the ship's crew, but also the ship's farm, a massive greenhouse to produce oxygen and feed the crew. She is a surrogate mother, even those who do not want one, and butts heads with her commanding officer when dangerous work is at hand. If Martin Sheen were a female pinko in her forties, he'd be Sabrina.

CLINT SOLOMON, PsyD (early 50's) - A psychologist specializing in isolation studies and the effects of long-term space travel, Solomon is the ship's chaplain and chef. Solomon tries to keep his life at a distance to retain therapeutic objectivity. What Solomon doesn't tell is that his beliefs have developed into a highly mystical worldview...as the events of this series go further outside of the realm of comprehension he will develop

what some will see as dangerously paranoid behavior, and others as the visionary understanding of a holy man.

CONGRESSMAN WILL NAVARRE (30's) - appointed to lead a diplomatic delegation of four foreign policy experts, Navarre is a Republican from Texas. A facile centrist with an infallible gift for rhetoric, Navarre is to the world a great conciliator...of course, he is a duplicitous, self-serving hack - the personal morality of John Edwards married to a worldview that makes Paul Ryan look like Albert Schweitzer. Navarre has gambled his career on the possibility that leading the diplomatic charge to the aliens will make him king of the world.

And don't worry about the other four members of the delegation - they will be dead before there is time to get to know them.

SECURITY OFFICERS NATHAN KULCHESKY and ALEXA GAMBLE (early 20's) - These two characters are the muscle of *Infinity*, both at the top of their game physically, he was pulled from BUDS/SEAL training and she from the ranks of the Army's Apache corps to train for zero-G combat and strategy. He is profoundly closeted (only Alexa knows his secret) and treats her like an equal and comrade in arms. Helena Kane looks at Kulchesky and Gamble as her kids: the closest she has to a true team of soldiers on her detail...the reason is multifold, she not only sees in them a sliver of her old self, **but they are also the only ones who know that a secret cache of nuclear weapons has been packed in a remote hold of the *Infinity*...if the negotiations go wrong, they have orders to destroy themselves and the fleet.**

The last member of *Infinity* is NICHOLA CRANE (21) - linguist, polyglot, translator. A child genius, she is the least prepared for space travel and the only one able to decipher the markings from the downed vessel. Like anyone who grew up preternaturally gifted, Nichola is far more intellectually mature than she is emotionally able. She is the closest the ship will have to a child, and the one most reluctant about going into space.

As the first hour of the pilot episode draws to a close, the crew takes off with much fanfare - lauded as heroes by the citizens of every nation - headed for the *Infinity*'s berth in orbit, where astronauts paint the *Infinity* Industries logo on the side of the ship much to Helena Kane's disgust.

The ensemble established, and the stakes set along with the nervous state of the world in the wake of the revelation of

alien life, *Infinity* leaves orbit to the alien armada and the tensions between the crew quickly manifest in ways that **set up long-term arcs for the series:**

- Helena deeply resents Alan Walker - he is supposed to be an advisor and observer, but his Alpha personality is a constant irritant as he believes that he owns the ship and the mission, and constantly second-guesses her command.
- **IN THE LONG TERM** this relationship will only get more difficult - with Alan ultimately leading a full-scale mutiny (in a multi-episode arc) and taking over the ship...only to discover just how much he needs Helena and having to step down and restore her to command.

- Nichola Crane works to create a translation matrix for the alien language, and shares with Sabrina O'Brien her worries that their language lacks empathy and conciliation.
- **IN THE LONG TERM** Sabrina will come to see the universe as a cold and unforgiving place and choose to exile herself in an Earth-like world (exiting the series) with no native inhabitants while Nichola comes into her own as our only link to most of the aliens we encounter and ultimately succeeds William Navarre as the ship's lead diplomat...only to become Navarre's target as he tries to romance her in order to insinuate his world-view into hers.

- While settling into a symbiotic but adversarial relationship, Manuel and Lucy are constantly at odds with the rest of the crew - all of whom resent their monopoly on the alien tech, but are also frustrated at all the unknowns and variables they face while using a piece of alien tech.
- **IN THE LONG TERM** Manuel will develop a major rivalry with Alan for Lucy's heart...Alan and Lucy will break up over his mutiny, but ultimately, she will not choose Manuel as her companion, and he will have to figure out how to put aside his broken heart and continue to function as friend and colleague.

- Clint comes to believe that he understands who Will Navarre truly is and draws up a psychological profile before trying to convince the Captain to keep him from making First Contact. Navarre realizes this and the battle lines are soon drawn.
- **IN THE LONG TERM** Clint and Navarre will become sworn enemies. As Navarre does whatever he can to make turn whatever situation the ship encounters to his own advantage and Clint's own spirituality leads him to correctly believe that Navarre is a toxic influence on the universe, one of these men will

eventually murder the other in the first capital crime committed on board *Infinity*.

- Carl Malcolm quickly outs himself by wondering aloud "am I the only homo in this mission?"...and Nathan, who does NOT find him attractive in the least makes it clear to Alexa that he is to remain closeted for the length of the mission.
- **IN THE LONG TERM** Carl - in spite of his great intelligence - will prove less than up for the rigors of space travel, but will ultimately prove himself a hero, maybe earning Nathan's love in the process.

Infinity travels at unimaginable speed to the armada. The crew stares in awe as the alien ships rise before us...glowing with an inner bio-chemical light. An alien emissary rendezvous with *Infinity*, extending an umbilical. Navarre leads the diplomats through the tether for first contact - the first ever summit meeting with aliens. To say that the negotiations go wrong is an understatement. The aliens - giant glowing insects that more resemble bioluminescent locusts than anything with which you would want to negotiate - dismember two members of Navarre's delegation on sight.

This is a part of the series we want to talk about here: our aliens are never going to be people with bumpy heads, but strange evolutionary turns we have not seen on TV before.

Navarre only manages to escape because he throws the third member of his delegation in as a human shield. *Infinity* retreats - piloted by Gordon in a daring series of evasive maneuvers, but the armada gives chase and the aliens beam a message: they have been monitoring us and see us as a threat to be controlled.

Kulchesky and Gamble arm the nukes. Helena orders Manuel and Lucy to disengage the drive to allow the Armada to overtake them...and be destroyed by the atomic fire.

Alan Walker - and every one else who didn't know - has a fit. This is a huge revelation that changes everyone's perspective of the mission. Walker shouts that he did not come this far to commit suicide. There has to be another way. Helena forcibly restrains Walker and gives the detonation order.

The nukes fail. Somehow disabled remotely by the aliens.

The armada bears down on *Infinity*. Weapons at the ready. Their technology is overwhelming. Their march to Earth inexorable. *Infinity* must do something.

Manuel comes up with an idea to overload the alien drive - crushing every ship in its wake like rafts behind an oil tanker. Of course, this means that *Infinity* could be immediately destroyed... EXPLAIN WHY THE SHIP SHOULD BE DESTROYED BUT ISN'T - AND HOW MUCH OF THE ARMADA WE DESTROYED.

In an epic shockwave, the armada is destroyed *Infinity* is transported to god-knows-where along with a nimbus of wreckage.

I WILL GLADLY EXPLAIN HOW THE ENGINE WORKS HERE IF ANYONE ASKS

The crew moves to assess the damage - their professionalism in full display...but the dark realities set in quickly...they have no markers by which to determine their position.

Alan Walker takes out his rage on Lucy and Manuel - they have just condemned them to death in the farthest reaches of space. Captain Kane reads Walker the riot act - his wealth and power mean diddly-squat. Unless he can say or do anything to prove his worth, he best back off. Humiliated, Walker does as he's told.

Infinity is lost - but at least they have a farm to produce food and oxygen...until a HULL BREACH ALARM GOES OFF and the crew quickly surmises that an alien clung to the ship and has entered. Taking up arms, the crew engages the invading enemy.

In a harrowing sequence, the alien sets fire to the ship's farm - but Alan Walker proves his worth by courageously risking his life to save both Gamble and Kulchesky from the rampaging insect. By the time it's all done, *Infinity* has gained an alien prisoner...but lost its food and oxygen generation capacity.

The crew is divided. Most want to kill the alien prisoner - Navarre suggests it might taste like lobster - but Nichola expresses her belief that the prisoner is their best and only way to figure out where they are - and if there is an Earth-like planet anywhere that they may use to rebuild their farm and oxygen supply - earning the crew's grudging respect.

But division about the fate of the alien prisoner is not the only issue: there is also the emotional fallout...of being lost...of knowing an armada is headed for Earth with the goal of

obliterating the human race...of wondering if it's worth returning home where there may not be a home to return to.

Not to mention that the farm is gone. The air is running out. The options are not pretty...until Lucy, Manuel and Neal appear...they have found an Earth-like planet, amazingly, a short skip away using the drive.

Captain Kane marshals the crew and tells them that this ship will find a way to restock the farm, replenish their oxygen and find a way home. This crew will come together to not only survive, but to prevail...this is the *Infinity* version of Jack Shephard's "live together, die alone" moment in *Lost*, and it galvanizes the crew to put aside their differences and come together...at least for the moment.

Infinity gears up and takes orbit near the planet...the crew watches: a verdant, unpopulated world teeming with animal and vegetable life. There's only one problem. *Infinity* has no shuttle. No Lander. No transporter beam. No way of getting down there.

Helena Kane looks at the green world before them and tells the crew to inventory every loose gadget - every expendable piece of equipment on board the ship - they are going to count their resources and figure out a way to get down to that planet and restart their farm...

Alan Walker scoffs - does she expect them to build a lander out of spare parts?

Helena tells Walker that he'd better get used to building anything and everything out of spare parts...this is their new normal - this is what our series will be about - meeting years worth of challenges with brains, brawn, ingenuity and whatever they have on hand.

Helena then speaks the words that will become a mantra for the series as a whole...six inspiring words that will accompany this fractious, imperfect crew and their broken ship through journeys spanning billions of miles, and encounters with new planets and species...six words that will guide *Infinity* through the struggle to return home...

"Together, we will find a way."

...and off the crew staring out at the vast expanse, having no choice but to become a family to survive...

INFINITY BEGINS