

Series Title: **NINETY-SEVEN**

Genre: Science-fiction; One-hour Television drama

Writer: Lynelle White

### **SERIES LOGLINE**

In 2175, following a cataclysmic explosion in space, an American spacecraft and its complicated crew are sling-shot over three hundred years into Earth's past. The crew soon recognizes that the temporal rift in space which initially brought them into the past will consistently reappear every ninety-seven hours -- unpredictably flinging them forwards and backwards in time to a multitude of eras. With each time jump, the clock's ticking...only 97 hours for the crew to change events or let them play out as history recorded them. The series will answer the questions: Will the crew ever return to their own time of 2175? Will their meddling do more harm than good to Earth's timeline?

### **PILOT LOGLINE**

Shortly after getting underway on a mission to Mars, an American spacecraft named the "Wichita", is hurled through a temporal rift leaving its crew to determine *when* they are in history and how they might return to the year 2175.

### "A" STORY SUMMARY

Upon exiting the temporal rift, the crew sees Earth before them but quickly realizes that it isn't their Earth but an Earth of the past. Major Brynn Sawyer, 2nd in command of the Wichita, leads a mission to Earth's surface to determine exactly *when* they are and to acquire raw materials needed to repair the ship. The crew sets their shuttlecraft down a few miles outside of St. Louis, explore, and soon learn that the year is actually 1804. Knowing that and having acquired the materials they need, they depart from the surface back to the Wichita. But unbeknownst to the crew, a runaway slave headed for "the north", stows aboard their shuttlecraft and is inadvertently transported up to their 22nd century ship.

### "B" STORY SUMMARY

Upon detecting him, the crew of the Wichita must decide what to do with their stowaway, a runaway slave named John. Does he stay onboard and possibly come with them to 2175 or does he return to the surface and his own time of 1804? John, determined to gain his freedom in "the north" and reunite with his family, opts to return to the surface in the end.

### "C" STORY SUMMARY

Mr. Thomas Kendrick, the Commander of the Wichita, is singularly obsessed with returning the ship to 2175 as soon as possible. He hastily pushes the crew to find a way to recreate the explosion that formed the rift and brought them back in time.

## CHARACTERS

**Major Brynn Sawyer** - African-American; 2nd in command. She is the main driving character of the series. In the pilot, we'll learn that she is a "Naturalist" who grew up on a farm and shuns modern technology but her intense desire to see the final frontier, space, outweighed her Naturalist upbringing. How much of her personal beliefs will she sacrifice in order to keep the Wichita's crew safe as it haphazardly shifts through time?

**Mr. Thomas Kendrick** - Caucasian; Commander of the Wichita. Hauling cargo on a piece of crap ship is not the assignment he wanted. He's reluctant to make the tough calls and is essentially a "Horrible Boss" that everyone works around instead of for.

**Dr. Chris Marquez** - Latino-American; Medical Officer. Sparks will fly on and off-again between he and Major Sawyer. He's on the ship to serve honorably but also to move on from a painful past.

**Lieutenant Iris Lee** - Caucasian with Asberger's, Engineering Chief. Will struggle with social cues and fitting in with the rest of the crew despite her brilliant, analytical prowess.

**Sergeant Derek Favreau** - Caucasian; Head of Marine Detail. Physically strong but not as mentally tough as his bravado would lead one to believe.

**Ms. Abbie Jameson, "AJ"** - Caucasian; Ship's Historian. A grandmother who volunteered for duty on the Wichita looking to add a little adventure in her retirement years.

INSPIRATION - Certain aspects of Ninety-Seven stem from my years in the Air Force as a pilot and my unending love of science-fiction despite being an African-American female, a group rarely represented in the genre. The crew of the Wichita is ethnically diverse to reflect the changing face of present day America. It is also my intention to depict a crew that doesn't always get along. There's in-fighting, back-stabbing, workplace drama, and stress, both mental and physical, arising from extended periods in space and feeling lost in time.

WHY NOW? - In recent years, science-fiction stories set in space have taken a backseat on television to shows about vampires and other aspects of the supernatural. The success of a film like *Star Trek: Into Darkness* indicates that the impassioned fans of spaceship-based sci-fi stories are still out there but their appetite is not satiated. It has also been several years since hit serials like *Battlestar Galactica* or *Stargate* were on the air.