



# RICHARD DATIN

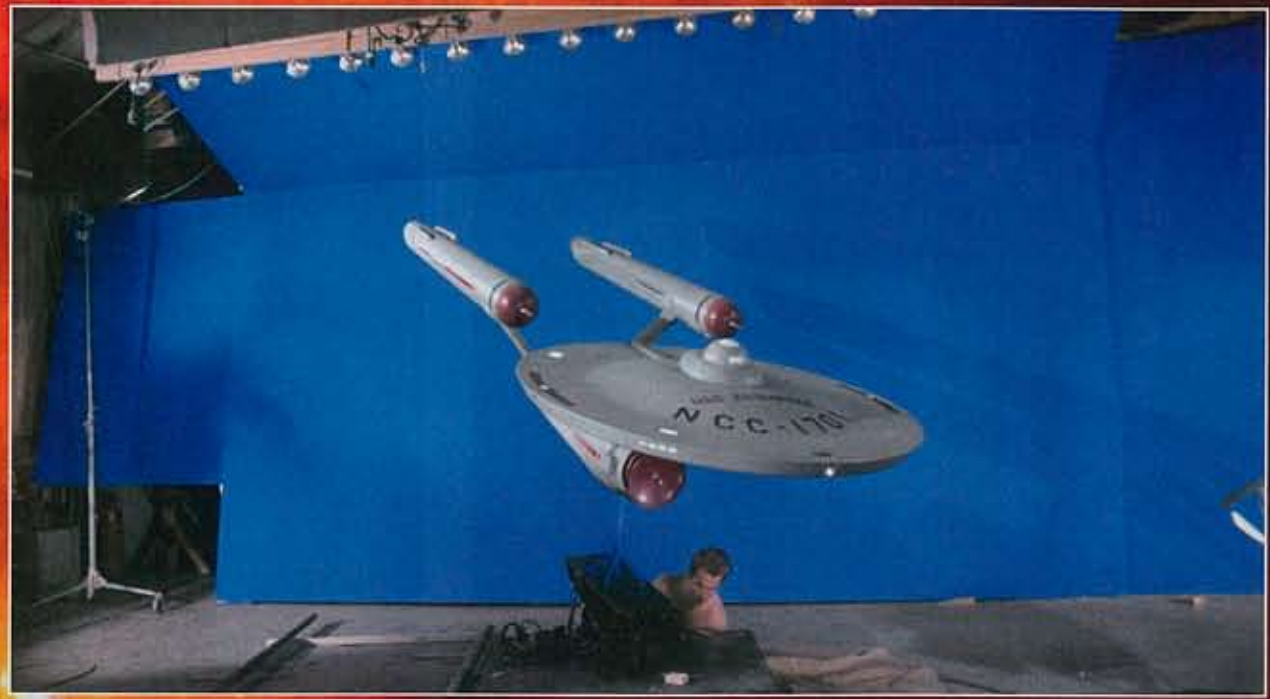
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Dayton Ward pays tribute to one of the key craftsmen on the original series of *Star Trek*...



Earlier this year, the *Star Trek* family lost yet another of its original members. Richard C. Datin, Jr., who led the team of craftsmen responsible for building the filming models of the *U.S.S. Enterprise* for the original *Star Trek* series, passed away on January 24th at the age of 81.

Born in Syracuse, New York, he was the only child of Richard and Mary Loson Datin. After graduating in 1950 with a degree in Architectural and Structured Technology from the New York Institute of Applied Arts & Sciences, he eventually made his way to Los Angeles and started his own business building scale models for local architectural firms. In the late



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1950s, he began building models and props for various Hollywood studios, starting out with commercials and later supplying scale miniatures for films and television. Among his better-known creations is the Cannonball Express train miniature for the long running series *Petticoat Junction*, along with all of the models representing the town of Hooterville in the show's opening credits sequence and establishing shots used in the episodes. He also crafted various display miniatures for the classic science fiction series *The Invaders*, the eponymous model for 1960's *Atomic Submarine*, and models and miniatures for the

blockbuster World War II film *Tora! Tora! Tora!* However, *Star Trek* fans owe him a debt of gratitude for helping to breathe life into Matt Jefferies' iconic design for the original *Starship Enterprise*.

In late 1964, the Howard A. Anderson company was commissioned to work on visual effects for *Star Trek's* still in-development first pilot, "The Cage." The firm contracted Mr. Datin to construct a preliminary version of the *Enterprise* model based on Jefferies' drawings, so that series creator Gene Roddenberry could make his final decisions about the starship's design. Intended as little more than a "proof of concept"



prototype, the resulting three-foot miniature ultimately would be used to film much of the *Enterprise* optical effects for the pilot film, and also make "guest appearances" in various episodes during the series' three seasons. Due to time constraints, Mr. Datin worked on Roddenberry's requested revisions to this first model while at the same time

