

= Within (The X @-@ Files) =

" Within " is the eighth season premiere of the science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . The episode first aired in the United States on November 5 , 2000 on the Fox Network . It was written by executive producer and series creator Chris Carter , and directed by Kim Manners . The episode earned a Nielsen rating of 9 @.@ 5 and was watched by 15 @.@ 87 million viewers , marking a slight increase from the previous season 's finale " Requiem " . " Within " was largely well @-@ received by critics , although some fans felt alienated by the addition of Robert Patrick to the cast .

The show centers on FBI special agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files . In this episode ? continuing from the seventh season finale " Requiem " when Mulder was abducted by aliens who are planning to colonize Earth ? an FBI taskforce is organized to hunt for Mulder but Scully suspects the taskforce leader , Special Agent John Doggett (Patrick) , and instead chooses to search for her lost partner with Walter Skinner (Mitch Pileggi) . Scully and Skinner travel to Arizona , only to be followed by Doggett 's task force . There , they find Gibson Praise (Jeff Gulka) and someone who they believe may very well be Mulder .

" Within " was a story milestone for the series . It introduced several new character changes for the season , including the departure of Mulder and the inclusion of Doggett as a main character to the cast . The episode was written as a way to both explain Mulder 's absence as well as appease fans who would otherwise lament the loss of Duchovny . " Within " also marked the first major change to the opening credits since the show first started , with new images and updated photos for David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson , and the addition of Robert Patrick . " Within " has been analyzed due to its themes of death and resurrection . In addition , the experiments performed on Mulder after his abduction have been thematically compared to the Crucifixion of Jesus .

= = Plot = =

Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) has been deeply distraught since Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) was abducted by aliens . One morning , she arrives in her partner 's office to find it being searched by FBI agents . Scully subsequently learns that the Bureau 's newly promoted deputy director , Alvin Kersh (James Pickens , Jr .) , has launched a manhunt in search for Mulder . The investigation is being led by an FBI special agent named John Doggett . Scully and Walter Skinner (Mitch Pileggi) are taken to the task force 's field office to be questioned , despite protests that they would be the most qualified to lead the manhunt themselves . As Skinner is being interrogated , Scully is accosted by an unnamed person who starts asking her about Mulder . When Scully finds out that he is actually Doggett (Robert Patrick) , she angrily throws water in his face and leaves .

Back at Scully 's apartment , she runs a background check of Doggett on her computer , learning about his background as a former NYPD detective . She feels sick and leaves the computer , and later on calls her mom , Margaret (Sheila Larken) . When she realizes her phone is tapped , she looks outside the window to see if anyone is out there . She angrily calls Doggett to protest him monitoring her phone conversations , which he seems genuinely surprised about . She notices a mysterious man and runs into the hall to pursue him , but meets her landlord Mr. Coeben who tells her that he had seen Mulder .

Meanwhile , Skinner visits the Lone Gunmen , who are monitoring UFO activity in the United States in the hopes of tracking down Mulder . Skinner later finds out that someone has used Mulder 's FBI pass to gain access to the X @-@ Files , and that the Bureau task force considers him the main suspect . Meanwhile , Doggett has gathered enough evidence to track Mulder 's whereabouts before his so @-@ called abduction , discovering that Mulder was dying and had his name engraved in his family 's gravestone to mark his death in 2000 . Later on , more evidence of high UFO activity in Clifton , Arizona is found by The Lone Gunmen . Concurrently , Doggett receives information about Gibson Praise (Jeff Gulka) when someone slips his file under his door .

Scully and Skinner leave for Arizona without giving any of their information to Doggett . At the same

time , Doggett believes that to find Mulder they must first find the whereabouts of Praise . They locate him in Flemington , Arizona , in the middle of the desert . By the time Doggett 's taskforce arrives , he has already escaped via a window and is leaving for a desert hill top with another person : Mulder .

= = Production = =

= = = Casting and development = = =

The seventh season was a time of closure for The X @-@ Files . Characters within the show were written out , including The Smoking Man (William B. Davis) and Mulder 's mother (Rebecca Toolan) , and several plot threads were resolved , including the fate of Fox Mulder 's sister Samantha . After settling his contract dispute , Duchovny quit full @-@ time participation in the show after the seventh season . This contributed to uncertainties over the likelihood of an eighth season . Carter and most fans felt the show was at its natural endpoint with Duchovny 's departure , but it was decided Mulder would be abducted at the end of the seventh season , leaving it open for the actor 's return in 11 episodes the following year . " Requiem " , the seventh season finale , was written by Carter both as a possible series finale and as a way to segue into a new season . However , the producers found it difficult to convincingly write Duchovny 's character out of the script , and explain Mulder 's absence in the episodes of the upcoming season .

Hoping to continue the series , Carter introduced a new central character to replace Mulder : Doggett . More than 100 actors auditioned for the role , with only about ten considered by the producers . Lou Diamond Phillips and Hart Bochner were among the auditionees , and Phillips , Bochner and Bruce Campbell were considered for the role . In particular , Campbell , following his involvement with the sixth season episode " Terms of Endearment " , was considered , but , due to a contractual obligation , could not take any work during the filming of his series Jack of All Trades . On potentially being cast as the series regular , Campbell mused , " I had worked on an X @-@ Files episode before , and I think they sort of remembered me from that . It was nice to be involved in that ? even if you don 't get it , it 's nice to hang out at that party . " Later in Campbell 's novel Make Love ! The Bruce Campbell Way , he joked that Patrick " stiffed him out of the role " . In the end , the producers eventually chose Robert Patrick . Reportedly , Patrick was cast due to the fact that his featured role in Terminator 2 : Judgment Day (1991) would attract a great 18- to 35 @-@ year @-@ old male demographic to the show . In fact , Fox executives reported a 10 percent overall increase in the demographic , solely due to Patrick 's casting .

= = = Writing and filming = = =

Carter was inspired to write the scene in which Scully splashes water into Doggett 's face , since he was aware that new actor Robert Patrick would be facing opposition from some members of the fan community . The scene was even the first filmed , in order to truly introduce Patrick to the show . After the conclusion of The X @-@ Files television series in 2002 , Patrick commented that this part of the episode had been his favorite scene in the series , and admitted that he could not think of a better way to introduce his character because the scene not only said a lot , but it had actually helped him . Tom Braidwood , who appears in this episode as long @-@ running recurring character Frohike , similarly remarked that the first meeting of Doggett and Scully was one of his favorite scenes from the entire series . Both Robert Patrick and the director of this episode , Kim Manners , felt that it was the perfect introduction to the character of John Doggett as the leader of the taskforce sent to find Mulder . Manners stated that Patrick gave a new " sense of energy " to the show , since they had basically used the same characters for seven years .

Because the script of the episode does not specify the identity of an unseen person who slides a file about Gibson Praise under Doggett 's door , Kim Manners later had to ask the writers who the mysterious visitor was ; the director was told by Chris Carter and Frank Spotnitz that the unseen

person was actually Kersh . Robert Patrick asked the same question of Manners , around this time , but the director ? not yet sure of the answer and hoping to avoid looking foolish ? never gave the actor an answer . Patrick thought the reason that Manners was being purposefully secretive was that the director wanted Patrick to still be in wonderment as to the mysterious visitor 's identity , as a device for the actor to aid his performance . Manners later teased Patrick that the reason he had not answered the question was that he had not liked Patrick at the time , prompting the actor to ask what he had done to annoy Manners on the first night of filming the episode . Eventually , the director finally admitted to Patrick what had actually happened . Kersh 's actions are later revealed and explained in the ninth season premiere " Nothing Important Happened Today " .

The majority of the episode ? like the rest of seasons six , seven , eight and nine ? was filmed in and around the Los Angeles , California area . Before shooting the episode , Chris Carter reminded Patrick various times that he had to be in " good shape " . On the audio commentary , Patrick remembers being " nervous " for the shooting of the episode , since he was a big fan of The X @-@ Files before becoming a part of the acting crew . The scene in which Walter Skinner tells Doggett that he himself witnessed Mulder being taken away aboard a UFO was filmed in the second part of Patrick 's first night of production on the series ; this scene also marked the first time that Patrick got to work with Pileggi . The ending of the episode , as well as a majority of its follow @-@ up " Without " were filmed at Split Mountain in Anza @-@ Borrego State Park . According to producer Paul Rabwin , an " incredible heat wave " hit the area during the shooting , resulting in terrible filming conditions . In the desert , the cast and crew were informed that there was a " one in twenty @-@ five " chance that someone would be bit by a rattlesnake . Pileggi later joked that during the filming of his scenes all he could think about was stumbling upon a snake .

The original opening sequence was made in 1993 for the first season and remained unchanged until " Within " . The opening sequence then was modified to include new images , updated FBI badge photos for Duchovny and Anderson , as well as the addition of Patrick to the main cast . Duchovny , however , would only be featured in the opening credits when he appeared in an episode . Furthermore , the opening contains images of Scully 's pregnancy and , according to Frank Spotnitz , showed an " abstract " explanation of Mulder 's absence in this season , with him falling into an eye . Jim Engh , a member of the production crew of The X @-@ Files , died during the filming of this episode via electrocution , an accident that injured six other crew members . This episode was dedicated to his memory .

= = Themes = =

As The X @-@ Files entered into its eighth season , " human resurrection and salvation " as well as " disease , suffering , and healing " became an increasingly central focus of the show . " Within " , along with various other episodes during the eighth season of the show , would be the first to explore themes of birth , death and resurrection . The sub @-@ theme of birth first emerged in this episode during Scully 's opening dream of an abducted Mulder , which " invok [es] strong birth imagery of the amniotic sack [sic] and fluid . " Then later in the episode , the themes of death and resurrection are touched upon when Scully is shown Mulder 's tombstone . This arc would continue in " The Gift " , where Mulder 's inoperable brain tumor and the resurrection of John Doggett is explored . In " Deadalive " , the theme reappears in full @-@ force : Billy Miles is found dead but resurrects , Mulder is buried for three months , and later , is brought back to life . This sub @-@ theme would continue well into the ninth season , in entries such as " Audrey Pauley " .

The episode is one of many to feature Mulder as a Christ @-@ like figure . These comparisons were first purposely inserted during the seventh season episode " The Sixth Extinction II : Amor Fati " , in which Mulder is placed on a cross @-@ like table , symbolic of the wooden cross that Jesus was nailed to . Michelle Bush , in her book *Myth @-@ X* notes that Mulder 's torture scenes in " Within " bear a resemblance to the Crucifixion of Jesus . She argues that the metal bars piercing his wrists and ankles are similar to the nails that held Jesus , the metal straps imbedded in his head are similar to the Crown of Thorns , and that his vivisection is reminiscent of the wound made by the Holy Lance . Furthermore , Bush parallels Jesus ' " horrific death in order to rise again " to Mulder 's

abduction , death , and resurrection later on in " Deadalive " , which would further make allusions to the Christ @-@ like nature of Mulder .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Within " first aired on Fox on November 5 , 2000 . The episode earned a Nielsen household rating of 9 @.@ 5 , meaning that it was seen by 9 @.@ 5 % of the nation 's estimated households . The episode was viewed by 9 @.@ 58 million households and 15 @.@ 87 million viewers . The episode marked an 11 % decrease from the seventh season opener , " The Sixth Extinction " , but a slight increase over the seventh season finale " Requiem " , which was viewed by 15 @.@ 26 million viewers . As soon as both " Within " and Without " were completed , Carter screened them at the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences . The two were played back @-@ to @-@ back " like a feature film " , according to Patrick . Fox promoted the episode with the tagline " The new case is a manhunt . The new agent is a mystery . The new X @-@ File is Mulder . " The episode was later included on The X @-@ Files Mythology , Volume 3 ? Colonization , a DVD collection that contains episodes involved with the alien Colonist 's plans to take over the earth .

= = = Reviews = = =

Overall , the episode received positive reviews from critics . Jessica Morgan from Television Without Pity gave the episode a rare " A + " . The entry 's follow @-@ up , " Without " , would also receive a second " A + " , making them the only two episodes of The X @-@ Files to receive the prestigious rating from the site . Entertainment Weekly reviewer Ken Tucker gave the episode a largely positive review and awarded it an A- . He said that Patrick 's portrayal of Doggett was " hardboiled alertness , " giving mostly positive reviews about his inclusion . Furthermore , he noted that Anderson enacted all " her queasiness " in this episode and its follow @-@ up , " Without " . Tom Janulewicz from Space.com also reacted positively toward the episode , enjoying the idea of making the character of Skinner into a " true " believer . Paula Vitaris from Cinefantastique gave the episode a more mixed review and awarded it two stars out of four . Vitaris criticized both the unnatural elongation of Scully 's pregnancy and the glimpses of Mulder that are shown , calling both " little more than lip @-@ service . "

Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @-@ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen , rated the episode four stars out of five . The two wrote that " the episode sings when it reinvents the old and introduces the new . " However , Shearman and Pearson criticized the bringing back of Gibson Praise , noting that " the return of Gibson Praise almost derails the episode altogether [?] he only manages to make an episode that seemed as if it was giving The X @-@ Files a bold new beginning feel like it 's about to offer more of the same old stooge . " Tom Kessenich , in his book Examinations wrote a moderately positive review of the episode . He noted , " In many ways , ' Within ' reminded us why we tune into The X @-@ Files every week . However , it also reminded us why the road ahead will be difficult . Fox Mulder may be gone , but he will never be forgotten . Or replaced . "

Zack Handlen of The A.V. Club wrote that both " Within " and " Without " form " a great way to pick up after the cliffhanger ending of the previous season " and that " the pair of episodes [...] work well as an introduction to the new narrative status quo . " He awarded both entries a " B + " and praised the characterization of Doggett , writing that " Robert Patrick brings a distinct , charismatic energy to the part . " However , he was slightly critical of some of the episode 's features , such as the " trope " of Scully being sad or " melodramatic gloom and overheated monologues " .

Some fans , however , criticized the introduction of Doggett ; claiming that the character had been intentionally created to replace Mulder . Carter responded to this in an interview with National Public Radio (NPR) by stating , " What he brings is a different approach to The X @-@ Files . First of all ,

he ? s a knee jerk skeptic so he couldn ? t be more different than the character of Mulder . He ? s an insider at the FBI , well liked , has buddies . Mulder , of course , he ? s been banished to the basement along with all of his X @-@ files . So when he ? s put together with Agent Scully , who has become something of a reluctant believer , the dynamic on the show changes completely " .