

= That 's Not My Penguin =

" That 's Not My Penguin " is the sixth episode of the American television police procedural fantasy drama Awake . The episode premiered on April 5 , 2012 on the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) , and was simultaneously broadcast on Global in Canada . It was written by series creator and executive producer Kyle Killen and staff writer Noelle Valdivia , and was directed by Scott Winant . " That 's Not My Penguin " was well received by television critics , who praised its storylines . Commentators noted that the script was well @-@ written and that the episode worked " either way " . Upon airing , the episode garnered 2 @.@ 56 million viewers in the United States and a 0 @.@ 9 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , according to Nielsen ratings . It was the lowest @-@ rated show of the timeslot .

The show centers on Michael Britten (Jason Isaacs) , a police detective living in two separate realities after a car accident . In this episode , Michael enters a psychiatric hospital during a hostage situation by Gabriel Wyath (Billy Lush) . Gabriel wants the police and Michael to find his sister Christie , who was murdered . However , Gabriel has created a separate reality where she was kidnapped by Dr. Wild rather than murdered . In the " green reality " , Michael looks for a " ring " , which is Dr. Wild 's ; Rex stole it for his girlfriend Emma (Daniela Bobadilla) . Michael meets Emma and gets the ring back . He also experiences hallucinations after being injected by Gabriel , seeing a penguin and Dr. Jonathan Lee (BD Wong) .

= = Plot = =

The episode opens with Gabriel Wyath (Billy Lush) in a psychiatric ward after blowing up a government building . There are doctors who are taking notes and comparing Wyath 's behavior to that of Michael Britten . The doctor 's note that the two are sharing signs of disorganization , having odd behavior , and suffering from a sleeping disorder . Later , in the " green reality " (where Rex is alive , and Hannah is dead from the crash) Michael forgets to sign a permission form for a field trip . He goes to work , and asks Efrem Vega (Wilmer Valderrama) if the prints came back . Since he is in the " green reality " , Efrem is confused , because he is not his partner in this world . Michael suddenly realizes that he is in the " green reality " . Later , Bird is bragging about his astronaut bed , when Dr. Wild comes to Michael 's desk , and asks for his ring . In the " red reality " (where Hannah is alive , and Rex is dead from the crash) , Michael goes to work , and is called in for a hospital hostage situation . Gabriel Wyath (Billy Lush) is the one causing the situation . He demands to see his sister Christie . However , she was murdered in a dispute with an ex @-@ boyfriend . Gabriel created a separate world where she was not murdered , but rather kidnapped by Dr. Wild .

Later , Dr. Lee explains what they are dealing with . Gabriel allows Michael to come in the hospital , but nobody else . Michael enters the building and realizes that he has a " dead man switch " , meaning that if Wyath is shot , then the whole building will blow up . Gabriel goes up near the window to handle a man who is screaming , and the police are prepared to shoot him . However , to prevent Gabriel from using his switch , Michael jumps at him , causing him to divert his path . Gabriel knocks him out , and shortly after injects him with ketamine . Michael suddenly wakes up in his " green reality " . Michael is looking for a ring , which is Dr. Wild 's . He sees a hallucination of a penguin , caused by the drugs . The penguin tells him that Rex has the ring . He calls him down , and asks him. it is revealed that Rex stole it for his girlfriend Emma (Daniela Bobadilla) . Michael meets Emma and gets the ring back . Dr. Evans (Cherry Jones) claims that he is " having a nightmare about madness " . He wakes up in the " red reality " and sees Dr. Lee helping him . The police are coming in to shoot him . Michael quickly phones and tells them to stop , due to the " dead man switch " . Gabriel and Michael talk about Gabriel 's two reality life . This makes Michael think about his life . Shortly later , Michael and Dr. Evans are talking about his mind . He thinks about his life and tells her that he is okay . During a subsequent discussion , he finds out that Dr. Lee was not really inside his mind ; he was actually helping himself .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by series creator Kyle Killen and staff writer Noelle Valdivia , and was directed by Scott Winant ; it was Killen 's fourth writing credit , with the last episode he wrote being " Kate Is Enough " . The episode was Valdivia 's first writing credit on the series and Winant 's first directing credit . The episode is rated TV @-@ 14 on television in the United States .

The episode featured guest performances from Billy Lush , who was cast as Gabriel Wyath , Matt Riedy , who was cast as the SWAT Commander Hamilton , John Christopher Storey , who was cast as the Tech , and Daniela Bobadilla , who is cast as Emma , Rex 's girlfriend .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" That 's Not My Penguin " was originally broadcast on April 5 , 2012 in the United States on the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) between 10 : 00 pm and 11 : 00 pm , preceded by Up All Night . Upon airing , the episode garnered 2 @.@ 56 million viewers in the United States despite airing simultaneously with The Mentalist on CBS , and the series premiere of the drama series Scandal on ABC . It acquired a 0 @.@ 9 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , meaning that it was seen by 0 @.@ 9 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , according to Nielsen ratings . The episode 's ratings dropped from the previous episode , " Oregon " . It was simultaneously broadcast on Global in Canada , and was subsequently aired on Sky Atlantic in the United Kingdom on June 8 , 2012 .

= = = Critical response = = =

" That 's Not My Penguin " was well received by television commentators . Matt Fowler of IGN gave an extremely positive review . He claimed that the story worked " either way " and that it was " awesome " , mainly because of the hallucinations . Fowler stated that he had his " mind blown " and that the best part of the episode was " when the show , for a little while , actually made me think that there was something to Gabriel 's Dr. Wild story " . Claiming that he was " hooked " to the show , Folwer concluded his review by giving the episode a " 9 out of 10 " classifying it as " amazing " . Zack Handlen of The A.V. Club enjoyed the episode . In his " A- " review , he noted that the episode " doesn 't show any signs of imminent immolation " . He thought that the morale of the episode was " wanting something to be real doesn 't make it easier to pretend , and the harder Michael has to work to keep this up , the better the odds that he ? s going to lose his grip " . Alan Sepinwall of HitFix " loved " the episode . Nick McHatton of TV Fanatic gave the episode a " 5 out of 5 " as a perfect score and thought that the entry " really used Awake 's concept to its advantage " .