

= Episode 6 ( Twin Peaks ) =

" Episode 6 " , also known as " Realization Time " , is the seventh episode of the first season of the American mystery television series Twin Peaks . The episode was written by Harley Peyton , and directed by Caleb Deschanel . " Episode 6 " features series regulars Kyle MacLachlan , Sherilyn Fenn and Eric Da Re , with guest appearances by Chris Mulkey and David Patrick Kelly .

Federal Bureau of Investigation ( FBI ) agent Dale Cooper ( MacLachlan ) and Twin Peaks sheriff Harry Truman ( Ontklean ) continue to investigate a murder in the small mountain town of Twin Peaks ; while local businessman Benjamin Horne ( Beymer ) schemes to burn down the town 's sawmill to further his property empire .

Deschanel has noted that the episode , like most in the series , was filmed from a relatively short teleplay ; he feels that this has contributed to its ability to develop characterization and subtextual inferences in addition to advancing its narrative . Peyton has described writing dialogue for MacLachlan 's character Dale Cooper as being particularly tricky , though he found Fenn 's character Audrey Horne to be enjoyable to write for . First airing on May 17 , 1990 , " Episode 6 " was viewed by approximately 17 percent of the available audience during its broadcast . The episode has received positive reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

= = = Background = = =

The small town of Twin Peaks , Washington , has been shocked by the murder of schoolgirl Laura Palmer ( Sheryl Lee ) and the attempted murder of her friend Ronette Pulaski ( Phoebe Augustine ) . FBI special agent Dale Cooper ( Kyle MacLachlan ) has come to the town to investigate , and initial suspicion has fallen upon Palmer 's boyfriend Bobby Briggs ( Dana Ashbrook ) and the man with whom she was cheating on Briggs , James Hurley ( James Marshall ) . However , other inhabitants of the town have their own suspicions : the violent , drug @-@ dealing truck driver Leo Johnson ( Eric Da Re ) is seen as a possible suspect ; especially to his wife Shelley ( Mädchen Amick ) , who has found a bloodstained shirt among his belongings . Meanwhile , Cooper finds the possible scene of the murder , at the home of drug smuggler Jacques Renault ( Walter Olkewicz ) ; Renault 's myna bird is taken in as evidence .

= = = Events = = =

Cooper returns to his hotel room to find Audrey Horne ( Sherilyn Fenn ) waiting in his bed ; he cautions her about being unable to get involved with her due to his position and goes to the hotel restaurant to get malts and fries for them both . The next morning he and Sheriff Truman ( Michael Ontklean ) plan to pay an undercover visit to One Eyed Jacks , a casino and brothel over the Canadian border , to which Renault is connected . They bring along Ed Hurley ( Everett McGill ) , with Cooper having requisitioned \$ 10 @,@ 000 from the FBI to pass as high @-@ stakes gamblers .

Johnson , alive but injured , is spying on his own home , watching Briggs visit Shelley . Shelley is terrified that Johnson will return and kill her ; but Briggs reassures her he will take care of things . Johnson is also listening to a police radio in his truck , and hears that Renault 's myna bird is being considered a witness as its ability to mimic speech might provide a clue ; he drives off immediately . That night , he shoots the bird dead through the sheriff station 's window . However , a voice @-@ activated tape recorder had been left by the bird 's cage ; Cooper is able to find the words " Leo , no ! " among the phrases it had repeated that evening .

James Hurley , Donna Hayward ( Lara Flynn Boyle ) and Madeline Ferguson ( Lee ) listen to cassette tapes found in Laura 's bedroom ; they are all monologues addressed to psychiatrist Laurence Jacoby ( Russ Tamblyn ) . One dated to the night of her death is missing ; the group plan

to use Ferguson 's resemblance to Laura to distract Jacoby long enough to steal it from his office . Jacoby falls for the ruse long enough ; however , Hurley and Hayward are watched from afar by Briggs , who is in turn being spied on by an unseen party . Briggs hides a bag of cocaine in the gas tank of Hurley 's motorcycle .

Audrey , meanwhile , has begun working at her father 's department store , in a position both Laura and Pulaski occupied before their abduction . Audrey spies on another coworker being showered with gifts and offered a job in " hospitality " by the store 's manager , and later finds both Laura 's and Pulaski 's names in the manager 's private ledger . Having found an address for One Eyed Jacks , Audrey visits and applies under a false name . The brothel 's madam , Blackie O 'Reilly ( Victoria Catlin ) is hesitant to hire her but is convinced when Audrey ties a cherry stem in a knot with her tongue .

Catherine Martell ( Piper Laurie ) learns that a new life insurance policy has been taken out in her name , by Josie Packard ( Joan Chen ) and Benjamin Horne ( Richard Beymer ) . Martell had been planning with Horne to burn down Packard 's sawmill in order to cheaply purchase the land it occupies . Packard speaks to Horne over the telephone , cooperating with the sawmill arson , but arranging to burn it down with Martell inside . As Packard hangs up , it is seen that the recently paroled killer Hank Jennings ( Chris Mulkey ) has been beside her .

= = Production = =

" Episode 6 " was the second of the series to be written by Harley Peyton , who had previously scripted " Episode 3 " ; Peyton returned to pen a number of other episodes across both seasons . The episode was directed by noted cinematographer Caleb Deschanel , who later helmed two episodes in the second season .

Each episode of Twin Peaks was written sequentially ; this allowed the overall plot to gather momentum as it progressed but allowed for the organic process of adding new elements as the writers thought of them ; a process favored by series co @-@ creator David Lynch . It also allowed Mark Frost , Lynch 's partner in creating the series , to plan ahead to ensure plot details and threads would be revisited as necessary . Deschanel recalls the teleplay for the episode being approximately 40 ? 45 pages long , which he felt offered the show a " leisurely " pace compared to modern television episode , which are filmed from teleplays of up to 120 pages . This allowed the series to dwell on its subtext and unexpressed desires of its characters , rather than focusing solely on narrative action . Deschanel and Peyton have described the episode as exemplifying the need to " be a fan " of the series to fully enjoy it , as the progression and development of the characters occurs over multiple episodes and rewards the attention of a regular viewer .

Peyton has noted that the distinct personalities of the series ' characters meant that he considered some of them much more difficult to convincingly write for than others . He found Cooper to be particularly tricky to write for , as the character had an idiosyncratic view of the world which needed to be maintained ; but found Audrey Horne to be his favourite to work on as he considered the character ? and actress Sherilyn Fenn ? to be both sexy and smart , and to have developed substantially as the series progressed . The character of Madeline Ferguson was named for characters in Alfred Hitchcock 's 1958 film Vertigo ? Kim Novak 's Madeleine Elster and James Stewart 's Scottie Ferguson . Ferguson 's cousin , the murdered schoolgirl Laura Palmer , was similarly named after the titular character in Otto Preminger 's 1944 film Laura ; while other characters in the series would also be named for film noir characters .

The popular " cherry stem " scene was inspired by an incident in Peyton 's life ; he had been dining with friends during the time he was writing the script when a female friend demonstrated to the group that she could knot a cherry stem with her tongue . Peyton immediately added this to the script , finding it fascinating that he could witness something on one day , write it the next , and two weeks later see newspapers discussing his version of it . Fenn has admitted that she was unable to actually perform the trick , simply switching the stem for a tied one already hidden in her mouth ; however , co @-@ star Mädchen Amick has since demonstrated it during television interviews .

Scenes filmed in the One Eyed Jacks casino and brothel were shot on location at a house on the

shore of California 's Malibu Lake ; footage for several episodes were shot on the same day by different directors so as to scatter the scenes throughout the episodes that required them . Deschanel has expressed regret over the use of a " house style " in the series ' direction and cinematography , feeling that he lit certain scenes in this episode in a way he would not usually have done ; preferring to have employed a chiaroscuro use of shadow as opposed to the reddish tints used throughout .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Episode 6 " was first broadcast on the ABC Network on May 17 , 1990 . In its initial airing , it was viewed by 10 @. @ 6 percent of US households , representing 17 percent of the available audience . This marked a slight decrease from the previous episode , which had attracted 11 @. @ 5 percent of the population and 18 percent of the available audience . " Episode 6 " was the fortieth most @- @ viewed broadcast that week , tying with Family Matters , which aired on the same network .

Writing for The A.V. Club , Keith Phipps rated the episode an " A ? " , finding that the death of Waldo the myna bird acted as a summation of the tone of the series ? noting that it " should be goofy but it 's completely chilling " . Phipps also compared the episode to Hitchcock 's Vertigo , describing it as he could " imagine Brian DePalma watching and wishing he 'd thought of first " . AllRovi 's Andrea LeVasseur awarded the episode four stars out of five . Daniel J. Blau of Television Without Pity found the scene featuring Waldo being shot to have been directed well ; Blau felt the minimal and straightforward approach taken was in stark contrast to the over @- @ the @- @ top direction taken by newer crew members in the series ' second season .