

= Oregon ( Awake ) =

" Oregon " is the fifth episode of the American police procedural drama television series Awake . The episode first premiered on March 29 , 2012 in the United States on NBC , was simultaneously broadcast on Global in Canada , and was subsequently aired on Sky Atlantic in the United Kingdom on June 1 , 2012 . It was written by consulting producer Lisa Zwerling , and directed by Aaron Lipstadt . " Oregon " was well received by television critics , who praised its storylines . Commentators noted that the script was well @-@ written and that the episode was the " strongest outing " since " Pilot " broadcast on March 1 , 2012 . Upon airing , the episode garnered 3 @.@ 18 million viewers in the United States and a 1 @.@ 0 / 3 rating @-@ share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , according to Nielsen ratings . It ranked second in its timeslot , behind The Mentalist on CBS .

The show centers on Michael Britten ( Jason Isaacs ) , a police detective living in two separate realities after a car accident . In this episode , Michael deals with a case involving a serial killer Gemini , who had killed another person in the " green reality " . FBI agent Elizabeth Santoro ( Megan Dodds ) insists that he is dead , as she killed him herself after he had committed a huge crime . Gemini pretends to be a police officer , and frames Michael , pretending that he was with him . Agent Santoro thinks that he is involved in the case due to this frame , and other reasons . Gemini enjects Santoro , and then takes her to a place outside . He starts to cut Santoro 's wrist off , and Michael and his partner in the " green reality " , Isaiah " Bird " Freeman ( Steve Harris ) get her . Meanwhile in the " red reality " , Dr. Jonathan Lee ( BD Wong ) states that Michael and his wife Hannah Britten ( Laura Allen ) 's marriage is falling apart . However , Hannah admits that she was " embarrassed " about wanting to move to Oregon .

= = Plot = =

The episode opens in the " red reality " ( where Hannah is alive and Rex is not from the car accident ) , and Michael Britten ( Jason Isaacs ) is jogging around Los Angeles . When Michael gets home , he talks to his wife Hannah ( Laura Allen ) , who is in Oregon looking at a university . Later in the " green reality " ( where Rex is alive and Hannah is not ) , Michael and Rex ( Dylan Minnette ) are stuck in traffic , and Michael is later called into work . His partner in the " green reality " , Isaiah " Bird " Freeman ( Steve Harris ) talks to Michael , then Michael goes for a run at the Griffith Park . He goes to the top of a hill overlooking the city , while a dog appears from behind a bush and barks at him . Michael notices human flesh in him , and goes to investigate , where he finds a corpse sitting against a tree . Michael goes to the police station , and shows Captain Harper similar cases starting in 1999 . In each case , a killer , nicknamed Gemini ( Salvator Xuereb ) , vertically slashed the victim 's wrists and carved a Roman numeral in their chests . The murders have taken place all across the United States , but everyone believes that Gemini is dead after an FBI agent Elizabeth Santoro ( Megan Dodds ) had shot him . Michael wants to cover the area as much as they can and Captain Tricia Harper ( Laura Innes ) agrees , telling Michael to pick up the profiler that the FBI has sent . Michael goes to Brentwood and meets with FBI agent Elizabeth Santoro . They discuss his history and she admits that she has been focused solely on the " Gemini Killer " for the last 12 years . Michael confirms that they did not find one on the body , so she figures that it is a copycat . Michael goes to the crime scene , while Bird is already there . The partners go over the hillside and find the dog . They take him to Dr. Banks ( Chris McGarry ) and have him check his stomach , where he finds a United States two @-@ dollar bill in it . When Michael takes the evidence to Harper and Santoro , Santoro insists that it only means that someone with classified information to the case is involved . She suggests they check anyone who has recently laid off law enforcement officers with psych problems . Bird and Santoro create a database if the killer is alive . Santoro lets Harper decide and she tells the detectives to pull the files on law officers . As Santoro leaves , Michael approaches her and says that he understands the implications if the man she shot was Gemini . Meanwhile , the killer prepares a set of medical tools , a wad of two @-@ dollar bills , and a syringe .

Later in the " green reality " , Michael suggests they check cheap motels in the area , since Gemini set up base a couple miles from the sites of his murders . Later , Michael talks to the manager at one hotel . After he leaves the hotel , Michael sees a secret place closed and Michael breaks in , drawing his gun . He spots the " Gemini Killer " inside , but he ran away when Michael identified himself as a police officer . Soon after , the CSI team investigates , and Harper and Santoro wonder why Michael was there . He says that he was checking out motels and thought the building looked suspicious , and Santoro claimed that Michael is a " suspect " . They are unaware that the killer is listening to them from a nearby vent . Michael leaves the investigation , and as he goes to his car , the killer is seen dressed in a police uniform , as he is starting at him . Later at the station , Harper tells him that they got a call from someone claiming to be their guy . She plays a recording and Gemini addresses Michael as his friend . Harper tells Michael that they traced the call to his home phone . Later , Michael meets with Bird and the two find out that the killer was going to eject and then murder Agent Santoro . Later , the " Gemini Killer " begins to cut the FBI agent 's wrist . Minutes later , Michael and Bird try to find the killer , and the agent . They find her and she is taken to the hospital . Her family comes and sees her . Later , Michael tells Hannah what he 's learned about the movers and Oregon . She shares her secrets , claimed that she was " embarrassed " , and they talk .

Michael 's shrink in the " green reality " , Dr. Judith Evans ( Cherry Jones ) , cites that one reality will begin the scene as a fantasy . As Michael leaves in the car , Gemini calls Michael and explains that he was intrigued by Michael 's success in tracking him down . He broke into Evans ' office , read her files , and asks Michael if he is awake or asleep . However , Gemini says that the world needs people like him and Michael ; people who can see it sideways . As he takes a flight to Portland , Gemini says that he hopes Michael doesn 't wake up and then hangs up .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by consulting producer Lisa Zwerling , and directed by Aaron Lipstadt ; it was Zwerling and Lipstadt 's first writing credit , and was Lipstadt 's first directing credit on the series . This is the second episode that was not written by series creator and executive producer Kyle Killen , with the last episode he wrote being " Guilty " . The episode is rated TV @-@ 14 on television in the United States . Although it was the fifth broadcast episode , it was originally scheduled to be the fourth episode of the season , with the production code being " 1ATR03 " due to NBC 's decision to change the broadcasting order .

= = = Casting = = =

The episode featured guest performances from many actors including Laura Innes as Tricia Harper , Michael 's captain officer in the series , Chris McGarry as Dr. Banks , a doctor working at the Los Angeles Police Department , Salvator Xuereb as Gemini , and Megan Dodds as Elizabeth Santoro , an FBI agent . Frank Gallegos was cast as DaSalva , Hal Havins was cast as hotel manager Brett London , and Erin Woods was cast as Santoro 's daughter . Damian Poitier also appeared , but as a police uniform officer .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Oregon " was originally broadcast on March 29 , 2012 in the United States on NBC between 10 : 00 p.m. and 11 : 00 p.m. , preceded by Up All Night . Upon airing , the episode garnered 3 @.@ 18 million viewers in the United States , and ranked second in its timeslot despite airing simultaneously with The Mentalist on CBS , and a rerun of Private Practice on ABC . It acquired a 1 @.@ 0 / 3 rating @-@ share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , meaning that it was seen by 1 @.@ 0 % of all 18- to

49 @-@ year @-@ olds , according to Nielsen ratings . The episode 's ratings had dropped from the previous episode , " Kate Is Enough " , which obtained one million less in viewers . It was simultaneously broadcast on Global in Canada , and was subsequently aired on Sky Atlantic in the United Kingdom on June 1 , 2012 . The episode obtained 228 @,@ 000 million viewers in the United Kingdom , making it the fourth most @-@ watched program for that week on the channel behind Smash , Hit & Miss , and Game of Thrones . The episode 's ratings had slightly dropped from the previous episode .

= = = Critical response = = =

" Oregon " was well received by most television commentators , who praised its storylines . Matt Fowler of IGN gave the episode a good review . He claimed that the episode " felt like a bit of a stand @-@ alone story focusing on Britten 's heightened anxiety over Rex 's grief " , and that the episode also " stepped in and launched the series forward , introducing one of Britten 's worlds to a rather apropos serial killer " . He also liked the episode 's " ambition " . Fowler concluded his review by giving the episode an " 8 @.@ 5 out of 10 " , classifying it as " great " . Nick McHatton from TV Fanatic also praised the episode . He claimed that the Britten family will not move to Oregon in the " red reality " , as it is " already complex enough as it is " . McHatton concluded his review by giving the episode a score of " 4 @.@ 8 out of 5 " . Caroline Preece from Den of Geek gave praise in the episode . She claimed that the episode was the " strongest outing " since " Pilot " broadcast on March 1 , 2012 . Preece wrote that the episode " used interesting story ideas , [ meaning ] the writers have bigger plans for the weeks ahead " . HitFix 's Alan Sepinwall gave many notes on the episode . He claimed that NBC 's decision to change the broadcasting order was " probably for the best , in that doing back @-@ to @-@ back episodes where Britten 's son was kidnapped in the first and Britten attracted the personal interest of a serial killer in the second would have felt like too much " . He criticized parts of the episode writing that the episode " seemed too much like a conventional cop show " . Screen Rant 's Kevin Yeoman said that the episode " works best when its procedural elements take on a sort of background essence " . He also wrote that as a series it is " becoming a sustainable program " . Zack Handlen from The A.V. Club enjoyed " Oregon " . In his " B " review , he stated that he enjoyed the " impressionistic approach , scenes of emotional connection and growth " .