

= The Bishop Revival =

" The Bishop Revival " is the 14th episode of the second season of the American science fiction drama television series Fringe . The episode 's storyline followed Nazi scientist Alfred Hoffman (Craig Robert Young) as he specially designed airborne toxins to kill only surrounding people with similar genetic traits , such as people with brown eyes .

It was written by Glen Whitman and Robert Chiappetta , and directed by Adam Davidson . Along with Young and a number of small guest parts , the episode featured another guest appearance by Clark Middleton as rare book seller Edward Markham . " The Bishop Revival " first aired in the United States on January 28 , 2010 on the Fox network to an estimated 9 @. @ 153 million viewers . Critical reception for the episode ranged from positive to mixed , as reviewers were divided on the episode 's villain .

= = Plot = =

15 people suffocate at a Jewish wedding , appearing to have asphyxiated from the inside out . When the Fringe team arrives , Olivia (Anna Torv) identifies that all the victims were from the groom 's side , whose grandmother was a Holocaust survivor - and Walter (John Noble) surmises that they were all killed via their shared genetic traits . Later , a similar mass death occurs at a coffee shop , in which Walter recognizes the victims all had brown eyes , another common genetic trait . From fingerprints found at the scene , they discover the culprit is Alfred Hoffman (Craig Robert Young) , a Nazi scientist apparently somehow over 100 years old . Walter realizes that the man likely worked with his own father , Robert Bishoff (a German scientist who defected to the US in 1943 and anglicised his name) , in creating a chemical agent that , once heated as a gas , could be used to target any specific trait using DNA from the target subject - especially those not of the master race . Though Walter originally had his father 's files on the subject , his son Peter (Joshua Jackson) , 10 years earlier , had sold them ; Peter tries to recover the files but finds some have been used by an artist to create sensationalism art , causing Walter to become distraught .

They trace Hoffman to his home , finding his equipment used to create the chemical agent downstairs but no sign of Hoffman . Walter nearly suffocates from an agent left by Hoffman , but Olivia and Peter are able to save him in time . As the FBI search the premises , they find evidence that points to a convention being held to promote world equality . Olivia and Peter depart to try to find Hoffman , while Walter remains behind , examining Hoffman 's equipment .

At the convention , Hoffman has replaced the heating elements for the chafing @-@ dishes with his own . Olivia and Peter struggle with locating Hoffman before Walter and Astrid (Jasika Nicole) arrive . Walter uses a fogger to distribute his own chemical agent , this time specific to Hoffman , and soon the man is found dying . As the team regroups , Walter fully admits to killing Hoffman , a crime in itself , but Broyles (Lance Reddick) decides to let Walter go . Later , Peter has been able to recover the rest of his grandfather 's work and returns it to Walter ; Walter then goes through the files , finding an old photo of his father and Hoffman working together .

= = Production = =

" The Bishop Revival " was the third episode to be written by writing partners Glen Whitman and Robert Chiappetta . It was the only Fringe episode directed by Adam Davidson .

" The Bishop Revival " revealed that the seahorse shown in promotions since the series began was in fact a genetically encoded " signature " created by Walter 's father Dr. Robert Bishop . In an interview after the episode 's broadcast , consulting producer Akiva Goldsman cited " The Bishop Revival " when discussing the use of flashbacks in Fringe ; he stated his disinclination to use too many flashbacks in the series , explaining " I think flashbacks are really useful and there are a couple of places where it will be useful . But fundamentally , no , I don 't think we 're a show that will be doing a lot of jumping back in time despite the single horde of calls for the ' Walter 's Grandfather Nazi Hunting ' series . I think not , but it was fun to do [in the ' Peter ' episode] . "

Guest stars for the episode included Craig Robert Young , Max Train , Sierra Pitkin , Brendon Zub , Barbara Kottmeier , John Macintyre , Lauren Attadia , Al Miro , Aaron Brooks , Magda Harout , Leonard Tenisci , Alberta Mayne , Nancy Linari , and Dan Joffe . Clark Middleton , who was last seen in the first season episode " Ability " , made his second guest appearance in " The Bishop Revival " as rare bookseller Edward Markham .

= = Cultural references = =

The episode contained two pieces of music from the 19th century German composer Johannes Brahms : his Piano Quartet No. 1 , Op.25 in G Major : III . Andante Con Moto @-@ Animato and Piano Quartet No. 1 , Op.25 in G Minor : II . Intermezzo : Allegro Ma Non Troppo @-@ Trio : Animato . Also in the episode , someone is seen holding a Dharma Initiative tea bag , a reference to the mysterious organization on the science fiction series Lost .

The Nazi in this episode appears to be Reichsführer of the Schutzstaffel , Heinrich Himmler . Aside from looking like the character , Himmler was also both a Nordacist and a Nazi Occultist . At one point in the episode , a scared elderly woman points at him screaming , " It 's him ... it 's him ... ! " This has a double meaning , as she could have been saying " It 's him ! " or she could have been trying to say " It 's Himmler ! " .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In a Thursday night filled mostly with repeats , Fox 's airing of new episodes Bones and Fringe finished # 1 among adults aged 18 ? 49 , with an estimated 9 @. @ 153 million viewers tuning in . Fringe was up fifteen percent from the previous week with a 3 @. @ 0 rating , tying its highest 18 ? 49 ratings share for the season . It was the second most viewed episode of the season after the season premiere " A New Day in the Old Town " .

= = = Reviews = = =

The episode received mixed to positive reviews from television critics . Jane Boursaw of TV Squad wasn 't sure what to think about " The Bishop Revival " , but loved the plotline about Walter 's dad being a German spy working for the US government . Alternately , Annalee Newitz of io9 called the episode " surprisingly meh " ; while appreciating " all the weird family revelations about the Bishops " , she believed the revelations about Walter 's father to be " too much " because " we didn 't need that extra backstory " . Newitz wished Fringe had brought back Olivia 's childhood subplot and its ties with Walter and Peter . The A.V. Club columnist Noel Murray was also critical of the episode , explaining " Plotwise , there wasn 't much going on in ' The Bishop Revival . ' ... The FD tracked down a criminal and felled that criminal ; that 's really it . " Murray did however praise the killer 's methods and " Aryan aloofness " as " cool " and " delightfully old @-@ school " . Like Newitz , Tim Grierson of the magazine New York believed the episode contained " stupid revelations " ; for instance , the Nazi connection of Walter 's father " just felt like a variation on season one 's episodes in which bizarre phenomena could always magically be linked back to Walter 's work for the government . Obviously , this info about Peter 's grandfather was supposed to be ' shocking , ' showing how the Bishop family 's scientific work can so easily be perverted for evil , but by this point it just seems like a very artificial , unnecessary ploy to keep us engaged . "

Other than a few minor complaints with the episode 's logic , IGN writer Ramsey Isler thought positively about " The Bishop Revival " and the Nazi story element in particular , stating " there 's a definite unique Fringe flavor that makes this story work " . Isler disliked the unsolved mystery of Hoffman however , writing the " story really had the feel of one of those intriguing but ultimately disposable stories in the Fringe library " . Jennifer Walker from TV Fanatic called the episode "

amazing " and a " heart stopper " , while Andrew Hanson of the Los Angeles Times enjoyed the father @-@ son dynamic . Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly wrote " The Bishop Revival " was " one of the series ' most satisfying stand @-@ alone episodes " because it featured a " good threat " and gave more information about the Bishop family 's backstory . Tucker praised John Noble 's performance , as his " portrayal of Walter encompasses everything from endearing daffiness to ferocious concentration and commitment " . MTV 's Josh Wigler believed the episode was " terrific , " but wished there was more of a balance between the show 's three leads , and that Olivia was featured on a regular basis . He , Hanson , and other critics agreed that this and the previous week 's episode gave Fringe some strong momentum heading into the winter finale . Though normally skeptical of the series ' many fringe cases , Popular Mechanics called the episode Fringe 's " most plausible case yet " .

= = = Awards and nominations = = =

At the 2011 Young Artist Awards , Sierra Pitkin received a nomination for Best Performance in a TV Series under the category " Guest Starring Young Actress Ten and Under " .