

= The X @-@ Files =

The X @-@ Files is an American science fiction horror drama television series created by Chris Carter . The program originally aired from September 10 , 1993 , to May 19 , 2002 , on Fox , spanning nine seasons , with 202 episodes and a feature film of the same name , before returning with a second film in 2008 and a six @-@ episode tenth season in 2016 . The series revolves around FBI special agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) who investigate X @-@ Files : marginalized , unsolved cases involving paranormal phenomena . Mulder believes in the existence of aliens and the paranormal while Scully , a medical doctor and a skeptic , is assigned to make scientific analyses of Mulder 's discoveries to debunk his work and thus return him to mainstream cases . Early in the series , both agents become pawns in a larger conflict and come to trust only each other and a very few select people . They develop a close relationship which begins as a platonic friendship , but becomes a romance by the end of the series . In addition to the series @-@ spanning story arc , " Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " episodes form roughly two @-@ thirds of all episodes .

The X @-@ Files was inspired by series which featured elements of suspense and speculative fiction , including Alfred Hitchcock Presents , The Twilight Zone , Night Gallery , Tales from the Darkside , and especially Kolchak : The Night Stalker . When creating the main characters , Carter sought to reverse gender stereotypes by making Mulder a believer and Scully a skeptic . The first seven seasons featured Duchovny and Anderson equally . In the last two seasons , Anderson took precedence while Duchovny appeared intermittently . New main characters were introduced : FBI agents John Doggett (Robert Patrick) and Monica Reyes (Annabeth Gish) . Mulder and Scully 's boss , Assistant Director Walter Skinner (Mitch Pileggi) , also became a main character . The first five seasons of The X @-@ Files were filmed and produced in Vancouver , British Columbia , before eventually moving to Los Angeles to accommodate Duchovny . The series later returned to Vancouver to film The X @-@ Files : I Want to Believe as well as the tenth season of the series .

The X @-@ Files was a hit for the Fox network and received largely positive reviews , although its long @-@ term story arc was criticized near the conclusion . Initially considered a cult series , it turned into a pop culture touchstone that tapped into public mistrust of governments and large institutions and embraced conspiracy theories and spirituality . Both the series itself and lead actors Duchovny and Anderson received multiple awards and nominations , and by the end it was the longest @-@ running science fiction series in U.S. television history . The series also spawned a franchise which includes The Lone Gunmen spin @-@ off , two theatrical films and accompanying merchandise . After the final theatrical film in 2008 , fans continued to push for a third movie to conclude the series ' plot lines , and in March 2015 , Fox eventually announced that the series would return , with Chris Carter as executive producer and writer , and Duchovny , Anderson , Pileggi , Davis , and Gish all reprising their roles . The revival premiered on January 24 , 2016 .

= = Premise = =

= = = General = = =

The X @-@ Files follows the careers and personal lives of FBI Special Agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) . Mulder is a talented profiler and strong believer in the supernatural . He is also adamant about the existence of intelligent extraterrestrial life and its presence on Earth . This set of beliefs earns him the nickname " Spooky " and an assignment to a little @-@ known department that deals with unsolved cases , known as the X @-@ Files . His belief in the paranormal springs from the claimed abduction of his sister Samantha Mulder by extraterrestrials when Mulder was 12 . Her abduction drives Mulder throughout most of the series . Because of this , as well as more nebulous desires for vindication and the revelation of truths kept hidden by human authorities , Mulder struggles to maintain objectivity in his investigations .

Agent Scully is a foil for Mulder in this regard . As a medical doctor and natural skeptic , Scully

approaches cases with complete detachment even when Mulder , despite his considerable training , loses his objectivity . Her initial task is to debunk Mulder 's theories , supplying logical , scientific explanations for the cases ' apparently unexplainable phenomena . Although she is frequently able to offer scientific alternatives to Mulder 's deductions , she is rarely able to refute them completely . Over the course of the series , she becomes increasingly dissatisfied with her own ability to approach the cases scientifically . After Mulder 's abduction at the hands of aliens in the seventh season finale " Requiem " , Scully becomes a " reluctant believer " who manages to explain the paranormal with science .

Various episodes also deal with the relationship between Mulder and Scully , originally platonic , but that later develops romantically . Mulder and Scully are joined by John Doggett (Robert Patrick) and Monica Reyes (Annabeth Gish) late in the series , after Mulder is abducted . Doggett replaces him as Scully 's partner and helps her search for him , later involving Reyes , of whom Doggett had professional knowledge . The X @-@ Files ends when Mulder is secretly subjected to a military tribunal for breaking into a Top Secret military facility and viewing plans for alien invasion and colonization of Earth . He is found guilty , but he escapes punishment with the help of the other agents and he and Scully become fugitives .

= = = Mythology = = =

As the show progressed , key episodes , called parts of the " Mytharc " , were recognized as the " mythology " of the series canon ; these episodes carried the extraterrestrial / conspiracy storyline that evolved throughout the series . " Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " ? often abbreviated as " MOTW " or " MoW " ? came to denote the remainder of The X @-@ Files episodes . These episodes , comprising the majority of the series , dealt with paranormal phenomena , including cryptids and mutants ; science fiction technologies ; horror monsters ; and satiric / comedic elements . The main story arc involves the agents ' efforts to uncover a government conspiracy to hide the existence of extraterrestrials on Earth and their sinister collaboration with those governments . Mysterious men comprising a shadow element within the U.S. government , known as " The Syndicate " , are the major villains in the series ; late in the series it is revealed that The Syndicate acts as the only liaison between mankind and a group of extraterrestrials that intends to destroy the human species . They are usually represented by Cigarette Smoking Man (William B. Davis) , a ruthless killer , masterful politician , negotiator , failed novelist , and the series ' principal antagonist .

As the series goes along , Mulder and Scully learn about evidence of the alien invasion piece by piece . It is revealed that the extraterrestrials plan on using a sentient virus , known as the black oil , to infect mankind and turn the population of the world into a slave race . The Syndicate ? having made a deal to be spared by the aliens ? have been working to develop an alien @-@ human hybrid that will be able to withstand the effects of the black oil . The group has also been secretly working on a vaccine to overcome the black oil ; this vaccine is revealed in the latter parts of season five , as well as the 1998 film . Counter to the alien colonization effort , another faction of aliens , the faceless rebels , are working to stop alien colonization . Eventually , in the season six episodes " Two Fathers " / " One Son " , the rebels manage to destroy the Syndicate . The colonists , now without human liaisons , dispatch the " Super Soldiers " : beings that resemble humans , but are biologically alien . In the latter parts of season eight , and the whole of season nine , the Super Soldiers manage to replace key individuals in the government , forcing Mulder and Scully to go into hiding .

= = Cast and characters = =

= = = Main characters = = =

Fox Mulder (seasons 1 ? 7 , 10 , main ; season 8 ? 9 , intermittent lead) is portrayed by David Duchovny . Mulder is an Oxford @-@ educated FBI special agent who believes in the existence of

extraterrestrials and a government conspiracy to hide the truth regarding them . He works in the X @-@ Files office , which is concerned with cases marked as unsolvable ; most involve supernatural / mysterious circumstances . Mulder considers the X @-@ Files so important that he has made their study his life 's main purpose . After his abduction by aliens at the end of season seven , his role in the show diminished and much of his work is taken on by Agent John Doggett . He appeared in an episode of The Lone Gunmen and in both the 1998 film The X @-@ Files and the 2008 film The X @-@ Files : I Want to Believe .

Dana Scully (seasons 1 ? 10 , main) is portrayed by Gillian Anderson . Scully is an FBI special agent , a medical doctor , and scientist who is Mulder 's partner . In contrast to his credulity , Scully is a skeptic , basing her beliefs on scientific explanations . However , despite her otherwise rigid skepticism , she is a Catholic , and her faith plays an important role in several episodes . As the series progresses , she becomes more open to the possibility of paranormal happenings . In the latter part of the eighth season , her position in the X @-@ Files office is taken by Agent Monica Reyes , and Scully moves to Quantico to teach new FBI agents . She appeared in both The X @-@ Files feature films .

Walter Skinner (seasons 1 ? 8 , recurring ; season 9 ? 10 , intermittent lead) is portrayed by Mitch Pileggi . Skinner is an FBI assistant director who served in the United States Marine Corps in the Vietnam War . During this time he shot and killed a young boy carrying explosives , an incident which scarred him for life . Skinner is originally Mulder and Scully 's direct supervisor . He later serves the same position for Doggett and Reyes . Although he is originally portrayed as somewhat antagonistic , he eventually becomes a close friend of Mulder and Scully . He appeared in an episode of The Lone Gunmen and in both The X @-@ Files feature films .

John Doggett (seasons 8 ? 9 , main) is portrayed by Robert Patrick . Doggett is an FBI special agent who makes his first appearance in the season eight episode " Within " . Doggett served in the United States Marine Corps from the 1970s to the 1980s . Later , he started to work with the New York City Police Department , reaching the rank of detective . After his son 's death , he joined the FBI 's Criminal Investigations Division . In 2000 , Alvin Kersh assigned him to the X @-@ files unit as Scully 's partner after an unsuccessful task force attempt to find Mulder . He did not appear in The X @-@ Files feature films .

Monica Reyes (season 8 , recurring ; season 9 , main ; season 10 , guest) is portrayed by Annabeth Gish . Reyes is an FBI special agent who was born and raised in Mexico City . She majored in folklore and mythology at Brown University and earned a master 's degree in religious studies . Her first FBI assignment was serving on a special task force investigating satanic rituals . She is a longtime friend of Doggett 's and becomes his partner after Scully 's departure . She did not appear in The X @-@ Files feature films .

= = = Recurring characters = = =

Cigarette Smoking Man (seasons 1 ? 7 , 9 ? 10) is portrayed by William B. Davis . The Cigarette Smoking Man is the series ' primary villain . In the ninth season episodes " William " and " The Truth " , it is suggested that he is Mulder 's biological father . In the seventh season episode " Requiem " , he is believed to be killed after being pushed down a flight of stairs by Alex Krycek until the ninth season finale " The Truth " , where Mulder and Scully travel through remote New Mexico and reach a pueblo where a " wise man " reputedly lives and is revealed to be Cigarette Smoking Man . He appears in the 1998 feature film and in the first and sixth episodes of the 2016 season .

Alex Krycek (seasons 2 ? 9) is portrayed by Nicholas Lea . Krycek is a Russian @-@ American , the son of Cold War immigrants , and first introduced as an FBI Special Agent assigned as a temporary investigation partner to Fox Mulder . Krycek proceeds to work with Mulder and attempts to gain his trust . However , it later becomes evident that Krycek is actually an undercover agent working for Cigarette Smoking Man . Krycek plays an important part in several events that are harmful to Mulder and Scully .

Jeffrey Spender (seasons 5 ? 6 , 9) is portrayed by Chris Owens . Spender was a skeptic who was assigned to The X @-@ Files after Fox Mulder 's forced leave . Spender is the son of Cigarette

Smoking Man and his ex @-@ wife , multiple abductee Cassandra Spender , as well as possibly being the half @-@ brother of Mulder . Initially thought to have been murdered by Cigarette Smoking Man , Spender returned , horribly disfigured , in the ninth season and helped Scully 's son William .

Alvin Kersh (seasons 6 , 8 ? 9) is portrayed by James Pickens , Jr .. As an assistant director (and later deputy director) , he temporarily became supervisor to Agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully when they were assigned away from the X @-@ Files division . During this time , Cigarette Smoking Man would often visit him in his office . Kersh assigned Mulder and Scully mostly to menial tasks , such as terrorist details and Federal background checks . Kersh was largely antagonistic to Mulder and Scully , but in " The Truth " somewhat redeemed himself by helping Mulder escape capital punishment .

= = Production = =

= = = Conception = = =

California native Chris Carter was given the opportunity to produce new shows for the Fox network in the early 1990s . Tired of the comedies he had been working on for Walt Disney Pictures , a report that 3 @. @ 7 million Americans may have been abducted by aliens , the Watergate scandal and the 1970s horror series Kolchak : The Night Stalker , triggered the idea for The X @-@ Files . He wrote the pilot episode in 1992 .

Carter 's initial pitch for The X @-@ Files was rejected by Fox executives . He fleshed out the concept and returned a few weeks later , when they commissioned the pilot . Carter worked with NYPD Blue producer Daniel Sackheim to further develop the pilot , drawing stylistic inspiration from the 1988 documentary The Thin Blue Line and the British television series Prime Suspect . Inspiration also came from Carter 's memories of The Twilight Zone as well as from The Silence of the Lambs , which provided the impetus for framing the series around agents from the FBI , in order to provide the characters with a more plausible reason for being involved in each case than Carter believed was present in Kolchak . Carter was determined to keep the relationship between the two leads strictly platonic , basing their interactions on the characters of Emma Peel and John Steed in The Avengers series .

The early 1990s series Twin Peaks was a major influence on the show 's dark atmosphere and its often surreal blend of drama and irony . Duchovny had appeared as a cross @-@ dressing DEA agent in Twin Peaks and the Mulder character was seen as a parallel to that show 's FBI Agent Dale Cooper . The producers and writers cited All the President 's Men , Three Days of the Condor , Close Encounters of the Third Kind , Raiders of the Lost Ark , Rashomon , The Thing , The Boys from Brazil , The Silence of the Lambs and JFK as other influences . Carter 's use of continuous takes in " Triangle " was modeled on Hitchcock 's Rope . In addition , episodes written by Darin Morgan often referred to or referenced other films .

= = = Casting = = =

Duchovny had worked in Los Angeles for three years prior to The X @-@ Files ; at first he wanted to focus on feature films . In 1993 , his manager , Melanie Green , gave him the script for the " pilot episode " of The X @-@ Files . Green and Duchovny were both convinced it was a good script , so he auditioned for the lead . Duchovny 's audition was " terrific " , though he talked rather slowly . While the casting director of the show was very positive toward him , Carter thought that he was not particularly intelligent . He asked Duchovny if he could " please " imagine himself as an FBI agent in " future " episodes . Duchovny , however , turned out to be one of the best @-@ read people that Carter knew .

Anderson auditioned for the role of Scully in 1993 . " I couldn ' t put the script down " , she recalled . The network wanted either a more established or a " taller , leggier , blonder and breastier " actress

for Scully than the 24 @-@ year @-@ old Anderson , a theater veteran with minor film experience . After auditions , Carter felt she was the only choice . Carter insisted that Anderson had the kind of no @-@ nonsense integrity that the role required . For portraying Scully , Anderson won numerous major awards : the Screen Actors Guild Award in 1996 and 1997 , an Emmy Award in 1997 , and a Golden Globe Award 1997 .

The character Walter Skinner was played by actor Mitch Pileggi , who had unsuccessfully auditioned for the roles of two or three other characters on The X @-@ Files before getting the part . At first , the fact that he was asked back to audition for the recurring role slightly puzzled him , until he discovered the reason he had not previously been cast in those roles ? Carter had been unable to envision Pileggi as any of those characters , because the actor had been shaving his head . When Pileggi auditioned for Walter Skinner , he had been in a grumpy mood and had allowed his small amount of hair to grow . His attitude fit well with Skinner 's character , causing Carter to assume that the actor was only pretending to be grumpy . Pileggi later realized he had been lucky that he had not been cast in one of the earlier roles , as he believed he would have appeared in only a single episode and would have missed the opportunity to play the recurring role .

Before the seventh season aired , Duchovny filed a lawsuit against 20th Century Fox . He was upset because , he claimed , Fox had undersold the rights to its own affiliates , thereby costing him huge sums of money . Eventually , the lawsuit was settled , and Duchovny was awarded a settlement of about \$ 20 million . The lawsuit put strain on Duchovny 's professional relationships . Neither Carter nor Duchovny was contracted to work on the series beyond the seventh season ; however , Fox entered into negotiations near the end of that season in order to bring the two on board for an eighth season . 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 that Mulder would be abducted at the end of the seventh seasons and would return in 12 episodes the following year . The producers then announced that a new character , John Doggett , would fill Mulder 's role .

More than 100 actors auditioned for the role of Doggett , but only about ten were seriously considered . Lou Diamond Phillips , Hart Bochner , and Bruce Campbell were among the ten . The producers chose Robert Patrick . Carter believed that the series could continue for another ten years with new leads , and the opening credits were accordingly redesigned in both seasons eight and nine to emphasize the new actors (along with Pileggi , who was finally listed as a main character) . Doggett 's presence did not give the series the ratings boost the network executives were hoping for . The eighth season episode " This is Not Happening " marked the first appearance of Monica Reyes , played by Gish , who became a main character in season nine . Her character was developed and introduced due to Anderson 's possible departure at the end of the eighth season . Although Anderson stayed until the end , Gish became a series regular .

= = = = Minor recurring characters = = = =

Glen Morgan and James Wong 's early influence on The X @-@ Files mythology led to their introduction of popular secondary characters who continued for years in episodes written by others : Scully 's father , William (Don S. Davis) ; her mother , Margaret (Sheila Larken) ; and her sister , Melissa (Melinda McGraw) . The conspiracy @-@ inspired trio The Lone Gunmen were also secondary characters . The trio was introduced in the first season episode " E.B.E. " as a way to make Mulder appear more credible . They were originally meant to appear in only that episode , but due to their popularity , they returned in the second season episode " Blood " and became recurring characters . Cigarette Smoking Man portrayed by William B. Davis , was initially cast as an extra in the pilot episode . His character , however , grew into the main antagonist .

= = = Filming = = =

During the early stages of production , Carter founded Ten Thirteen Productions and began to plan

for filming the pilot in Los Angeles . However , unable to find suitable locations for many scenes , he decided to " go where the good forests are " and moved production to Vancouver . It was soon realized by the production crew that since so much of the first season would require filming on location , rather than on sound stages , a second location manager would be needed . The show remained in Vancouver for the first five seasons ; production then shifted to Los Angeles beginning with the sixth season . Duchovny was unhappy over his geographical separation from his wife Téa Leoni , although his discontent was popularly attributed to frustration with climatic conditions in Vancouver . Anderson also wanted to return to the United States and Carter relented following the fifth season . The season ended in May 1998 with " The End " , the final episode shot in Vancouver (until the 2016 revival) and the final episode with the involvement of many of the original crew members , including director and producer R.W. Goodwin and his wife Sheila Larken , who played Margaret Scully and would later return briefly . The X @-@ Files crew returned to Vancouver to film The X @-@ Files : I Want to Believe . According to Spotnitz , the film script was written specifically for the city and surrounding areas .

With the move to Los Angeles , many changes behind the scenes occurred , as much of the original The X @-@ Files crew was gone . New production designer Corey Kaplan , editor Lynne Willingham , writer David Amann and director and producer Michael Watkins joined and stayed for several years . Bill Roe became the show 's new director of photography and episodes generally had a drier , brighter look due to California 's sunshine and climate , as compared with Vancouver 's rain , fog and temperate forests . Early in the sixth season , the producers took advantage of the new location , setting the show in new parts of the country . For example , Vince Gilligan 's " Drive " , about a man subject to an unexplained illness , was a frenetic action episode , unusual for The X @-@ Files largely because it was set in Nevada 's stark desert roads . The " Dreamland " two @-@ part episode was also set in Nevada , this time in Area 51 . The episode was largely filmed at " Club Ed " , a movie ranch located on the outskirts of Lancaster , California .

Although the sixth through ninth seasons were filmed in Los Angeles , the series ' second movie , The X @-@ Files : I Want to Believe (2008) , was filmed in Vancouver , as was the 2016 revival .

= = = Music = = =

The music was composed by Mark Snow , who got involved with The X @-@ Files through his friendship with executive producer Goodwin . Initially Carter had no candidates . A little over a dozen people were considered , but Goodwin continued to press for Snow , who auditioned around three times with no sign from the production staff as to whether they wanted him . One day , however , Snow 's agent called him , talking about the " pilot episode " and hinting that he had got the job .

The theme , " The X @-@ Files " , used more instrumental sections than most dramas . The theme song 's famous whistle effect was inspired by the track " How Soon Is Now ? " from The Smiths ' 1985 album Meat Is Murder . After attempting to craft the theme with different sound effects , Snow used a Proteus 2 rack @-@ mount synth with an effect called " Whistling Joe " . After hearing this effect , Carter was " taken aback " and noted it was " going to be good " . According to the " Behind the Truth " segment on the first season DVD , Snow created the echo effect on the track by accident . He felt that after several revisions , something still was not right . Carter walked out of the room and Snow put his hand and forearm on his keyboard in frustration . By doing so , he accidentally activated an echo effect setting . The resulting riff pleased Carter ; Snow said , " this sound was in the keyboard . And that was it . " The second episode , " Deep Throat " , marked Snow 's debut as solo composer for an entire episode . The production crew was determined to limit the music in the early episodes . Likewise , the theme song itself first appeared in " Deep Throat " .

Snow was tasked with composing the score for both The X @-@ Files films . The films marked the first appearance of real instruments ; previous music had been digitally crafted by Snow . Snow 's soundtrack for the first film , The X @-@ Files : Original Motion Picture Score , was released in 1998 . For the second film , Snow recorded with the Hollywood Studio Symphony in May 2008 at the Newman Scoring Stage at 20th Century Fox in Century City . UNKLE recorded a new version of the theme music for the end credits . Some of the unusual sounds were created by a variation of silly

putty and dimes tucked into piano strings . Snow commented that the fast percussion featured in some tracks was inspired by the track " Prospectors Quartet " from the There Will Be Blood soundtrack . The soundtrack score , The X @-@ Files : I Want to Believe : Original Motion Picture Score , was released in 2008 .

= = = Opening sequence = = =

The opening sequence was made in 1993 for the first season and remained unchanged until Duchovny left the show . Carter sought to make the title an " impactful opening " with " supernatural images " . These scenes notably include a split @-@ screen image of a seed germinating as well as a " terror @-@ filled , warped face " . The latter was created when Carter found a video operator who was able to create the effect . The sequence was extremely popular and won the show its first Emmy Award , which was for Outstanding Graphic Design and Title Sequences . Rabwin was particularly pleased with the sequence and felt that it was something that had " never [been] seen on television before " .

The premiere episode of season eight , " Within " , revealed the first major change to the opening credits . Along with Patrick , the sequence used new images and updated photos for Duchovny and Anderson , although Duchovny only appears in the opening credits when he appears in an episode . Carter and the production staff saw Duchovny 's departure as a chance to change things . The replacement shows various pictures of Scully 's pregnancy . According to executive producer Frank Spotnitz , the sequence also features an " abstract " way of showing Mulder 's absence in the eighth season : he falls into an eye . Season nine featured an entirely new sequence . Since Anderson wanted to move on , the sequence featured Reyes and Skinner . Duchovny 's return to the show for the ninth season finale , " The Truth " marked the largest number of cast members to be featured in the opening credits , with five .

The sequence ends with the tagline " The Truth Is Out There " , which is used for the majority of the episodes . The tagline changes in specific episodes to slogans that are relevant to that episode . The first of these was " Trust No One " in " The Erlenmeyer Flask " . Other examples include : " Deny Everything " in " Ascension " , " Éí ' Aaniiígóó ' Áhoot 'é " in " Anasazi " , " Everything Dies " in " Herrenvolk " , " Believe to Understand " in " Closure " , " They 're Watching " in " Trust No 1 " , and " This Is the End " in " My Struggle II " .

= = Broadcast and release = =

= = = Episodes = = =

= = = Nielsen ratings = = =

The pilot premiered on September 10 , 1993 , and reached 12 million viewers . As the season progressed , ratings began to increase and the season finale garnered 14 million viewers . The first season ranked 105th out of 128 shows during the 1993 ? 94 television season . The series ' second season increased in ratings ? a trend that would continue for the next three seasons ? and finished 63rd out of 141 shows . These ratings were not spectacular , but the series had attracted enough fans to receive the label " cult hit " , particularly by Fox standards . Most importantly it made great gains among the 18 @-@ to @-@ 49 age demographic sought by advertisers . During its third year , the series ranked 55th and was viewed by an average of 15 @-@ 40 million viewers , an increase of almost seven percent over the second season , making it Fox 's top @-@ rated program in the 18 ? 49 @-@ year @-@ old demographic . Although the first three episodes of the fourth season aired on Friday night , the fourth episode " Unruhe " aired on Sunday night . The show remained on Sunday until its end . The season hit a high with its twelfth episode , " Leonard Betts " , which was chosen as the lead @-@ out program following Super Bowl XXXI . The episode was viewed by 29

@.@ 1 million viewers , the series ' highest @-@ rated episode . The fifth season debuted with " Redux I " on November 2 , 1997 and was viewed by 27 @.@ 34 million people , making it the highest @-@ rated non @-@ special broadcast episode of the series . The season ranked as the eleventh @-@ most watched series during the 1997 ? 98 year , with an average of 19 @.@ 8 million viewers . It was the series ' highest @-@ rated season as well as Fox ' highest @-@ rated program during the 1997 ? 98 season .

The sixth season premiered with " The Beginning " , watched by 20 @.@ 24 million viewers . The show ended season six with lower numbers than the previous season , beginning a decline that would continue for the show 's final three years . The X @-@ Files was nevertheless Fox 's highest @-@ rated show that year . The seventh season , originally intended as the show 's last , ranked as the 29th most @-@ watched show for the 1999 ? 2000 year , with 14 @.@ 20 million viewers . This made it , at the time , the lowest @-@ rated year of the show since the third season . The first episode of season eight , " Within " , was viewed by 15 @.@ 87 million viewers . The episode marked an 11 % decrease from the seventh season opener , " The Sixth Extinction " . The first part of the ninth season opener , " Nothing Important Happened Today " , only attracted 10 @.@ 6 million viewers , the series ' lowest @-@ rated season premiere .

The original series finale , " The Truth " , attracted 13 @.@ 25 million viewers , the series ' lowest rated season finale . The ninth season was the 63rd most @-@ watched show for the 2001 ? 02 season , tying its season two rank . On May 19 , 2002 , the finale aired and the Fox network confirmed that The X @-@ Files was over . When talking about the beginning of the ninth season , Carter said " We lost our audience on the first episode . It 's like the audience had gone away and I didn 't know how to find them . I didn 't want to work to get them back because I believed what we are doing deserved to have them back . " While news outlets cited declining ratings because of lackluster stories and poor writing , The X @-@ Files production crew blamed September 11 terrorist attacks as the main factor . At the end of 2002 , The X @-@ Files had become the longest @-@ running consecutive science fiction series ever on U.S. broadcast television . This record was later surpassed by Stargate SG @-@ 1 in 2007 and Smallville in 2011 .

The debut episode of the 2016 revival , " My Struggle " , first aired on January 24 , 2016 and was watched by 16 @.@ 19 million viewers . In terms of viewers , this made it the highest @-@ rated episode of The X @-@ Files to air since the eighth season episode " This Is Not Happening " in 2001 , which was watched by 16 @.@ 9 million viewers . When DVR and streaming are taken into account , " My Struggle " was seen by 21 @.@ 4 million viewers , scoring a 7 @.@ 1 Nielsen rating . The season ended with " My Struggle II " , which was viewed by 7 @.@ 60 million viewers . In total , the season was viewed by an average of 13 @.@ 6 million viewers ; it ranked as the seventh most @-@ watched television series of the 2015 ? 16 year , making it the highest @-@ ranked season of The X @-@ Files to ever air .

= = = Foreign broadcast = = =

By the time TV Asahi started broadcasts , The X @-@ Files was already a solid performer at video stores in Japan with sales of over 300 @,@ 000 . When The X @-@ Files first hit Japan , it was the No. 1 rated show in its time slot and had an average rating of 14 @.@ 9 % for its first season . It was the first American @-@ produced series to succeed in Japan in almost a decade and the only U.S. program to have a regular primetime spot on a Japanese television network during its initial three @-@ year run .

= = = Films = = =

After several successful seasons , Carter wanted to tell the story of the series on a wider scale , which ultimately turned into a feature film . He later explained that the main problem was to create a story that would not require the viewer to be familiar with the broadcast series . The movie was filmed in the hiatus between the show 's fourth and fifth seasons and re @-@ shoots were conducted during the filming of the show 's fifth season . Due to the demands on the actors '

schedules , some episodes of the fifth season focused on just one of the two leads . In summer 1998 , the eponymous *The X-Files* , also known as *The X-Files : Fight the Future* was released . The crew intended the movie to be a continuation of the season five finale " The End " , but was also meant to stand on its own . The season six premiere , " The Beginning " , began where the film ended .

The film was written by Carter and Spotnitz and directed by series regular Rob Bowman . In addition to Mulder , Scully , Skinner and Cigarette Smoking Man , it featured guest appearances by Martin Landau , Armin Mueller-Stahl and Blythe Danner , who appeared only in the film . It also featured the last appearance of John Neville as the Well-Manicured Man . Jeffrey Spender , Diana Fowley , Alex Krycek and Gibson Praise ? characters who had been introduced in the fifth season finale ? do not appear in the film . Although the film had a strong domestic opening and received mostly positive reviews from critics , attendance dropped sharply after the first weekend . Although it failed to make a profit during its theatrical release ? due in part to its large promotional budget ? *The X-Files* film was more successful internationally . Eventually , the worldwide theatrical box office total reached \$ 189 million . The film 's production cost and ad budgets were each close to \$ 66 million . Unlike the series , Anderson and Duchovny received equal pay for the film .

In November 2001 , Carter decided to pursue a second film adaptation . Production was slated to begin after the ninth season , with a projected release in December 2003 . In April 2002 , Carter reiterated his desire and the studio 's desire to do a sequel film . He planned to write the script over the summer and begin production in spring or summer 2003 for a 2004 release . Carter described the film as independent of the series , saying " We 're looking at the movies as stand-alones . They 're not necessarily going to have to deal with the mythology . " Bowman , who had directed various episodes of *The X-Files* in the past as well as the 1998 film , expressed an interest in the sequel , but Carter took the job . Spotnitz co-authored the script with Carter . *The X-Files : I Want to Believe* became the second film based on the series , after 1998 's *The X-Files : Fight the Future* . Filming began in December 2007 in Vancouver and finished on March 11 , 2008 .

The film was released in the United States on July 25 , 2008 . In an interview with *Entertainment Weekly* , Carter said that if *I Want to Believe* proved successful , he would propose a third movie that would return to the television series ' mythology and focus on the alien invasion foretold within the series , due to occur in December 2012 . The film grossed \$ 4 million on its opening day in the United States . It opened fourth on the U.S. weekend box office chart , with a gross of \$ 10 . 2 million . By the end of its theatrical run , it had grossed \$ 20 . 982 . 478 domestically and an additional \$ 47 . 373 . 805 internationally , for a total worldwide gross of \$ 68 . 369 . 434 . Among 2008 domestic releases , it finished in 114th place . The film 's stars both claimed that the timing of the movie 's release , a week after the highly popular *Batman* film *The Dark Knight* , negatively affected its success . The film received mixed to negative reviews . Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 reviews from mainstream film critics , reported " mixed or average " reviews , with an average score of 47 based on 33 reviews . Rotten Tomatoes reported that 32 % of 160 listed film critics gave the film a positive review , with an average rating of 4 . 9 out of 10 . The website wrote of the critics ' consensus stating ; " The chemistry between leads David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson do live up to *The X-Files* ' televised legacy , but the roving plot and droning routines make it hard to identify just what we 're meant to believe in . "

== Revival ==

In several interviews around the release , Carter said that if the *X-Files : I Want to Believe* movie proved successful at the box office , a third installment would be made going back to the TV series ' mythology , focusing specifically on the alien invasion and colonization of Earth foretold in the ninth season finale , due to occur on December 22 , 2012 . In an October 2009 interview , David Duchovny likewise said he wanted to do a 2012 *X-Files* movie , but did not know if he would get the chance . Anderson stated in August 2012 that a third *X-Files* film is " looking pretty

good " . As of July 2013 , Fox had not approved the movie , although Carter , Spotnitz , Duchovny and Anderson expressed interest . At the New York Comic Con held October 10 ? 13 , 2013 , Duchovny and Anderson reaffirmed that they and Carter are interested in making a third film , with Anderson saying ? If it takes fan encouragement to get Fox interested in that , then I guess that ? s what it would be . ?

On January 17 , 2015 , Fox confirmed that they were looking at the possibility of bringing The X @-@ Files back , not as a movie , but as a limited run television season . Fox chairman Dana Walden told reporters that " conversations so far have only been logistical and are in very early stages " and that the series would only go forward if Carter , Anderson , and Duchovny were all on board , and that it was a matter of ensuring all of their timetables are open . On March 24 , 2015 , it was confirmed the series would return with series creator Chris Carter and lead actors David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson . It premiered on January 24 , 2016 .

= = = Home video release = = =

On September 24 , 1996 , the first " wave " set of The X @-@ Files VHS tapes were released . Wave sets were released covering the first through fourth seasons . Each " wave " was three VHS tapes , each containing two episodes , for a total of six episodes per wave and two waves per season . For example , the home video release of wave one drew from the first half of the first season : " Pilot " / " Deep Throat " , " Conduit " / " Ice " and " Fallen Angel " / " Eve " . Each wave was also available in a boxed set . Unlike later DVD season releases , the tapes did not include every episode from the seasons . Ultimately twelve episodes ? approximately half the total number aired ? were selected by Carter to represent each season , including nearly all " mythology arc " episodes and selected standalone episodes . Carter briefly introduced each episode with an explanation of why the episode was chosen and anecdotes from the set . These clips were later included on the full season DVDs . Wave eight , covering the last part of the fourth season , was the last to be released . No Carter interviews appeared on DVDs for later seasons . Many of the waves had collectible cards for each episode .

All nine seasons were released on DVD along with the two films . The entire series was re @-@ released on DVD in early 2006 , in a " slimmer " package . The first five slim case versions did not come with some bonus materials that were featured in the original fold @-@ out versions . However , seasons six , seven , eight and nine all contained the bonus materials found in the original versions . Episodic DVDs have also been released in Region 2 , such as " Deadalive " , " Existence " , " Nothing Important Happened Today " , " Providence " and " The Truth " . Various other episodes were released on DVD and VHS . In 2005 , four DVD sets were released containing the main story arc episodes of The X @-@ Files . The four being Volume 1 ? Abduction , Volume 2 ? Black Oil , Volume 3 ? Colonization and Volume 4 ? Super Soldiers . A boxed set containing all nine seasons and the first film was made available in 2007 , which contains all of the special features from the initial releases . The set also includes an additional disc of new bonus features and various collectibles , including a poster for the first film , a comic book , a set of collector cards and a guide to all 202 episodes across all nine seasons and the first film . Due to the fact that the set was released in 2007 , the second film , which was released in 2008 , is not included .

Release of The X @-@ Files ' seasons on Blu @-@ ray , restored in high @-@ definition , was rumored to begin in late 2013 . The German TV channel ProSieben Maxx began airing first season episodes reformatted in widescreen and in high @-@ definition on January 20 , 2014 . On April 23 , 2015 , Netflix began streaming episodes of The X @-@ Files in high definition , marking the first time that the series has been made available in the high resolution format in North America . In October 2015 , it was confirmed that the complete series would be reissued on Blu @-@ ray , and the full set was released on December 8 , 2015 .

= = Spin @-@ offs = =

== The Lone Gunmen ==

The Lone Gunmen is an American science fiction television series created by Carter and broadcast on Fox , and was crafted as a more humorous spin off of The X-Files . The series starred the eponymous Lone Gunmen , and was first broadcast in March 2001 , during The X-Files 's month long hiatus . Although the debut episode garnered 13 . 23 million viewers , its ratings began to steadily drop . The program was cancelled after thirteen episodes . The last episode was broadcast in June 2001 and ended on a cliffhanger which was partially resolved in a ninth season episode of The X-Files titled " Jump the Shark " .

== Comic books ==

The X-Files was converted into a comic book series published by Topps Comics during the show 's third and fourth seasons . The initial comic books were written solely by Stefan Petrucha . According to Petrucha , there were three types of stories : " those that dealt with the characters , those that dealt with the conspiracy , and the monster of the week sort of stuff " . Petrucha cited the latter as the easiest to write . Petrucha saw Scully as a " scientist [?] with real world faith " , and that the difference between [Mulder and Scully] is not that Mulder believes and Scully doesn 't ; it 's more a difference in procedure . " In this manner , Mulder 's viewpoint was often written to be just as valid as Scully 's , and Scully 's science was often portrayed to be just as convincing as Mulder 's more outlandish ideas . Petrucha was eventually fired and various other authors took up the job . Topps published 41 regular issues of The X-Files from 1995 ? 1998 .

A 30 Days of Night / The X-Files crossover graphic novel was published by WildStorm in 2010 . It follows Mulder and Scully to Alaska as they investigate a series of grisly murders that may be linked to vampires .

In 2013 , it was announced that The X-Files would return to comic book form with " Season 10 " , now published by IDW . The series , which follows Mulder and Scully after the events of The X-Files : I Want to Believe , was released in June 2013 . Joe Harris wrote the series , and Michael Walsh and Jordie Bellaire provided the artwork . It was later announced that Carter himself would be the executive producer for the series and would be " providing feedback to the creative team regarding scripts and outlines to keep the new stories in line with existing and on going canon . " The series restarted the series ' mythology , and the first arc of the story focused on " seek [ing] to bring the mythology of the Alien Conspiracy back up to date in a more paranoid , post terror , post wikileaks society . ? In addition , sequels to popular Monster of the Week episodes were made . The X-Files Season 10 concluded in July 2015 after 25 issues .

In August 2015 , The X-Files Season 11 comic book began , also published by IDW . The 8 issue series served as a continuation of the TV show . Chris Carter was the Executive Producer of the comic book series , while the issues were written by Joe Harris and illustrated by Matthew Dow Smith and Jordie Bellaire .

= Influence =

== Critical reception ==

== Overall ==

The X-Files received positive reviews from television critics , with many calling it one of the best series that aired on American television in the 1990s . Ian Burrell from the British newspaper The Independent called the show " one of the greatest cult shows in modern television " . Richard Corliss from Time magazine called the show the " cultural touchstone of " the 1990s . Hal Boedeker

from the Orlando Sentinel said in 1996 that the series had grown from a cult favorite to a television " classic " . The Evening Herald said the show had " overwhelming influence " on television , in front of such shows as The Simpsons . In 2012 , Entertainment Weekly listed the show at # 4 in the " 25 Best Cult TV Shows from the Past 25 Years " , describing it as " a paean to oddballs , sci @-@ fi fans , conspiracy theorists and Area 51 pilgrims everywhere . Ratings improved every year for the first five seasons , while Mulder and Scully 's believer @-@ versus @-@ skeptic dynamic created a TV template that 's still in heavy use today . "

In 2004 and 2007 , The X @-@ Files ranked # 2 on TV Guide 's " Top Cult Shows Ever " . In 2002 , the show ranked as the 37th best television show of all time . In 1997 , the episodes " Clyde Bruckman 's Final Repose " and " Small Potatoes " respectively ranked # 10 and # 72 on " TV Guide 's 100 Greatest Episodes of All Time " . In 2013 , TV Guide included it in its list of the " 60 Greatest Dramas of All Time " and ranked it at # 25 on their list of the " 60 Best Series of All Time " . In 2007 , Time included it on a list of the " 100 Best TV Shows of All Time " . In 2008 , Entertainment Weekly named it the fourth @-@ best piece of science fiction media , the fourth best TV show in the last 25 years and in 2009 , named it the fourth @-@ best piece of science fiction , in their list of the " 20 Greatest Sci @-@ Fi TV Shows " in history . Empire magazine ranked The X @-@ Files ninth best TV show in history , further claiming that the best episode was the third season entry " Jose Chung 's From Outer Space " . According to The Guardian , MediaDNA research discovered that The X @-@ Files was on top of the list of the most innovative TV brands . In 2009 , it was announced that the show 's catchphrase " The Truth Is Out There " was among Britain 's top 60 best @-@ known slogans and quotes .

The X @-@ Files was criticized for being unscientific and presenting paranormal and supernatural ideas (notably in the person of Fox Mulder) . For instance , in 1998 , Richard Dawkins wrote that " The X @-@ Files systematically purveys an anti @-@ rational view of the world which , by virtue of its recurrent persistence , is insidious . "

= = = = First seven seasons = = = =

The " pilot episode " was generally well received by fans and critics . Variety criticized the episode for " using reworked concepts " , but praised the production and noted its potential . Of the acting , Variety said " Duchovny 's delineation of a serious scientist with a sense of humor should win him partisans and Anderson 's wavering doubter connects well . They 're a solid team ... " Variety praised the writing and direction : " Mandel 's cool direction of Carter 's ingenious script and the artful presentation itself give TV sci @-@ fi a boost . " The magazine concluded , " Carter 's dialogue is fresh without being self @-@ conscious and the characters are involving . Series kicks off with drive and imagination , both innovative in recent TV . " Entertainment Weekly said that Scully " was set up as a scoffing skeptic " in the pilot but progressed toward belief throughout the season . After the airing of four episodes , the magazine called The X @-@ Files " the most paranoid , subversive show on TV " , noting the " marvelous tension between Anderson ? who is dubious about these events ? and Duchovny , who has the haunted , imploring look of a true believer " . Virgin Media said the most memorable " Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " was " Eugene Tooms " from " Squeeze " and " Tooms " .

The following four seasons received similar praise . During the show 's second season , Entertainment Weekly named The X @-@ Files the " Program of the Year " for 1994 , stating " no other show on television gives off the vibe that The X @-@ Files does " . The DVD Journal gave the second season four out of four stars , calling it a " memorable season " . The review highlighted " The Host " , " Duane Barry " and " Ascension " , the cliffhanger finale " Anasazi " , the " unforgettable " " Humbug " and meeting Mulder and Scully 's families in " Colony " and " One Breath " . IGN gave the season a rating of 9 out of 10 , with the reviewer noting it was an improvement upon the first as it had " started to explore a little " and the " evolution of the characters makes the product shine even though the plotlines have begun to seem familiar " . Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club called the third season The X @-@ Files " best season and maybe one of the greatest TV seasons of all time " , noting it was consistent and " [swung] from strength to strength " between mythology and

stand @-@ alone episodes . Michael Sauter of Entertainment Weekly gave the fifth season an " A ? " , writing that it " proves the show was ? even then ? still at its creative peak (if only for another year or so) and full of surprises " . He praised the new additions to the series ' mythology and concluded that " many stand @-@ alone episodes now look like classics " . Francis Dass , writing for the New Straits Times , noted that the season was " very interesting " and possessed " some [...] truly inspiring and hilarious " episodes .

After the 1998 film , the show began to receive increasingly critical reviews . Some longtime fans became alienated during the show 's sixth season , due to the different tone taken by most stand @-@ alone episodes after the move to Los Angeles . Rather than adhering to the " Monsters @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " style , they were often romantic or humorous or both , such as " Arcadia " or " Terms of Endearment " . Some fans felt there was no coherent plan to the main storyline and that Carter was " making it all up as he goes along " . As for the seventh season , The A.V. Club noted that while the first eight seasons of The X @-@ Files were " good @-@ to @-@ great " , the seventh season of the show was " flagging " and possessed " significant problems " . Despite this , the final two seasons that featured Duchovny included several episodes that were lauded by critics , including the sixth season entries " Triangle " and " The Unnatural " , as well as the seventh season installment " X @-@ Cops " .

= = = Seasons eight and nine = = =

The show 's eighth season received mixed to positive reviews from critics . The A.V. Club noted that the eighth season was " revitalized by the new ' search for Mulder ' story @-@ arc " . Amy H. Sturgis commended the eighth season , praising Anderson 's performance as Scully as " excellence " and positively wrote that Doggett was " non @-@ Mulderish " . Collin Polonowonski from DVD Times said that the season included " more hits than misses overall " but offered a negative word about the mythology episodes , claiming that they were the " weakest " episodes in the season . Jesse Hassenger from PopMatters , however , criticized the new season , claiming that Patrick was miscast and calling Duchovny 's appearances as Mulder shallow .

Season nine received mixed to negative reviews by critics and garnered negative reaction from many long @-@ time fans and viewers . Sabadino Parker from PopMatters , called the show " a pale reflection of the show it once was " . Elizabeth Weinbloom from The New York Times concluded , " shoddy writing notwithstanding , it was this halfhearted culmination of what was once a beautifully complicated friendship " , between Mulder and Scully that ended remaining interest in what was a " waning phenomenon " . Another The New York Times review stated , " The most imaginative show on television has finally reached the limits of its imagination . " The A.V. Club listed the ninth season and the 2008 film The X @-@ Files : I Want to Believe as the " bad apple " of The X @-@ Files franchise , describing the ninth season as " clumsy mish @-@ mash of stuff that had once worked and new serialized storylines about so @-@ called ' super soldiers ' " . Brian Linder from IGN , on the other hand , was more positive to the ninth season , saying that the series could still have aired if the writers created a new storyline for Patrick and Gish 's characters .

= = = Accolades = = =

The X @-@ Files received prestigious awards over its nine @-@ year run , totaling 62 Emmy nominations and 16 awards . Capping its successful first season , The X @-@ Files crew members James Castle , Bruce Bryant and Carol Johnsen won the Emmy Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Graphic Design and Title Sequences in 1994 . In 1995 , the show was nominated for seven Emmy Awards with one win . The following year , the show won five Emmys out of eight nominations , including Darin Morgan for Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series . In 1997 , The X @-@ Files won three awards out of twelve , including Gillian Anderson for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series . In 1998 , the show won one of fifteen . In 1999 , it won one out of eight , in the category for Outstanding Makeup for a Series . Season seven won three Emmys from six nominations . The following season would not be as successful , catching only two nominations and

winning again in the Makeup category for " Deadalive " . The ninth season received one nomination in Outstanding Music Composition for a Series (Dramatic Underscore) .

The show was nominated for 12 Golden Globe Awards overall , winning five . The first nomination came in 1994 , when the show won Best Series ? Drama . The following year , Anderson and Duchovny were nominated for Best Actor in a Leading Role and Best Actress in a Leading Role , respectively . In 1996 , the series won three awards ; Anderson and Duchovny for Best Actress and Actor and for Best Series ? Drama . In 1997 and 1998 , the show received the same three nominations . In 1997 , however , the series won Best Series ? Drama " . In 1998 the series won no award and received no nominations thereafter .

The show was nominated for 14 SAG Awards overall , winning twice . In 1996 and 1997 , Anderson won for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Drama Series . In 1996 , the show won a Peabody Award for being able " to convey ideas that are both entertaining and thought @-@ provoking " . The show has also been nominated for : two American Cinema Editors awards , three Directors Guild of America Awards , nine Television Critics Association Awards and two Writers Guild of American Awards . The X @-@ Files was also nominated for nine Satellite Awards , managing to win two of them ; and two Young Artist Awards , winning one .

= = = Fandom = = =

As The X @-@ Files saw its viewership expand from a " small , but devoted " group of fans to a worldwide mass cult audience , digital telecommunications were becoming mainstream . According to The New York Times , " this may have been the first show to find its audience growth tied to the growth of the Internet " . The X @-@ Files incorporated new technologies into storylines beginning in the early seasons : Mulder and Scully communicated on cellular phones , e @-@ mail contact with secret informants provided plot points in episodes such as " Colony " and " Anasazi " , while The Lone Gunmen were portrayed as Internet aficionados as early as 1994 . Many X @-@ Files fans also had online access . Fans of the show became commonly known as " X @-@ Philes " , a term coined from the Greek root " -phil- " meaning love or obsession . In addition to watching the show , X @-@ Philes reviewed episodes themselves on unofficial websites , formed communities with other fans through Usenet newsgroups and listservs , and wrote their own fan fiction .

The X @-@ Files also " caught on with viewers who wouldn 't ordinarily consider themselves sci @-@ fi fans " . While Carter argued that the show was plot @-@ driven , many fans saw it as character @-@ driven . Duchovny and Anderson were characterized as " Internet sex symbols " . As the show grew in popularity , subgroups of fans developed , such as " shippers " hoping for a romantic or sexual partnership between Mulder and Scully , or those who already perceived one between the lines . Other groups arose to pay tribute to the stars or their characters , while others joined the subculture of " slash " fiction . As of summer 1996 , a journalist wrote , " there are entire forums online devoted to the ' M / S ' [Mulder and Scully] relationship " . In addition to " MOTW " , Internet fans invented acronyms such as " UST " meaning " unresolved sexual tension " and " COTR " standing for " conversation on the rock " ? referencing a popular scene in the third season episode " Quagmire " ? to aid in their discussions of the agents ' relationship , which was itself identified as the " MSR " .

The producers did not endorse some fans ' readings , according to a study on the subject : " Not content to allow Shippers to perceive what they wish , Carter has consistently reassured NoRomos [those against the idea of a Mulder / Scully romance] that theirs is the preferred reading . This allows him the plausible deniability to credit the show 's success to his original plan even though many watched in anticipation of a romance , thanks , in part , to his strategic polysemy . He can deny that these fans had reason to do so , however , since he has repeatedly stated that a romance was not and would never be . " The Scully @-@ obsessed writer in Carter 's 1999 episode " Milagro " was read by some as his alter ego , realizing that by this point " she has fallen for Mulder despite his authorial intent " . The writers sometimes paid tribute to the more visible fans by naming minor characters after them . The best example is Leyla Harrison . Played by Jolie Jenkins and introduced in the eighth season episode " Alone " , Harrison , was created and named in memory of an Internet

fan and prolific writer of fan fiction of the same name , who died of cancer on February 10 , 2001 .

== Merchandise ==

The X @-@ Files spawned an industry of spin @-@ off products . In 2004 , U.S.-based Topps Comics and most recently , DC Comics imprint Wildstorm launched a new series of licensed tie @-@ in comics . During the series ' run , the Fox Broadcasting Company published the official The X @-@ Files Magazine . The X @-@ Files Collectible Card Game was released in 1996 and an expansion set was released in 1997 . The X @-@ Files has inspired three video games . In 1998 , The X @-@ Files Game was released for the PC and Macintosh and a year later for the PlayStation . This game is set within the timeline of the second or third season and follows an Agent Craig Willmore in his search for the missing Mulder and Scully . In 2000 , Fox Interactive released The X @-@ Files : Unrestricted Access , a game @-@ style database for Windows and Mac , which allowed users access to every case file . Then , in 2004 , The X @-@ Files : Resist or Serve was released . The game is a survival @-@ horror game released for the PlayStation 2 and is an original story set in the seventh season . It allows the player control of both Mulder and Scully . Both games feature acting and voice work from members of the series ' cast . A 6 @-@ player pinball game , called The X @-@ Files , was produced by Sega in 1997 .

== Legacy ==

The X @-@ Files directly inspired other TV series , including Strange World , The Burning Zone , Special Unit 2 , Mysterious Ways , Lost , Dark Skies , The Visitor , Fringe , Warehouse 13 , Supernatural , and Gravity Falls , with key aspects carried over to more standard crime dramas , such as Eleventh Hour and Bones . The influence can be seen on other levels : television series such as Lost developed their own complex mythologies . In terms of characterization , the role of Dana Scully was seen as innovative , changing " how women [on television] were not just perceived but behaved " and perhaps influencing the portrayal of other " strong women " investigators . Russell T Davies said The X @-@ Files had been an inspiration on his series Torchwood , describing it as " dark , wild and sexy ... The X @-@ Files meets This Life " . Other shows have been influenced by the tone and mood of The X @-@ Files . For example , Buffy the Vampire Slayer drew from the mood and coloring of The X @-@ Files , as well as from its occasional blend of horror and humor ; creator Joss Whedon described his show as a cross between The X @-@ Files and My So @-@ Called Life . It also inspired themes in video games Deus Ex and Perfect Dark .

The show 's popularity led it to become a major aspect of popular culture . The show is parodied in The Simpsons season eight episode " The Springfield Files " , which aired on January 12 , 1997 . In it , Mulder and Scully ? voiced by Duchovny and Anderson ? are sent to Springfield to investigate an alien sighting by Homer Simpson , but end up finding no evidence other than Homer 's word and depart . Cigarette Smoking Man appears in the background when Homer is interviewed and the show 's theme plays during one particular scene . Nathan Ditum from Total Film ranked Duchovny and Anderson 's performances as the fourth @-@ best guest appearances in The Simpsons history . In the Star Trek : Deep Space Nine episode " Trials and Tribble @-@ ations " , Benjamin Sisko is interviewed by Federation Department of Temporal Investigations agents Dulmer and Lucsly , anagrams of Mulder and Scully , respectively . The pair were later expanded upon in Christopher L. Bennett 's book Watching the Clock . The X @-@ Files has also been parodied or referenced in countless other shows , like : 3rd Rock from the Sun , Archer , American Horror Story , The Big Bang Theory , Bones , Breaking Bad , Californication , Castle , Family Guy , Hey Arnold ! , King of the Hill , South Park , and Two and a Half Men . Welsh music act Catatonia released the 1998 single " Mulder and Scully " , which became a hit in the United Kingdom . American singer and songwriter Bree Sharp wrote a song called " David Duchovny " about the actor in 1999 that heavily references the show and its characters . Although never a mainstream hit , the song became popular underground and gained a cult following . The series has also been referenced in : " The Bad Touch

" by the Bloodhound Gang , " A Change " by Sheryl Crow , " Year 2000 " by Xzibit , and " One Week " by Barenaked Ladies .

Carter , Duchovny and Anderson celebrated the 20th anniversary of the series at a July 18 , 2013 panel at the San Diego Comic @-@ Con hosted by TV Guide . During the discussion , Anderson discussed Scully 's influence on female fans , relating that a number of women have informed her that they entered into careers in physics because of the character . Anderson also indicated that she was not in favor of an X @-@ Files miniseries , and Duchovny ruled out working with her on an unrelated project , but both expressed willingness to do a third feature film . Carter was more reserved at the idea , stating , " You need a reason to get excited about going on and doing it again . " The series attained a degree of historical importance , as well . On July 16 , 2008 , Carter and Spotnitz donated several props from the series and new film to the Smithsonian 's National Museum of American History . Some of the items included the original pilot script and the " I Want to Believe " poster from Mulder 's office .