

= Worlds Apart (Fringe) =

" Worlds Apart " is the twentieth episode of the fourth season of the Fox science @-@ fiction drama television series Fringe , and the series ' 85th episode overall . It was co @-@ written by series story editor Matt Pitts and DC Comics ' Nicole Phillips based on a story by co @-@ producer Graham Roland . Charles Beeson served as director .

The series depicts members of a Federal Bureau of Investigation " Fringe Division " team based in Boston , Massachusetts as they investigate a series of unexplained , often ghastly occurrences , which are related to mysteries surrounding a parallel universe . In this episode , David Robert Jones (Jared Harris) employs former Cortexiphan subjects to create simultaneous earthquakes across the globe , leading Dr. Walter Bishop (John Noble) to hypothesize that the end of both the prime and parallel universes is imminent . The two worlds must decide whether to close the bridge that was repairing the parallel universe , or they may all face destruction .

" Worlds Apart " first aired on April 27 , 2012 in the United States . The episode featured the return of David Call and Pascale Hutton , two guest actors not seen since the second season finale . It aired in the wake of the official renewal of a fifth season for the series . An estimated 3 @.@ 1 million viewers watched the episode , a small increase from the previous episode . Critical reception was generally positive , as many highlighted the performances as well as the scene between the two Walters .

= = Plot = =

Several earthquakes strike simultaneously across the globe , at the same time and locations in both the prime and parallel universe . The combined Fringe teams agree that David Robert Jones is behind it , the quakes the result of stresses of bringing the two universes into synchronization so that he can collapse both of them . The teams also conclude that Jones has found a means , through the previous " experiment " in Westfield , Vermont (" Welcome to Westfield ") , to ride out the destruction of both universes . The idea of shutting down the bridge created by the Machine is brought up , believing that the bridge is enabling Jones ' plan . However , this is considered a last resort , as destroying the bridge will affect the healing of the singularities in the parallel universe .

When a second simultaneous set of earthquakes occur , the parallel universe 's version of Nick Lane (David Call) approaches Agent Lincoln Lee (Seth Gabel) of the prime universe , believing him to be the parallel universe 's version of Lee . Lee feigns familiarity , learning that Nick had visions of being at the epicenter of the quake before it began . When Lee reports this to Olivia Dunham (Anna Torv) in the prime universe , she suddenly recalls her Cortexiphan trials including fellow subject Nick Lane , and with the team 's help , identifies that other Cortexiphan subjects are the epicenter of these quakes , linking to their parallel universe versions to achieve synchronization .

Believing that by taking in one of the Cortexiphan subjects they can stop the effects of another quake , a willing Lane from the parallel universe travels to the prime and is hooked to Walter 's (John Noble) equipment . Olivia also hooks herself up , allowing her to communicate what she sees in Lane 's mind . When the prime version of Lane attempts to get into the right position , Olivia is able to identify his location , and he is captured in time . However , despite disrupting the process for Lane , earthquakes continue across the world . Walter estimates that the next set of quakes will cause both universes to collapse .

The captured Lane expresses his belief that Jones is helping the prime universe to defeat the parallel one . Olivia tries to convince him of Jones ' true intentions . Eventually , Lane agrees to show the Fringe team a location where he once met with Jones . The team raids the site but finds nothing ; meanwhile , Lane escapes custody using his abilities . With only hours left until the next set of quakes , as projected by a watch that Lane was wearing , plans are made to shut down the bridge before this time runs out .

Walter and Walternate (Noble) start the Machine equipment to overload , which will take several minutes , after which they can pull the power and deactivate the Machine . Lee states to Peter (

Joshua Jackson) that he will be staying in the parallel universe , where he feels at home , reflecting a previous conversation Peter had with Lee about staying with Olivia in the prime universe . Walter and Walternate have a heartfelt discussion over Peter , and Walter expresses concern that if the bridge disappears , so will Peter . The other Fringe members say their goodbyes to their counterparts . Eventually , the Machine is overloaded and deactivated , and the parallel universe aspects of the room disappear ; Walter is pleased to see Peter remains .

= = Production = =

Fringe story editor Matt Pitts and DC Comics ' Nicole Phillips co @-@ wrote the teleplay , based on a story by co @-@ producer Graham Roland . English director Charles Beeson , known for his work on the science fiction television series Supernatural and Terminator : The Sarah Connor Chronicles , directed " Worlds Apart " , his second episode of the season (the other being " Making Angels ") .

In an on @-@ set interview with The Huffington Post , actor John Noble explained that the episode 's primary storyline concerned the bridge between the two worlds . The third season finale , he explained , ended with the two universes healing themselves with the help of a " bridge " . He remarked , " What happens if that bridge now begins to be used as a conduit for evil ? That ? s the issue we ? re facing . What do you do ? What do you do with this wonderful discovery ? Do you keep it ? What do you lose if you lose it ? For example , if we didn ? t have that [link] , we ... wouldn ? t have all these wonderful characters that we ? ve grown to love . What would happen ? I think we have to face that issue . We have to face the issue of ' How long can you keep this alive , this link between interlacing the two universes ? ' "

Guest stars David Call and Pascale Hutton reprised their characters Nick Lane and Sally Clark , respectively . Both actors had last appeared in the second season finale " Over There " . Lead actress Anna Torv was pleased with their return , explaining , " A few faces from the past pop up , which is always fun . "

The reappearance of Nick Lane and his storyline helped resolve an earlier plot point from " Over There , " in which he was recognized by Fringe agent Lincoln Lee before dying . Noble noted that " Worlds Apart " and the rest of the fourth season brought back a number of characters from the series ' " rich history " , including Sally , Nick , and David Robert Jones . " This episode , " he commented , " is bringing those things back together for us as we face the decision of what to do . Do we keep the worlds together ? How do we keep them together without creating the monster that is happening ? How do we stop this monster from happening ? That ? s what this is all about . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Worlds Apart " was first broadcast on the day following the announcement of the renewal of Fringe for a final shortened fifth season . The episode saw a small increase in viewership from the previous week , with an estimated 3 @. @ 09 million viewers . In the adult demographic , the episode received a 1 @. @ 0 / 3 ratings share , which means that it was seen by 1 @. @ 0 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds with television sets , and 3 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of broadcast . Fringe finished in fourth place among both total viewers and adults , behind episodes of CSI : New York , Grimm , and Primetime : What Would You Do ? .

= = = Reviews = = =

" Worlds Apart " received generally positive reviews from television critics . Entertainment Weekly writer Jeff Jensen noted that with the closing of the bridge , " Fringe effectively pulled the plug on the creative idea that defined the best years of the show . [...] I don 't think we can understate the

passing of the parallel world premise . " While he said he would miss the lost characters , especially Fauxlivia , the series " got the emotions [of their departure] just right . " He added his hope that the characters would be revisited . In an interview , Pinckner said that they had spoken to Fox executives about closing off the bridge , to which one executive partner reportedly said , " I was so sad . I had tears in my eyes when we closed the door " . The executive added that despite having initially thought the idea of doppelganger characters as a poor one , she admitted that she " was so wrong " .

Jensen went on to praise Walter and Walternate 's conversation as " devastatingly perfect , " commenting " Just the very action of sitting , of Walternate choosing to literally to meet Walter at his lowest moment , was extraordinarily moving . " Dave Bradley of SFX magazine highlighted the episode 's acting as one particular positive element , praising Torv and Noble for " delivering perfect double performances . " Bradley also praised the scenes between the two Walters and two Astrids , writing that the " moments of connection make the decision to split the universes apart incredibly poignant . " Los Angeles Times writer Andrew Hanson also praised the Walter @-@ Walternate scenes , explaining that after their seated conversation " you almost forget the two characters are played by the same actor . If this isn ' t the year that John Noble gets recognition for his performances in Fringe , it will be a crime . "

The A.V. Club 's Noel Murray graded the episode with an A , describing " Worlds Apart " as an " exciting , emotional episode " that " seems to resolve some of this season ' s storylines while setting up the upcoming two @-@ part season finale . " His favorite part of the episode was when the two teams worked together ; he gave particular attention to the Walter @-@ Walternate talk , remarking , " The last scene between the two Walters is something that I ' ve been waiting to see for years now , and John Noble nails both sides of the conversation . It ' s now one of the whole series ' signature moments : Walter and Walternate , side @-@ by @-@ side . " Other critics also lauded the conversation between Walter and Walternate over Peter .

In a 2013 list , Den of Geek ranked " Worlds Apart " as the seventh best episode of the entire series , explaining that it " perhaps [is] a little rushed , but overall this is a satisfying conclusion to a number of major plot threads . Airing directly after " Letters of Transit " , the closing off of a number of dangling stories and characters in this episode allowed the remaining two episodes of season four and all of season five to deal with matters closer to home , and tie up the show ' s most important remaining mystery , the Observers . "