

= The British Invasion (Dexter) =

" The British Invasion " is the twelfth episode and finale of the second season , and twenty @-@ fourth overall episode , of the American television drama series Dexter , which first aired on 16 December 2007 on Showtime in the United States . The episode was written by Daniel Cerone (based on a story by Cerone and Melissa Rosenberg) and was directed by Steve Shill . In the episode , Lila Tournay (Jaime Murray) finds Sgt. James Doakes (Erik King) imprisoned in an Everglades cabin and learns from him that her object of affection , Dexter Morgan (Michael C. Hall) , is the serial killer known as the " Bay Harbor Butcher " . She decides to help Dexter and kills Doakes by setting the cabin on fire . Meanwhile , Dexter 's sister Debra (Jennifer Carpenter) questions whether her career is more important than her relationship with FBI Special Agent Frank Lundy (Keith Carradine) .

" The British Invasion " was filmed in early November 2007 . Doakes 's death , according to Dexter 's writers , was premeditated from the show 's pilot episode because the character was " too good to not kill " . The episode was seen by 1 @.@ 4 million viewers , according to Nielsen ratings , and received mixed reviews from critics . It was nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Cinematography for a One @-@ Hour Series and a Golden Reel Award for Best Sound Editing ? Sound Effects and Foley for Short Form Television . The episode was included in TV Guide 's 100 Greatest TV Episodes at no . 49 .

= = Title = =

The episode 's title refers to the influx of British rock ' n ' roll bands to the US in the 1960s .

= = Plot = =

Using Dexter Morgan 's (Michael C. Hall) satellite navigation system , Lila Tournay (Jaime Murray) arrives at the cabin in the Everglades . She breaks in to find an imprisoned Sgt. James Doakes (Erik King) , who tells her that Dexter is the Bay Harbor Butcher . She can only sympathize with Dexter , however , for having to hide such an enormous secret , and refuses to unlock Doakes 's cage . Convinced that Dexter is her soul mate , Lila tries to help him by blowing up the cabin with Doakes inside . Meanwhile , FBI Special Agent Frank Lundy 's (Keith Carradine) task force has determined Doakes 's location , and Dexter must race his colleagues to reach the cabin first . When he arrives at the cabin , he discovers that it has been destroyed in a fire and at first believes it to be a miracle . The next morning , the police find Doakes 's body in the water , while Dexter embraces his freedom . He visits his girlfriend Rita Bennett 's (Julie Benz) house , where they reconcile after having sex .

Lt. María LaGuerta (Lauren Vélez) , grieving the loss of her former partner , is in denial over Doakes 's incrimination and tries to collect donations for his memorial service . Debra Morgan (Jennifer Carpenter) remains determined not to let the end of the Bay Harbor Butcher case break up her relationship with Lundy , but their plans for a vacation are crushed when Lundy is called to Oregon to work on another murder case .

With all of the evidence of the Bay Harbor Butcher murders pointing to Doakes as the killer , the case is closed . Forensic investigator Vince Masuka (C. S. Lee) tells Dexter the gas in the cabin was turned on while the stove was lit , and when Dexter sees his own satellite navigation system while cataloging evidence , he realizes that Lila must have found the cabin . He meets with her at the aquarium and tells her that he , like her , has no emotion and lives a life devoid of feeling . They form plans to leave Miami together , though Dexter secretly intends to kill her . When he visits her apartment the next day , though , he finds Debra there , trying to persuade Lila to leave town . Dexter is forced to lie about running away with Lila in front of Debra , so a hurt Lila then leaves with what she recognizes as Dexter 's bag of murder equipment . She goes to Rita 's house and drugs the babysitter so that she can abduct the children , Astor and Cody (Christina Robinson and Preston Bailey) . When Dexter realizes that Astor and Cody are missing , he goes straight to Lila 's

apartment , where she lights another fire and locks the three of them inside . Rita calls Debra for her help , and Debra decides to skip her flight to Oregon with Lundy to help with finding the children . Dexter manages to free Astor and Cody through a small window and eventually rams down a thin wall allowing him to escape .

Sometime later , Dexter travels to Paris , where Lila has fled to , and kills her in her hotel room . Back in Miami , he attends Doakes ' memorial service with LaGuerta . Debra and Detective Angel Batista (David Zayas) are awarded for their work on the Bay Harbor Butcher case .

= = Production = =

Dexter staff writers Daniel Cerone and Melissa Rosenberg were initially planning to write the script of the finale together . They were in the process of developing the story , however , when Rosenberg was hired to write the film adaptation of the novel *Twilight* . She described Cerone as " incredibly understanding " when she asked him to write the teleplay himself , though they had both worked on the episode 's story .

The writers planned from the pilot episode to eventually kill Doakes off the show . Executive producer Clyde Phillips said that Doakes " always had a shelf life because of the collision course [with Dexter] " , while executive producer Sara Colleton believed it would be unrealistic to keep Doakes on for a third season without having him discover that Dexter is a murderer . Rosenberg said that risks had to be taken on the show , and Doakes was " too good to not kill " . The character was killed to prevent recycling of used ideas , so that the writers would " stay aggressive and on top of it rather than repeat ourselves " , according to Phillips . Erik King , who plays Doakes , mentioned the difficulty in killing Doakes off the show because Dexter could not murder an innocent man , and so Lila was Doakes ' killer .

Filming of " The British Invasion " concluded production on the second season , and ended in early November 2007 . Filming locations for the episode included Miami , Florida as well as Palos Verdes Estates (including Rolling Hills United Methodist Church) , Long Beach (including the Aquarium of the Pacific) , Marina del Rey , Rolling Hills Estates , and Los Angeles , California . A " skeleton crew " flew to France to film scenes of Lila walking the streets of Paris .

= = Reception = =

" The British Invasion " drew 1 @. @ 4 million viewers on its first broadcast , a 14 percent improvement from the first season finale , " Born Free " . It was Dexter 's most @- @ watched episode until the airing of the third season finale , " Do You Take Dexter Morgan ? " .

" The British Invasion " received positive to mixed reviews from critics . Eric Goldman of IGN felt that the episode was thrilling and intriguing , though ultimately " not quite terrific " and rated it 7 @. @ 8 / 10 . He found Doakes 's death dramatically unsatisfying since Dexter was absent , and was disappointed with Debra 's portrayal as " relentlessly needy " . The A.V. Club 's Scott Tobias gave the episode a B + grade , saying that the episode was " for the most part exciting and satisfying " . He felt cheated , however , that Dexter was not forced to decide whether to kill Doakes , and was disappointed that Lila 's character primarily served as a plot device . Writing for TV Guide , Paula Paige believed that the finale " did not disappoint " . She was particularly impressed by Debra 's choice to leave Lundy and LaGuerta 's grief over Doakes 's death . TV Squad 's Keith McDuffee thought that " The British Invasion " was unsurprising and predictable but enjoyable nonetheless . Zap2it reviewer Daniel Fienberg felt that the episode was disappointing in comparison to the first season finale , " Born Free " . He was displeased with the unheroic circumstances of Doakes 's death , the lack of direction in LaGuerta 's character arc and the abrupt end to Debra and Lundy 's relationship . DVD Verdict 's Adam Arseneau called the finale " preposterous " but still " one of the most entertaining cable show finales in recent memory " .

Cinematographer Romeo Tirone 's work on the episode was nominated for an Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Cinematography for a One Hour Series , and Dexter 's team of sound editors were nominated for a Golden Reel Award for " The British Invasion " in the category of Best Sound

Editing ? Sound Effects and Foley for Short Form Television . The episode was unsuccessfully submitted to the Primetime Emmy Awards judging panel for consideration for Outstanding Directing (Steve Shill) and Outstanding Supporting Actor (C. S. Lee) .