

= Os (Fringe) =

" Os " is the 16th episode of the third season of the American science fiction drama television series Fringe , and the 59th episode overall . The episode centered on the Fringe team 's investigation into a series of robberies of the element osmium , which they connect to a scientist (Alan Ruck) who is able to defy the laws of physics .

" Os " was written by Josh Singer and Graham Roland , while Brad Anderson served as director . Along with Ruck , the episode also guest starred Jorge Garcia in a brief cameo as a security guard .

On its first broadcast in the United States on March 11 , 2011 , an estimated 3 @. @ 76 million viewers tuned in , giving it a 1 @. @ 5 / 5 ratings share for those between the ages 18 ? 49 . Critical reception to the episode was generally positive , as multiple critics noted that Ruck was well @- @ cast as a scientist just trying to help his son .

= = Plot = =

The Fringe team is called to the scene of a robbery of a metal depository ; the body of one of the thieves , shot by a security guard , inexplicably floats off the ground , while a second culprit has gotten away . They find that the thief has taken off with a supply of osmium , one of the densest elements , and an autopsy later reveals that the dead thief 's body is filled with the metal . Tracking a security card on the body , they enter a warehouse where they find the second culprit , dead , along with the bodies of several more people , all of them paraplegic . Walter (John Noble) notes that the physical properties of osmium (both gravitational and thermal) have been reversed , and by melting the osmium collected from the first victim using liquid nitrogen , they detect the presence of the rarer element lutetium , typically only present in meteorites .

Recognizing that the local science museum has a display of meteorites , the Fringe team is able to secure Dr. Crick (Alan Ruck) , the man behind the osmium injections , and another paraplegic who has taken Dr. Crick 's injections as they attempt to steal the display . With Dr. Crick in custody , Walter learns that the man had worked in aerospace to find an alloy for fighter craft . He happened upon the combination of the osmium @- @ lutetium alloy that generated a material lighter than air , and sought to refine a permanent solution to give his own paraplegic son the ability to walk , having promised the same to those that had died from earlier , lethal doses of the alloy .

Walter , who has lamented to Nina Sharp (Blair Brown) his need to have William Bell (Leonard Nimoy) back to make himself whole , realizes that the only reason the osmium @- @ lutetium alloy became lighter than air was due to his own transgression into the parallel universe that has started to break down the laws of reality . To reverse those effects , Walter intends to use the idea of " soul magnets " , microscopic devices that can be ingested by a person to call forth the soul of another . Walter believes Bell had arranged for someone in the prime universe to be his vessel , and rings the bell that Bell had bequeathed to Nina , believing it to be the instrument that will activate the soul magnets and call forth Bell .

Simultaneously , Peter (Joshua Jackson) has decided to open up to Olivia (Anna Torv) and shows her the five data discs from the shapeshifters he killed after the doomsday device weaponized him . As he discusses it with her , Olivia hears the sound of the bell . She turns to face Peter , revealing herself to now be possessed by Bell .

= = Production = =

The episode was co @- @ written by co @- @ executive producer Josh Singer and executive story editor Graham Roland , while former Fringe producer Brad Anderson directed it .

The return of the William Bell character to the series was inspired by Leonard Nimoy from earlier seasons . In his first appearance on Fringe in the first season finale , " There 's More Than One of Everything " , Nimoy requested that a bell be placed on his desk so that his character would be able to ring it as a play on the character 's name . When the writers considered how to bring Bell back for the third season , they recalled this mannerism , and wrote it into the larger mythos , being the

means by which Bell 's mind emerged from Olivia 's at the end of this episode .

On March 3 , Entertainment Weekly reported that actor Jorge Garcia would be making a cameo appearance in an upcoming Fringe episode . Garcia , who previously starred as Hugo " Hurley " Reyes from J.J. Abrams ' Lost , appears as a Massive Dynamic guard that is smoking a bong with Walter at the start of the episode . Alan Ruck guests as Dr. Crick , the person behind the floating bodies . Ruck was approached by the show 's producers having envisioned him for the role . Ruck described the character , " He is no dummy ... and he stumbled on to something and he is trying to figure out a way to use it . Ultimately he would like to use it for good , but in so doing he causes a lot of damage . So I guess you can say he 's obsessed . And this particular point in time where the episode of Fringe starts , time is fleeting and he 's just ... under the gun . " On his character 's possible reappearance , Ruck commented , " I think not ... Technically yes [he could come back] , but probably not . "

As with other Fringe episodes , Fox released a science lesson plan in collaboration with Science Olympiad for grade school children , focusing on the science seen in " Os " , with the intention of having " students learn about meteorites and ways of finding them . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

On its first broadcast , " Os " maintained a 1 @. @ 5 / 5 rating share for adults between the ages of 18 and 49 as with several previous episodes , with an estimated 3 @. @ 76 million viewers . In the 18 ? 49 demographic , Fringe was the second most watched show in its time slot , after CSI : NY . Time shifted viewing increased the episode 's ratings among adults by 53 percent to a 2 @. @ 3 ratings share . This was the largest increase in time shifting viewing for the week among network shows .

= = = Reviews = = =

Reviews of the episode were generally positive . Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly praised guest actor Alan Ruck 's " sustained , understated " performance , and also called Olivia being revealed as Bell 's vessel " a clever development , " especially praising actress Anna Torv 's imitation of Nimoy 's voice rather than " doing the obvious thing and hav [ing] her lip @-@ synch Nimoy reading the lines . " A.V. Club 's Todd VanDerWerff graded the episode with a B- , explaining that unlike Tucker , he thought the idea of " soul magnets " was " just so goofy that it 's almost too much for me to handle " . VanDerWerff also felt there wasn 't much of a connection between the episode and the ongoing storyline " until the show tries to force one in a way that doesn 't feel as elegant as the show usually makes this stuff feel " . He did however praise Ruck as " well @-@ cast , " and wrote the episode " very nearly managed " to parallel Walter 's " desperate measures to the desperate measures of other men also trying to save themselves or their children through science , " which the reviewer considers the strongest asset of the show .

Writing for the Los Angeles Times , critic Andrew Hanson referred to audiences ' Friday night plans away from television when he commented the episode was " better than any movie you 're going to see in the theater right now " . Hanson thought the mystery produced " surprises around every corner " . IGN 's Ramsey Isler rated the episode 8 @. @ 0 / 10 , explaining he enjoyed the " classic Fringe " opening scene , the " decent [acting] job " by Ruck , and John Noble 's performance ; he also thought the script was " very clever [as] it reveals surprising story elements with innovative tricks " . Isler wasn 't sure what to make of the Bell @-@ Olivia plot twist however , commenting that " this new William Bell thing is either going to end up as the best plot device of the season , or the cheesiest thing in recent sci @-@ fi history " .

Billy Grifter from Den of Geek was slightly disappointed with the " mad scientist " storyline as he felt it had been done before , but found several redeeming qualities : Alan Ruck 's performance and the

last five minutes featuring Noble and Blair Brown , and Torv with Joshua Jackson . Grifter thought the Noble @-@ Brown scene was " actually very funny , " praising the two actors ' performances , and added that this humor made the following Torv @-@ Jackson scene 's impact " even greater " . Referring to Torv 's " passable " Nimoy impression , Grifter concluded that " the strength of Fringe is that it can take a rather light and fluffy premise , like the one in " Os " , and embellish it with wonderful character moments and a genuine surprise or two " .