

= Hollywood A.D. =

" Hollywood A.D. " is the nineteenth episode of the seventh season of the American science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . It premiered on the Fox network in the United States on April 30 , 2000 . The episode is a " Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " story , unconnected to the series ' wider mythology . " Hollywood A.D. " earned a Nielsen household rating of 7 @.@ 7 , being watched by 12 @.@ 88 million people in its initial broadcast . The episode was met with largely positive reviews , with many critics approving of the episode 's humorous nature .

The show centers on FBI special agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files . Mulder is a believer in the paranormal , while the skeptical Scully has been assigned to debunk his work . In this episode , Wayne Federman , an entrepreneurial Hollywood producer and college friend of Walter Skinner (Mitch Pileggi) picks up the idea for a film based on the X @-@ Files , however Mulder and Scully find that the level of realism in their fictional portrayal is somewhat questionable . Meanwhile , during the filming of the movie , Mulder and Scully research the mysterious " Lazarus Bowl " , an artifact that supposedly has the words Jesus Christ spoke when he raised Lazarus from the dead .

" Hollywood A.D. " was written and directed by series star David Duchovny , his second writing and directing credit after the sixth season episode " The Unnatural . " The episode ? written with a " self @-@ referential " tone ? features a myriad of guest stars , including , most notably , Garry Shandling and Téa Leoni , who portray Mulder and Scully , respectively , in the episode 's fictional movie . The episode itself contains several in @-@ jokes and references deliberately placed by Duchovny .

= = Plot = =

Walter Skinner 's old college friend , Hollywood producer Wayne Federman , is involved in a film project about the FBI . During Federman 's research phase , Skinner gives him access to Fox Mulder and Dana Scully , who are investigating the attempted murder of Cardinal O 'Fallon . Federman tags along and constantly interrupts the agents . While searching the catacombs of O 'Fallon 's church , Mulder finds the remains of Micah Hoffman , a missing 1960s counter @-@ culturalist . Searching Hoffman 's apartment , they find bombs and counterfeiting tools , as well as forged gospel of Mary Magdalene . Mulder and Federman return to the church and search the catacombs , finding several skeletons and pieces of the forged gospel . Federman wanders off and stumbles upon animated bones , who attempt to assemble a shattered piece of pottery . He panics and leaves the scene .

Mulder and Scully examine the pottery . Scully tells Mulder the story of " The Lazarus Bowl " , in which the aunt of Lazarus had been making a clay bowl when Jesus Christ resurrected him . The words of Christ were then recorded in the grooves of the bowl , much like a phonograph record . Mulder brings the relic to Chuck Burks , who , after performing a sonic analysis , discovers voices in Aramaic ; in one portion part of the audio , one man commands another to rise from the dead . The other contains lyrics from " I am the Walrus " by The Beatles .

Mulder visits O 'Fallon , who admits he bought the forged gospel from Hoffman , but believed it was real . Meanwhile , during Hoffman 's autopsy , Scully experiences a vision wherein he comes back to life on the operating table and begins talking . Later , at the church , Scully sees a vision of Hoffman in Jesus ' place on a large crucifix . Mulder arrests O 'Fallon for Hoffman 's murder , but Micah Hoffman walks in , unscathed . He tells the agent that while he initially created the forgeries to make money , he came to believe he was the reincarnation of Jesus Christ , and bombed the church to get rid of the " blasphemous " forgeries . Skinner suspends Scully and Mulder for four weeks because of the mix @-@ up . Sixteen months later , O 'Fallon kills Micah Hoffman in a murder @-@ suicide . As such , the X @-@ File is never truly solved .

During their suspension , Mulder and Scully venture to Hollywood to view the production of Federman 's film . It is revealed that Federman 's movie will be called The Lazarus Bowl , and Garry Shandling will play Mulder and Téa Leoni will play Scully . After filming is done , Mulder and Scully attend a screening of the film with Skinner , but are thoroughly disgusted at how their case , and

they , are portrayed on the big screen . Mulder and Scully leave the set holding hands , presumably on their way to dinner with the FBI credit card Skinner gave them after watching the movie , hinting at the continued romantic relationship between Mulder and Scully that has been suggested in the last few episodes . As the agents leave , the dead who were resting underneath the film set are revived and begin to dance passionately , reinforcing a theory Mulder made earlier in the episode .

= = Production = =

= = Writing and filming = = =

" Hollywood A.D. " was written and directed by series star David Duchovny . The episode was written after Duchovny received positive feedback on his last creation , season six 's " The Unnatural " . Duchovny originally approached executive producer Frank Spotnitz about the possibility of writing another episode . Spotnitz gave him the go @-@ ahead and was soon given a rough copy of the script . Series creator Chris Carter was very happy with the story , calling it " a smart , [...] , quirky , and intelligent idea " and he later described it as " outside the norm , even for The X @-@ Files . " Once the script was approved , Duchovny took on an active role in preparing for the episode .

There was a considerable amount of stunt work and choreographing done for " Hollywood A.D. " Two stunt doubles were hired for the scene where Shandling tackles Leoni and they tumble down a hill into an open casket . Some of the stunt men were even cast in non @-@ stunt related jobs . Several were " transformed " into zombies , a process which took five hours . The zombie dance sequence at the end of the episode took two days to film . The first day was shot during active production and the second was scheduled for the blue screen work that was required .

= = Casting = = =

Duchovny cast several of The X @-@ Files ' technical crew members in the episode . Tina M. Amedrui , the show 's actual craft services woman , portrayed Tina , the craft service woman for Wayne Federman 's movie . Bill Roe , the show 's photography director , was cast as the vegetarian zombie . Assistant director Barry K. Thomas was cast as one of the men on the movie set , Paul Rabwin was cast as a producer , and special effects coordinator Bill Millar was cast as the movie 's director . Duchovny also cast his brother , Daniel , as the assistant director . Several of the family members and friends cast by Duchovny were able to apply for their Screen Actor 's Guild card and were able to apply for a health insurance plan .

Téa Leoni , who portrayed a fictionalized version of herself portraying Scully in the production , was married to David Duchovny when this episode was filmed , a decision casting director Rick Millikan considered " clever . " Duchovny also cast his friend and fellow actor Garry Shandling as a fictionalized version of himself portraying Mulder . Shandling had originally been sought out to play the part of Morris Fletcher in the sixth season episode " Dreamland . " The joke about Garry Shandling having a crush on Mulder came from a recurring joke from the TV show The Larry Sanders Show , starring Shandling . In the recurring joke , David Duchovny has a homosexual interest in Shandling 's character .

The joke about Mulder wanting Richard Gere to appear in the movie stemmed from the fact that Duchovny 's acting was often compared to Gere 's . Duchovny decided to turn the idea into a joke , saying , " we used to always have the joke on set that when they do the movie it 's going to be Richard Gere and Jodie Foster [playing Mulder and Scully] . So I originally wrote the teaser for Richard Gere and Jodie Foster and I just started to think about it and you know , it 's so much funnier with Garry and Téa . " The episode featured several uncredited celebrity cameos . During the premiere of the movie , Duchovny 's Return to Me costars Minnie Driver and David Alan Grier appear as members of the audience . In addition , Chris Carter , the show 's creator , made a cameo during the theater scene . The appearance was his second in the series .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Hollywood A.D. " first aired in the United States on April 30 , 2000 . This episode earned a Nielsen rating of 7 @. @ 7 , with a 12 share , meaning that roughly 7 @. @ 7 percent of all television @- @ equipped households , and 12 percent of households watching television , were tuned in to the episode . It was viewed by 12 @. @ 88 million viewers . The episode aired in the United Kingdom and Ireland on Sky1 on May 7 , 2000 and received 0 @. @ 80 million viewers , making it the second most watched episode that week . Fox promoted the episode with the tagline " Garry Shandling as Agent Mulder ? Téa Leoni as Agent Scully ? "

Critical reception to " Hollywood A.D. " was mostly positive . The Montreal Gazette named the episode the sixth best stand @- @ alone X @- @ Files episode , writing that " Despite taxing our stomach for self @- @ reflexive comedy , this David Duchovny scripted and directed episode manages to deliver some of the greatest laughs of the series . " Rob Bricken from Topleless Robot named " Hollywood A.D. " the seventh funniest X @- @ Files episode . Jessica Morgan from Television Without Pity gave the episode a B , slightly criticizing the dancing zombies at the end of the episode . Sarah Kendzior from 11th Hour Magazine wrote that , " My favorite [episode] this year may well be ' Hollywood A.D. ' , an ambitious , often ingenious and occasionally flawed sophomore effort concerning the entertainment industry , religion , and pretty much everything in between . " Rich Rosell from DigitallyObsessed.com awarded the episode 5 out of 5 stars and wrote that " [the] scene from the ' movie ' where Shandling / Mulder faces off against The Cigarette Smoking Pontiff , and his army of sniper zombies , is classic stuff , and earns ' Hollywood A.D. ' high marks . " Kenneth Silber from Space.com , while criticizing the episode for reveling in parody , noted that the episode was entertaining , writing , " ' Hollywood A.D. ' is a parody and , as such , will be unsatisfying to the many X @- @ Files viewers , including this long @- @ suffering reviewer , who 'd like to see the series culminate in a dramatic , multi @- @ episode denouement of its ' mythology arc ' . Nonetheless , this episode has merit as a witty and imaginative parody . "

Tom Kessenich , in his book Examinations , gave the episode a relatively positive review . He wrote , " ' Hollywood A.D. ' was Duchovny 's nudge @- @ nudge , wink @- @ wink writing @- @ directing effort for this season . [...] Duchovny did not fail to deliver an episode that truly reflected his own wit and intelligence . All the while remaining true to the spirit of the show that made him famous . " Zack Handlen of The A.V. Club awarded the episode a " B + " , and wrote that it " is muddled and frequently so in love with just being weird for weird ? s sake that everybody forgets we need at least a little justification to pull everything together in the end . " He also called it " a hard episode not to love , frankly . " Handlen felt that the humor and sweetness helped to make the episode a success . He also wrote that Mulder and Scully 's dynamic worked towards the episode 's favor .

= = In popular culture = =

On the " Killer Cable Snaps " episode of the popular science television series MythBusters , which aired on October 11 , 2006 , the possibility that audio could be transcribed onto pottery was tested . Clips from " Hollywood A.D. " were shown during the segment .