

= Pilot (House) =

" Pilot " , also known as " Everybody Lies " , is the first episode of the U.S. television series House . The episode premiered on the Fox network on November 16 , 2004 . It introduces the character of Dr. Gregory House (played by Hugh Laurie) ? a maverick antisocial doctor ? and his team of diagnosticians at the fictional Princeton @-@ Plainsboro Teaching Hospital in New Jersey . The episode features House 's attempts to diagnose a kindergarten teacher after she collapses in class .

House was created by David Shore , who got the idea for the misanthropic title character from a doctor 's visit . Initially , producer Bryan Singer wanted an American to play House , but British actor Hugh Laurie 's audition convinced him that a foreign actor could play the role . Shore wrote House as a character with parallels to Sherlock Holmes ? both are drug users , blunt , and close to being friendless . The show 's producers wanted House handicapped in some way and gave the character a damaged leg arising from an improper diagnosis .

The episode received generally positive reviews ; the character of House was widely noted as a unique aspect of the episode and series , though some reviewers believed that such a cruel character would not be tolerated in real life . Other complaints with the episode included stereotyped supporting characters and an implausible premise . The initial broadcast of " Pilot " was watched by approximately seven million viewers , making it the 62nd @-@ most @-@ watched show of the week .

= = Plot = =

Shortly after the start of class , kindergarten teacher Rebecca Adler (Robin Tunney) becomes dysphasic , falls to the floor , and experiences seizures . Dr. James Wilson (Robert Sean Leonard) attempts to convince the curmudgeonly Gregory House to treat Adler , but House initially dismisses him , believing that the case would be boring . Hospital administrator Dr. Lisa Cuddy (Lisa Edelstein) approaches House in the elevator and attempts to persuade him to fulfill his duties at the hospital 's walk @-@ in clinic , a task House loathes because the cases are usually simplistic . House refuses , claiming that Cuddy cannot fire him due to tenure , and hurriedly leaves . When House 's team attempts to perform an MRI on Adler , they discover that House 's authorization for diagnostics has been revoked ; Cuddy restores his authorization in exchange for his working at the clinic .

Adler 's throat closes up during the MRI due to an allergic reaction to gadolinium , prompting two members of House 's team , Dr. Robert Chase (Jesse Spencer) and Dr. Allison Cameron (Jennifer Morrison) , to perform a tracheotomy . Working in the hospital 's clinic , House 's first patient is a man who is orange because of an over @-@ consumption of carrots and mega @-@ dose vitamins (niacin) . House also treats a ten @-@ year @-@ old boy whose mother allows him to use his asthmatic inhaler only intermittently instead of daily as prescribed . House criticises the mother for making such a drastic medical decision without first learning more about asthma . During his monologue , House stumbles on an idea and leaves quickly to treat Adler ; he diagnoses her with cerebral vasculitis , despite having no proof . House treats Adler with steroids , which improves her condition greatly for a time , until she starts seizing and has heart failure . The team brings her back with a defibrillator .

On House 's insistence , neurologist Dr. Eric Foreman (Omar Epps) and Cameron break into Adler 's house to find anything that might account for Adler 's symptoms . They find an opened package of non @-@ kosher ham in Adler 's kitchen . House concludes that Adler is suffering from cysticercosis due to eating undercooked pork ; when the tapeworm inside of her reproduced , its larvae were absorbed into her blood stream , infesting her brain . Adler , wishing to die with dignity , refuses to accept more treatments unless there is evidence that the diagnosis is correct , but House attempts to persuade her otherwise . During the conversation , Adler asks for the cause of the limp in House 's right leg . House reveals he had an infarction in his thigh muscles that led to muscle death , which could have been avoided if his doctor had made the correct diagnosis . House is ready to dismiss the case when Chase provides an idea for noninvasive evidence of Adler 's tapeworm infection ; by

taking an X @-@ ray of her leg , House proves that Adler is infested with tapeworms and her condition is treatable . After seeing the evidence , Adler agrees to take her medication to kill the tapeworms . A couple of days later , Adler is visited by all 16 of her kindergarten children and their other teacher , whom she welcomes with open arms .

= = Production = =

= = = Conception and filming = = =

Series creator David Shore traced the concept for House to his background as a patient at a teaching hospital . Shore recalled that " I knew , as soon as I left the room , they would be mocking me relentlessly [for my cluelessness ...] and I thought that it would be interesting to see a character who actually did that before they left the room . " In 2004 , Shore and executive producers Katie Jacobs and Paul Attanasio pitched House to Fox as a medical detective show ? a hospital whodunit where the doctors would be the sleuths looking for the source of symptoms . The ideas behind House 's character were added after Fox bought the show . Shore wrote the pilot with a vivid memory of a doctor 's visit : he once had to wait two weeks to get a doctor 's appointment for a sore hip , by which point his pain had disappeared . Nevertheless , Shore stated that the doctors were " incredibly polite " . Shore later stated that , as he wrote the pilot , he fell in love with a character who , as a doctor , would actually ask the question " Why am I wasting your time ? " .

A central part of the show 's premise was that the main character would be handicapped . The initial idea was for House to use a wheelchair , but Fox turned down this interpretation (for which the crew was later grateful) . The wheelchair idea turned into a scar on House 's face , which later turned into a bad leg necessitating use of a cane . The original script called for House to be 34 years old ; however , Shore later explained that he did not want the character to be that young .

The episode was written by the series creator David Shore , and was shot in Canada ; later episodes would be shot on soundstages in California . Shore said that the writings of Berton Roueché , a The New Yorker staff writer who chronicled intriguing medical cases , inspired the plots for " Pilot " and other early episodes .

= = = Casting = = =

Producer Bryan Singer originally demanded that an American actor play the role of House ; according to Singer , the more foreign actors he watched audition for the part , the more sure he was that an American was needed . At the time of casting , Hugh Laurie was filming the movie Flight of the Phoenix . He put together an audition tape in a Namibian hotel bathroom , the only place with enough light , and apologized for its appearance (which Singer compared to a " bin Laden video ") . Laurie improvised by using an umbrella for a cane . Singer was impressed by Laurie 's performance and commented on how well the " American actor " grasped the character , not realizing Laurie was British .

Laurie initially believed that House was merely the " sidekick " of Wilson , because the script referred to Wilson as a doctor with " boyish " looks . Laurie did not realize that House was the protagonist until he read the full teleplay . According to Shore , " it 's easy to make an asshole character unlikable . What 's tricky is to make them watchable . And Hugh came in and brought everything that was there to the part , the nastiness , the not politically correct stuff . And yet you wanted to watch him , you wanted to spend time with him . "

Similarities between House and the famous fictional detective Sherlock Holmes appear in the pilot ; Shore explained that he was always a fan of Holmes , and found the character 's traits of indifference to his clients unique . House and Holmes have only one real friend (Wilson and Watson , respectively) who connects the cerebral hero to human concerns . This Holmes and Watson dynamic was something the producers were looking for in the characters of House and Wilson , especially in terms of chemistry .

Robert Sean Leonard (Dr. James Wilson) read the pilot scripts to Numb3rs and was planning to audition for the part , but was drawn to auditioning for House because he enjoyed the role of being " the guy [the protagonist] counts on " , as well as the similarities to Sherlock Holmes . Leonard felt he did not audition well , and thought his long friendship with Singer helped land him the role . When asked in an interview why his character would ever be friends with House , Leonard replied :

I think Wilson puts up with House for the same reason that millions of people watch him every week . I think he ? s really dynamic and fun and audacious and self @-@ deprecating . All those things that I think make people really appealing , and he tells it like it is . The money things , he doesn ? t tend to pay you back , but I have a lot of friends like that . So I don ? t find it that much of a mystery . I think House is a very attractive character . I think most people would want to be friends with him .

Australian actor Jesse Spencer 's agent suggested that Spencer audition for the role of Chase , but he was hesitant , fearing the show might be similar to General Hospital . Once the actor saw the scripts , he changed his mind ; Spencer then persuaded the producers to change his character into an Australian . Omar Epps , who plays Foreman , found influence from his work as a troubled intern on the TV show ER . Epps and co @-@ star Jennifer Morrison read the scripts and believed that the show would be either a hit or miss .

= = Reception = =

House 's premiere episode was generally well received . Critics reacted positively to the character of House ; Tom Shales of The Washington Post called him " the most electrifying character to hit television in years " . The New York Magazine called the series " medical TV at its most satisfying and basic " , and stated that the cast consisted of " [professional] actors playing doctors who come to care about their patients " , while The Boston Globe 's Matthew Gilbert appreciated that the episode did not sugarcoat the flaws of the characters to assuage viewers ' fears about " HMO factories " . Alessandra Stanley of The New York Times said that though the characters might be a turn @-@ off to some viewers , the gore and " derivative gall " of the show were positives to fans of procedural dramas ; TV Guide 's Matt Roush stated House was an " uncommon cure for the common medical drama " . Critics of The A.V. Club called House the " nastiest " black comedy from Fox since the 1996 's short @-@ lived television series Profit . Critics considered the series to be a bright spot among Fox 's otherwise reality television @-@ based broadcast schedule .

The episode 's format was compared to a rival television series , Medical Investigation . USA Today favorably stated House as more character @-@ driven than Investigation 's " plot @-@ driven procedural " , and the San Francisco Chronicle felt that House was the better show due to the title character . Variety 's Brian Lowry , meanwhile , stated that the two shows were too similar and House was mismatched among Fox 's other programs . Other complaints included perceived stereotypes of young , attractive doctors . Sherwin Nuland of Slate gave the first episodes of the series a highly negative review , stating that " Of all the medical errata in this series (and there are some whoppers) , the greatest is surely the conceit that a physician so remote , so neglectful of duty , so sadistic , so downright cruel as Gregory House would be tolerated in any hospital . " Kay McFadden of The Seattle Times felt that Laurie 's portrayal of House humanized the character , but also revealed the show 's deepest flaw : " a reliance on shallow cuteness for comic relief " . Other complaints included a lack of characterization for the supporting characters in the first few episodes .

The premiere attracted approximately seven million viewers in the United States , making it the 62nd @-@ most @-@ watched show for the week of November 15 ? 21 , 2004 . The United Kingdom terrestrial premiere was broadcast on June 9 , 2005 , by Five and garnered a ten percent share (1 @.@ 8 million viewers) . Christopher Hoag , who composed the music for " Pilot " and the first season of House , was nominated in the 2005 Primetime Emmy Awards for Outstanding Music Composition for the episode . Shore received a Humanitas Prize nomination for writing the episode , but lost out to John Wells , who wrote the episode of the The West Wing entitled " NSF Thurmont " .