

= Neither Here nor There (Fringe) =

" Neither Here nor There " is the fourth season premiere of the Fox science fiction drama television series Fringe . The episode depicts the aftermath of the third season finale in which Peter Bishop disappears from his timeline . In the new , altered timeline , Olivia Dunham is joined by FBI agent Lincoln Lee after the latter 's partner is murdered . The two work to investigate his death , which revolves around shape @-@ shifting technology .

The episode was co @-@ written by J.H. Wyman , Jeff Pinkner , and Akiva Goldsman . Joe Chappelle directed the installment . Wyman and Pinkner approached it as a new pilot and used the character of Lee to help introduce viewers to the series . As a result of Lee 's inclusion , " Neither Here nor There " is the first episode to introduce his portrayer Seth Gabel , formerly a recurring actor , as a main cast member . Joe Flanigan guest @-@ starred as his partner , Robert Danzig . The episode is also the first to briefly feature recurring actress Michelle Krusiec as Nadine Park .

" Neither Here nor There " was originally broadcast on September 23 , 2011 on the Fox network to an estimated 3 @.@ 5 million viewers . It scored a 1 @.@ 5 / 5 ratings share among adults aged 18 to 49 . Critical reception towards the episode was mixed , with several praising its special effects and Anna Torv 's acting but criticizing elements of its story .

= = Plot = =

At the end of " The Day We Died " , Peter Bishop (Joshua Jackson) uses the Machine to create a " bridge " between the prime and parallel universe allowing the two sides to work together to resolve the instabilities in both universes ; but in doing so , Peter vanishes . Because of this , Observer September (Michael Cerveris) says Peter never existed . Despite this , the Observers are aware of changes in the original timeline , with echoes of Peter appearing . December (Eugene Lipinski) charges September with assuring that the last memories of Peter are wiped out . Both universes have created a secure airlock @-@ like system around the shared room housing the Machine within the bridge . At the start of the episode , the two Olivias (Anna Torv) , still somewhat distrusting of the other , help to share relevant Fringe files between the two universes .

FBI agent Lincoln Lee (Seth Gabel) and his partner of five years , Robert Danzig (Joe Flanigan) , are pursuing an arms dealer ; while Lee apprehends the man , his partner is killed by a second , mysterious man with translucent skin and seemingly superhuman abilities . The skin of Danzig 's body also becomes translucent after he dies . When forensics comes on the scene , Olivia and Astrid (Jasika Nicole) appear and take the agent 's body without revealing their intentions . Lincoln follows Olivia to the lab , where he is introduced to the Fringe division . Despite Olivia attempting to keep Lincoln away , he continues to follow the investigation as they discover another victim killed in a similar manner . From a witness , they learn about the appearance of the killer , but are unable to identify him by name .

Olivia agrees to bring Lincoln onto the case , and shows him that there have been roughly thirty victims in the last several days , who have had no obvious connection or signs of death , other than that their hearts stopped . Lincoln reveals that Danzig suffered from Crohn 's disease and was taking iron supplements , which leads Walter (John Noble) to realize that all of the victims were suffering from heavy metal poisoning , and that their killer extracted substances from their blood . Recognizing that several of the victims use commuter rail , Olivia initiates a manhunt at a nearby rail station . She and her team are then informed of the suspect 's location , and after a chase , in which one of the pursuing FBI agents is killed and another shot in the leg , Olivia is able to kill the suspect , who also had translucent skin and had been experimenting on himself . Lincoln kills a second man with the same condition . As the FBI cleans up the area , a woman (Michelle Krusiec) , also with translucent skin , watches from afar .

In examining the bodies , Walter discovers a bio @-@ mechanical module similar to those they had previously seen in the shapeshifters that Walternate used . Olivia and Lincoln take the module to the Machine room . As Lincoln is stunned by the technology , Olivia gives the module to Fauxlivia , who promises to take it to Walternate to investigate .

During the episode , Walter is shown to be agoraphobic and unwilling to leave his lab after Olivia arranged his release from a mental asylum . He becomes panicked when he briefly sees images of a man , Peter , in the lab ; Olivia attributes this to Walter lacking any foothold in reality . That evening , Walter is preparing for bed while September , outside , readies a device he has assembled to wipe out the remains of Peter 's existence . But at the last moment September disarms the device and walks away . Later Walter sees yet another image of Peter on his television and is terrified .

== Production ==

The episode was co -@-@ written by co -@-@ showrunners J.H. Wyman and Jeff Pinkner , and consulting producer Akiva Goldsman . Executive producer Joe Chappelle directed . Pinkner and Wyman approached the episode " like a new pilot " to draw in viewers who wanted to watch the show but did not know when to start . They used Lincoln Lee as a tool to acquaint viewers with the new changes . Former guest actor Seth Gabel , who played Lee , joined the cast as a series regular for the fourth season . He believed his character allowed the audience to see Fringe Division from a new perspective . He explained , " You need a layman 's perspective from time to time . The show has gotten so deep into this crazy , surreal scientific world that you need someone to enter every now and then to remind you this is not the common experience . You need someone to show you how far down the rabbit hole you ? ve gone , so you don 't become desensitized to it . I think Lincoln serves that for a while . "

The showrunners had the episode center around the idea that " Peter no longer exists " , and intended it to " set up the season arc from numerous characters ' perspectives " to show viewers what to expect from the season . When discussing the season 's arc , Fox and Warner Brothers wished to have Peter return as soon as possible , as they knew he was popular with fans . Pinkner and Wyman responded that to " really establish his absence [it] will take a little while " , but knew that a longer wait would lead to audience frustration .

The fourth season premiere was initially called " A Sort of Homecoming " , also the name of a song by rock band U2 . The episode 's opening credits featured a new amber -@-@ tinted sequence , which listed new fringe science terms like " Psychometry " , " Gravitons " , and " Existence " . Pinkner said the new color of the credits " clearly [indicates] a universe without Peter in it . " " Neither Here nor There " marked the first appearance of recurring guest actress Michelle Krusiec . Her casting was confirmed in July 2011 . The episode also featured a one -@-@ time guest appearance by actor Joe Flanigan , who played Lee 's partner Robert Danzig . Flanigan shot his scenes in July 2011 .

== Cultural references ==

The scene in the diner where the Observers discuss Peter 's existence featured " California Dreamin ' " by vocal group The Mamas & the Papas . Other songs featured in the episode included " Rockin ' Robin " by Bobby Day and " Cinderella in the Palace " by Sergei Prokofiev , the latter performed by the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine . Walter later quotes a line from the 1963 John le Carre novel *The Spy Who Came In From The Cold* .

== Reception ==

=== Ratings ===

" Neither Here nor There " originally broadcast in the United States on September 23 , 2011 to an estimated 3 @.@ 5 millions viewers . It scored a 1 @.@ 5 / 5 ratings share among viewers 18 ? 49 , meaning that it was seen by 1 @.@ 5 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 5 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of broadcast . This ratings share was up 25 percent from the third season finale but down 21 percent from the season 's premiere .

Despite its low ratings , the episode was the highest @-@ rated Friday premiere on Fox in six years . Among total viewers it came in fourth for the night but finished third among adults .

= = = Reviews = = =

Writing for The Onion 's A.V. Club , Noel Murray gave the episode a " B " , remarking that he " enjoyed the episode overall ? largely because it 's just such a treat to have be [sic] back in this world with these people ? I 'm not sure it was wholly successful in its attempt to play by the old rules . " He added that after the opening exchange between Olivia and Fauxlivia , the episode " settles into a fairly typical " Fringe formula involving a " villain of the week " and a freakish event . Andrew Hanson of the Los Angeles Times praised Anna Torv 's two performances and believed " the containment built around ' the Machine ' " may " have been my favorite part of the episode . "

Den of Geek selected the episode 's special effects as a positive element , but was more critical of the episode as a whole . " As Fringe goes , " the website explained , " this ended up a rather lightweight narrative , which was more about getting Lincoln established with Fringe , and providing a few new plotlines that the subsequent stories can expand on . " IGN 's Ramsey Isler was equally ambivalent , and gave the episode a score of 7 @.@ 5 out of 10 . He observed , " It isn 't a bad episode . It 's a good addition to the Fringe lore . It 's well @-@ written , has plenty of action , and the actors are great as usual . But it just doesn 't feel like a fulfilling continuation of last season 's cliffhanger , nor does it strike me as a fantastic new direction for the season . "

Richard Edwards of SFX gave the episode 4 out of 5 stars , writing that it " chooses to mostly ignore exploring the implications [of Peter 's disappearance] on the overall story arc in favour of a fairly run @-@ of @-@ the @-@ mill (by Fringe standards , at least) case of the week . Even the potentially scintillating scenes between the alternate incarnations of the characters fail to materialise , aside from a couple of stilted encounters between the two Olivias . " Edwards did however praise the premiere for its special effects , and for doing an effective job presenting the characteristics of a world without Peter , especially highlighting Lincoln 's newcomer role as a lens for the audience .