

= 6955 kHz =

" 6955 kHz " is the sixth episode of the third season of the American science fiction drama television series *Fringe* . It first aired on November 11 , 2010 in the United States . The third season spent much of its time alternating between the prime and parallel universes , and " 6955 kHz " was set in the former . The storyline followed the *Fringe* team 's investigation into a numbers station that mysteriously gave its listeners amnesia , a case that ultimately ties to a doomsday device .

The episode was written by story editors Robert Chiappetta and Glen Whitman , and was directed by Joe Chappelle . Its broadcast took place on the Fox network , and according to Nielsen Media Research , an estimated 4 @.@ 8 million viewers tuned in . Reviews of the episode ranged from positive to mixed , as some reviewers disagreed about the introduction of a " First People " mythology .

= = Plot = =

Fauxlivia , Olivia Dunham 's doppelgänger from the parallel universe , continues to pose as Olivia as part of the *Fringe* division . The *Fringe* team is brought in on a case where several people , part of an online group attempting to decode the information sent by a numbers station , have been stricken with amnesia . They discover the station broadcasting the signal , finding its workers killed and a strange box connected to the broadcast equipment . They identify fingerprints on the box of a Joseph Feller , but his current location is unknown . Walter attempts to decipher the workings of the box , while giving hope to some of the affected people that they will get their memories back in time .

Peter discovers that the rare book shopkeeper , Edward Markham ( Clark Middleton ) , was part of the online group but did not listen that night . Edward provides his theory of the numbers stations to Peter and Fauxlivia : that it is a signal left by the " First People " , an advanced civilization that existed before a mass extinction event . He provides them with a book about the First People . As they return the book to Walter , Peter notices numbers in the astrological charts in the book are the same as the broadcast numbers . They give the book to Astrid , a skilled decoder , along with copious volumes of data from biotechnology corporation Massive Dynamic about the numbers stations .

Later , the crash of a small commuter aircraft is attributed to a similar signal from a numbers station , and when *Fringe* division identifies the source , they find a second box . Taking the box to Walter , Peter identifies one of the electronic components as rare , and engages his contacts to find Feller 's address from its purchase . Fauxlivia feigns returning to headquarters to instead travel to Feller 's apartment , warning him that *Fringe* is onto him , but he insists on continuing his job . She throws him out the window as the *Fringe* team arrives , killing him and revealing him to be a shapeshifter . Fauxlivia claims she killed the man in self @-@ defense .

Meanwhile , Astrid has decoded the numbers as a series of geographical coordinates . The closest one is in Milton , Massachusetts , the site of where a mysterious box was found ( " The Box " ) . Teams are quickly sent to the other sites given across the globe , and they discover many more parts of what Walter and Peter believe to be the same doomsday machine that Walternate , Walter 's doppelgänger , has already constructed in the parallel universe , and which the First People book claims can destroy or create universes . Fauxlivia later communicates this finding to the parallel universe through the typewriter shop , and is ordered to initiate " phase two " .

The episode ends in the parallel universe where Olivia , having broken Walternate 's conditioning making her believe herself to be Fauxlivia , is told that no further tests are needed . A vision of Peter warns Olivia that her usefulness to Walternate has ended and her life is in danger .

= = Production = =

" 6955 kHz " was written by story editors Robert Chiappetta and Glen Whitman , while frequent *Fringe* collaborator Joe Chappelle served as the director . Leading up to the episode 's broadcast ,

actress Anna Torv revealed in an official Fox interview that " [ The next ] episode is all about these co @-@ ordinates that keep getting broadcast on the radio . This is all ... a ploy to get Walter and Peter working on Walternate 's machine . " Chappelle also added that Fauxlivia would be working " to protect Walternate 's plan ... These pirate broadcasts are created on the other side ... by Walternate , to help him in his plans with our universe . "

The episode featured performances by guest actors Kevin Weisman , Mark Acheson , Minh Ly , Paula Lindberg , Tyler McClendon , and Vincent Tong ; previous guest stars Ryan McDonald and Clark Middleton returned as scientist Brandon Fayette and rare bookseller Edward Markham , respectively .

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 " 6955 kHz " , with the intention of having " students learn about information encoding , which is [ the ] process of converting a piece of information into another form or representation . "

Torv later remarked in a DVD special featurette that " this episode is actually a nice one because I think she 's kind of starting to look at these people as more than just a project . I think she ? s starting to think about who they are "

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

On its first American broadcast on November 11 , 2010 , " 6955 kHz " was watched by an estimated 4 @.@ 8 million viewers , earning a 2 @.@ 9 / 5 rating for all households and 1 @.@ 7 / 5 for adults 18 to 49 . Fringe and its lead @-@ in show Bones helped Fox place third for the night in a tie with NBC . Time shifted viewing increased the episode 's ratings by 53 percent among adults , resulting in a rise from 1 @.@ 7 to 2 @.@ 6 . This number tied with the NBC series The Event as the largest increase of the week in time @-@ shifting viewers .

= = = Reviews = = =

The episode received positive to mixed reviews . Writing for Entertainment Weekly , critic Ken Tucker noted and appreciated that " many key details were provided by characters who don ? t often serve that function " , such as with Broyles and the numbers stations . He called it " a terrific , almost Astrid @-@ centric episode . " Los Angeles Times writer Andrew Hanson enjoyed the episode 's many puzzles and expressed appreciation for the " First People " revelation as well as Walternate 's " long con " concerning the doomsday device . Hanson was skeptical that Peter had not yet figured out Fauxlivia 's true identity , but praised Anna Torv 's performance ( " Anyone who doubted [ her ] acting chops in the first couple of seasons should be eating their words " ) .

Like Andrew Hanson , A.V. Club 's Noel Murray called the introduction of the First People " a masterstroke on the part of the Fringe writers " . Murray graded the episode with a B + , explaining it " was a strange Fringe for me . The dialogue was often painfully expository , with liberal doses of ADR to make sure that we viewers didn ? t miss any of the massive amounts of significant information we need to understand as the story moves forward ... And yet the episode was also funky and philosophical in the way I like my Fringe to be , using the plot and even the setting to put across more than just pieces of the series ? mythology . "

Fearnet critic Alyse Wax wrote " This episode made my brain hurt . And I mean that in the nicest way possible . They were throwing a lot of weird shit at us . It was great because I feel like we are finally getting answers , like we will finally get some closure , and just maybe get rid of the Red universe stiffs . This episode was so ridiculously dense I am sure I missed some of the deeper scientific facts . I got the gist of it , though , and frankly , I much prefer these jam @-@ packed episodes . I like when the puzzle pieces start falling into place . It 's calming . " SFScope 's Sarah Stegall believed the episode " start [ ed ] out interestingly enough " , but unlike other reviewers , she

was very critical of the First People mythology , stating " This is where my disbelief not only stopped being suspended , it got up and walked out of the room ... I still don 't like the premise of the evolution of an entire hominid species that left not one single solitary fossil behind . It 's more like fantasy than science fiction . " Stegall praised Torv 's acting as she plays " two people very subtly , very convincingly " , and concluded her review by commenting she will continue to watch the series because she trusts the writers will " supply us with plausible answers from time to time " , but is " losing some respect for it " .