

= Walkabout (Lost) =

" Walkabout " is the fourth episode of the first season of Lost . The episode was directed by Jack Bender and written by David Fury . It first aired on October 13 , 2004 , on ABC .

The episode centers on the character of John Locke (Terry O 'Quinn) , who in flashbacks is revealed , in one of the first plot twists of the show , to be paralyzed from the waist down as he attempts to join a walkabout tour . On the present day events , Locke leads a hunting mission after the wild boar in the jungle as the food supplies of the Oceanic 815 survivors starts to shorten , while other survivors decide to burn the plane 's fuselage .

John Locke 's backstory was conceived during the writing of the previous episode , " Tabula Rasa " , and director Jack Bender decided to shoot the flashbacks in a way it enhanced the contrast between Locke 's life before and after the crash . Problems involving the usage of real boar caused the producers to use computer @-@ generated replacements and shots that suggested the animals ' presence . " Walkabout " was watched by 18 @.@ 16 million people and was reviewed positively , later being considered one of the show 's best episodes .

= = Plot = =

= = = Flashbacks = = =

John Locke (Terry O 'Quinn) is shown working in an office building for a box company . He has a cruel manager named Randy Nations (Billy Ray Gallion) who is constantly taunting and demeaning Locke . At one point Locke tells Randy off and feels great about it . He tells a woman named Helen on the phone about it , but it is revealed that she charges by the hour to talk with Locke , and that they have been conversing for eight months . Locke reveals to Helen that he is going on a walkabout and would like for Helen to go with him ; she tells him that she can 't meet customers in person and that his paid hour on the phone with her is up .

In a later flashback , Locke is in Australia talking to one of the leaders of a walkabout . He refuses to let Locke come on the walkabout because of his condition , saying it is too big of a risk for the insurance company . As the man gets up to leave for the trip , Locke is shown to be using a wheelchair .

Towards the end of the episode , a unique type of flashback is shown : one on the island . In the aftermath of Oceanic Flight 815 crash 's , Locke wakes up on the beach , and notices that his toes wiggle , making him realize that he is no longer paralyzed . He stands up and is called over by Jack Shephard (Matthew Fox) to help with an injured person .

= = = On the Island = = =

It has been 4 days since the crash , September 25 , 2004 . Locke awakens from Oceanic Flight 815 's crash and wiggles his toes , realizing that he is no longer paralyzed . Boars raid the body @-@ filled fuselage , causing Jack to decide it should be burned . The next day , the survivors discover that their food is exhausted , and wonder what to do . Locke reveals to hold many hunting knives , and suggests to go after the boar in the jungle . On his hunting mission , Locke is accompanied by Kate Austen (Evangeline Lilly) ? who was given by Sayid Jarrah (Naveen Andrews) an antenna , which after being set will help triangulate the signal of the French transmission heard two days before ? and Michael Dawson (Harold Perrineau) .

While hunting the boar , Michael is wounded by one of the animals . Kate starts leading Michael back to the beach , while Locke goes on his own into the jungle . As Kate and Michael head back , she climbs up a tree to attach the antenna . However , before she can finish , she hears the sounds of the monster , causing her to drop and break the equipment . The Monster heads straight for Locke , who stares straight at it .

Throughout the episode , Jack has been talking to Rose Nadler (L. Scott Caldwell) . Rose 's

husband , Bernard Nadler (Sam Anderson) , was in the tail section of the plane in the bathroom . He , along with the rest of the tail section 's passengers , is believed by the survivors to be dead , but Rose is convinced that he is alive and that the tail section of the plane thinks that the middle section is dead .

Michael and Kate return to camp , and when she goes to tell Jack about Locke , Jack sees a man in a suit walk into the jungle . Jack chases after him and Kate follows , but instead of the mysterious figure , they find Locke , who brings with him a dead boar . That night , the fuselage is burned while Claire Littleton (Emilie de Ravin) holds a memorial service for the dead passengers using information she found in their passports , wallets , and luggage . Michael thanks Locke for hunting the boar and then asks Locke about the Monster , but Locke says that he did not see anything . Looking towards the fire , Locke sees his wheelchair against the flame and smiles .

= = Production = =

While writing " Tabula Rasa " , Damon Lindelof suggested that John Locke was in a wheelchair before going to the island , and while the rest of the writing team initially reacted with shock , they embraced the idea . Lindelof wanted to embrace how " what you think these people are is actually entirely different " , particularly since " Tabula Rasa " did not have many developments on Kate 's backstory or why she was a fugitive , " the Locke thing was a huge , big , reveal " . To enhance the plot twist , all the flashbacks were shot in a way that disguised the presence of a wheelchair . In the scene where Locke is sitting in his bed , the paralysis is alluded by the electromedical nerve stimulation machine on his nightstand . Lindelof also created a title for the episode , " Lord of the Flies " , a pun on Lord of the Flies and Locke 's off @-@ island occupation , but the writers had already settled on " Walkabout " .

To enhance the contrast between Locke 's pre and post @-@ crash life , director Jack Bender decided to put very little green and blue imagery in the flashbacks since the two colors are the most present in the island ? being the jungle and the sea , respectively . The flashbacks were also shot with fixed cameras and wider lenses , " Godfather @-@ style " , to display the bleakness and sterility of Locke 's world , and objects such as vending machines were put to remind of the " things taken for granted " that the castaways lack on the island . The flashback scenes featuring the day of the crash (see above ' Flashbacks ' section above) were shot in a way that looked similar to the ones from the pilot episode , with the only shot from the pilot being the one where Jack requests Locke 's assistance .

The scenes featuring boar were originally planned to use actual , domesticated animals . Since bringing domesticated boar from continental United States was expensive , and the animals available in Hawaii did not look like wild boar and rarely moved (the script required them to run in most scenes) , the producers decided to use computer @-@ generated boar instead , along with reaction shots from the actors and first @-@ person sequences from the animals ' point of view . Instead of having a stunt double for Kate climbing the tree to place the antenna , Evangeline Lilly climbed the tree herself . The Australian office that hosts the travel agency was filmed in an empty retail space in downtown Honolulu .

The episode is the first to feature Christian Shephard , but he is not portrayed by John Terry , who had not been cast yet . Late into writing , the producers decided to start setting up Sayid 's backstory by introducing the pictures of Nadia . The scenes where Sayid looks at the photos were reshot when production of " Solitary " began and Andrea Gabriel was selected for the role , as the original pictures depicted a different actress .

= = Themes and analysis = =

Robert Dougherty writes that the episode possesses similar themes to " Tabula Rasa " ? " Walkabout " is about " being able to overcome the past and start over . " It presents the dichotomy seen in much of the series ; while Jack is a man of science , Locke is a man of faith . Lindelof discussed that since Locke 's healing was interpreted by the character as a religious experience , "

this character had been presented as this very sort of mystical figure moving forward " .

= = Reception = =

" Walkabout " received a 6 @. @ 5 in the ages 18 ? 49 demographic in the Nielsen ratings . The episode was watched by 18 @. @ 16 million viewers , an improvement of 1 @. @ 6 million over the previous episode , " Tabula Rasa " .

Reviews for the episode were positive . Chris Carabott of IGN gave " Walkabout " a 9 @. @ 5 / 10 , stating that " Terry O 'Quinn puts in an exceptional performance " , and commenting that showing Locke , who " seemed like a confident and resourceful man with a mysterious and intriguing past " , to be a " shell of a human being that is trying desperately to find his place in the world " was " a perfect juxtaposition of the differences between Locke off and on the island " . He also praised the supporting stories , claiming that " Matthew Fox does a great job of playing the uneasy leader " as Jack Shephard and that the Shannon @- @ Charlie storyline " does supply a little comic relief " . Ryan McGee of Zap2it described the revelation that Locke was a paraplegic as being " one of the show 's signature moments " , and commented that the episode " cemented the show as ' Must @- @ See TV ' " and was " a five @- @ star effort . "

Robin Pierson of The TV Critic gave the episode a rating of 86 / 100 , saying that " Walkabout " is an episode " which seems to confirm all the promise of Lost ? s pilot episodes " , and that the episode " both enhances and completely changes how we perceive both Locke and Lost . " Dan Kawa of Television Without Pity rated the episode as a ' B ' . Todd VanDerWerff of the Los Angeles Times said that ' Walkabout ' is one of the most confident episodes a series has ever unveiled that early in its run " and that the episode " cemented more ' Lost ' fans than just me , maybe more than any other episode . "

David Fury was nominated for an Emmy Award for " Outstanding Writing in a Drama Series " for writing this episode . O 'Quinn submitted his work in " Walkabout " and " The Moth " for the Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series .

= = Significance and legacy = =

" Walkabout " comprises a significant chapter in Lost 's history , persuading viewers of the series ' ability to exist in the long term . Viewers learned that the series would be full of surprises and mysteries , and Lindelof even considered it " a litmus test " for viewers , particularly regarding how after a twist like Locke 's past , " the show isn 't going to openly state what the implications of that are . " Entertainment Weekly considered " Walkabout " to be the best episode of Season 1 . IGN ranked " Walkabout " as the fifth best Lost episode ever , behind " The Life and Death of Jeremy Bentham " , the Pilot , " Through the Looking Glass " and " The Constant " . The episode was also featured in similar lists by the Los Angeles Times , TV Guide , National Post , and ABC2 . Jason Snell of The Incomparable thought similarly , saying " Skippable ? Are you kidding ? If you could watch only one first @- @ season episode of ? Lost , ? this might be it . "

The episode also shaped how O 'Quinn viewed his character , as he was unaware that Locke would be paralyzed until reading the script . To the actor , " Walkabout and the fifth season episode " The Life and Death of Jeremy Bentham " are the two installments which " sort of (summarize) [Locke 's] whole trip . "