

= Episode 7 ( Twin Peaks ) =

" Episode 7 " , also known as " The Last Evening " , is the eighth and final episode of the first season of the American mystery television series Twin Peaks . Series co @-@ creator Mark Frost wrote and directed the episode . It features series regulars Kyle MacLachlan , Piper Laurie and Eric Da Re , with guest appearances by Chris Mulkey and Walter Olkewicz .

Federal Bureau of Investigation ( FBI ) agent Dale Cooper ( MacLachlan ) pays the price for his investigation of a murder in the small mountain town of Twin Peaks , while the local sawmill is burnt in an arson scheme .

Like much of the series , " Episode 7 " features unusual set and costume design , including the hallmark use of a strong red palette . Production designer Richard Hoover has explained that the sound stages were constructed with ceilings and functional hallways ? an unusual practice for television production ? allowing actors to be filmed entering a scene without cuts . First airing on May 23 , 1990 , " Episode 7 " was viewed by approximately 22 percent of the available audience ; it received positive reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

= = = Background = = =

The small town of Twin Peaks , Washington , has been shocked by the murder of schoolgirl Laura Palmer ( Sheryl Lee ) and the attempted murder of her friend Ronette Pulaski ( Phoebe Augustine ) . FBI special agent Dale Cooper ( Kyle MacLachlan ) has come to the town to investigate ; the violent , drug @-@ dealing truck driver Leo Johnson ( Eric Da Re ) is the chief suspect . Meanwhile , local businessman Benjamin Horne ( Richard Beymer ) has been scheming with his lover , Catherine Martell ( Piper Laurie ) , to burn down the town 's sawmill to buy its land cheaply . However , Horne also conspires with the mill 's owner , Josie Packard ( Joan Chen ) , to burn the mill and kill Martell to collect their insurance policies .

= = = Events = = =

James Hurley ( James Marshall ) and Donna Hayward ( Lara Flynn Boyle ) sneak into the office of psychiatrist Laurence Jacoby ( Russ Tamblyn ) , hoping to find out more about Laura , whom he had been treating . They find a cassette tape she sent him . Meanwhile , Jacoby is distracted by an offer to meet Laura 's cousin , Madeline Ferguson ( Lee ) , who has disguised herself as the dead girl ; before they can meet , however , he is attacked by a masked man and left unconscious .

Cooper and Ed Hurley ( Everett McGill ) are undercover in One Eyed Jacks , a Canadian brothel and casino . Cooper speaks to drug smuggler Jacques Renault ( Walter Olkewicz ) , whom he believes is connected to Laura 's death . Posing as a drug financier , Cooper persuades Renault to meet him in the US ; Cooper learns that Renault and Johnson were with Pulaski and Laura on the night she died . Later that night , when Renault arrives to meet Cooper , he is arrested for Laura 's murder . Renault resists and is shot ; he is taken to a hospital where he accuses Johnson of attacking him the night of the murder , claiming to have been unconscious while the killing occurred . Laura 's father , Leland ( Ray Wise ) , learns of the arrest ; he travels to the hospital and fatally smothers Renault .

Johnson 's wife , Shelley ( Mädchen Amick ) , is at home when he returns and assaults her . He drives her to the sawmill , ties her up , and rigs a timed device that will set the building on fire . Meanwhile , Packard meets with recently paroled Hank Jennings ( Chris Mulkey ) to give him US \$ 90 @,@ 000 ; it is revealed Packard paid Jennings to serve eighteen months in prison . This ensured that neither of them would be implicated in the death of Packard 's husband , from whom she inherited the mill . Jennings later calls Martell to lure her to the mill . As Martell arrives , the device explodes , engulfing the building in flames . At the same time , Johnson attempts to kill

Shelley 's lover , Bobby Briggs ( Dana Ashbrook ) , but is shot by Jennings .

Cooper returns to his hotel room and orders room service . Before he can read a note that was left earlier by Audrey , Deputy Brennan calls him to inform him that Johnson has been shot . However , a knock on the door draws him away from the phone . When he opens the door , an unseen figure shoots him three times .

= = Production = =

" Episode 7 " was written and directed by Mark Frost , who created Twin Peaks along with David Lynch . Frost had previously penned " Pilot " , " Episode 1 " and " Episode 2 " with Lynch ; " Episode 5 " was his first solo writing credit . Frost would pen a further six episodes during the second season . This was Frost 's first and only time directing an episode of the series .

Production designer Richard Hoover notes that he saw " Pilot " at the Telluride Film Festival before becoming involved with the series ; during that screening , he noticed Mark Frost 's name in the credits and remembered working with his father Warren Frost . After learning that the production designer for " Pilot " was no longer available to work , Hoover contacted the younger Frost and enquired about working on the series ; Hoover was hired almost immediately . Hoover has pointed out the unusual nature of the series ' set designs ; most of the sets feature ceilings and hallways that lead into them ? this allows characters to be filmed entering a sound stage set without the use of cuts .

Hoover felt that the series ' use of a consistent palette of reds and earth tones allowed the introduction of strong black elements into set and costume design ; he cited elements of Blackie O 'Reilly 's office in One Eyed Jacks as an example : its vibrant red curtains and ruddy wood tones were offset by her stark black outfit and dark hair . The hues in the footage filmed for the series were " sweetened " in post @-@ production , increasing the saturation of the red tones ; this also caused black elements to seem deeper and more striking . This effect was offset by the clothing of several of the law enforcement characters , which had cooler tones and contrasted against the warm palette .

The power plant used for exterior shots in Jacques Renault 's arrest scene was in Burbank , California . The location was chosen because of its large and unusually @-@ shaped buildings ; these were lit from behind to enhance their shapes in silhouette . The Hayward house was designed to seem uncharacteristically " normal " ; it featured an increased amount of yellows and greys to offset the red tones , and it made use of several household rooms to enhance its appearance of verisimilitude . The location used for the scenes of the Packard sawmill was in Valencia , Santa Clarita ; this was chosen because it was far from the tree line and thus there was no risk of a forest fire occurring after the arson scenes . In addition , any wood used was treated to burn in a controlled manner , and firefighters were on @-@ hand in case of an emergency .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Episode 7 " was first broadcast on the ABC Network on May 23 , 1990 . In its initial airing , it was viewed by 12 @. @ 6 percent of US households , representing 22 percent of the available audience ; it was the most @-@ viewed broadcast in its time @-@ slot . These ratings marked an increase from the previous episode , which had attracted 10 @. @ 6 percent of the population and 17 percent of the available audience .

Writing for The A.V. Club , Keith Phipps rated the episode an " A " , finding that the multiple cliffhanger plot threads worked well and did not seem over the top or self @-@ parodying . Phipps felt that the first season was " a near @-@ perfect run of television " , further describing it as " a stretch of greatness that , for one reason or another , couldn 't be sustained . But it was terrific while it lasted " . AllRovi 's Andrea LeVasseur awarded the episode four stars out of five , adding that " with several characters meeting their fate in this episode , including the two main suspects ( Jacques and Leo ) , the mystery of Laura Palmer 's murder is even more puzzling " . Writing for Entertainment Weekly , Ken Tucker rated the episode an A + , finding that its lack of plot resolution

offered " a good kind of annoyance " , showing the level of interest and commitment the series had inspired in its viewers .