

= The List (The X @-@ Files) =

" The List " is the fifth episode of the third season of the science fiction television series The X @-@ Files television series . It was first broadcast in the United States on the Fox network on October 20 , 1995 . " The List " was written and directed by series creator Chris Carter . The episode is a " Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " story , a stand @-@ alone plot which is unconnected to the series ' larger mythology . " The List " received a Nielson household rating of 10 @. @ 8 , being watched by 16 @. @ 72 million people on its initial broadcast , and received mixed to positive reviews from critics .

The show centers on FBI special agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files . Mulder is a believer in the paranormal , while the skeptical Scully has been assigned to debunk his work . In this episode , Mulder and Scully investigate a case where a death row inmate declares that he will be reincarnated and that as a result five men will die .

" The List " was written and directed by Carter after the success of the second season entry " Duane Barry " . The art department of The X @-@ Files were tasked with creating a death row set quickly , a feat which eventually caused the episode to go over budget . Several sequences necessitated the use of real maggots , a turn of events that was not popular with the cast , most notably with Anderson . " The List " later was nominated ? and won ? several International Monitor Awards .

= = Plot = =

Napoleon " Neech " Manley (Badja Djola) , a death row inmate at a Florida prison , is brought to the electric chair . Before he is executed , Neech proclaims that he will be reincarnated and avenge himself against five men who tormented him in prison .

Shortly after the execution , Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) are brought in to investigate when a prison guard is mysteriously found dead in Neech 's cell . The agents meet the prison 's warden , Brodeur (J. T. Walsh) , who believes that Neech planned the guard 's murder with someone on the outside before the execution . John Speranza , another inmate , believes that Neech has returned . When Scully explores the prison 's showers , she meets another guard named Vincent Parmelly (Ken Foree) . He claims that another prisoner , Roque (Bokeem Woodbine) , is keeping a list of the remaining four victims .

Later , the head of another guard , Fornier , is found inside a paint can . An examination of the head shows the premature appearance of larvae . The prison coroner tells Scully that the first guard 's lungs were completely infested with the larvae , belonging to the green bottle fly . Meanwhile , Mulder talks to Roque , who wants a transfer out of the prison in exchange for revealing the remaining three people on the list . Brodeur later finds Fornier 's headless body in his office . While searching Neech 's cell , Mulder discovers evidence of his obsession with reincarnation . Scully , of course , is skeptical . They later talk to Neech 's fearful widow , Danielle Manley (April Grace) , who is secretly seeing Parmelly . Roque is brought to the showers , where he is beaten to death by Brodeur after revealing he is the fifth person on the list .

Brodeur puts the prison under lockdown and tells Mulder that Neech had a violent history with all three victims . Mulder believes that Neech came back for revenge against the guards , but doubts that Roque was on the list . He requests that he be provided with the name of Neech 's executioner , who turns out to be a volunteer named Perry Simon . The agents arrive at Simon 's home to discover his decomposing body in the attic . Mulder confronts Speranza about the list , but Speranza only tells him that Roque was not on it . He claims to have seen Neech " big as life " outside of his cell . Based on phone records , Scully theorizes that Neech 's lawyer , Danny Charez , may have engineered the murders with Speranza . The agents interview Charez , who tells them about Danielle 's relationship with Parmelly ; after they leave , Charez is suffocated by a resurrected Neech .

Brodeur visits Speranza in his cell , and offers to have his death sentence commuted in exchange

for stopping the murders . Speranza takes the offer . That night , Parmelly visits Danielle , who has become agitated since Mulder and Scully have begun staking out her house . The agents now suspect Parmelly to be behind the murders and leave to notify Brodeur , who asks that Parmelly be arrested . Soon afterward , Danielle wakes up to see Neech by her bed . She grabs her gun and confronts Parmelly , thinking he is Neech 's resurrected form . The agents and a police task force arrive to see her shoot and kill Parmelly . Meanwhile , Brodeur ? assuming that Charez and Parmelly were on the list ? thinks Speranza has reneged on their deal and has him taken to the showers . Before Brodeur kills him , Speranza claims that one person remains on the list .

Parmelly is blamed for the murders . The agents start to leave Florida , but Mulder soon pulls over . He remains frustrated , since Parmelly was on @-@ duty during only one murder , and was not one of the three men who knew Perry Simon 's confidential identity . He also points out inconsistencies in the actions of Parmelly and Roque , who was also assumed to be part of the plot . Mulder believes that Parmelly was not responsible for the deaths , and that Neech had indeed been reincarnated to enact his revenge . However , Scully convinces Mulder that the case is over , and that they should return home . Just then , Brodeur passes them in his car . Looking in his rear view mirror , he sees Neech , who attacks Brodeur and causes his car to crash into a tree , claiming his last victim .

= = Production = =

The episode was written and directed by series creator Chris Carter , his second directorial endeavor after the second season entry " Duane Barry " . The art department of The X @-@ Files were tasked with creating a " convincing " death row set " out of thin air " . The set took 10 days to build , making it one of the most complicated jobs for the show 's staff during the season . Due to the construction of the prison set , the episode ended up going over budget . However , the set was used again later in the season in " Teso Dos Bichos " and " Talitha Cumi " . The set was also rented out to other productions in Vancouver , Canada .

Real maggots were used during many of the scenes , which were described by Gillian Anderson as being the hardest animals to work with on the show . The show 's special effects producers were unable to create a full body replica of the first victim in time , requiring him to lay on an autopsy table with makeup applied while the maggots were poured on to him . Rice was used in place of the maggots during some of the scenes . The car crash at the end of the entry was described by stunt coordinator Tony Morelli as the most harrowing action sequence during the show 's third season . To give the episode a different look the producers applied a green palatte to the film in post @-@ production .

The executioner , Perry Simon , was named after an NBC executive producer that writer and director Chris Carter knew . The part was played by an uncredited Bruce Pinard . Joseph Patrick Finn , one of the show 's producers , played the prison chaplain .

= = Reception = =

" The List " premiered on the Fox network in the United States on October 20 , 1995 . The episode earned a Nielsen rating of 10 @.@ 8 , with a 19 share , meaning that roughly 10 @.@ 8 percent of all television @-@ equipped households , and 19 percent of households watching television , were tuned in to the episode . It was watched by a total of 16 @.@ 72 million viewers , and was later nominated for several International Monitor Awards , including nominations for best director , best editing , and best color correction . " The List " later won the award for best director . Story editor Frank Spotnitz said of the episode , " I think this is a vastly underrated episode . I also think it was a very brave and different show to do and that it will weather the test of time very well . I think it was brave because there is not a single likable character - nobody you can root for . Mulder and Scully do not solve the case , and that is something I had been interested in doing for some time . " Chris Carter was nominated for an award by the Directors Guild of America for his work on this episode .

" The List " received mixed to positive reviews from television critics . Entertainment Weekly gave "

The List " a B + , describing it as " standard but well executed " . Zack Handlen , writing for The A.V. Club , had mixed feelings about it , ultimately rating it a B- . He felt that " The List " embodied a bland stand @-@ alone X @-@ Files episode for its underdeveloped concept and script , with " attempts at drama " that had no depth , and " sideplots [that] have so little effect on the main narrative as to be basically padding " . Handlen however praised the cinematography and art direction , the performances of both Ken Foree and J.T. Walsh , and the final scene , but ultimately considered that " once you get past the set @-@ design and cinematography , you end up with some good lines and a few scary moments , and that 's it . "

Paula Vitaris from Cinefantastique gave the episode two stars out of four . She praised Carter 's directing , but felt that the story suffered in comparison to the second season 's " Duane Barry " , also written and directed by Carter , which was better at " unsettling ambiguity " . She felt that there were too many characters for the audience to get to know them , and the lack of resolution would leave the audience " utterly frustrated " . Other reviews were more critical . Author Phil Farrand wrote negatively of the episode , calling it his third least favorite episode of the first four seasons in his book The Nitpickers Guide to the X @-@ Files . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @-@ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen , rated the episode one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five . The two positively critiqued Carter 's directing , calling the entry " good looking " and noting that it was " a decidedly grisly hour of television . " However , they derided the plot and called it " barely cooked " , writing that the characters that are killed are wholly one @-@ dimensional and are not fleshed out .