

= House 's Head =

" House 's Head " is the fifteenth episode of the fourth season of House and the eighty @-@ fifth episode overall . It was the first part of the two @-@ part season four finale , the second part being " Wilson 's Heart " . Co @-@ written by several House producers and directed by Greg Yaitanes , " House 's Head " premiered on May 12 , 2008 on Fox .

The episode revolves around Dr. Gregory House (Hugh Laurie) , who , after being involved in a bus accident , vaguely remembers seeing someone who is " going to die " . House tries to trace back his steps throughout the episode to find out the identity of this person . A woman (Ivana Mili?evi?) , who claims to be " the answer " , guides House through hallucinations about the crash . The episode eventually ends in a cliffhanger .

14 @.@ 84 million American viewers watched the broadcasting of " House 's Head " , making House the ninth most @-@ watched program of the week . The episode , and in particular a strip tease scene involving Cuddy (Lisa Edelstein) , gained positive responses . The episode was submitted for five Primetime Emmy Awards , from which two nominations followed . Greg Yaitanes won the Emmy for " Outstanding Directing for a Drama Series " , but Hugh Laurie lost the award in the category " Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series " to Bryan Cranston of AMC 's Breaking Bad .

= = Plot = =

The episode opens in a strip club where Dr. Gregory House is getting a lap dance . Drunk , dazed , and suffering from a head wound , House has a short disjointed vision and presumes that " somebody 's going to die " . When he leaves the club , he sees that the bus he was on crashed . Back at Princeton @-@ Plainsboro Teaching Hospital , House is diagnosed with a concussion and post @-@ traumatic retrograde amnesia ; he orders his team to check the bus driver for a possible seizure that precipitated the crash . Dr. Robert Chase (Jesse Spencer) performs a medical hypnosis on House to stimulate his memory ; during this , House finds himself getting drunk in a bar , alone . Chase , Dr. James Wilson (Robert Sean Leonard) , and Wilson 's girlfriend Amber Volakis (Anne Dudek) guide House through the hallucination , and the only other person House recognizes is the bartender (Fred Durst) , who forced House to take the bus by taking away his keys .

While the team investigates several pathologies to fit the bus driver 's condition , House overdoses on his Vicodin and starts to hallucinate . He finds himself back on the bus , where he sees a woman (Ivana Mili?evi?) who was not on the bus . However , before House can speak to her , Wilson awakens House to do an MRI on him . When House returns to the bus hallucination , Dr. Lisa Cuddy (Lisa Edelstein) is with him . As they discuss the bus driver 's possible diseases , House realizes they are in his head and tells Cuddy to accompany the discussion with a strip tease . Cuddy complies , but just before she takes off her bra , she notes she is distracting House , and stops . The woman from House 's earlier hallucination returns and introduces herself as " the answer " . She tells House to " look " at the bus driver 's shuffling feet , which House believes to indicate Parkinson 's disease . When the bus driver needs to be intubated due to a possible clot from a pulmonary embolism , House notices the driver 's recent dental work . He reasons that an air bubble , that got accidentally injected into the patient 's bloodstream through the gums , would explain all the symptoms . The bubble is extracted , and the patient is saved . House believes it over , but a dream that night causes him to realize that the bus driver is not the patient he saw a symptom in , the crash merely dislodged the air bubble and caused the driver 's problems .

In a renewed attempt to retrieve his memory , House has his team reenact the bus crash . House overdoses on physostigmine , a medication against Alzheimer 's disease , and his mind flashes back to the bus scene before the accident . " The answer " reminds House that since he values reason above everything else , there must be one for her presence in his mind . She keeps asking House what her necklace is made from , until House realizes that it 's made of amber . " The answer " transforms into Amber Volakis , and when Wilson and Cuddy manage to resuscitate House from his overdose @-@ induced cardiac arrest , House immediately informs Wilson that Amber 's life is in

danger as he now remembers the crash . In the crash , Amber was injured with a bar through her leg and House saw her later being carried away to an ambulance . Wilson has not spoken to Amber since before the accident . " Thirteen " (Olivia Wilde) checks the patient roster and sees that a patient admitted to a different hospital matches Amber 's description .

= = Production = =

" House 's Head " was the fourth House episode directed by Greg Yaitanes . It was written by Peter Blake , David Foster , Russel Friend , Garrett Lerner and Doris Egan . Executive producer Katie Jacobs said that the season finale was " a little bit different " than the episodes preceding it . " House 's Head " was supposed to air after the Super Bowl XLII but due to the 2007 @-@ 2008 WGA Strike the episode was derailed , and the House season 4 episode " Frozen " was aired instead . The T @-@ shirt House wears in the episodes , which shows a skeleton drinking coffee , and says " Coffin Break " , was created by a designer named Taavo .

When Lisa Edelstein (Dr. Cuddy) heard she had to do a strip scene in the episode , she called actress Sheila Kelley , wife of Richard Schiff (with whom Edelstein had worked previously on The West Wing and Relativity) . Kelley had worked on a movie about strippers long ago and Edelstein asked her for her advice on the choreography of the striptease . On the episode itself , Edelstein commented : " It is very interesting what happens in the first half of the finale in terms of learning about how House sees people and getting the world from his point of view entirely " . Before the filming of the scene started , Edelstein showed the dance to Hugh Laurie , who , according to Edelstein , was " incredibly supportive , like a cheerleader " . Edelstein commented that after the scene was filmed she , " felt beautiful , and it ended up being a really lovely experience " .

The whole bus @-@ crash sequence was storyboarded . Greg Yaitanes described stunt @-@ coordinator Jim Vickers as " crucial " for the filming of this sequence . The bus crash scene was filmed in a studio using a big spinning wheel (which Anne Dudek referred to as a " gadget ") . This gadget was mainly the back of the bus , and could be turned 360 degrees to increase the authenticity of the scene . For the rest of the bus , a greenscreen was used that surrounded the complete outside of the bus . The shots involving Anne Dudek were filmed at another time , using light effects and people simulating a bus crash experience in the otherwise motionless gadget .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

The episode premiered in the US on May 12 , 2008 on Fox . The episode was viewed within five hours of broadcast by 14 @. @ 84 million viewers , and had a 5 @. @ 8 / 14 share of the 18 @-@ 49 demographic . It was the second most @-@ watched program of the night , beaten only by Dancing with the Stars . In the week from May 11 , 2008 to May 18 , 2008 " House 's Head " was the ninth most @-@ watched program . The show was watched by 15 @. @ 02 million viewers on Live + SD television . In Australia the episode aired May 12 , 2008 , on Network Ten , where it was watched by 1 @, @ 432 @, @ 000 viewers , making it the night 's second most watched program . It ranked fourth most @-@ watched show in the 18 @-@ 49 demographic . In Canada , the episode was broadcast on Global Total , also on May 12 . It was watched by 2 @. @ 296 million viewers , making it the week 's fourth most watched program , behind Grey 's Anatomy and American Idol (Tuesday and Wednesday) . 1 @. @ 7 million viewers watched the episode 's first broadcast on United Kingdom 's Five on June 26 , 2008 .

= = = Critical reaction = = =

Overall , " House 's Head " was very well received by critics . Sara Morrison , from Television Without Pity , called the moment that House gets back his memory " the best ten minutes of

television you might ever see " . She was also pleased with the hypnotism scene , because it gave Chase " something to do " . Morrison graded the episode with an A + . Michelle Romero , of Entertainment Weekly , said that she can watch " House 's Head " twice and get as much out of the second viewing as the first . TV Guide 's Gina Dinunno stated : " It 's everything I imagined : brilliant , snarky , confusing ; even dirty ! They did an amazing job at leaving us with the cliffhanger of all cliffhangers as we wait to see what will happen to Amber " . Alan Sepinwall , from The Star @-@ Ledger , compared the episode to the House season two finale " No Reason " . He , however , also said that the episode had " several issues " , mainly the hints towards " the answer " being Amber . On this , Sepinwall commented " House is , at heart , a mystery , and when the show telegraphs the solution , it isn 't half as entertaining " .

James Chamberlin , of IGN , said that he hoped the second part of the season finale could live up to the first half . He also said that the scenes revolving around " the answer " reminded him of The Matrix . Chamberlin graded the episode with a 9 @. @ 5 on a ten scale . Barbara Barnett , of Blog Critics , praised both Hugh Laurie 's and Lisa Edelstein 's acting performances . She also said that , although there were many " memorable moments " in the episode , the scene in which the bus crashed was " intense " , " tension @-@ filled " and " heart @-@ stopping " . Maureen Ryan of Chicago Tribune 's The Watcher stated that , although she did predict the twist about midway through the episode , there were " so many other enjoyable elements " that it didn 't bother her . Jennifer Godwin of E ! said the episode was " easily one of House 's best finales ever " . Also , several critics were surprised by Fred Durst 's brief cameo as the bartender in House 's flashback .

The scene in which Lisa Cuddy did a pole dance was very positively received by critics , Mary McNarma , of the Los Angeles Times , stated that these scenes " in three minutes earned back the price of TiVo " . James Chamberlin of IGN stated that he never expected Edelstein to do a strip tease , although he had hoped it . In season four DVD commentary , Jesse Spencer , Lisa Edelstein , Anne Dudek , Jennifer Morrison and Omar Epps all stated that " House 's Head " and " Wilson 's Heart " are their favorite House episodes .

= = = Awards = = =

Cast members Lisa Edelstein , Jesse Spencer and Hugh Laurie submitted the episode for Primetime Emmy Awards on their behalf . In the categories Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series (Edelstein) , Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series (Spencer) and Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series (Laurie) . Peter Blake , David Foster , Russel Friend , Garrett Lerner and Doris Egan , the writers of the episode , submitted the episode on their behalf for a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series . The episode was also given up for consideration in the category Outstanding Directing for a Drama Series on behalf of director Greg Yaitanes . Hugh Laurie and Greg Yaitanes ' submissions both came through as nominations . Yaitanes won the award , but Laurie lost the award to Bryan Cranston for his performance in AMC 's Breaking Bad .