

= Subject 13 =

" Subject 13 " is the 15th episode of the third season of the American science fiction drama television series *Fringe* , and the 58th episode overall . Inspired by fan reaction to the show 's previous flashback episode , " Peter " , " Subject 13 " occurs 25 years before the show 's current timeline , in 1985 a few months after " Peter " . The episode , with scenes set in both the prime and the parallel universe , explore Walter and Elizabeth Bishop 's attempts to return Peter to the parallel universe using the Cortexiphan @-@ induced abilities of young Olivia Dunham , while Walternate in the parallel universe struggles to deal with the kidnapping of his son .

Showrunners Jeff Pinkner and J. H. Wyman , as well as consulting producer Akiva Goldsman wrote the episode , while producer Frederick E. O. Toye worked as the director . Guest actress Orla Brady returned to reprise the role of Elizabeth , while Chandler Canterbury , Karley Scott Collins , and Chris Bradford made their first guest appearances . On its initial broadcast in the United States on February 25 , 2011 , an estimated 4 @. @ 0 million viewers tuned in . Critical reception to the episode was overwhelmingly positive . It was ranked the third best episode of the entire series by *Entertainment Weekly* .

= = Plot = =

" Subject 13 " is set in 1985 , a few months after the events of " Peter " , during which Walter ( John Noble ) brought the parallel universe 's version of his son Peter into the prime one to cure him of a genetic disease . In the following months , Peter ( Chandler Canterbury ) doubts he is from the prime universe , and attempts to drown himself in Reiden Lake , believing it the way to his universe . Elizabeth ( Orla Brady ) , Walter 's wife , worries for the boy , and takes him with her to Jacksonville , Florida , where Walter is studying the effects of the nootropic drug on several children . Walter and Elizabeth agree they need to return Peter to the parallel universe for both the child 's sanity and to prevent that universe from discovering theirs .

In the parallel universe , Walternate 's ( Noble ) position as national security czar makes Peter 's disappearance a major news story . Walternate falls into a deep depression , unable to explain how his child has been kidnapped by someone that looked exactly like him . Elizabeth coaxes him out of his depression and he returns to Bishop Dynamic in Florida to continue his job .

One of Walter 's subjects is young Olivia Dunham ( Karley Scott Collins ) , aka " Subject 13 " . Walter suspects Olivia 's stepfather ( Chris Bradford ) is abusing her based on bruises she carries and frightening drawings in her sketchbook , but Olivia refuses to talk about it . One night , as Olivia is about to be struck by her stepfather , she temporarily finds herself in a different place ; the next day , she draws in her sketchbook a picture of what she saw in the other place : a zeppelin ( which are a common mode of transportation in the alternate universe ) . Walter realizes that Olivia crossed over to the parallel universe , and can be the means for returning Peter . Walter puts Olivia under several tests to try to coax her to cross over , eventually eliminating all emotions but fear as the triggering mechanism . He arranges a traumatic test for Olivia , but instead of crossing over , she exhibits pyrokinesis and sets the room afire . In the confusion of extinguishing the blaze , she disappears .

Peter , discovering a picture of white tulips in Olivia 's book , is able to find her nearby . After they introduce themselves , Olivia admits to being scared of going home to her stepfather . Peter tells her to trust Walter and to face her fear , and then returns her to the child care center , to everyone 's relief . As Olivia waits for her stepfather , she sketches a picture of her and Peter in her book . As her stepfather is about to arrive , Olivia decides she must tell Walter about him , and rushes to his office . Olivia , in tears , hands Walter the sketchbook , explaining about her stepfather 's abuse and that she knew she had crossed over to the parallel universe . She is interrupted by a sound from behind her : it is Walter . Olivia had temporarily entered the parallel universe and spoken to Walternate . Walter takes Olivia to her stepfather , but warns the man that he will be reported to social services if Olivia is harmed again .

Elizabeth and Peter return to Reiden Lake , and Peter eventually comes to call Elizabeth his mom ,

but Elizabeth becomes forlorn after she realizes the lie she has been maintaining for the last few months . The episode ends in the parallel universe , where Walternate has reviewed Olivia 's sketchbook , including her latest picture of her and Peter ; now aware of the parallel universe , Walternate gains new resolve to get his Peter back .

= = Production = =

" Subject 13 " was co @-@ written by co @-@ showrunners Jeff Pinkner , J. H. Wyman and consulting producer Akiva Goldsman , while former Fringe producer Frederick E. O. Toye directed . It was the first episode Toye directed since the first season . In an interview with TV Guide , Pinkner and Wyman revealed they had known Olivia and Peter met as children for a long time , but did not decide to show this to the audience until they wrote the episode . Wyman described Elizabeth Bishop 's successful lie at making Peter believe she is his real mother as " the beginning of the end for her , " as her character will ultimately commit suicide .

Olivia 's abusive stepfather , whom she non @-@ fatally shot when nine years old , makes his first appearance in " Subject 13 " . In early January 2011 , TVline 's Michael Ausiello exclusively reported that Fringe was casting for an actor to play the part . Several news sources later in early March noticed on the Internet Movie Database that actor Chris Bradford had been cast . The casting report later turned out to be true , as Bradford appeared in the episode . Chandler Canterbury appeared in the episode as a young Peter Bishop , a role previously played by Quinn Lord in the second season episode " Peter " . Karley Scott Collins also made a guest appearance as a younger version of Olivia Dunham .

Actor John Noble , who played two versions of a younger Walter in both " Peter " and " Subject 13 " , described the process it took to make him appear years younger in an interview with Digital Spy :

" Our makeup lady , particularly for the second flashback , worked out some terrific techniques to get the skin softer so it loses the wrinkles and so forth . This year we 've come up with some terrific technology . And [ I have ] a beautiful handmade wig which at that stage was the right length - should we go on further we 'd need to trim it back . We 've looked at it really carefully . As we become more efficient it 's generally about three or four hours in makeup " .

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 " Subject 13 " , with the intention of having " students learn about adaptation and how the process helps organisms survive in their specific ecological environment . "

= = Cultural references = =

The show reuses the 1980s @-@ styled introduction sequence from " Peter " . One scene set in the prime universe is at a toy store and shows many vintage toys of that period , including toys from Ghostbusters , Battlestar Galactica , and G.I. Joe , as well as an Atari 2600 entertainment system . There , a boy can be seen playing the 1982 video game Joust . Before her stepfather strikes her , young Olivia is seen reading the book Winter 's Tale by Mark Helprin . Among the tests Walter puts Olivia through is the Project Christmas block test ( " The Indicator " ) from Alias , another television series created by Fringe executive producer J.J. Abrams . In the parallel universe , Walternate is credited with making the Star Wars program work , leading to his role as the national security czar . The episode also features a reference to the DC Comics character Green Lantern , dubbed Red Lantern in the parallel universe , as noted by Peter .

One of the other identified students at the daycare center is Nick Lane , whose adult character appears in the episodes " Bad Dreams " and " Over There " . In parallel with William Bell 's founding of the technology company Massive Dynamic in the prime universe , Walternate has founded Bishop Dynamic in the parallel universe , situated in Jacksonville . The field of white tulips revisits the theme of the episode " White Tulip " from Season 2 , where Walter believes that seeing a white tulip is a sign of God 's forgiveness of his actions . The video of Olivia setting fire to the lab , as well as the setting of the nursery school where the Cortexiphan experiments took place , are references to the

second season episode " Jacksonville " .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Subject 13 " first aired on the Fox network in the United States on February 25 , 2011 . It retained similar viewership from the previous week 's episode , " 6B " , with an estimated 4 @. @ 0 million viewers and a 1 @. @ 5 ratings share among those aged between 18 and 49 . In that demographic , " Subject 13 " helped Fox tie with CBS for first place , though Fox placed in fourth among total viewers . Time shifted viewing increased the episode 's ratings among adults by 53 percent to a 2 @. @ 3 ratings share .

= = = Reviews = = =

The episode received almost universal critical praise . Andrew Hanson from the Los Angeles Times called it one of his favorite Fringe episodes due to the " incredible " opening , Brady and Noble 's " outstanding " performances , and the scene with Olivia unknowingly talking to Walternate . Like Hanson , Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly also praised the actors ' performances , and thought it was " one of the most moving and revelatory episodes in the series ' short history " . Though he felt the episode did not quite match up to " Peter " , Ramsey Isler from IGN rated " Subject 13 " an 8 @. @ 5 / 10 . He believed the opening to be " tense and surprising " and praised the child actors ' performances . Finally , he thought the scene in which Olivia accidentally encounters Walternate was a " brilliant plot twist that ties a lot of things together " .

CNN 's Henry Hanks wrote the episode " is reason enough to bring this series back for another season , " and praised Noble 's performance as Emmy @- @ worthy ; Hanks also loved the " genius " musical score written by composers Michael Giacchino and Chris YOUNG . Noel Murray from The A.V. Club graded the episode with an A- , explaining that , like the other reviewers , he loved the opening sequence with Peter on the lake , the newest mythology details , as well as how Walternate discovered the prime universe . Murray also loved the " mood " of the episode , but had minor problems with the plot , as he thought it was now harder to believe Olivia , Peter , and Walter were strangers to each other in the first season . James Poniewozik of Time magazine concluded that the episode " was not the revelation that ' Peter ' was , though a phase @- @ shifting Olivia ? s mistaking of Walternate for Walter was one of the series ? most mindblowing moments ( and , again , a Lostian bit of disorienting sleight of hand ) . But it was again an effective detour in which Fringe reminded us that time has parallels just as space does , and that the past is emotionally overlaid on the present just as its Over There is overlaid on our world . "

TV.com staff highlighted " Subject 13 " as one of the best television episodes of the 2010 ? 11 United States network television schedule . Jeff Jensen of Entertainment Weekly named " Subject 13 " the third best episode of the series , explaining " The nighttime scene between the two kids ( well played by Chandler Canterbury and Karley Scott Collins ) in the field of white tulips might be the most memorable scene in all of Fringe . ' Subject 13 ' is also one of the great parallel universe episodes , too , charting the shattering impact of Peter 's abduction on both sets of Walter and Elizabeth ( Orla Brady ) . ' Subject 13 ' was so essential , so emotionally wrenching . " IGN found the episode to be the fifth best of the series .

= = = Awards and nominations = = =

At the 33rd Young Artist Awards , Chandler Canterbury received a nomination for Best Performance In a TV Series ? Guest Starring Young Actor 11 @- @ 13 , but lost to Austin Michael Coleman of House M.D. and Baljodh Nagra of R.L. Stine 's The Haunting Hour .