

= Millennium ( season 1 ) =

The first season of the serial crime @-@ thriller television series Millennium commenced airing in the United States on October 25 , 1996 , concluding on May 16 , 1997 , and consisting of twenty @-@ two episodes . It tells the story of retired FBI Agent Frank Black ( Lance Henriksen ) . Black has moved to Seattle , Washington with his family and has begun working with a mysterious organization known only as the Millennium Group . He investigates cases with members of the Group and the Seattle Police Department , contributing his remarkable capability of relating to the monsters responsible for horrific crimes . He finds that his daughter has inherited the same " gift " that he has , while the cases become increasingly more personal .

Critics received season one well . Although the show got the highest number of viewers for a pilot episode for the Fox Network at the time , it steadily dropped in the ratings , which led to it losing the Sunday slot to its sister show , The X @-@ Files . The main cast of the show were Henriksen as Frank Black and Megan Gallagher as Catherine Black .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

The original idea behind Millennium came from an episode of The X @-@ Files Chris Carter had written about a serial killer . The episode got Carter thinking about the " monsters " who lurked in the shadows . Later , he started to flesh out a character which would become Frank Black , but he was busy working with other projects at the time . In the mid @-@ 1990s , after the success of The X @-@ Files , the Fox Network asked Carter if he could create another show for them .

Originally , the show was planned to include a new " murder mystery " each week , at the same time having a comprehensive storyline . So Carter created the idea of the new millennium , which could give the show its own " feel " . He felt he " could capitalise " and at the same time have a new murder mystery every week with a " millennial " twist to it . He also wanted to explore " evil " , not the " scientific approach " which was the psychological explanation of " evil " . Carter wanted to explore evil through an " unscientific approach " , an exploration where " the Bible " played an important role . While clearly stating that the show was not supposed to be heavily grounded in religious text , he felt in many ways that the Bible explained " things on various levels " and " not just in the modern scientific way . "

= = = Casting and characters = = =

Chris Carter had envisioned Lance Henriksen portraying the character of Frank Black , long before he was ever contacted . Although Carter 's colleagues responded positively to the selection , the Fox Network wanted someone younger to take the lead part . Fox asked William Hurt to play the lead role , but after finding out that Hurt had no interest in acting on television , Henriksen got the part .

When Henriksen first got the script , he mistook it for a film because of its " powerful " story . He was not fond of the idea of participating in a television project . Henriksen contacted Carter about the character ; his first question was " How are you going to make this hero a hero ? I mean , it is so dark , how are you going to handle this ? " Carter replied saying that Frank was a hero because he was able to " stand @-@ up " against all of this . Henriksen was also worried about the dark " feel " of the show , saying that all shows needs some glimpse of light at the end of the tunnel . According to Carter " The yellow house " was the light , which Henriksen later agreed upon .

Studio executive Ken Horton was very pleased with Megan Gallagher 's acting experiences . After winning the audition , she was given a " secret script " . Reacting positively towards the script , she later met up with Carter and David Nutter .

= = Critical reception = =

Peter Wunstorf was nominated for an American Society of Cinematographers award for his work on the pilot episode . Lance Henriksen was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for his portrayal of Frank Black but lost to E.R. performer , Anthony Edwards . Co @-@ star Brittany Tiplady was later nominated for a Young Artist Award but failed to win . The show itself was nominated for a People 's Choice Award in the category " Favorite Television New Dramatic Series " but did not win . Robert McLachlan was nominated and won a Canadian Society of Cinematographers in 1997 .

The first season was received well by critics . Keith Uhlich of Salon magazine called the season and series " Carter 's greatest series " , and that , " television work always improves in retrospect ; his seemingly haphazard , on @-@ the @-@ fly narratives become more coherent when taken out of the hellish , commercial break @-@ happy context wherein they spawned " . Paul Katz of Entertainment Weekly said , " Despite the unapologetic bleakness " of the show , it was Lance Henriksen performance that was the " real killer " . Mark Rahner from The Seattle Times said the " X @-@ Files follow @-@ up was uncompromisingly grim , fascinating , cinematically crafted " , and that the show was " years ahead " of such " forensic mysteries " as CSI : Crime Scene Investigation . USA Today writer Matt Roush said " With nightmare visions of bleeding walls , charred bodies , decapitations and a grisly live burial " , the show took a new " grim view " on " drama " .

Although the season premiere received good ratings , the series gradually lost viewers as they were reportedly " turned off by the morose and unnerving story lines . "

= = Main cast = =

= = = Starring = = =

Lance Henriksen as Frank Black  
Megan Gallagher as Catherine Black

= = = Recurring = = =

Terry O 'Quinn as Peter Watts  
Brittany Tiplady as Jordan Black  
Stephen J. Lang as Det . Bob Giebelhouse  
Bill Smitrovich as Lt. Robert Bletcher

= = Episodes = =