

= The X @-@ Files ( season 2 ) =

The second season of the science fiction television series The X @-@ Files commenced airing on the Fox network in the United States on September 16 , 1994 , concluded on the same channel on May 19 , 1995 , after airing all 25 episodes . The series follows Federal Bureau of Investigation special agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully , portrayed by David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson respectively , who investigate paranormal or supernatural cases , known as X @-@ Files by the FBI .

The second season of The X @-@ Files takes place after the closure of the department following the events of the first season finale . In addition to stand @-@ alone " Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " episodes , several episodes also furthered the alien conspiracy mythology that had begun to form . Season two introduced several recurring characters ? X ( Steven Williams ) , an informant to Mulder ; Alex Krycek ( Nicholas Lea ) , Mulder 's partner @-@ turned @-@ enemy ; and the Alien Bounty Hunter ( Brian Thompson ) , a shape @-@ shifting assassin .

The storylines were widely affected by the pregnancy of actress Gillian Anderson ; it was decided that Scully would be kidnapped and abducted by aliens , explaining her absence and allowing her to appear comatose two episodes later , which ultimately added more intricacies to the mythology . The season earned seven Primetime Emmy Award nominations . The premiere " Little Green Men " , debuted with a Nielsen household rating of 10 @.@ 3 and was viewed by 9 @.@ 8 million households , marking a noticeable increase in viewership since the previous year . The series rose from number 111 to number 63 for the 1994 ? 95 television year . In addition , the show 's second season has generally received positive reviews from television critics .

= = Plot overview = =

Dana Scully ( Gillian Anderson ) is reassigned to teach at the FBI Academy while Fox Mulder ( David Duchovny ) is given lowly surveillance assignments . After he investigates extraterrestrial cases at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico , Mulder is given a new partner , Alex Krycek ( Nicholas Lea ) , and meets a secretive informant , X ( Steven Williams ) . Mulder is recruited to assist in a hostage negotiation when Duane Barry , an alien abductee , captures four people . Barry eventually kidnaps Scully , believing that if he brings her to his original abduction site , Skyland Mountain , aliens will take her instead of him . Mulder follows but is delayed by Krycek , who is revealed to be a mole working for Cigarette Smoking Man ( William B. Davis ) . When Mulder reaches Skyland Mountain , Scully is gone . Barry , who insists that aliens took him , dies soon after an interrogation by Krycek . When Krycek vanishes , Skinner re @-@ opens the X @-@ Files , claiming that is what the conspirators will fear most .

Scully turns up comatose in a hospital three months later with no explanation about how she got there . X provides Mulder with information allowing him to take revenge on her captors , but Mulder is instead convinced by Scully 's sister Melissa to visit her bedside . Scully recovers and returns to work shortly thereafter . The agents later investigate a case involving alien biology being injected into teenagers in Wisconsin , and once again they encounter Deep Throat 's killer , who is killed by the local sheriff .

When investigating a case involving the murder of identical doctors , the agents come across a shapeshifting Alien Bounty Hunter ( Brian Thompson ) responsible for executing a series of alien clones . During this case a grown woman claiming to be Mulder 's sister Samantha appears , telling Mulder of the Bounty Hunter 's objectives and that she has the ability to identify him . When Scully is kidnapped by the Bounty Hunter , Mulder is forced to trade Samantha for her . During a botched attempt to kill the Bounty Hunter , Samantha is killed . However , it is discovered that this was simply one of many alien clones of Samantha . With the help of X , Mulder pursues the Bounty Hunter to a submarine in the Arctic . Mulder is nearly killed when exposed to the Bounty Hunter 's toxic blood , but is saved by Scully .

When a hacker downloads decades ' worth of classified information about aliens onto a digital tape , he gives it to Mulder , who finds that the entire tape is written in Navajo . Cigarette Smoking Man

begins searching for the tape and visits Mulder 's father , who calls Mulder to see him shortly afterwards . Before he can reveal anything to Mulder however , he is murdered by Alex Krycek . Scully brings Mulder to New Mexico where she introduces him to Albert Hosteen , a code @-@ talker who can translate the digital tape . Albert 's grandson shows Mulder a boxcar filled with alien corpses . Cigarette Smoking Man tracks Mulder 's location however and orders the boxcar burned .

= = Production = =

= = = Writing and development = = =

The season premiere was originally supposed to have been written by series creator Chris Carter . In his initial pitch , Mulder would have been sent to Moscow . In fact , the producers wanted to film the episode in Russia , but they were not able to secure the appropriate arrangements . In the end , Carter was unable to complete the script idea , which would have also featured the reopening of the X @-@ Files . Instead , co @-@ executive producers Glen Morgan , James Wong and Howard Gordon penned the opening premiere , " Little Green Men " ; the episode was the first entry to actually show an alien in the series . This delay gave Carter time to write " Duane Barry " , the start of the first two @-@ parter and also the entry wherein the X @-@ Files are re @-@ opened .

As the series ended its first season , a problem had arisen for the producers : the pregnancy of Gillian Anderson , who played Dana Scully . Some network executives wanted the role recast , which Carter refused to do . Though they considered having Scully giving birth to an alien child , the producers decided to work around Anderson 's pregnancy by having her abducted and appearing comatose several episodes later . This was described by executive producer Frank Spotnitz as " the best thing that ever happened to the series " as it helped form the intricate mythology that would run throughout the show . The writers decided to close the X @-@ Files at the end of the first season and thus separate Mulder and Scully in the earlier episodes of the season . To hide Anderson 's pregnancy in the early episodes , the producers disguised it with " very fancy trick angles , trench coats , and scenes where she is seated rather than standing " . Anderson was not featured at all in the episode " 3 " , as she was giving birth to her daughter at the time .

= = = Casting = = =

The season introduced the character X , played by Steven Williams , who replaced Deep Throat as Mulder 's informant , following Deep Throat 's assassination in the first season finale , " The Erlenmeyer Flask " . X was originally intended to be a woman with Natalija Nogulich already cast in the role , but was replaced by Williams as the writers did not believe she had the " right chemistry " with her co @-@ stars . X was written to be different than Deep Throat ; Deep Throat had been selfless , while X was intended to be selfish and scared . Nicholas Lea , who had previously appeared in a small part in the season one 's " Gender Bender " , was cast as Alex Krycek . Krycek was originally intended as a temporary replacement for Scully when she was abducted , but grew into a character who would last seven seasons on the show .

During the production of the season , Duchovny asked Carter " wouldn 't it be great if we had like an alien bounty hunter ? " Carter was positive towards the idea and acted upon it , creating with Spotnitz the character of the Alien Bounty Hunter for the two @-@ part episodes " Colony " and " End Game " . Actor Brian Thompson auditioned for the role in a casting session , where he was competing with another actor . Spotnitz and Carter did not have much time to cast the character , but they knew this casting would be important since they intended the character to become a recurring character . Thompson was chosen according to Spotnitz because he had a very " distinctive look " about him , most notably his face and mouth . Megan Leitch also appeared in " Colony " and " End Game " as a grown @-@ up clone version of Samantha Mulder , and would return to play Samantha or one of her clones over the other seasons . Carter did not want it to be the real Samantha , since that would have been " straight science fiction " and it was too " ridiculous " to give too many answers . Darren

McGavin , star of *Kolchak : The Night Stalker* , was sought out for the part of Senator Matheson in " Little Green Men " and Mulder 's father in " Colony " and " End Game " , but the roles went to Raymond J. Barry and Peter Donat respectively , while McGavin agreed to play X @-@ Files founder Arthur Dales in season five .

== = Crew == =

Carter also served as executive producer and showrunner and wrote seven episodes . Co @-@ executive producers and writing team Glen Morgan and James Wong wrote five episodes for their final season as regular writers for the series , although they would both return as consulting producers for part of season four . Supervising producer Howard Gordon wrote five episodes . Frank Spotnitz joined the series , writing two episodes . Cast member David Duchovny collaborated with Carter for two episodes receiving story credit . Glen Morgan 's younger brother Darin Morgan joined the series , contributing the story for an episode written by his older brother and James Wong , and writing another script solo . Paul Brown joined the series as a producer and wrote two episodes . Sara B. Charno wrote two freelance episodes . Vince Gilligan joined the series , writing one episode . Former supervising producer Alex Gansa returned to co @-@ wrote one episode with writing partner Howard Gordon . Chris Ruppenthal returned to write one more freelance episode after last season . Steve De Jarnatt also contributed one freelance episode for the season . Line producer and production manager Joseph Patrick Finn was promoted to producer with this season . Paul Rabwin continued to serve as co @-@ producer for the show .

Producing @-@ directors for the show included Rob Bowman , David Nutter , Kim Manners and co @-@ executive producer R. W. Goodwin , who all directed the most of the season ; Bowman with seven , Nutter with five , and Manners and Goodwin each with two . Series creator Chris Carter directed one episode , making his directorial debut , while Daniel Sackheim , Michael Lange , James Contner , James Whitmore , Jr . , Michael Vejar , Nick Marck , Stephen Surjik and Win Phelps each directed one episode .

== Cast ==

== = Main cast == =

David Duchovny as Special Agent Fox Mulder ( 25 episodes )  
Gillian Anderson as Special Agent Dana Scully ( 24 episodes ) a  
a ^ She does not appear in " 3 " .

== = Recurring cast == =

== Episodes ==

Episodes marked with a double dagger ( ) are episodes in the series ' Alien Mythology arc .

== Reception ==

== = Ratings == =

The second season of *The X @-@ Files* debuted with " Little Green Men " on September 16 , 1994 . The episode earned a Nielsen household rating of 10 @.@ 3 , with a 19 share , meaning that roughly 10 @.@ 3 percent of all television @-@ equipped households , and 19 percent of households watching television , were tuned in to the episode . The episode was viewed by 9 @.@

8 million households , an increase from the first season 's finale , " The Erlenmeyer Flask " , which was viewed by 8 @. @ 3 million households . " Little Green Men " was , at the time , the highest @- @ rated episode of The X @- @ Files to air . As the season continued , ratings began to grow . The season hit a high with the fifteenth episode , " Fresh Bones " , which was viewed by 10 @. @ 8 million households . The season hit a low with the twenty @- @ first episode , " The Calusari " , which was viewed by 7 @. @ 9 million households and received a rating of 8 @. @ 3 / 16 . The season finale , " Anasazi " , earned a Nielsen rating of 10 @. @ 1 , with an 18 share , and was viewed by 9 @. @ 6 million households , marking a 13 @. @ 5 percent increase in households when compared to the previous season finale . The series was ranked as number 63 during the 1994 ? 95 television season , a significant increase in ratings when compared to the first season , which finished at number 111 .

= = = Reviews = = =

The DVD Journal gave the season four out of four stars , calling it a " memorable season " . The review highlighted " The Host " , " Duane Barry " and " Ascension " , the cliffhanger finale " Anasazi " , the " unforgettable " " Humbug " , and meeting Mulder and Scully 's families in " Colony " and " One Breath " . IGN gave the season a rating of 9 out of 10 , with the reviewer noting it was an improvement upon the first as it had " started to explore a little " and the " evolution of the characters makes the product shine even though the plotlines have begun to seem familiar " . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @- @ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen , rated several episodes across the season highly , awarding five stars out of five to " Little Green Men " , " Duane Barry " , " One Breath " , " Irresistible " , " Die Hand Die Verletzt " , and " Anasazi " . However , several episodes rated poorly , with " 3 " , " Excelsis Dei " , and " The Calusari " being considered particularly poor .

Many critics considered the " Duane Barry " / " Ascension " / " One Breath " story arc to be the best part of the season . Shearman singled out the three @- @ parter as the highlight of the season , noting that the " intimacy " and " sincerity [ of ] the emotion " of the episodes allowed the mythology of The X @- @ Files to play out for a further seven seasons . Tom Kessenich , in his book Examination : An Unauthorized Look at Seasons 6 ? 9 of the X @- @ Files named the story arc the top episode of The X @- @ Files and wrote , " to this day , this remains the defining moment in the series run . So much sprang forth from this trio of episodes . ... Sensational . "

= = = Accolades = = =

The second season earned the series seven Primetime Emmy Award nominations , including its first for Outstanding Drama Series . The episode " Duane Barry " received four nominations for different categories ; CCH Pounder for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series ; Chris Carter for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Writing for a Drama Series ; James Coblentz for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Editing for a Series ? Single Camera Production ; and for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Sound Editing for a Series . Other nominations included John S. Bartley for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Cinematography for a Series for " One Breath " and Stephen Mark for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Editing for a Series ? Single Camera Production for " Sleepless " . This season would also earn the series its first of three wins for the Golden Globe Award for Best Television Series ? Drama .

= = DVD release = =