

= Sense and Antisense (Millennium) =

" ' Sense and Antisense " is the third episode of the second season of the crime @-@ thriller television series Millennium . It premiered on the Fox network in the United States on October 3 , 1997 . The episode was written by Chip Johannessen and directed by Thomas J. Wright . " Sense and Antisense " featured guest appearances from Clarence Williams III and Ricky Harris .

Millennium centers on offender profiler Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) , who investigates unusual crimes as part of the private investigative organisation the Millennium Group . In this episode , Black aids in the search for a man who is supposedly carrying a highly contagious virus and discovers the secret behind the Human Genome Project .

Johannessen has described " Sense and Antisense " as having suffered from extensive script re @-@ writes ; his original version dealt more strongly with racial issues but was rewritten at the behest of the network 's broadcast standards office . The episode earned a mixed reception from television critics , and was viewed by approximately 6 @.@ 57 million households upon its initial broadcast .

= = Plot = =

Patient Zero (Clarence Williams III) tries to hail a taxi on a busy street , but is continually ignored . He is eventually picked up by Gerome Knox (Ricky Harris) , but suffers a seizure in the back of the taxi , raving about a threat against his life . Knox takes him to hospital , where he is diagnosed as a drug addict . Zero is sedated , but becomes agitated when two men enter the hospital lobby ; Knox helps him escape , believing his life is in danger . The two men , Wright and Patterson , quarantine the area , as Zero is carrying a highly contagious disease .

Millennium Group member Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) is contacted for help in finding Zero , and travels to a briefing on the situation . It is explained that Zero is carrying a disease ordinarily confined to the Congo . Meanwhile , Zero and Knox are attempting to have a local newspaper run Zero 's story , believing he has been infected in a racially motivated conspiracy akin to the Tuskegee syphilis experiment . Police locate and apprehend Zero , who manages to smear blood on Black 's shirt .

Black has the blood tested , and finds it free of any pathogen ; meanwhile , the government center running the earlier briefing has vanished . Black realizes he was tricked into finding Zero for an ulterior motive , eventually learning that the organisation responsible is carrying out medical experiments on the homeless , and may be tied to the Millennium Group . Elsewhere a homeless man , acting similarly to Zero , attacks two policemen , and is killed in response . Black and fellow Group member Peter Watts (Terry O 'Quinn) investigate , but are clearly not welcome . Black manages to obtain a blood sample from the dead man , and finds a stretcher tag which he believes is connected to the United States Department of Energy .

Further examination of the blood of both Zero and the dead man reveal that their condition has been induced through gene therapy . Watts and Black theorize that the DOE is developing a biological weapon which would incite violence and rioting in a targeted population ; they learn that the research is being conducted by scientists involved in the Human Genome Project . Later , the body of Knox is found at a nearby morgue . Later , Black and Watts , assisted by local police , raid an office building connected to the project , which they believe is using homeless shelters to test their pathogen . They hope to recover Zero in the raid , but find him cogent and working for the project ? his real name is Dr. William Kramer , and he denies any knowledge of the incident . Black believes Kramer was accidentally infected during his work , and finds a photograph in the man 's office , showing him in military uniform , taking part in the 1994 Rwandan Genocide .

= = Production = =

" Sense and Antisense " was written by Chip Johannessen , who went on to write a total of twelve episodes across all three seasons , including the series ' final episode , " Goodbye to All That " . The

episode was directed by Thomas J. Wright ; Wright had directed six episodes previously and would helm a further nineteen over the series ' run . Wright would also go on to direct " Millennium " , the series ' crossover episode with its sister show The X @-@ Files .

Johannessen was ultimately unhappy with how the episode turned out , believing that it suffered as a result of frequent re @-@ writes to the script . Johannessen 's original draft focused more heavily on racial issues , which Fox 's broadcast standards office objected to . The episode makes use of Bobby Darin 's song " Gyp the Cat " in a diegetic manner . Darin 's music has been noted by Millennium 's resident composer Mark Snow as a hallmark of the works of executive producers Glen Morgan and James Wong , and would also appear in the episodes " Beware of the Dog " , " Monster " , and " Goodbye Charlie " .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Sense and Antisense " was first broadcast on the Fox network in the United States on October 3 , 1997 . The episode earned a Nielsen rating of 6 @.@ 7 during its original broadcast , meaning that 6 @.@ 7 percent of households in the United States viewed the episode . This represented approximately 6 @.@ 59 million households , and left the episode the seventy @-@ second most @-@ viewed broadcast that week .

The episode generally received mixed reviews from critics . The A.V. Club 's Todd VanDerWerff rated the episode a C + , finding that it to be ambitious but ultimately feeling that it attempted too much at once . VanDerWerff found the episode " entertaining " , but added that it " feels like something that ? s been rewritten at least one time too many , to incorporate more and more ideas until the center cannot hold " . Bill Gibron , writing for DVD Talk , rated the episode 4 out of 5 , praising Williams ' guest appearance . Gibron also felt positively about the episode 's complexity , feeling that it displayed " a certain intelligence " in assuming such a pace . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @-@ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen , rated " Sense and Antisense " two stars out of five , describing it as " too thin and too obvious " . Shearman praised Williams ' guest appearance , but felt that the episode seemed too close thematically to The X @-@ Files to work well on its own .