

= The Arrival (Fringe) =

" The Arrival " is the fourth episode of the first season of the American science fiction drama television series Fringe . The episode was written by the series co @-@ creator and executive producer J. J. Abrams and executive producer and show runner Jeff Pinkner . Paul A. Edwards directed it .

The episode concerns a mysterious cylindrical object called " The Beacon " which appears at a construction site in New York City . The story also involves the relationship between Walter Bishop (John Noble) and the mysterious Observer (Michael Cerveris in his first feature appearance) .

" The Arrival " first aired in the United States on September 30 , 2008 on the Fox Network to more than 10 million viewers . It received positive to mixed reviews , with many praising the new revelations about the Observers .

= = Plot = =

At a diner in Brooklyn , New York , a bald man with no eyebrows sits down at a table and orders a raw roast beef sandwich with eleven jalapeño peppers and a glass of room temperature water . When the sandwich arrives , he drowns it in Tabasco sauce and black pepper and wolfs it down in large , quick bites , to the bemusement of the diner staff . During this time he is also watching the construction site across the street through high @-@ tech binoculars and taking notes from right to left in unrecognizable characters . The ground shakes and a gas main explodes at the site , toppling a crane . The bald man ? the Observer ? calmly pays for his sandwich and wanders to the gaping hole where the construction site was . On a wireless phone , he says " It has arrived . "

In their shared hotel room Walter keeps Peter awake by reciting the chemical formula for root beer . The next morning Peter expresses his unhappiness with the arrangement to Olivia (Anna Torv) and tells her he wants to leave . She can 't let him do that , telling him that Walter refuses to work without him . The Fringe Team investigates the object that arrived in Brooklyn , a cylinder that is determined to vibrate at a particular frequency . In the course of the investigation , Walter assaults and forcibly sedates Junior Agent Astrid Farnsworth (Jasika Nicole) in order to hide the cylinder . He later meets with the bald man at a diner .

Meanwhile , a violent criminal named John Mosley (Michael Kelly) is also searching for the Beacon . After killing one of Olivia 's mentors , Mosley kidnaps and tortures Peter to find out the location . After he recovers the beacon from the grave of Robert Bishop , John Mosley is taken down by Olivia . The beacon escapes into the earth , and The Observer reports that its departure was " on schedule . " Peter confronts The Observer about the beacon , only to have a gibberish conversation that implies that the Observer knows what Peter is going to say before he says it , or , as Peter puts it , " he knew me [...] he was inside my head . " The Observer then knocks Peter out with an advanced sort of stun gun .

After being hospitalized for his injuries , Peter admits to Olivia that his experience with The Observer has caused him to start to believe in The Pattern . Peter decides that he wants to stay with the Fringe team until he gets some explanations . Walter apologizes to Astrid , who doesn 't yet forgive him . Walter admits to Peter that , during an accident many years ago , a mysterious third party saved both their lives . The man was bald and had no eyebrows , who " knew my [Walter 's] thoughts before I did . " Walter admits that his behaviour regarding the capsule , and his desire to protect it , was motivated by his debt to this bald man , and that the capsule somehow contained instructions from this man . At the end of the episode , Olivia returns home , and sees recently deceased lover John Scott (Mark Valley) in her kitchen . He greets her with " Hello , Liv . "

= = Production = =

" The Arrival " was written by co @-@ creator J.J. Abrams and executive producer Jeff Pinkner . Paul A. Edwards directed the episode , his second of the season . Early in the series , actress Jasika Nicole feared her character was going to become liked by the audience only to suddenly die .

She explained that " When I was reading the script in the episode where Dr. Bishop stabs her in the neck with the sedative ? and all [the script] says is , ' Dr. Bishop grabs Astrid from behind and jams the needle into her neck . ' Then it fades to black . My mouth hung open for awhile and I was like , ' Oh my God , I only made it through six episodes . "

While Michael Cerveris has appeared as the Observer in the three previous episodes ? and has appeared in every episode to date ? his previous appearances had been brief background cameos . When initially cast for Fringe , Cerveris assumed he was a mere guest star , and that his character was " one of several nuggets dropped in " by J.J. Abrams in a manner similar to his other science fiction series , Lost . Cerveris soon discovered that his character was " this sort of Where 's Waldo thing (as) the linchpin in an overarching story of the series " . He continued :

I wasn 't told , because I don 't think they knew at the time , whether I was a good guy , a bad guy , human , alien , other @-@ dimensional . I just kind of felt my way through it with the first directors and input , obviously , from the writers in the scripts that we had . Even things like wardrobe , they weren 't given extremely big instructions , so we kind of worked things out together and just found something we all thought was interesting and iconic and went with that .

Executive producer Jeff Pinkner commented , " Our goal was to take a character who is by definition unknowable and make him someone you can connect to emotionally . He 's more specifically connected with the overall character mythology of the show than we ever expected . " The decision to remove his eyebrows was made an hour before he first appeared , which caused stress in the make @-@ up department because Cerveris would not shave his eyebrows ; he commented about the affair , " I 've got a little too much else going on , and who knows if they would ever grow back . I have little enough hair as it is . " " The Arrival " was the first episode in which the Observer had dialogue , and the first in which he was treated as a focal character . In addition to Cerveris , actor Michael Kelly made a guest appearance in the episode .

In the episode , a character introduced as " the Rogue " has a specialized weapon that fires massive amounts of energy . To simulate the energy gun the Rogue fires at Olivia in the forest , the crew placed pyrotechnic charges near the trees to make it appear large blasts were close to hitting her . In a DVD special feature , one of the crew commented it was " challenging " to choreograph the fight scene between The Observer and Peter , because the former does not fight back as he is only there to observe .

The DVD special features include a deleted scene , where Peter emphatically denies the existence of parallel universes after Walter implies their existence in a quote from Shakespeare 's Hamlet .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

More than 10 @.@ 04 million viewers watched " The Arrival " as it was broadcast in the United States , for a 4 @.@ 3 / 11 share among viewers 18 ? 49 . At the point the episode aired , Fringe was the most watched new show on television in the important 18 @-@ 49 demographic . Several days after its airing , Fox announced on October 1 , 2008 that Fringe had been picked up for a full season order .

= = = Reviews = = =

The episode 's reception ranged from positive to mixed . Critic Maureen Ryan was very positive about the episode in her blog at The Chicago Tribune , writing , " I liked this week 's episode , and for once , it wasn 't a case of really wanting to like it and trying to find reasons to see past various flaws . I just enjoyed the hour and felt it had just the right mixture of creepiness and character development (plus , the Observer was awesome . If only they 'd called him the Watcher , but let 's not quibble) . " Alan Sepinwall of The Star @-@ Ledger found " The Arrival " a noticeable improvement over previous episodes . " ... After being more than prepared to give " Fringe " That 's

It For Me ! status going into the episode , I enjoyed the strangeness of it ? The Observer 's hairlessness and diet , Capt. Patterson from " Generation Kill " toting around a futuristic @-@ looking ray gun and a retro @-@ looking mind @-@ reading machine , Walter casually injecting whatsername with a sedative ? that I think I 'll be sticking around for a bit ... If I can brace myself for the probability that this will all lead to nonsense , I can groove on all the atmospherics along the way . And , if nothing else , Abrams is great at atmosphere . "

Also seeing improvement was Jane Boursaw of AOL 's TV Squad , commenting " Tonight 's episode definitely got me intrigued about fringe science , and this is the first time I can really say I 'm looking forward to the next episode . It 's a combination of things , and of course , Walter 's scattered ramblings about whatever strikes him at any particular moment . " Less impressed was Noel Murray of The Onion 's A. V. Club , who gave the episode a grade of C + . Murray wrote , " ' The Arrival ' was the weirdest episode of Fringe yet ? a deep @-@ down sci @-@ fi spookfest that minimized the show 's procedural side and instead raised far more questions than it answered . In fact , I can 't think of any questions that " The Arrival " satisfactorily answered ? not even ' What happened in the Fringe episode entitled ' The Arrival ' ? ' ... The shock and awe factor of " The Arrival " was strong , but as a piece of storytelling , the episode felt slight and soggy , and hardly the satisfying standalone experience that the creators promised each Fringe chapter would be . "

IGN contributor Travis Fickett rated the episode 7 @.@ 5 / 10 , explaining that he liked the " attention to bits of logic that work as the glue , holding the show together " such as Peter 's security clearance , but was skeptical of the episode 's fringe science . Fickett also noticed many similarities to The X @-@ Files , writing " not enough is being done to move the show into its own direction " ; he concluded " The production values are exceptional , the acting is top notch , and it certainly seems to be going somewhere . Where , is another matter all together , but there does seem to be momentum . " Website blogger io9 highlighted " The Arrival " as one of the " crucial " episodes new viewers must watch to understand the show . Jeff Jensen of Entertainment Weekly named " The Arrival " the twelfth best episode of the series , explaining the episode " formally , memorably introduced the Observer known as September (Michael Cerveris) , a Tabasco @-@ loving , Fedora @-@ wearing , bald @-@ headed time traveling surveyor from the future . His altercation with Peter in the graveyard ? mirroring his movements ; parroting his speech in real time ? was one of the show 's earliest water @-@ cooler @-@ weird moments . "