

= Occupation (Battlestar Galactica) =

" Occupation " is the third season premiere and 34th episode of the re @-@ imagined American science fiction drama television series Battlestar Galactica . The episode was written by re @-@ imagined creator Ronald D. Moore , and directed by Sergio Mimica @-@ Gezzan . It first aired on October 6 , 2006 on the Sci @-@ Fi Channel along with the following episode " Precipice " . In the episode , the Cylons are in their fourth month of a military occupation on New Caprica , where the majority of the human population are residing . A resistance movement is trying to drive the Cylons away . Meanwhile , Admiral William Adama continues his plan to rescue everybody there . Unlike most episodes , it does not include a survivor count .

The story behind the episode was inspired by several wars and occupations in the past , including the Quartering Acts and the Iraq War . Several parts of the episode changed from the script , more predominantly the scenes involving a suicide bombing . The producers were worried that the Sci Fi Channel would not allow the inclusion of the scene . The episode was seen by 2 @.@ 2 million viewers and attracted generally positive reactions from critics . In addition , Moore 's writing of the episode was nominated for an Emmy and a Writers Guild of America award .

= = Plot = =

Four months have passed since the end of " Lay Down Your Burdens " , where Cylons found the majority of the human population on a planet known as New Caprica , which had supposedly been hidden from DRADIS , and commenced their occupation . A few thousand humans had escaped in the remaining spaceships following Battlestars Galactica and Pegasus . Admiral William Adama (Edward James Olmos) is continuing to work on a plan to free those trapped on New Caprica . His son and commander of Pegasus Lee " Apollo " Adama (Jamie Bamber) confronts his father on pushing his Viper pilots beyond the breaking point , to which Adama says Apollo is becoming " soft . " Apollo 's wife , Anastasia Dualla (Kandyse McClure) surprises him by supporting the Admiral .

On New Caprica , Kara " Starbuck " Thrace (Katee Sackhoff) is placed in an elaborate prison cell made to look like her old apartment on Caprica by Leoben Conoy (Callum Keith Rennie) , who is attempting to force her to fall in love with him . Starbuck kills him several times , though Leoben always downloads into another body . Saul Tigh (Michael Hogan) is in a Cylon detention facility , where his right eye was forcibly removed . He is released when his wife Ellen Tigh (Kate Vernon) performs sexual favors for the Cylon Brother Cavil (Dean Stockwell) . Tigh returns to Samuel Anders (Michael Trucco) and Galen Tyrol (Aaron Douglas) , who have been leading a resistance movement against the Cylons , having detonated a bomb in a Cylon docking facility before Tigh 's release . Now free , Tigh resorts to escalating their efforts , by planning suicide bombings against the Cylons and any human collaborators .

The resistance is given intelligence by an unidentified informant from the Cylon command structure , by use of a secret dead drop ; flipping a dog bowl and hiding some documents inside the tent next to it . One piece of intelligence given is information on a Cylon communications blocker ; the resistance makes use of that information to contact a Raptor orbiting the planet . The Raptor returns to Galactica with news they have made contact with the resistance on the planet .

Next , the resistance plans to kill the President of the Colonies , Gaius Baltar (James Callis) , who is unwillingly collaborating with the Cylons . They learn he is to attend a graduation ceremony for the New Caprica Police , an unpopular masked police force set up by the Cylons to allow the humans to police the city and do the Cylons ' bidding . Tucker " Duck " Clellan (Christian Tessier) , who has access to the ceremony and whose wife had been killed by the Cylons , agrees to suicide bomb the ceremony . Towards the end of the episode it is revealed that Baltar 's aide , Felix Gaeta (Alessandro Juliani) is the informant . He learns that Baltar will not be attending the ceremony , but cannot alert the resistance in time . Duck attends the ceremony , and when Number Three (Lucy Lawless) comes to shake his hand , Duck detonates the bomb , killing everybody in the room .

= = Production = =

== Writing ==

" Occupation ", and following episode " Precipice " were written by series creator Ronald D. Moore . The Cylon occupation of New Caprica , and the human resistance fighting them , was inspired by wars and military occupations from history , including the Quartering Acts , World War II , and the more recent occupation in Iraq . In the original writing , Moore did not originally consider including Tigh with an eye removed until the final drafts were written . Portraying actor Michael Hogan was initially hesitant with the idea . He recalled that when the producers called him to talk about how his character would be maimed , they suggested having an eye removed . Hogan responded by laughing , and the producers assumed he agreed .

When Anders and Tyrol detonate the bomb at the beginning of the episode , one of the Number Three (D 'anna) models was to film a propaganda film in front of Laura Roslin 's (Mary McDonnell) school at the time , but that was cut . Also , Jammer (Dominic Zamprogna) was originally considered the suicide bomber at the end , but was changed to Duck because he had less to live for after his wife 's death . In the original drafts , the resistance was not planning suicide bombings , but " freaking the Cylons out " by imprisoning many of them in a secret underground prison , torture them for information , and leave them alive instead of killing them , as they would resurrect otherwise . This would make the Cylons worry about their missing comrades . However , Moore later realized that suicide bombings would be " really potent and really powerful . " When writing the scenes involving Duck leading to the suicide bombing , Moore got " emotionally caught up in it , " adding " as I was writing these scenes of him standing in the police ranks , we know he 's got the belt on . What 's he gonna do ? And then , oh my God , he actually does it . I mean , it 's really horrifying stuff . But it 's true . That 's why I want to do it . It really happens . People do this . " The producers were initially worried that the Sci Fi Channel would not allow the inclusion of the bombing scene , but to Moore 's surprise , Sci Fi executive Mark Stern did not object to it .

There was some debate among the writers on when Galactica and the fleet would be brought into the story . Moore decided to reintroduce the space @-@ bound fleet in the beginning of the third act , in order to establish the story on New Caprica , and make the audience happy and more excited to see Galactica . Moore also decided to evolve one of the Number Eight Cylon models , Sharon Agathon (Grace Park) imprisoned on board the ship , where a year would allow Sharon and Admiral Adama to form a special relationship , eventually leading to Adama releasing her and allowing her to become a Colonial officer by the next episode . Moore felt " Occupation " was the best season premiere of Battlestar since " 33 " , the first season premiere , believing the writers " never quite matched " the performance on " 33 " in the following episodes . He also felt it was a better premiere than " Scattered " from the second season , as it contained disparate story lines where the characters were not fully reunited with each other until a few episodes in .

== Filming and post @-@ production ==

The episode began with one of the most extended recaps in the series , as the producers wanted to bring the audience up to date from the events from " Lay Down Your Burdens " , which covered " quite a bit of ground " because of the large story development behind the finale . The scene where the Cylons meet in Colonial One became very tedious for the crew because several versions of the same Cylon model were used in the same shot , and the crew disliked filming on the set . Moore elaborated ;

The crew had to film different versions of the prayer scene before Duck commits the suicide attack . In making the photograph of him and his late wife , the actress who played Nora in the webisode series The Resistance was not available , so the producers digitally inserted her face onto the photograph . The episode includes a voiceover of Roslin detailing the occupation and resistance . This was not originally added in the final script , but was instead considered during post @-@ production of the episode . The ending for the episode was originally Leoben presenting Starbuck

with Kacey Brynn , her " daughter , " but for unspecified reasons , the scene was instead used for " Precipice " .

= = Reception = =

= = = Broadcast and ratings = = =

" Occupation " and " Precipice " was originally meant to be released as two separate episodes , however the producers decided to merge them together to be released as a two @-@ hour broadcast . The reasoning was partly due to the third episode " Exodus " , which became too long and split to a two @-@ part episode , and the producers did not wish to stretch the New Caprica storyline to several weeks . The first 13 minutes of the episode were leaked on the Sci Fi Channel website days prior the broadcast . The two @-@ hour season three premiere was first broadcast on the Sci Fi Channel in the United States on Friday , October 6 , 2006 between 9 pm and 11 pm . After its original broadcast , the two @-@ hour episode attracted a household rating of 1 @.@ 8 , equalling a total of 2 @.@ 2 million viewers . Ratings were an increase of 2 per cent in total viewing from the average ratings from the second half of the second season .

= = = Reviews = = =

" Occupation " received generally positive reviews from critics . Eric Goldman of IGN rated " Occupation " a " masterful " 10 out of 10 , stating " watching the season premiere of Battlestar Galactica is a great reminder that this is truly still the best show on television . " Ian Berriman of SFX called the episode a " stunning season opener , " citing the similarities of the occupation of Iraq as its greatest strength , but also thought it was the episode 's weakness . Berriman also liked Tigh 's transformation to a " ruthless terrorist " and Starbuck 's part of the episode . " Occupation " was rated five stars out of five .

Patrick Sauriol of UGO started the review stating " After the events of season two 's cliffhanger , there were a hundred questions on the minds of the show 's fans , but the biggest one gets answered with the Season Three double @-@ header premiere : was the start of Season Three worth the wait or has the show jumped the shark ? Answer : You better frakkin ' believe that Battlestar Galactica hasn 't jumped the shark . " Sauriol commented that the time leap of a year was a " gutsy move , " but felt it has " always been the case " for the series . However , he also felt that all doubts the audience might have to harbor " that this show won 't live up to the first two seasons should be wiped away . " Callis ' performance was praised , with Sauriol stating " again Callis proves that he owns this role and again he proves tonight why Gaius Baltar is the best character on this show . " Sauriol graded " Occupation " and the following " Precipice " A- . Television Without Pity gave the episode a B.

= = = Awards and nominations = = =

In 2007 , the episode was nominated for a 59th Primetime Emmy Awards for " Outstanding Writing in a Drama Series " , but lost to HBO 's The Sopranos series finale " Made in America " . It was also nominated for a Writers Guild of America Award for best Episodic Drama . However , the episode lost out to the pilot episode of Big Love .