

= Dæmonicus =

" Dæmonicus " is the third episode of the ninth season of the American science fiction television series The X @-@ Files and the show 's 185th episode overall . It first premiered on the Fox network in the United States on December 2 , 2001 . The episode was written and directed by executive producer Frank Spotnitz . The episode is a " monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ week " episode , a stand @-@ alone plot which is unconnected to the mythology , or overarching fictional history , of The X @-@ Files . The episode earned a Nielsen rating of 5 @.@ 5 and its premiere was viewed by 5 @.@ 80 million households . The episode received mixed reviews from television critics .

The show centers on FBI special agents who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files ; this season focuses on the investigations of John Doggett ( Robert Patrick ) , Monica Reyes ( Annabeth Gish ) , and Dana Scully ( Gillian Anderson ) . In this episode , Doggett , Reyes , and Scully investigate a series of bizarre killings that seem to be due to demonic possession but which Doggett believes is a hoax . The agents soon meet Josef Kobold ( James Remar ) , a man who seems to be playing some sort of demonic game .

" Dæmonicus " was written by Spotnitz to develop the new settings for the show 's Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week episodes , as well as the series in general . One of the major steps taken was to move Scully from the X @-@ Files office to the FBI Academy at Quantico . When creating Josef Kobold , the episode 's antagonist , Spotnitz researched various crimes and criminals , until he learned about Caryl Chessman , a man who had been sentenced to death on a technical charge of kidnapping . Series co @-@ star Robert Patrick had issues remembering and delivering his lines , due to the theme of demonic possession , which reportedly made him uneasy .

= = Plot = =

Following a bizarre double @-@ murder with Satanic ritual overtones in Weston , West Virginia , John Doggett ( Robert Patrick ) and Monica Reyes ( Annabeth Gish ) are offered the case . Doggett and Reyes ask Dana Scully ( Gillian Anderson ) to do an autopsy on the murder victims . The agents comes to the conclusion that one of the murder victims was somehow tricked into killing his wife , while evidence at the scene points to two perpetrators . When Reyes claims to have felt the presence of evil , Doggett responds with great irritation . Dr. Monique Sampson calls them , saying that the murders may be connected to an escaped mental patient , Dr. Kenneth Richman , and a guard , Paul Gerlach .

Meanwhile , in a wooden area , the two perpetrators , both wearing demon masks , face each other some twenty paces apart . One of the perpetrators raises his gun and shoots the other . At the mental institution , the two agents interview Josef Kobold ( James Remar ) , the neighbouring patient of Richman . The answers Kobold gives are unsettling for the agents , as he says that one of the perpetrators has killed again , showing them the location and warning them of " something horrible " happening there . After the dead perpetrator 's body is recovered , Scully performs an autopsy and discovers that the body belongs to Gerlach .

The agents ask Kobold for help finding the remaining perpetrator . When speaking to Kobold , he suddenly speaks in a strange backward whispering and erupts in convulsions . Reyes hears the word " medicus , " meaning " physician . " After putting Kobold in the custody of another guard named Custer , Doggett and Reyes race to Sampson 's home and find her dead , with a dozen hypodermic needles jammed into her face . During a one @-@ on @-@ one confrontation , Kobold taunts Doggett about his personal life before vomiting all over him . As Doggett talks to Reyes , the power suddenly goes out in the mental institution . Custer approaches Kobold 's cell and witnesses him turning into a demon .

Doggett phones Scully to tell her that Kobold claims Richman is at an old marina near Annandale , Virginia . Scully drives there , but is attacked by Richman . When Doggett and Reyes arrive , they hear a gunshot from inside an abandoned warehouse . There , they find Richman dead . Scully explains that he was holding her at gunpoint until they arrived , then shot himself . After Scully 's

lecture to FBI cadets , Doggett explains to her and Reyes that Kobold planned the entire ordeal as a game and got away with it .

= = Production = =

= = = Writing and directing = = =

" Dæmonicus " was written and directed by executive producer Frank Spotnitz . The episode marked Spotnitz 's third credit as a writer and first credit as director for the season . In addition , the episode marked the second time Spotnitz helmed an episode 's directing , with the last being " Alone " . " Daemonicus " is the first Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week episode of season nine , meaning a stand @-@ alone episode unconnected to the series ' wider mythology ; as season nine was promoted as the " new " X @-@ Files , it was important to develop new settings for the show . One of these new settings was to move Dana Scully from the X @-@ Files office to the FBI Academy at Quantico . The scenes at the FBI Academy were shot at a lecture hall at UCLA . Spotnitz 's wife , Melissa , appears as one of the students in Scully 's class .

Spotnitz later called Kobold , the episode 's main antagonist , " the devil , in a cell . " When creating Kobold , Spotnitz researched various crimes and criminals , until he came across the name of Caryl Chessman , who had been sentenced to death on a technical charge of kidnapping . He was then able to connect the word " chessman " to the idea that , for Kobold , his crimes were all a game . Spotnitz wanted the villain to be a character that " could help " , and not a character that would just tell the viewers " what The X @-@ Files was again " .

Series co @-@ star Robert Patrick had issues remembering and delivering his lines due to the theme of demonic possession , which reportedly " was freaking " him out . He later explained , " It was the first time that I couldn 't do my lines . Usually I would show up , and they 'd always put the camera on me first [ but this time ] I couldn 't do it . "

= = = Filming = = =

The episode contained several sequences of Josef Kobold throwing up . Spotnitz had not intended the finished product to feature all the shots but the editor at that time , Chris Cooke , " cut it that way . " Spotnitz felt that it " was so completely over the top . " To create the shots , the production crew used tubes which supplied the faux vomit . The tubes were discreetly fitted to actor James Remar 's mouth . Remar , in turn , only had to open his mouth during the shooting of the sequence . Spotnitz later joked that he had " a thing for vomiting " .

= = Reception = =

" Dæmonicus " first premiered on the Fox network in the United States on December 2 , 2001 . The episode earned a Nielsen household rating of 5 @. @ 5 , meaning that it was seen by 5 @. @ 5 % of the nation 's estimated households and was viewed by 5 @. @ 80 million households . " Dæmonicus " was the 68th most watched episode of television that aired during the week ending December 2 . The episode later aired in the United Kingdom on BBC One on November 17 , 2002 .

The episode received mixed reviews from television critics . Jessica Morgan of Television Without Pity gave the episode a " C " grade rating . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book *Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @-@ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen* , rated the episode one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five . The two criticized Spotnitz " attention seeking direction " , citing the " strange cross fades " and " exaggerated camera angles " as detractors . Furthermore , they were critical about the story , writing that it was " all over the place " . Ultimately , Shearman and Pearson concluded that the entry was an example of " this new season [ needing ] to try a little harder " in order to become a success .

Zack Handlen of *The A.V. Club* gave the episode a " C ? " and wrote that while the episode had a

lot of gruesome moments , such as the corpses with snakes inside of them and the gristly murders , the " meandering structure , over @-@ emphasized grimness , and deadening pace render all of these elements inert " . He also felt that , after " Nothing Important Happened Today " ? which he called a " snooze @-@ fest " ? " Daemonicus " was a " disheartening [ way ] to get back to monster of the week episodes " . Other reviews were more positive . M.A. Crang , in his book *Denying the Truth : Revisiting The X @-@ Files after 9 / 11* , said the episode was " sluggishly paced " but praised the " wonderfully tense atmosphere " and Spotnitz 's " stylish directing choices " . In a season review , Michelle Kung from *Entertainment Weekly* called the episode " worthy " , but noted that it was overshadowed by the show 's " ludicrous conspiracy plots " .