

= Momentum Deferred =

" Momentum Deferred " is the fourth episode of the second season of the American science fiction drama television series *Fringe* . Screenwriters Zack Stentz and Ashley Edward Miller wrote the episode , and co @-@ executive producer Joe Chappelle directed it .

The episode followed the theft of cryogenically @-@ frozen heads by shapeshifters from the parallel universe in their search for a specific head , while the *Fringe* team attempts to prevent this . Meanwhile , Olivia struggles to remember her conversation with William Bell ( guest actor Leonard Nimoy ) that took place in the season one finale . " Momentum Deferred " marked the first appearances of guest actors Theresa Russell , Sebastian Roché , and Ryan McDonald .

It first aired on October 8 , 2009 in the United States , and was watched by more than 6 @.@ 02 million viewers . The episode received generally positive reviews , with many critics praising the new revelations about the shapeshifters , the parallel universe , as well as the much @-@ anticipated conversation between Olivia and William Bell . In January 2013 , IGN ranked it as the third best episode of the series .

= = Plot = =

A shipment of heads stored in cryogenic storage is hijacked , though one of the hijackers is killed by a guard , and bleeds a mix of blood and mercury , identifying him as a shapeshifter from the parallel universe . The *Fringe* division discovers an undamaged device they believe is used by the shapeshifters to take another 's identity . Olivia Dunham ( Anna Torv ) gives the device to Nina Sharp ( Blair Brown ) at Massive Dynamic ; with the intact device , they can use it to examine the device of the first shapeshifter that tried to kill Olivia in the episode " A New Day in the Old Town " . They are unaware that this shapeshifter has taken the form of Olivia 's partner , Charlie ( Kirk Acevedo ) , ordered to find out what she learned from William Bell ( Leonard Nimoy ) when she was temporarily taken to the parallel universe .

Walter ( John Noble ) remembers that one of his former patients Rebecca Kibner ( Theresa Russell ) , while under a heavy dose of mind @-@ altering drugs , had witnessed events in the parallel universe including the presence of the shapeshifters . To try to learn more , they approach Rebecca and ask for her help , who is happy to participate . After outfitting her with electrodes and injecting her with more drugs , Walter starts the process by clanging a bell ; to everyone 's surprise , this causes Olivia to pass out .

The bell has caused Olivia to recall her conversation with Bell in the parallel universe . There , Bell warned Olivia of a " great storm " that was coming , and that she must stop a man who is trying to open a gateway between the two universes , providing Olivia with an icon symbol and a hand @-@ written name to remember . Walter and Peter help revive Olivia who immediately demands to see Nina . As Olivia leaves , Walter returns with Rebecca to her home .

Nina , initially doubtful that Olivia met Bell , recognizes the " great storm " phrase , and attempts to help Olivia in any way possible . As Olivia recounts the name of another cryogenics facility from Bell 's note , she receives a text message from Charlie warning her that Nina is the shapeshifter . She leaves and regroups with Charlie , but in a side alley , is alerted by her phone that Massive Dynamic 's analysis of the first device was completed , and reveals Charlie as the shapeshifter . Too late , Olivia realizes she has told Charlie the location of the cryogenics facility , and Charlie relays this to another agent . After a brief fight for her life , Olivia shoots and kills the shapeshifter . Broyles ( Lance Reddick ) helps to comfort Olivia that she had to kill the man she thought was Charlie . At the episode 's conclusion , the head with Bell 's symbol is reattached to the body of a shapeshifter .

= = Production = =

= = = Writing and filming = = =

" Momentum Deferred " was written by screenwriters Zack Stentz and Ashley Edward Miller . In the first several drafts of the episode , it was initially called " This is the Night Mail , " which was based on a poem by W.H. Auden . The episode completed the " gun arc " storyline , which began with Olivia hurtling out of her SUV in the season premiere and being too weak to control her gun during her physical recovery , and ended with the killing of the shapeshifter posing as Charlie Francis . Miller and Stentz elaborated , " I think it 's Jeff Pinkner who described the first several episodes as the gun arc . Because really the gun played out until Olivia was whole again . Her actions with the gun in all of those episodes symbolized where she was on the journey . And it culminates in her being able to use it to kill someone who looks exactly like her best friend . "

Co @-@ executive producer Joe Chappelle worked as the episode director . He commented , " I was so looking forward to directing 2x04 because it was a payoff of a full season and three episodes of work . You 've been laying all this groundwork of information for all the characters and the backstory . The actors loved doing it because they 're earned moments . "

The episode was shot in Vancouver during the summer , where temperatures were over 100 degrees Fahrenheit . Executive producer Jeff Pinkner commented that despite the heat , guest actor Leonard Nimoy " was doing pages and pages of dialogue , and he handled it like a pro , " while co @-@ star Joshua Jackson joked that " [ Nimoy 's ] wife said he practices biofeedback , so he knows how to control his body temperature " . Chappelle called the episode " intriguing because it 's a summation of everything that came before it , so we 're resolving a lot of issues and a lot of questions . But it 's also a springboard into the rest of the season " . Actor John Noble , who played Walter Bishop , called it " probably one of our strongest and densest episodes " because it " changes the whole direction of the show " .

Not knowing when his next billed episode would be , Nimoy said in an interview before " Momentum Deferred " aired that he 's " waiting to see what these terribly imaginative writers come up with for the future . I ? m expecting that I probably will be going back to work for them before too much longer . I 'm looking forward to what they send me on the page " . After shooting the episode , Pinkner said " We want him back as much as he wants to come back " . Nimoy 's next appearance occurred six episodes later , in " Grey Matters " . As a reference to a brief appearance by Nimoy 's character William Bell , sound editor Bruce Tanis was instructed to create bells as a recurring motif in the scene when Bell encounters Olivia and gives her vital information about the parallel universe . Tanis explained that because he couldn 't put the sound of bells in everything , he " took some dry ice recordings and pitched them down considerably and reverbed them to become ringing tones that I played underneath the whole scene " . Tanis also used some " reversed " ship 's bells as well as crystal glass rubs in order to make Bell 's office sound like multiple layers of glass and bell sounds ; he referred to the scene as " a little ominous " but not " too cliché " .

Prop master Rob Smith joined the series during its second season , and had to quickly learn about all the gadgets featured in Fringe 's debut season . Smith was asked to create a " neural stimulator " in the script to " Momentum Deferred " , but " didn 't really know the episodes well enough to say , ? Oh , ok , that ? s exactly what it is . ? So I talked to the director , who had been on season 1 , and he goes , ? Oh , I don 't know , it ? s just something that goes on the guy 's head ' . " Smith discovered that the headpiece in question had been rented during the first season , causing him to recreate the prop over one weekend . He called this process " a little bit stressful . " The gadget , Smith explained , was important because it " defined the way that Walter works . He ? s this mad scientist who takes conventional science and then puts his own twist on it , as it were . And then the thing that struck me about that one was that it made me uncomfortable to look at it . " Smith added , " It ? s one of those things that people love and hate about Fringe , it puts your [ sic ] out of your comfort zone . That ? s sort of what I was trying to say about Walter ? there ? s kind of a bird ? s nest of wires everywhere , and then they end up on the guy 's head , and from that he can tell what the guy ? s thinking . It ? s quite cool . "

== = Casting == =

" Momentum Deferred " marked the first appearance of guest actor Sebastian Roché as Thomas

Jerome Newton , a new recurring villain from the parallel universe often referred to as the " Omega Man " . Newton was named in honor of English musician David Bowie , who played a character with the same name in the film The Man Who Fell to Earth . German actor Thomas Kretschmann was originally cast for the part , but was unable to be a recurring character due to a scheduling conflict . Though uncredited , Kretschmann briefly did some shooting on the set of " Momentum Deferred " ; Kretschmann was originally in Newton 's one scene in the episode , at the end when they show a sewn @-@ up head , but Roché 's head instead appears .

Near the end of the first season in late May 2009 , actor Kirk Acevedo announced he was " fired " off of the show from his Facebook page . Executive producer Jeff Pinkner denied it soon after , explaining that " like all things on Fringe , there is more to this story than meets the eye " and reminded viewers that an alternate version of his character had already appeared in a first season episode . Later that summer at Comic @-@ Con in July he reiterated that " rumors of Charlie 's demise are premature , " and at the August Television Critics Association press tour he commented about Charlie possibly showing up in the previously visited parallel universe . " Momentum Deferred " marked the actor 's last appearance in the prime universe . In response to why the character was killed off , Entertainment Weekly 's Michael Ausiello reported that the " storyline dictated . Charlie wasn 't going to have much to do this season , and rather than waste Kirk 's time , they cut him loose " . The character 's doppelganger from the parallel universe returned in the season finale " Over There " .

Despite initial reports stating guest actress Theresa Russell would be playing a recurring character , the episode marked her only appearance as an adult version of the character . Russell plays Rebecca Kibner , a former test subject and love interest of Walter 's ; a younger version played by actress Tegan Moss is seen in the season premiere " A New Day in the Old Town " . In the DVD audio commentary , the writers explained that when they were looking for an actress to play the character , the casting director April Webster , acting on Jeff Pinkner 's instructions , called Kibner both " a blessing and a curse , " because the writers wanted to explore the burden of what it meant to be special . One writer explained Kibner and Walter 's past relationship had not been a long term affair , but instead more of a " little fling " . The episode also marked the first appearance of Canadian actor Ryan McDonald as recurring character Brandon Fayette , a Massive Dynamic scientist . According to the episode 's writers , the character is based on a man who works at the production company Bad Robot .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Momentum Deferred " aired to an estimated 6 @.@ 02 million viewers in the United States , with a 2 @.@ 1 / 6 rating for adults 18 ? 49 . This rating helped Fox increase 39 % in the rating share from the previous year on their Thursday night shows .

= = = Reviews = = =

Josh Wigler from MTV loved the revelations from the conversation with William Bell , along with the appearance of shapeshifters . He thought the episode was Fringe " at its absolute finest , " as the " mystery @-@ of @-@ the @-@ week and the overarching plot worked in complete harmony with one another , proving that Fringe is entirely capable of delivering on both a serialized and episodic basis " . Entertainment Weekly 's Ken Tucker praised guest actor Leonard Nimoy 's " terrific , coolly @-@ controlled performance , " and wrote that he continued " to admire the way Fringe can mind @-@ meld its scientific fiction with workplace @-@ family drama and light comedy , juggling an increasing number of characters and subplots , while still maintaining a strong narrative through @-@ line " . The A.V. Club 's Noel Murray graded the episode a B + , explaining that the episode was much better than the previous week and also praising the introduction of two new characters

and the long awaited meeting between Olivia and William Bell . Murray concluded his review somewhat negatively , " If the whole episode had maintained the " yes we 're aware this is kinda nutsy " tone of that one great line , I 'd have bumped it up one more notch to the A @-@ level . I 'm holding back only because " Momentum Deferred " was such an info @-@ dump , and played a fraction too soberly " .

Writing for Mania.com , Stephen Lackey thought the alternate universe plotline was risky because it had the potential to cause Fringe to " mak [ e ] a complex plot convoluted by taking off in flights of fancy with the writing and forgetting what has been written before , " but he does not believe that point has been reached yet . He also thought the meeting between Olivia and Bell " wasn 't as epic as it has been teased , " but enjoyed the " fascinating " cliffhanger at the end , ultimately calling it a " good " episode . Website blogger io9 listed " Momentum Deferred " as one of the " crucial " episodes new viewers must watch to get into the show . In January 2013 , IGN ranked the episode as the third best of the series , explaining that " the early seasons of Fringe specialized in putting Olivia in dire circumstances and letting her fight her way out like a she @-@ boss . ' Momentum Deferred ' was one of those episodes , and it brought more exciting moments than most series get in a whole season . "