

= In Which We Meet Mr. Jones =

" In Which We Meet Mr. Jones " is the seventh episode of the first season of the American science fiction drama television series *Fringe* . The story begins when a FBI agent collapses from a parasite constricting his heart , and Olivia must meet with biochemist David Robert Jones (Jared Harris) in Frankfurt in order to find a cure . It featured the first appearance by Harris .

The episode was written by J. J. Abrams and Jeff Pinkner , and directed by Brad Anderson . The writers designed it to serve as the foundation for the " next chapter " in the season 's narrative .

It first aired in the United States on November 11 , 2008 on the Fox network to an estimated 8 @.@ 61 million viewers . Reviews of the episode were mostly mixed .

= = Plot = =

Agent Mitchell Loeb (Chance Kelly) , a friend of Broyles (Lance Reddick) , is on a group mission in Weymouth , Massachusetts but fails to find evidence of wrongdoing in a truck they targeted . Loeb and Broyles are in a meeting afterwards when Loeb collapses , seemingly of a heart attack or seizure . He is rushed to the hospital , where the medical staff cut open his chest , only to find his heart is being constricted by an engineered parasite . The *Fringe* division of Olivia , Walter , and Peter are briefed by Broyles , who then shows them the hospitalized Loeb .

At Harvard , the Bishops run tests on Loeb while Olivia talks with Loeb 's wife Samantha (Trini Alvarado) . Not recognizing the parasite , Walter pokes it with a blade in an attempt to remove it , and it constricts tighter around Loeb 's heart , further endangering his life . Walter is able to get a tissue sample , while Peter administers some medicine to calm Loeb 's heart . After a DNA analysis , Walter discovers a pattern " too organized to be accidental , too perfect to be natural . " Astrid thinks it is a Caesar cipher , and she and Olivia decipher the acronym " ZFT " . After talking with Broyles , Olivia is directed to talk to David Robert Jones (Jared Harris) , a biochemist being held incommunicado in " Wissenschaft Prison " , Frankfurt , Germany (" Wissenschaft " is German for " science ") . Broyles explains to her that ZFT are privately funded cells in 83 recorded countries that traffic in scientific progress , not weapons or drugs . Some fringe events in previous episodes may have been orchestrated by this group . He says little else is known .

Meanwhile , Peter and Walter discover the parasite has slowly worked its roots into Loeb 's circulatory system and extended through the IV into the IV drip ; they estimate Loeb has a day to live . After meeting with old friend Lucas Vogel (Billy Burke) , Olivia is able to secure a meeting with Jones , who may know a cure to the parasite slowly killing Loeb . Charlie Francis (Kirk Acevedo) finds a sheet of code in Loeb 's briefcase listing agents from their field office . They suspect another mole with access to high level security clearances and tie it to a Joseph Smith , previously mentioned by Loeb as a suspected mole after the truck mission failure . Although she is not able to talk with Jones at first , he arranges for Olivia to be given a piece of paper with instructions demanding he first speak to Smith , a colleague of his , before he helps her . Smith is unfortunately killed soon after in a raid set up by Broyles . Walter , however , devises a way to wire Peter into the dead man 's brain , enabling Peter to speak on his behalf without Jones knowing Smith is dead . Smith 's " response " is " little hill , " which is an answer Jones seems pleased to hear . Jones duly tells Olivia a formula for the parasite , and the subsequent procedure is successful . The parasite is removed , but the team does not realize that the entire incident was orchestrated by Loeb and his wife to get the information Peter extracted from Smith . The final scene shows Samantha Loeb whispering " little hill " into her husband 's ear at the hospital .

= = Production = =

Co @-@ creator J.J. Abrams and executive producer Jeff Pinkner wrote the episode , and Brad Anderson directed it . Pinkner has stated that the first six episodes of season one served as a prologue , and that the following episodes , beginning with " In Which We Meet Mr. Jones " , would be the " next chapter " in the story . Pinkner further described the episode as " foundational , " as it

will set up " a lot of things will be set up which will come to pay off over the next several weeks " .

The character David Robert Jones is a reference to English musician David Bowie , who was born with that name . " In Which We Meet Mr. Jones " was the first appearance of the character . When actor Jared Harris was first cast for the part , he was told Jones was " possibly a major , important character " , as indicated by the episode 's title . Whether his character would make a reappearance later in the season depended on how well received Jones was by the show 's audience , Harris ' performance , and if the writers felt they had more to tell about the character . Harris later described Jones in a May 2009 interview , " I think you could sense that there was a great bit of ambiguity about the character which was useful . He 's a bad guy that might be on the right side . He just might be fighting for the good guys . Those guys are always great parts because you leave the audience guessing about what side he 's really on . He 's one of those guys that if he 's fighting for the right cause , he 's a tremendous ally . But if he 's fighting on the wrong cause , he 's a formidable opponent . He 's an anti @-@ hero who is fighting for the just cause " . Harris asserted in a February 2009 interview that he did not sign a recurring contract , meaning that the character was not meant to be permanent . He affirmed this by believing the character 's personality rendered Jones incapable of joining the regular cast , " You 'd have to keep [Jones] chained like a dog . You couldn 't let him loose . You certainly couldn 't let him use his hands . You know what the f--k he 'd do " .

The crew first considered making the parasite look like " an alien , " but shifted away from that in favor of depicting it like an amoeba to be more familiar to the audience . CGI modeling followed , along with a physical model , which was then used by the CGI department to simulate it being wrapped around Loeb 's heart . To create the actual , physical parasite , the crew used a prosthetic chest and CGI to create the parasite , and a pig torso was used when the doctors made the initial incision at the hospital .

During the scene where Broyles is talking with Mitchell Loeb , Mitchell mentions the words " Page 47 " . The number 47 bears a huge significance to another J.J. Abrams show , Alias .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

The premiere of " In Which We Meet Mr. Jones " was watched by an estimated 8 @. @ 61 million viewers in the United States . It received a 5 @. @ 2 / 8 rating among all households .

= = = Reviews = = =

Travis Fickett of IGN disliked the episode , criticizing it as " sloppy , " the science as " repeating itself , " and the fringe element [the parasite] as " especially goofy " ; he rated the episode 6 @. @ 0 / 10 . Writing for Mania.com , critic Stephen Lackey thought Anna Torv 's performance " felt forced " , but heaped praise on John Noble . Lackey believes Torv and Joshua Jackson have good chemistry , and consequently partly disliked the episode because they had few scenes together . He also thought the case of the week was " fairly entertaining , " but the storyline was " just ... passable " , as he wanted the show " to be done with all of the introductions and get more into the mystery of the pattern " . He concluded his review , " Hopefully , next week the story will be just a little more concise , Olivia and Peter back working together and maybe at some point Astrid will actually have something important to do " . The Los Angeles Times thought the episode was " solid if unexceptional " , as he liked Walter but disliked the " vacuum of personality " that is Astrid .

UGO Networks writer Jon Lachonis stated , " If you were on the fence before , [the episode] will drag you kicking and screaming into the dark world of Fringe 's science wielding bogeymen . " In Which we Meet Mr. Jones " is what Fringe promised it would be from the beginning , a suspense driven procedural that probes deep into our technological phobias . With this new formulation of Fringe , we get the challenge of a sophisticated crime drama mixed with sad sack characters that tempt the everyman into the game , while blowing us away with a level of wordplay and pseudo

science that CSI or Alias could only have dreamed of . " A.V. Club 's Noel Murray enjoyed the episode , giving it a B + , while Television Without Pity gave the episode a B- .