

= 200 ( Stargate SG @-@ 1 ) =

" 200 " is the sixth episode of the science fiction television series Stargate SG @-@ 1 's tenth season , and the 200th episode of the series overall . Unlike the more serious nature of the season 's story arc , " 200 " is a light @-@ hearted parody of both Stargate SG @-@ 1 and other sci @-@ fi shows , as well as popular culture like The Wizard of Oz .

" 200 " won the 2007 Constellation Award for Best Overall 2006 Science Fiction Film or Television Script , and was nominated for the 2007 Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation , Short Form . The episode also marks the first time original SG @-@ 1 member Jack O 'Neill ( Richard Dean Anderson ) is seen since the beginning of Season 9 .

The episode received a 1 @. @ 9 average household rating , one of the few episodes of the season that surpassed the average rating of Stargate SG @-@ 1 's previous season . " 200 " also received near @-@ universal praise for its humor and writing . Despite the strong performance of the episode , the Sci @-@ Fi Channel announced soon after the episode 's airing it would not be renewing the series for another season .

= = Plot = =

Martin Lloyd ( Willie Garson ) , an extraterrestrial turned Hollywood writer , returns to Stargate Command looking for assistance from SG @-@ 1 with his script for the movie adaptation of the television show Wormhole X @-@ Treme , first featured earlier in the series in the episode " Wormhole X @-@ Treme ! " . The team , especially Lt. Colonel Mitchell ( Ben Browder ) , is reluctant to help . Mitchell is excited about his next off @-@ world mission because it marks his 200th trip through the Stargate . However , when technical glitches prevent the team from setting off on their mission , they are stuck in the briefing room under the orders of General Landry ( Beau Bridges ) , because the Pentagon believes a successful science fiction film about intergalactic wormhole travel will serve as a good cover story to keep the real Stargate program a secret .

The notes session quickly devolves into the team members pitching their own versions of a successful sci @-@ fi film , including a zombie invasion ( from Mitchell ) , a previously unseen mission where O 'Neill became invisible ( from Carter ) , " tributes " to The Wizard of Oz and Farscape ( from Vala ) , and Teal 'c as a private investigator ( from Teal 'c himself ) . Also featured are a vignette of the team 's mental image of a " younger and edgier " SG @-@ 1 ( sparked by the studio 's suggestion to replace the original Wormhole X @-@ Treme cast ) , a suggested scene by Martin that turns out to be both scientifically inaccurate and highly derivative of Star Trek , a re @-@ imagined version of the SG @-@ 1 pilot episode where all the characters are marionettes in the style of the television series Thunderbirds , and an imagined wedding that features the return of General O 'Neill ( Richard Dean Anderson ) .

Ultimately , the planning session is all for naught , as the studio decides to cancel the movie in favor of renewing the series . At the end of the episode , the focus shifts ten years into the future , where the Wormhole X @-@ Treme cast and crew are celebrating their 200th episode , as well as renewed plans for a movie .

= = Production = =

Executive producer Robert C. Cooper originally proposed they write a normal script for the 200th episode . However it soon became clear that deciding who would have the privilege of writing the 200th episode would be problematic . This led to the idea to create a sketch episode in the manner of Saturday Night Live , with each writer creating a vignette . The episode took shape when the writers thought to bring back Wormhole X @-@ Treme and the character of Martin , and frame the whole episode as a notes session . By the end of the writing process the episode had turned into " an homage to the cast , crew , and die @-@ hard fans . "

Stargate producers were not sure actor Richard Dean Anderson would return for the episode , so they devised many scenes where Anderson was " in " the episode but not actually shown . However

, Anderson was willing to return and appeared in several scenes . In the DVD special Stargate SG @-@ 1 : Behind the 200th Cooper said , " it was a big deal for us to have [ him ] back for the 200th episode . We obviously didn 't think we could do it without him . "

Despite the markedly different content of the episode , " 200 " took no longer to shoot than a normal episode , mainly because much of the filming took place on the briefing room set . On the other hand , the episode was much more expensive than a typical one , due to the unusual sequences . For example , the marionettes used in an elaborate spoof of the series were created by the Chiodo brothers , who also made the puppets for Team America : World Police ; each puppet cost about US \$ 25 @,@ 000 , and the wires pulling each puppet had to be readded by CGI in post production because they didn 't show up well enough . Several existing sets were used as stand @-@ ins ; for example , the bridge of the Odyssey was used for a Star Trek : The Original Series spoof , while a set from the sister production Stargate : Atlantis was used as the chamber of the Wizard of Oz .

In an interview about the tenth season of Stargate , Cooper and series co @-@ creator Brad Wright stated that there was a fine line between the humor of regular episodes turning into camp . While jokes for the joke 's sake are usually limited in normal episodes , the line between humor and camp is deliberately crossed frequently in " 200 " . The producers even talked about recreating a part of Blazing Saddles that breaks the fourth wall , but they could not afford the horses .

The producers made sure that the episode was well @-@ publicized , dropping hints that Anderson 's character O 'Neill would return for the episode . Joe Mallozzi , executive producer for the series , also hinted that series fans would finally meet the Furlings , an enigmatic race referenced in the second season episode " The Fifth Race " but never seen . Despite the outlandish scenes filmed for the episode , many of the writers ' favorite moments did not make it to production due to time constraints . For example , Cooper noted that a Gilligan 's Island skit was cut from the script .

= = Cultural references = =

Most of the episode is devoted to references and allusions to other works , as well as the show itself . The title sequence is deliberately shorter than most other episodes , poking fun at shows like Lost as well as the Sci @-@ Fi Channel itself , which had shortened SG @-@ 1 's Season 9 opening but changed it back after fans demanded it . When Martin learns that his main actor has backed out of the movie , the SG @-@ 1 team offers various suggestions for how to replace him or work around his non @-@ availability ? a reference to Michael Shanks 's absence from the sixth season of Stargate SG @-@ 1 . Anderson himself also pokes fun at the ending of the eighth season episode " Moebius " , which was intended to be the series finale before the ninth season was announced . The final scene of " 200 " , which features interviews with the Wormhole X @-@ Treme cast , was added as an afterthought , and contains comments from the real cast which were used out of context as an inside joke .

The episode also riffs on other science fiction shows . Early in the episode , Dr. Jackson asks why anyone would make a movie version of a TV series that lasted only three episodes ? Teal 'c responds that it had strong DVD sales . This is a reference to the series Firefly , which Fox executives decided to cancel after airing only three episodes ( although 14 episodes had been filmed , and 11 of them were actually aired ? 8 more after the cancellation announcement had been made ) . The high number of DVDs of these episodes that sold afterwards justified making a feature film based on the series , Serenity . ( Firefly is again referenced when Lloyd refuses to use footage from the Wormhole X @-@ Treme series for the movie , saying that " it 's a movie , not a clip show . " This is an allusion to Joss Whedon 's insistence that the movie Firefly would not use footage from the original series because it is " not a clip show " . ) In addition , one of the sequences is a parody of the original Star Trek series , with SG @-@ 1 standing in for the crew of the Enterprise . Brad Wright , the co @-@ creator of the series , fills in as the engineer Montgomery Scott . The episode also pokes good @-@ humored fun at the series Farscape , including its habit of inventing swear words . The Farscape sequence itself is an in @-@ joke , since the Stargate : SG @-@ 1 actors Ben Browder and Claudia Black had both starred in the earlier series ( and indeed Black reprises her original role of Aeryn Sun , though Browder plays a different character , Stark , while Michael

Shanks portrays Browder 's Farscape character , John Crichton ) . Several other shows and movies are parodied , including the The Wizard of Oz ( the story is re @-@ told with the members of the SG @-@ 1 team as the adventurers in Oz . The writers based the parody on a fan painting they had hanging in their office ) . The episode also makes fun of 24 's " ticking clock of jeopardy " , and an entire sequence is enacted with all the characters played by marionettes , in the style of Thunderbirds and Team America : World Police .

= = Reception = =

The episode won the 2007 Constellation Award for Best Overall 2006 Science Fiction Film or Television Script , and was nominated for the 2007 Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation , Short Form . Richard Dean Anderson also won a SyFy Genre Award for his guest appearance in the episode .

The episode was generally well received . IGN declared the episode " one of the smartest and funniest hours of television to grace the small screen yet this season . " They went on to applaud the decision not only to parody other works but the show itself . Maureen Ryan of the Chicago Tribune agreed , but also noted that " you don 't need to be a longtime fan of the long @-@ running program to enjoy its jibes at sci @-@ fi clichés or expedient writing . " Eclipse Magazine noted that although the episode was " not a work of comic genius " , " 200 " was the best comedy episode of the series .

The highly publicized debut of the episode garnered a 1 @.@ 9 average household rating , a 36 % jump from the previous episode , and the first episode of the tenth season to reach or exceed the previous season 's rating of 1 @.@ 8 ; Stargate SG @-@ 1 at that point was averaging about 3 @.@ 3 million viewers per regular episode in the United States .

= = = Cancellation = = =

Shortly after this episode was aired , Gateworld announced that the Sci @-@ Fi Channel had decided not renew Stargate SG @-@ 1 for the coming year . The Channel later confirmed this decision , at the same time announcing that Stargate Atlantis had been picked up for another season . Many fans denounced Gateworld 's cancellation announcement , both the timing of it ( apparently it had been made while the cast and crew were celebrating the episode 's airing ) ? and the decision itself , on the ground that , while ratings were not as high as they had been in previous seasons , the series was still drawing an audience of a respectable size . ( For example , it had a season average of 2 million viewers in Australia , half of them in the 18 ? 49 demographic . ) Sci Fi responded that the cancellation decision had not been based on ratings so much as a feeling the series had run its course . Some of the main characters in SG @-@ 1 re @-@ appear later in episodes of Atlantis and Universe and in the direct @-@ to @-@ DVD sequel films , Stargate : The Ark of Truth and Stargate : Continuum .