

= Episode 4 (Twin Peaks) =

" Episode 4 " , also known as " The One @-@ Armed Man " , is the fifth episode of the first season of the American mystery television series Twin Peaks . The episode was written by Robert Engels , and directed by Tim Hunter . " Episode 4 " features series regulars Kyle MacLachlan , Piper Laurie and Richard Beymer , and introduces series co @-@ creator David Lynch in the role of Gordon Cole .

Hunter 's directing of the episode was inspired by Otto Preminger 's 1945 film Fallen Angel , making use of small sets and long depth of field shots . Engels has identified several 1960s television series ? The Wild Wild West , Mayberry R.F.D. and The Fugitive ? as being influential to the series as a whole .

First airing on May 3 , 1990 , " Episode 4 " was viewed by approximately 19 percent of the available audience during its broadcast , marking an increase in viewers from the previous week . " Episode 4 " has received positive reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

= = = Background = = =

The small town of Twin Peaks , Washington , has been shocked by the murder of schoolgirl Laura Palmer (Sheryl Lee) and the attempted murder of her friend Ronette Pulaski (Phoebe Augustine) . Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Dale Cooper (Kyle MacLachlan) has come to the town to investigate , and initial suspicion has fallen upon Palmer 's boyfriend Bobby Briggs (Dana Ashbrook) and the man with whom she was cheating on Briggs , James Hurley (James Marshall) . However , other inhabitants of the town have their own suspicions , including the violent , drug @-@ dealing truck driver Leo Johnson (Eric Da Re) . Cooper experiences a surreal dream in which a dwarf and a woman resembling Laura reveal the identity of the killer . Laura 's cousin Madeline Ferguson (Lee) arrives in town , while Cooper is introduced to the Bookhouse Boys , the town 's secret society .

= = = Events = = =

Sarah Palmer (Grace Zabriskie) describes her vision of Killer Bob (Frank Silva) to Deputy Andy Brennan (Harry Goaz) , while he sketches the man 's face . She also describes a vision of someone taking Laura 's heart necklace ; Donna Hayward (Lara Flynn Boyle) winces at this , as she is the one who hid it .

Cooper interviews Laurence Jacoby (Russ Tamblyn) , a psychiatrist who had been seeing Laura . Jacoby does not wish to breach his confidentiality agreement , but admits that he struggled to understand Laura 's problems . He also casts suspicion on a man driving a red Corvette ? Leo Johnson (Eric Da Re) .

Gordon Cole (David Lynch) calls Cooper at the sheriff 's station , offering insight into Laura 's autopsy . Brennan brings in his sketch , which Cooper identifies as the man from his dream . He also receives a call from Deputy Hawk (Michael Horse) , who has located the one @-@ armed man they believe is somehow involved ; the group find him at a motel . The man , Philip Michael Gerard (Al Strobel) is a traveling salesman , who denies any involvement or that he knows BOB .

At the same motel , local businessman Benjamin Horne (Richard Beymer) meets with Catherine Martell (Piper Laurie) ; the two are having an affair and planning to burn down the town 's sawmill . The mill is owned by Josie Packard (Joan Chen) , the widow of Martell 's brother ; Packard is spying on the couple in their motel room . Later , Horne meets with Leo Johnson (Eric Da Re) , a violent truck driver , to arrange having the mill destroyed .

Norma Jennings (Peggy Lipton) travels to a parole hearing for her husband , Hank (Chris Mulkey) . She is uneasy about helping his case as she is seeing Ed Hurley (Everett McGill) , but promises

him a job at the diner she owns . Meanwhile , Johnson 's wife Shelley is having an affair with Briggs ; she shows him Johnson 's bloodstained shirt . He takes it , promising to rid them of Johnson for good .

Cooper , Truman and Brennan visit a veterinarian connected to Gerard ; they find twine there of the type used to bind Laura . They believe that the bird that clawed her body is one of the animals being treated there , and confiscate the practice 's files in order to locate the owners of birds being treated there . They learn that the scratches have been caused by a myna , and that drug smuggler Jacques Renault (Walter Olkewicz) owns one . They raid Renault 's home , interrupting Briggs , who is planting Johnson 's bloodied shirt . He flees , undetected ; however , the shirt is recovered as evidence .

At the RR Diner , Hurley meets Madeline Ferguson (Lee) , Laura 's identical cousin ; the two seem instantly smitten . Norma finds out that Hank has been released from prison ; that evening Packard receives a brief phone call from him that leaves her shaken .

= = Production = =

" Episode 4 " was the first of the series to be written by Robert Engels ; Engels returned to pen a number of other episodes across both seasons . The episode was directed by Tim Hunter , who would also go on to helm " Episode 16 " and " Episode 28 " in the second season . Hunter had known series co @-@ creator David Lynch from their time studying together at the American Film Institute . Engels had been brought on board by the other creative force in the series , Mark Frost , who felt that Engels ' sense of humor would be well @-@ suited to the series ' style . Engels found the pace of the series ' writing to be quite fast , noting that Frost and Lynch would outline the plot of an episode in a matter of hours ? Engels had previously been used to spending days at a time working on similar amounts of material with writing crews on other programs .

Hunter recalls being pleasantly surprised to learn that Russ Tamblyn and Richard Beymer had been cast as regular characters in the series , having enjoyed the early work of both actors during the 1950s and 1960s . Tamblyn improvised elements of his performance , including a magic trick involving two golf balls , which was something he had learned and wished to include during his role in the episode . The character of Gordon Cole , first played by Lynch in this episode as a voice in a telephone call , was conceived as being hard of hearing ; this was because Lynch liked the idea of delivering his lines in a loud voice , and worked backwards to establish a reason for this . Engels wrote most of Cole 's dialogue over the series , having had experience with his own mother being similarly hard of hearing .

Engels felt that the three largest influences on the series as a whole were the 1960s television series *The Wild Wild West* , *Mayberry R.F.D.* and *The Fugitive* ? the inclusion of a one @-@ armed character in *Twin Peaks* was a direct homage to the latter of these . Engels has also noted that the series would make use of normal , conventional storylines and everyday occurrences as a " familiar " framework , allowing subtle details to seem slightly more unusual against this backdrop ? he particularly cites this episode 's parole hearing for Hank Jennings as an example , as it offers nothing out of the ordinary other than the single domino which Jennings is playing with at all times , drawing attention to the item as it is the only thing which seems out of place .

Hunter 's direction in some scenes was inspired by Otto Preminger 's work on the 1945 film noir *Fallen Angel* . That film featured several scenes shot in tight spaces with a very small *mise en scène* ; Hunter found himself using several of Preminger 's techniques to make the most out of several of the episode 's smaller sets such as the RR Diner . Several scenes in the episode were also shot using a split diopter lens , allowing for a greater depth of field . For example , a scene featuring Sherilyn Fenn and Richard Beymer talking had the actors at either side of a room ; the split diopter lens allowed for both of them to still be in sharp focus . The episode ends with a shot featuring a Dutch angle ; Hunter was the only director on the series who Frost and Lynch allowed to use this shot , which was otherwise forbidden .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Episode 4 " was first broadcast on the ABC Network on May 3 , 1990 . In its initial airing , it was viewed by 11 @. @ 9 percent of US households , representing 19 percent of the available audience . This marked a slight increase from the previous episode , which had attracted 11 @. @ 3 percent of the population and 18 percent of the available audience . " Episode 4 " was the forty @- @ fourth most watched broadcast on American television that week .

The A.V. Club 's Keith Phipps rated the episode a B , deeming it " a ' normal ' episode for the series " . Phipps praised Al Strobel 's performance , and felt that the episode served to highlight " Cooper 's investigation @- @ by @- @ coincidence technique " , while describing the character of Madeline Ferguson as " an embodiment of this series ' obsession with duality " . Writing for Allrovi , Andrea LeVasseur rated the episode four stars out of five . Television Without Pity 's Daniel J. Blau offered mixed reactions to the episode 's acting ; he found Sheryl Lee , James Marshall and Grace Zabriskie to have been poor , but praised Kyle MacLachlan , Ray Wise and Dana Ashbrook for their performances .