

= Episode 1 (Twin Peaks) =

" Episode 1 " , also known as " Traces to Nowhere " , is the second episode of the first season of the American mystery television series Twin Peaks . The episode was written by series creators David Lynch and Mark Frost , and directed by Duwayne Dunham . " Episode 1 " features series regulars Kyle MacLachlan , Michael Ontkean , and Richard Beymer .

Dunham was offered the role of directing the episode by Lynch , who wanted Dunham to edit his next film project , 1990 's Wild at Heart . Dunham continued to use several stylistic elements in his direction that he had observed in Lynch 's work on " Pilot " , including largely static camera work and the use of reddish color tints . The episode also marks the first appearance of Killer Bob , who was played by set decorator Frank Silva after Silva had been accidentally caught on camera .

" Episode 1 " continued the investigation of the series ' main plotline , the murder of schoolgirl Laura Palmer (Sheryl Lee) , with Federal Bureau of Investigation agent Dale Cooper (MacLachlan) interviewing several suspects connected to the victim . The episode was viewed by approximately 14 @. @ 9 million households upon its initial airing , which represented over a quarter of the available audience . Since its broadcast , the episode has earned 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 classmate 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) .

= = = Events = = =

Cooper takes breakfast at the Great Northern Hotel , enjoying a " damn fine cup of coffee " as Audrey Horne (Sherilyn Fenn) introduces herself and begins flirting with him . He makes his way to the sheriff 's department , where he and Sheriff Truman (Michael Ontkean) discuss the day 's plans . They interview Dr Hayward (Warren Frost) who has had an autopsy conducted on Palmer 's body . They learn that Laura had had sex with at least three men the night she died .

Waitress Shelley Johnson (Mädchen Amick) is about to leave for work when her abusive husband Leo (Eric Da Re) demands she do more laundry . She finds a bloodstained shirt among Leo 's clothes and hides it before he notices . However , he later realizes that it has gone missing . When she returns home that night , he questions her about its whereabouts , and savagely beats her with a bar of soap in a sock .

Cooper interviews Hurley about a video of Laura and Donna Hayward (Lara Flynn Boyle) ; Hayward had denied him being present the day it was taken but Cooper notices a reflection of his motorcycle in the video . Cooper confronts Hurley about the affair he was having with Palmer , and about her cocaine habit . Hurley admits seeing Palmer the night she died but denies killing her . James ' uncle Ed Hurley (Everett McGill) comes to the sheriff 's department to pick his nephew up . Ed tells Truman that he was drugged the previous night at The Roadhouse , the town 's bar ; he suspects bartender Jacques Renault (Walter Olkewicz) was responsible . Cooper takes a telephone call from his colleague Albert Rosenfield , who is on his way to aid the investigation . Meanwhile , Briggs and his friend Mike Nelson (Gary Hersher) are in a jail cell , discussing money they owe to Leo . The \$ 10 @, @ 000 they were meant to pay him is in a safe deposit box owned by Palmer , which they can now no longer access . They are later released by Cooper , who warns them not to approach James Hurley .

Josie Packard (Joan Chen) and Pete Martell (Jack Nance) discuss Packard 's trouble with her sister @-@ in @-@ law Catherine Martell (Piper Laurie) . Truman and Cooper arrive to speak with Packard , who had employed Palmer as an English tutor . Packard admits to sensing that Palmer was troubled but cannot help further ; Cooper picks up on the fact that Truman has been having a relationship with Packard . Catherine calls Packard to tell her that the latter 's sawmill lost \$ 87 @,@ 000 the day before ; Catherine is having an affair with Benjamin Horne (Richard Beymer) , with whom she is conspiring a hostile takeover of the mill . That same day , Hayward visits Palmer 's mother Sarah (Grace Zabriskie) , attempting to console her . However , Sarah has a vision of a sinister man (Frank Silva) crouching in the corner of the room , and panics . Meanwhile , Laurence Jacoby (Russ Tamblyn) , Laura 's psychiatrist , listens to an audio tape she had made for him , and sobs as he toys with half of a golden heart necklace , the other half of which was found at the scene of the crime .

= = Production = =

" Episode 1 " was written by the series creators David Lynch and Mark Frost . The pair had co @-@ written " Pilot " , and would also write " Episode 2 " together . Frost would pen a further eight scripts for the series after that , while Lynch would write just one episode ? the second season opening installment , " Episode 8 " . The episode was the first in the series to be directed by Duwayne Dunham , who would return to helm two further installments in the series ' second season . The episode features the first appearance of Frank Silva as Killer Bob , though the character is not yet identified at this point . Silva was the art director for the series , and had accidentally been caught on camera during a shot . Lynch was pleased with the result and decided to include Silva in the cast from then on .

Dunham had first met Lynch when he worked as the film editor for Lynch 's 1986 film *Blue Velvet* . Dunham then edited " Pilot " , and was about to look for another editing job elsewhere when he asked Lynch if the director had another film planned ; a week later Lynch decided to film *Wild at Heart* and asked Dunham to edit that as well . However , Dunham had committed to another project and felt uncomfortable leaving one editing job for another ; Lynch then offered him a directing position on *Twin Peaks* in the interim to justify cancelling his other project . Dunham finished principal photography on " Episode 1 " the same day that Lynch finished filming " *Wild at Heart* " .

The introduction of a sexual rapport between the characters of Audrey Horne and Dale Cooper was a suggestion of Dunham 's , who felt it would benefit both characters . Dunham felt that the central mystery in the series ? the murder of schoolgirl Laura Palmer ? was simply a " MacGuffin " to compel what he saw as the real focus , the interaction of the large ensemble cast . As such , he took care to introduce meaningful interactions between characters wherever possible . Dunham also spent time with each of the cast to help them develop their characters , having studied the scripts involved and basing his take on the characters on his experience with " Pilot " .

Dunham retained the frequent use of static cameras seen in " Pilot " , something he saw as a hallmark of Lynch 's directing style ; describing the result as " like framed pictures " . He also continued the use of a " warm " reddish tint to the footage , using soft coral filters and carefully selected props and costumes to obtain this coloring . This tint was considered important enough that Lynch sent a representative to the network to ensure they understood it was deliberate and not a mistake , for fear that they might correct the saturation to be more " realistic " before broadcasting it .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Episode 1 " was first broadcast on American Broadcasting Company (ABC) on April 12 , 1990 . Upon its initial airing , it was seen by 14 @.@ 9 million households , or 27 percent of the available audience . It placed second in its timeslot after *Cheers* . This marked a decline from " Pilot " , which attracted 33 percent of the available audience . The following episode would be viewed by 21 percent of the available audience , representing a further drop in numbers .

Writing for The A.V. Club , Keith Phipps awarded the episode an " A ? " rating . He felt that the scene showing Leo Johnson domestically abusing his wife was " among the show 's most disturbing moments " , comparing it to a scene from the 1990 film The Grifters . Phipps also felt the sound design in the episode was impressive , commenting positively on the blurred distinction between diegetic and non @-@ diegetic music . Writing for Allrovi , Andrea LeVasseur rated the episode four stars out of five . Television Without Pity 's Daniel J. Blau felt that the episode showed series composer Angelo Badalamenti to have limited range , repeating several similar musical cues throughout . He also considered Eric Da Re 's performance as Leo Johnson to be unconvincing , finding it difficult to believe that the character was as feared and menacing as was implied . However , Blau described the introduction of Killer Bob as still seeming powerful and frightening even several years after first being seen , considering it a potent and disturbing scene .