

= Love American Style (Dexter) =

" Love American Style " is the fifth episode of the first season of the American television drama series Dexter , which first aired on October 29 , 2006 on Showtime in the United States . The episode was written by Melissa Rosenberg and was directed by Robert Lieberman . In the episode , Dexter Morgan (Michael C. Hall) hunts down Jorge Castillo (José Zúñiga) , a human trafficker and murderer . His sister , Ofc . Debra Morgan (Jennifer Carpenter) , attempts to extract information from a security guard whose limbs were amputated by the " Ice Truck Killer " .

The episode was the first to be written by Rosenberg ; it was her first for a cable show , and she finished writing the script five weeks early . Filming took place at numerous locations in and around Miami , Florida and Los Angeles , California . The scenes filmed in Florida were shot in July 2006 and those in California were shot later . " Love American Style " received generally positive reviews from critics and was watched by 6 @. @ 7 million people when it was broadcast by CBS eighteen months after its Showtime premiere .

= = Plot = =

Dexter is called to a crime scene at the abandoned hospital where , last night , the Ice Truck Killer left security guard Tony Tucci (Brad William Henke) strapped to a table for Dexter to kill . Instead , Dexter had reported the crime scene and Tucci had been hospitalized after the Killer had amputated his hand and leg . Debra and Sgt. James Doakes (Erik King) question Tucci when he wakes up in hospital , but Doakes is unimpressed with Debra 's ways of extracting information from Tucci . He disapproves of her suggestion to blindfold Tucci to help him to remember his encounter with the Killer , but after she confronts him about his attitude toward her , he agrees to blindfold Tucci , who remembers that the Killer used throat lozenges . They return to the crime scene and find a lozenge wrapper , on which forensics expert Vince Masuka (C.S. Lee) finds a partial fingerprint .

Dexter 's girlfriend Rita Bennett (Julie Benz) comforts her upset co @-@ worker , Yelina (Monique Curnen) , and learns that Yelina 's fiancé , who was immigrating from Cuba illegally with the help of a coyote , is missing . Rita asks Dexter to look into the problem using his police connections , and he finds a list of subjects from a past police case . He investigates Jorge Castillo , a salvage yard owner , and after Yelina 's fiancé washes up dead on a beach , he discovers that Castillo is murdering the smuggled immigrants who cannot pay for their freedom . Dexter leads Castillo into a trailer in his salvage yard , but as he prepares to kill him , Castillo 's wife Valerie (Valerie Dillman) arrives . Dexter realizes that the couple are working together , and decides to kill both Jorge and Valerie in the trailer . After killing them , he dumps their bodies in the ocean and frees their Cuban prisoners , not noticing the person watching him from the trunk of a car in the yard .

In flashbacks , a teenage Dexter (Devon Graye) learns how to fake joy in a romantic date with a girl from his father Harry (James Remar) .

= = Production = =

" Love American Style " was written by Melissa Rosenberg and directed by Robert Lieberman . The episode was Rosenberg 's first for the series and her first on a show written for a premium network . Having had over 10 years ' experience in writing for free @-@ to @-@ air commercial networks ? which typically have 22 ? 26 episodes per season rather than 12 , with a much tighter schedule ? she finished writing the script five weeks before it was due for preparation . She said that " There was time to think about storytelling . I never had that on any show ; it 's just wonderful . "

Filming took place in both Los Angeles and Miami . The scenes filmed in Miami were shot in July 2006 ; those in Los Angeles were shot later . Scenes at the beach where Yelina talks with Rita and where her fiancé 's body washes up were filmed at South Beach Park in Fort Lauderdale , Florida , north of Miami . A waterfront house on Hibiscus Island in Biscayne Bay , Florida stood in for the Castillos ' home . The abandoned hospital where Dexter and the police find Tucci was filmed at the former Linda Vista Community Hospital in East Los Angeles , and Dexter 's childhood home was

filmed at a house in a residential neighborhood of Long Beach , California , where Rita 's house is also filmed . Scenes in the salvage yard were filmed at LA Japanese Auto Parts in Sun Valley , California . The Airstream trailer in which Dexter commits the double murder was brought into the salvage yard for filming externally , but was assembled on a studio sound stage for shooting scenes inside the trailer .

= = Reception = =

" Love American Style " attracted 6 @. @ 7 million viewers when broadcast on CBS in March 2008 , 18 months after its original broadcast on Showtime .

IGN 's Eric Goldman felt that the episode 's juggling of multiple storylines was " satisfying " , and that the scene in which Dexter prepares to kill Castillo was " terrific " . Though he praised Debra and Doakes ' storyline with Tucci , he wrote that " it was a bit disappointing to then see Deb be a bit too quickly vindicated at the end " . Paula Paige , writing for TV Guide , said that the episode " will go down in cable history as Dexter 's finest [episode] to date " . She was pleased with Debra 's character development and the " downright stylish " cinematography , but thought that Jorge and Valerie 's final , passionate words to each other were " too much for me " . Ray Ellis of Blogcritics believed that the episode " takes the series into a more three @-@ dimensional direction " . He described the episode 's subplots and themes as what " make Dexter compelling " , and wrote that Debra 's character reached a more " empathic level " in the episode . TV Squad critic Keith McDuffee praised the increasing complexity of Dexter 's relationship with his father through flashbacks , and thought that Dexter 's voiceovers were " the best thing about this show " . Jeff Lindsay , author of Darkly Dreaming Dexter upon which the show is based , was initially upset with the episode 's plot . In an interview , he said that " I was about to be really unhappy with [the episode] . But the twist at the end " , referring to the person watching Dexter from the car trunk , " That was wonderful . "