

= El Mundo Gira =

" El Mundo Gira " is the eleventh episode of the fourth season of the American science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . It premiered on the Fox network in the United States on January 12 , 1997 . It was written by John Shiban and directed by Tucker Gates . The episode is a " Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " story , unconnected to the series ' wider mythology . " El Mundo Gira " received a Nielsen rating of 13 @.@ 3 and was viewed by 22 @.@ 37 million people in its initial broadcast , and received mixed to negative reviews from television critics .

The show centers on FBI special agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) , who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files . Mulder is a believer in the paranormal , and the skeptical Scully has been assigned to debunk his work . In this episode , strange and deadly rain in a migrant workers camp sends Mulder and Scully on the trail of a mythical beast ? El Chupacabra . What they discover is a bizarre fungal growth affecting illegal immigrants .

Shiban was inspired to write " El Mundo Gira " after noticing the long lines of migrant workers he would often see at his job when working as a computer programmer in the Los Angeles area . He combined it with an idea he had about a contagious fungus . Series creator Chris Carter was attracted to the soap opera @-@ like aspects of the episode , and the title of the episode means " The World Turns " in Spanish . The migrant camp used in the episode was built from scratch in a waste ground near Boundary Bay Airport in Vancouver . This site was later used again in the episode " Tempus Fugit " .

= = Plot = =

Agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) investigate the death of Maria Dorantes , an illegal immigrant from Mexico living in the San Joaquin Valley near Fresno , California who was found dead , with her face partially eaten away , after yellow rain fell from the sky . Maria was the object of the love of two brothers , Eladio (Raymond Cruz) and Soledad Buente ; Soledad blames his brother for her death . The migrants believe that the so @-@ called " Chupacabra " was responsible for her death , despite the fact that none of the circumstances of the death resemble anything close to reports of the Chupacabra . Mulder , assisted on the case by Mexican @-@ American INS agent Conrad Lozano , is able to track down and interrogate Eladio , who frightens the other migrants . Meanwhile , Scully discovers that Maria was killed by a fungal growth known as Aspergillus .

Eladio escapes as he is being deported , killing a truck driver in the process . A clinical exam on the driver shows his death was caused by a rapid growth of Trichophyton ? the Athlete 's foot fungus . Scully brings samples of the fatal fungi to a mycologist who discovers that their abnormally rapid growth was caused by an unidentifiable enzyme . This revelation leads Scully to suspect Eladio of being an unwitting carrier of the enzyme , necessitating his immediate capture . Eladio , seeking to return to Mexico , meets with his cousin Gabrielle to ask for money . He works with a construction foreman for the day to make the money . Soledad comes after him , seeking to kill him , but finds the foreman dead . Eladio escapes in the foreman 's truck and heads to the grocery store where Gabrielle works , spreading the fungal growth . The agents later confront Soledad at the supermarket , discovering another dead victim of the fungus .

Eladio returns to see Gabrielle , but by now has grown deformed from the fungus . Gabrielle , afraid of him , gives him her money and lies to the agents about his location when they come to see her . In actuality , Eladio has returned to the camp where Maria died , where Lozano tries to spur Soledad on in killing his brother . Soledad finds he can 't do it , and Lozano struggles with him , being accidentally killed when the gun goes off . Soledad becomes a carrier of the fungal growth himself and flees with Eladio towards Mexico .

= = Production = =

Writer John Shiban was inspired to write the episode after noticing the long lines of migrant workers he would often see at his job when working as a computer programmer in the Los Angeles area . He combined it with an idea he had about a contagious fungus . Shiban originally intended to have the fungal infection spread by a schoolkid , but later changed it to a trucker in the second draft . In the finalized script , it was changed to Eladio once the storylines were combined . Executive producer and series creator Chris Carter was attracted to the soap opera @-@ like aspects of the episode , and the title of the episode means " The World Turns " in Spanish , a reference to the popular American television soap opera *As the World Turns* . The Chupacabra is a Latin American folk myth that Shiban originally heard about in an article in the *The Los Angeles Times* about a year prior . To research the episode , Shiban spent time observing the processing of illegal aliens at an INS facility in San Pedro , California . The usage of fake names by the detained immigrants in the episode was inspired by his experiences at the facility . Lozano was portrayed by popular Panamanian salsa singer and actor Ruben Blades . Chris Carter had been looking to use him in an episode for a while . The actors who portrayed Eladio and Gabrielle were a couple at the time .

The migrant camp used in the episode was built from scratch in a waste ground near Boundary Bay Airport in Vancouver . This site was later used again in the episode " *Tempus Fugit* " . It snowed the night before filming occurred , requiring the production crew to use hot water and blow dryers to melt it . Originally , composer Mark Snow created a score that was deemed too " serious " by Carter ; thus , Snow was forced to replace his entire score with a new one .

= = Reception = =

" *El Mundo Gira* " was originally broadcast in the United States on the Fox network on January 12 , 1997 (1997 @-@ 01 @-@ 12) , and was first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC One on November 19 , 1997 . This episode earned a Nielsen rating of 13 @. @ 3 , with a 19 share , meaning that roughly 13 @. @ 3 percent of all television @-@ equipped households , and 19 percent of households watching television , were tuned in to the episode . It was viewed by 22 @. @ 37 million viewers .

The episode received mixed to negative reviews from critics . Zack Handlen of *The A.V. Club* reviewed the episode positively , rating it a B. He considered the episode " entertaining to watch " with " nifty direction from Tucker Gates " , despite being formulaic and with the same problems he found in the previous episode penned by John Shiban , season three 's " *Teso Dos Bichos* " . Handlen had much praise for the second half , which he noted was filled with dark humor , and featured a " bizarre ending " . John Keegan from *Critical Myth* gave the episode a largely negative review and awarded it a 2 out of 10 . He wrote , " Overall , this episode is a disastrous combination of political commentary and stereotypical ? Mexican soap opera ? caricatures . Mulder and Scully have nothing to do with the resolution of the episode , and in fact , the writers fail to provide that resolution . There are some good character moments , but they are too far and few between . " Author Keith Topping criticized the episode in his book *X @-@ Treme Possibilities* , calling it an " awful episode with a heavy @-@ handed , clod @-@ hopping attempt at social comment that hardly sits well with the themes on display in the rest of the episode . " He called it the worst episode of the fourth season . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book *Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @-@ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen* , rated the episode one star out of five and wrote that it was " trying very hard to be clever " . Despite this the two explained that " if cleverness were only about intent , then we could all be geniuses " . Shearman and Pearson derided the episode 's use of social criticism , referring to it as " rubbish [because it] only works if it isn 't underlined each time it 's made . " Furthermore , the two criticized the story 's " Mexican soap opera " style , noting that it drowned out the themes in " unengaging melodrama " . Paula Vitaris from *Cinefantastique* gave the episode a largely negative review and awarded it one star out of four . She wrote that " ' *El Mundo Gira* ' is so overloaded with ideas that it falls over and can 't get up " .