

= Lazarus (The X @-@ Files) =

" Lazarus " is the fifteenth episode of the first season of the American science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . It premiered on the Fox network on February 4 , 1994 . It was written by Alex Gansa and Howard Gordon , directed by David Nutter , and featured guest appearances by Cec Verrell and Christopher Allport . The episode is a " Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " story , unconnected to the series ' wider mythology . " Lazarus " earned a Nielsen household rating of 7 @. @ 6 , being watched by 7 @. @ 2 million households in its initial broadcast ; and received mixed reviews from 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 . After an old partner of Scully 's is wounded in a bank robbery , Scully and Mulder come to believe that the injured man has been possessed by the spirit of the dead bank robber .

In the episode 's original plot , the bank robber was to have jumped into Mulder 's body . There was , however , a belief at the time that neither Scully nor Mulder should directly experience such phenomena . After Fox and the studio argued against the idea of using Mulder in such a way , the producers agreed to make the change . The opening bank robbery scene was filmed on location in Vancouver , where Jason Schombing 's acting led some bystanders to believe that robbery was a real one .

= = Plot = =

Dana Scully assists a fellow FBI agent , Jack Willis , in apprehending violent bank robbers Warren Dupre and Lula Phillips . Following an anonymous tip , the two agents corner Dupre during an attempted robbery . Dupre shoots Willis with a shotgun , but is himself shot by Scully . Dupre dies , but Willis is eventually revived ; however , Dupre 's corpse is seen reacting to the jolts from the defibrillators used on Willis .

Willis wakes up a few days later , but now has a more sinister personality . He finds Dupre 's body and cuts off his fingers to retrieve a wedding ring before fleeing the hospital . Scully explains to Fox Mulder that Willis has been obsessed with the Dupre @-@ Phillips case for the past year , and admits to dating Willis while he was her instructor at the FBI Academy . It is discovered that left @-@ handed shears were used to cut off Dupre 's fingers , despite the fact that Willis is right @-@ handed , leading Mulder to believe that Willis ' body is inhabited by Dupre 's consciousness . The agents visit a University of Maryland medical professor who theorizes that during near @-@ death experiences , an energy release can occur that could radically change someone 's personality .

Willis , who finds Dupre 's tattoo appearing on his arm , confronts Lula 's brother Tommy and kills him , believing that he sold him out to the FBI and caused his " death " . When Mulder and Scully investigate the next day , Willis arrives . He passes the tests that Scully gives him , but when Mulder asks him to sign a fake birthday card for Scully ? whose birthday is months away ? he signs it . Scully is skeptical of Mulder 's claims that Dupre is in Willis 's body , believing that he is under stress due to his near @-@ death experience .

When a landlord calls the FBI to tip them off about Phillips ' location , Scully and Willis move in to capture her . However , when Scully corners Phillips , Willis holds Scully at gunpoint and forces her to instead handcuff herself . Scully is taken to Phillips ' house , where she is beaten and handcuffed to a radiator . Willis then successfully convinces Lula that he is actually Dupre . Willis calls Mulder to tell him that he and Phillips are holding Scully hostage , leaving Mulder frustrated and angry .

After seeing Willis / Dupre consume a large quantity of soda , Scully reveals that Willis is a diabetic and will require insulin to survive . Phillips and Willis / Dupre rob a pharmacy to obtain the necessary insulin . However , Phillips refuses to let Willis use it , revealing that it was she who betrayed him , having fled the scene the night of the botched bank robbery . Phillips calls Mulder , demanding a \$ 1 million ransom for Scully . By using audio of a plane nearby , Mulder and his task force are able to track their general location , and a disguised cop going door to door spots Phillips .

Willis / Dupre feigns death , and when Phillips drops her wedding ring on him , he grabs her gun

and kills her . He dies seconds later due to the lack of insulin . Mulder , who has just arrived on the scene , releases Scully . Later Scully retrieves Willis ' possessions from the morgue , including a watch she gave him for his thirty @-@ fifth birthday . The watch stopped at 6 : 47 , the moment Willis died after the bank shooting .

= = Production = =

In the episode 's original plot , Dupre was to have jumped into Mulder 's body . There was , however , a belief at the time that neither Scully nor Mulder should directly experience such phenomena ; Fox and the studio argued against the idea of using Mulder in such a way . With more than a little reluctance , the producers agreed to make the change . As writer Howard Gordon later recalled , " We 'd wanted Mulder to experience the soul switch " . Eventually , however , Fox 's stance was changed ; most notably , in the two @-@ part sixth season episode , " Dreamland " , when Mulder 's consciousness is exchanged with government agent Morris Fletcher . Gordon ultimately came to believe that the final decision was almost certainly for the best and saw the benefit of introducing Scully 's former boyfriend as it provided a welcome opportunity to delve into her history .

The opening bank robbery scene was filmed on location in Vancouver , where Jason Schombing 's acting led some bystanders to believe that robbery was a real one . Interior shots set in Dupre 's basement were filmed in an asbestos @-@ lined apartment building , where a translator was required to interface with the mostly @-@ Asian tenants . This episode features the first of several occasions in which Scully is abducted . Her birthday , February 23 , is revealed for the first time in this episode ; though the year of her birth , 1964 , would not be established until the second season episode " One Breath " .

= = Reception = =

" Lazarus " premiered on the Fox network on February 4 , 1994 , and was first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC Two on January 5 , 1995 . The episode earned a Nielsen household rating of 7 @. @ 6 , with a 12 share and was viewed by 7 @. @ 2 million households , meaning that roughly 7 @. @ 2 percent of all television @-@ equipped households , and 12 percent of households watching television , were tuned in to the episode .

Series creator Chris Carter was very pleased with the episode , stating that it was " a very good and well @-@ acted episode . I like it because it actually seemed too real to me . It played less as a paranormal science fiction show than as whether or not something could really happen . The entire cast was wonderful . Overall that was a terrific episode " . In a retrospective of the first season in Entertainment Weekly , " Lazarus " was rated a C + , being described as " as exciting as Scully 's taste in men (not very) " . The episode 's supporting cast , however , was described as " solid " . Zack Handlen , writing for The A.V. Club , rated episode a B- , finding that it had " no real thematic resonance " . He found that the episode left its premise " largely unexplored " , and would have benefited from a stronger focus on the relationship between the characters of Willis and Dupre . Matt Haigh , writing for Den of Geek , reviewed the episode negatively , feeling that it " wasn 't up to much " , and that it " plays more like an episode of Diagnosis Murder than anything else " . However , the exploration of Scully 's character history was cited as a positive aspect of the episode . Anna Johns , writing for TV Squad , was critical of " Lazarus " , stating that its opening scene was " the only good part " of the episode .