

= Johari Window (Fringe) =

" Johari Window " is the 12th episode of the second season of the American science fiction drama television series Fringe . The episode , written by co @-@ executive producer Josh Singer and directed by filmmaker Joe Chappelle , is set in a fictional upstate New York town and begins with the discovery of a seemingly deformed child by a state trooper . The Fringe investigative team of Olivia Dunham , Walter Bishop , and Peter Bishop arrives on the scene , only to discover a secret government experiment gone awry , with signs from Walter 's past .

Originally called " Edina City Limits " , the episode 's title was changed shortly before it aired . It premiered in the United States on January 14 , 2010 , on Fox , to 6 @.@ 529 million viewers and a 2 @.@ 6 share 18 ? 49 . The episode received average reviews , as many critics compared it either negatively or positively to a B @-@ movie , though most agreed that it seemed to be rehashed from older The X @-@ Files episodes . Several of the main actors , however , thoroughly enjoyed the episode ; Noble named it one of his favorite Fringe episodes . Critics also noted the popular culture references to The Wizard of Oz (1939) , Deliverance (1972) , and Joseph Merrick .

= = Plot = =

In upstate New York , a child is picked up on the road by a state trooper . While en route , the child suddenly morphs into a deformed creature . At the station , the troopers try to decide what to do with him , and one takes his picture . Two other deformed people enter the station , kill the troopers and take the boy .

The Fringe team comes on the scene to investigate and find the boy 's photograph , along with recorded sightings of deformed people going back 30 years . They arrive in Edina , the city these sightings occurred near , and Olivia Dunham (Anna Torv) hears a buzz called the " Edina hum " . The sheriff explains it is coming from a nearby military base and offers to show them case files of past sightings . While driving , the SUV containing Olivia , Peter (Joshua Jackson) , and Walter (John Noble) is run off the road by another vehicle , whose driver then starts shooting at them before getting shot and leaving . The FBI find the abandoned vehicle and follow a blood trail to the shooter . Peter is visibly disturbed after killing his first person , and Olivia tries to comfort him .

Agent Broyles discovers that the army did classified experiments in Edina called " Project Elephant " , but most of the records are gone . The team brings the body , along with a butterfly Walter found in the town and thought Astrid would like , back to the lab in Boston . They discover that both have transformed into deformed versions of themselves . Peter and Olivia go back to Edina to talk with the sheriff and try to locate the owner of the truck . Meanwhile , back in the lab , Walter tries to remember why the case feels so familiar . Throughout the episode Walter had been humming some strange melody , and he and Astrid realize he might previously have worked on the project with the army . The melody was a memory trick Walter used to remind himself where he stored the experiment files so many years ago . The experiment was done by the army in the late 1970s to test how electromagnetic pulses can camouflage soldiers and was conducted on the townspeople ; the army was unaware of the long @-@ term effects of the study until it was too late , and the people were stuck in a deformed state . The " hum " hides their deformities from the human eye through a massive electromagnetic pulse that runs through the town , and once they leave and are out of the pulse 's reach , their true deformities show .

Walter and Astrid find the source of the electromagnetic pulse , and begin investigating the house the pulse was built on . At the same time , Peter and Olivia go to a rural meeting place where the sheriff said they would find the truck 's owner , only to be shot at by the sheriff and his deputy , who are hell bent on keeping the town 's secret . Walter manages to turn off the pulse , and all of the townsfolk revert to their deformed appearance . The daughter of one of the army scientists saves Olivia and Peter from getting shot , and explains that her father stayed in Edina to perfect the pulse . After Walter pleads to Broyles to let the townspeople keep their secret , the Fringe team decides to not report the case so that the remaining residents can live a normal life .

= = Production = =

The episode was the second written by co @-@ executive producer and writer Josh Singer , and was the third directed by co @-@ executive producer Joe Chappelle . It was originally titled " Edina City Limits " in press and promotional items , until Fox changed it to " Johari Window " without explanation on January 5 , a week before it broadcast . A johari window is a cognitive psychological tool used to help people better understand their interpersonal communication and relationships , and may have been chosen as the episode 's title because it corresponded to the transformative nature of the plot .

The sound mixing department 's inspiration for the " Edina hum " (the frequency hiding the deformities of the townsfolk) came from executive producer Jeff Pinkner . Supervising sound editor Paul Curtis later recalled Pinkner 's asking for it to sound like " 100 @-@ year locusts back east " , consequently what the crew " basically ... ended up with were bugs " . They also layered in a variety of machine sounds . Sound effects editor Bruce Tanis remarked that because the background sound lasted the entire episode , it had to be handled " thoughtfully " .

" What 's weird about the Edina hum is that you hear it all over the town . It goes to the borders of this little town : indoors , outdoors , down the street , in the basement ; you hear some level of it , but you don 't want to hear that for 44 minutes of a show . It 'll drive you nuts . So you have to blend it in , pick moments , bring it up , take it down , so that people can reference it , but you 're not listening to 44 minutes of hum " .

Actor Joshua Jackson later remarked that " Johari Window " was a " stand @-@ alone " episode in an interview : " There is nothing from that thing that broadens the story , except at the heart of it , is a story about love and acceptance and family ... Which of course , for these two guys , is the entire theme of the show for them . So I think we 've done that really well " . Actor John Noble added , " Tolerance . Acceptance . I loved ' Johari Window ' . I thought it was one of my favourite stories " .

= = Cultural references = =

When Walter refuses to get out of the car to enter a supermarket , he mentions he is " learning to appreciate cowardice " and that " the lion had a point " , a reference , he explains to Peter , about the cowardly lion from The Wizard of Oz (1939) . Walter also mentions flying monkeys and talking lions later in the episode , both also homages to the movie . Later , Walter excitedly says he remembers someone who played the banjo and looked like the kidnapped , deformed boy , and starts humming a tune . Peter completes the tune and explains it is from the movie Deliverance (1972) , which depicts murderous , inbred , and deformed people living in rural Georgia . The army experiment was titled " Project Elephant " , a possible reference to Joseph Merrick , a deformed person known as the " Elephant Man " . When Walter shows Astrid how the moth changes back to the butterfly when they enter the town , he says , " a friend once said ' any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic . ' " This was originally said by Arthur C. Clarke , originally appearing in Clarke 's 1973 revision of " Hazards of Prophecy : The Failure of Imagination " .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Johari Window " was watched by more than 6 @.@ 529 million viewers , achieving a 2 @.@ 6 share of viewers aged 18 ? 49 . It rose thirteen percent from the previous week 's episode , and was the highest rated night of Fringe since the season premiere .

= = = Reviews = = =

Ramsey Isler of IGN thought there was not much original or well @-@ done about the episode , and negatively compared it to previous episodes of The X @-@ Files . He wrote the " slow ... story [lacked] the intrigue and excitement that other episodes in the series had , " but praised its conclusion as a " pay off " . John McCracken of TV Guide also compared it to The X @-@ Files , and thought the episode was " tedious " and " largely felt like a by @-@ the @-@ numbers B @-@ movie affair " . Jane Boursaw of TV Squad enjoyed the " B @-@ movie " aspects of the plot however , calling them " fun " . She thought the episode felt like " a thriller movie , " and praised Noble 's acting as " brilliantly " . Noel Murray of The A.V. Club gave the episode a C , explaining that " despite some good makeup effects and a few emotional moments , " Johari Window " [was] distressingly average " . Andrew Hanson of the LA Times enjoyed how the " Edina hum " remained in the background of every town scene , but missed the " investigation exposition " -supplying presence of Charlie Francis (Kirk Acevedo) . Television Without Pity graded the episode a B- .