

= Flashes Before Your Eyes =

" Flashes Before Your Eyes " is the 8th episode of the third season of the American drama television series *Lost* , and the show 's 57th episode overall . The episode was written by the series co @-@ creator , show runner and executive producer Damon Lindelof and supervising producer Drew Goddard , and directed by Jack Bender . It first aired in the United States on February 14 , 2007 , on the American Broadcasting Company . The episode received mostly positive reviews from critics . Lindelof and Goddard were nominated for the Writers Guild of America (WGA) Award for Best Episodic Drama at the February 2008 ceremony for writing the episode .

In this episode , Hugo " Hurley " Reyes (Jorge Garcia) and Charlie Pace (Dominic Monaghan) conclude that Desmond Hume (Henry Ian Cusick) can see into the future after he saves Claire Littleton (Emilie de Ravin) from drowning . It is revealed that after the hatch imploded , Desmond traveled back to London and relived his past before coming back to the island . Desmond also reveals to Charlie that Charlie is destined to die .

= = Plot = =

While in the middle of a conversation with several other castaways , Desmond , without warning , sprints toward and dives into the ocean . No one on the beach understands what Desmond is doing , until he returns with a nearly drowned Claire . Charlie and Hurley conclude that Desmond must be able to see into the future , and they hatch a plan to get Desmond to get drunk and confess . After several drinks , Charlie asks Desmond about his future @-@ seeing abilities . Instead of answering , Desmond gets up to leave , but after Charlie calls him a " coward " , a drunken Desmond tackles and chokes Charlie , shouting that Charlie does not know what he has been through .

Desmond flashbacks : the hatch is shown imploding again , and then Desmond (who was inside) suddenly wakes up in a London apartment with his girlfriend Penelope Widmore (Sonya Walger) . Desmond is clearly puzzled , but is relieved to finally be with Penny again . Desmond later goes to Penny 's billionaire father , Charles Widmore (Alan Dale) and asks for his permission to marry his daughter . Widmore rejects Desmond , who is crushed and humiliated . Walking out of the building , Desmond sees Charlie singing and playing his guitar for money on the sidewalk . Desmond asks him if he remembers him but Charlie does not . Frustrated , Desmond rants about his time on the island and predicts it will rain , which it suddenly does . At a pub , Desmond meets with his friend , a physicist , and after retelling the events on the island asks him if time travel is possible . Desmond tries to predict more events but they do not happen and his friend assures him time travel is impossible . While shopping for a ring for Penny , Desmond runs into the shopkeeper , Eloise Hawking (Fionnula Flanagan) . Hawking takes Desmond on a walk where they see a man crushed to death by falling scaffolding . She explains that although she knew the man would die , she did not help because the universe has a way of " course correcting " , and he would die anyway . Desmond and Penny go on a walk together and take a picture , where he breaks up with her after realizing that he does not have enough money to support her . He returns to the pub , where one of his predictions before about the bartender being attacked finally comes true (proving that he really knew about the future , but that his timing was off) , but he ends up being accidentally hit himself and is knocked out . Desmond wakes up back on the Island , completely naked , as seen in " Further Instructions " .

The flashback ends , and Desmond is pulled off Charlie by Hurley . They help Desmond to his tent . Charlie tries to get an answer from him one last time . Desmond reveals that both times he rescued Claire , he was really saving Charlie ; Charlie would have been electrocuted , and Charlie would have drowned attempting to save Claire from the ocean . Desmond tells Charlie that although he has prevented his death twice , Charlie is destined to die .

= = Production = =

" Flashes Before Your Eyes " was the 15th episode of the series directed by Jack Bender . The

episode was written by Damon Lindelof and Drew Goddard ; the pair had never before collaborated on an episode .

This episode is the first to deal with the concept of time travel , the next being " The Constant " in the fourth season . Unlike other flashback sequences to this point , this is positioned as actual time travel for Desmond . However , in this episode ground rules are established to prevent paradoxes in the story line as a result of time travel . Had these rules not been established , the writers feared that viewers would lose interest because the stakes of the characters would be lessened . In an interview , Henry Ian Cusick , who plays Desmond , said shooting the episode was both " fun " and " tiring " . Cusick said that when shooting the episode " you 're finishing late and starting early " , but he enjoyed working with director Jack Bender because " he pushes you to , to try and go a little bit further than you think you can " . The London scenes were shot in Honolulu . This led to several continuity errors , such as a British Army recruitment poster for a Scottish regiment (which would not recruit in England) featuring the word " Honour " being incorrectly spelled in the American English " Honor " and a photograph of a British soldier using an American M4 carbine and urging people to join the " military " (instead of the " army " , as a British poster would say) .

= = Reception = =

" Flashes Before Your Eyes " received mostly positive reviews . IGN 's Chris Carabott wrote that " if last week 's ' Not in Portland ' didn 't get you back on the Lost hype train then for goodness ' sake the equally outstanding ' Flashes Before Your Eyes ' hopefully grabbed your attention . " Carabott went on to praise the on @-@ screen chemistry of Henry Ian Cusick (Desmond) and Sonya Walger (Penelope) , stating that " their on screen chemistry makes the love between the two characters real and makes their inevitable breakup that much harder to handle . " He also complimented the scene between Desmond and Charles , saying that " it 's hard not to feel Desmond 's heart crushed when Widmore denies him Penelope 's hand in marriage . " Josh Spiegel , a writer for CinemaBlend.com , had similar praise . He said that for him " it was a nice change of pace to not see Jack , Kate or Sawyer on the show and focus more on some of the lesser @-@ known castaways . " Spiegel went on to say that the episode was " fantastic " . Mania.com 's Stephen Lackey wrote that " Flashes Before Your Eyes " was an " episode has everything die hard LOST fans expect , riveting plot twists , foreshadowing , and as many questions as answers " .

Critics did note that the episode did not provide many answers . Mac Slocum of FilmFodder.com wrote that he was " beginning to think the Lost producers have a different definition for the word ' answer ' . " Television Without Pity graded this episode with a " C " .

Henry Ian Cusick and Dominic Monaghan each submitted this episode for consideration on their own behalf for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series respectively for the 59th Primetime Emmy Awards . For their work on this episode , series co @-@ creator , show runner , and executive producer Damon Lindelof and supervising producer Drew Goddard were nominated for the Writers Guild of America Award for Television : Episodic Drama .