

= Chris Carter ( screenwriter ) =

Chris Carter ( born October 13 , 1957 ) is an American television and film producer , director and writer . Born in Bellflower , California , Carter graduated with a degree in journalism from California State University , Long Beach before spending thirteen years working for Surfing Magazine . After beginning his television career working on television films for Walt Disney Studios , Carter rose to fame in the early 1990s after creating the science fiction @-@ supernatural television series The X @-@ Files for the Fox network . The X @-@ Files earned high viewership ratings , and led to Carter 's being able to negotiate the creation of future series .

Carter went on to create three more series for the network ? Millennium , a doomsday @-@ themed series which met with critical approval and low viewer numbers ; Harsh Realm , which was canceled after three episodes had aired ; and The Lone Gunmen , a spin @-@ off of The X @-@ Files which lasted for a single season . Carter 's film roles include writing both of The X @-@ Files ' cinematic spin @-@ offs ? 1998 's successful The X @-@ Files and the poorly received 2008 follow @-@ up The X @-@ Files : I Want to Believe , the latter of which he also directed ? while his television credits have earned him several accolades including eight Primetime Emmy Award nominations . The Amazon Studios television series The After was his most recent series .

= = Early life = =

Chris Carter was born on October 13 , 1957 in Bellflower , California . His father worked in the construction industry . Carter has described his childhood as " fairly normal " , and was fond of both Little League Baseball and surfing ; his surfing stance is goofy footed . He attended California State University , Long Beach in Long Beach , graduated with a journalism degree in 1979 . An avid surfer , he began writing for Surfing Magazine , a San Clemente @-@ based journal , eventually becoming its editor at the age of 28 . Carter would work for the magazine for thirteen years , and credits his tenure there for teaching him how to run a business . It was also at this time that Carter began taking an interest in pottery , making " hundreds of thousands of pieces " of dinnerware as a hobby . He has compared the process of making pottery to Zen meditations , although he has since thrown out most of his work .

= = Career = =

= = = Starting in television = = =

In 1983 , Carter began dating Dori Pierson , whom he had met through a cousin of hers who worked with him at Surfing Magazine . Pierson 's connections at Walt Disney Studios led to chairman Jeffrey Katzenberg hiring Carter on a standard contract . Carter began writing television films for the studio , penning The B.R.A.T. Patrol in 1986 and Meet the Munceys in 1988 . These scripts led to Carter being associated with contemporary youth comedy at the studio , and although he enjoyed the work he felt that his real strengths and interests lay in serious drama instead .

Carter met the then @-@ president of NBC , Brandon Tartikoff , at a company softball game in Brentwood , California . Tartikoff and Carter began talking between innings , and when Tartikoff eventually read some of Carter 's script work , he brought him over to write for the network . There , Carter developed a number of unproduced television pilots ? Cameo By Night , featuring Sela Ward ; Brand New Life , which has been described as being similar to The Brady Bunch ; Copter Cop , a science fiction series that was hampered by Tartikoff 's injuries after a car accident ; and Cool Culture , influenced by Carter 's passion for surfing and experience with Surfing Magazine . During this time Carter would also work as a producer on Rags to Riches , a job he accepted in order to learn more about producing a series .

Peter Roth , at that time the president of Stephen J. Cannell Productions , obtained a copy of Carter 's pilot script for Cool Culture , and although the series was never picked up , Roth was interested in

hiring Carter to work on the CBS series *Palace Guard* . However , Roth would soon leave CBS to work for Fox as the head of its television production wing . Carter was among the first wave of new staff hired by Roth in 1992 to develop material for the network , and he began work on a series based on his own childhood fondness for *The Twilight Zone* and *Kolchak : The Night Stalker* .

== The X @-@ Files and success ==

Carter 's new series would take its stylistic inspiration from *Kolchak* , while thematically reflecting his experiences growing up during the Watergate scandal . Carter also drew inspiration from his friend John E. Mack 's survey of American beliefs in ufology , which indicated that three percent of the population believed they had been abducted by aliens . Roth warmed to the idea upon hearing of the influence of *Kolchak* , believing that vampires ? one of the central antagonists of the original series ? would be popular with audiences given the interest being shown in the upcoming film *Interview with the Vampire : The Vampire Chronicles* , although Carter insisted on an extraterrestrial @-@ focused series . However , Carter had never been interested in science fiction before this point , professing to have briefly read one novel each by Ursula K. Le Guin and Robert A. Heinlein . Basing his characters instead on those found in the English television series *The Avengers* , Carter took an eighteen @-@ page treatment for his new project ? by now titled *The X @-@ Files* ? to a pitch meeting at Fox , where it was soon rejected . With the help of Roth , Carter was able to arrange a second pitch meeting , at which the network reluctantly agreed to greenlight a pilot for the series .

After finding the series ' two starring leads in Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny , Carter was given a budget of \$ 2 million to produce a pilot episode . The series aired on Friday nights on the Fox network , being broadcast in tandem with *The Adventures of Brisco County , Jr.* in what was perceived to be an unpopular timeslot . The series earned relatively impressive Nielsen ratings for its Friday timeslot , and was given a full twenty @-@ four episode order . The series ' popularity and critical acclaim built over the course of its second and third seasons , and saw it earning its first Golden Globe Award for Best Television Series ? Drama and breaking the record for highest price paid by a network for rights to air re @-@ runs , fetching \$ 600 @,@ 000 per episode from Fox 's sister network FX . After Carter 's initial three @-@ year signing for Fox had ended , the success of the series allowed him to negotiate a five @-@ year contract with several additional perks , including the guarantee of a feature film adaptation to be produced by the parent company 's film studio , and the greenlighting of Carter 's next television project . In March 2015 , it was confirmed that Carter is set to executive produce and write the screenplays for the revival of *The X @-@ Files* , which is set for a six @-@ episode event series .

== Millennium ==

Carter began work on a new series , *Millennium* . The genesis of this new project stemmed from " *Irresistible* " , a second @-@ season episode of *The X @-@ Files* which Carter had written , which focused on a sexually motivated serial killer with none of that series ' usual supernatural trappings . Carter fleshed out the basis of the new show 's protagonist , Frank Black , and travelled to Seattle for inspiration for a new setting . Influence was also drawn from the works of Nostradamus , and the increasing popular interest in eschatology ahead of the coming millennium . The central role of Black was eventually filled by Lance Henriksen , and the series began airing in the Friday timeslot formerly occupied by *The X @-@ Files* . " *Pilot* " , the début episode , was heavily promoted by Fox , and brought in over a quarter of the total audience during its broadcast .

The series also attracted a high degree of critical appraisal , earning a People 's Choice Award for " *Favorite New TV Dramatic Series* " in its first year . At the beginning of the second season , Carter handed over control of the series to Glen Morgan and James Wong , with whom he had previously worked on both *Millennium* 's first season and several seasons of *The X @-@ Files* . Despite its promising start , however , ratings for *Millennium* after the pilot remained consistently low , and it was cancelled after three seasons .

### === Feature films ===

During the production of the fourth season of *The X-Files*, work on the first feature film adaptation of the series began. Also titled *The X-Files*, Carter initially began a treatment for the script over Christmas holidays in Hawaii in 1996. Series producer Frank Spotnitz collaborated on the story outline at this time. Carter would later return to Hawaii for a ten-day stint in 1997 to begin fleshing out the finished script. Carter appointed frequent series director Rob Bowman as director of the film, which went on to feature many of the series' regular cast, including Duchovny, Anderson, Mitch Pileggi and William B. Davis.

*The X-Files* premiered on June 19, 1998, eventually making a worldwide gross of \$189,176,423. The film currently holds a rating of 60 out of 100 on review aggregation website Metacritic, based on their weighted average of 23 reviews. Fellow review aggregation site Rotten Tomatoes rates the film 64%, based on their analysis of 69 reviews.

Ten years after the success of the first film, and six years after *The X-Files* final season had finished, Carter would both write and direct a second feature film, titled *The X-Files: I Want to Believe*. Filmed in British Columbia, *I Want to Believe* was released on July 25, 2008; eventually grossing \$68,369,434 worldwide. The film was received poorly by critics, holding ratings of 32 and 47 on Rotten Tomatoes and Metacritic respectively.

### === Other work ===

Carter has made several brief cameo roles as an actor, first appearing in *The X-Files*' "Anasazi" as a FBI agent; before portraying a member of a film audience in "Hollywood A.D.", a later episode of the same series. Carter also made a brief appearance in "Three Men and a Smoking Diaper", an episode of *The Lone Gunmen*.

In 1999, Carter began adapting the comic book series *Harsh Realm* as a television show, also titled *Harsh Realm*. Carter's friend and frequent collaborator Daniel Sackheim had optioned the comics for adaptation in 1996. However, when the series first aired on October 8, 1999, the comics' writers Andrew Paquette and James Hudnall were given no writing credits for the work; the two then filed suit against Fox to be credited for their work. *Harsh Realm* received disappointing viewing figures, and was cancelled after only three episodes had been broadcast.

Two years later, Carter launched a spin-off of *The X-Files* titled *The Lone Gunmen*, a series centred on three minor characters from the former series. *The Lone Gunmen* was cancelled after thirteen episodes, later receiving a coda in the form of a crossover episode with *The X-Files*. Carter has since been involved with writing and directing the as-yet-unreleased film *Fencewalker*, set to feature Natalie Dormer and Katie Cassidy. In 2011, he began working to develop *Unique*, a police thriller television series; the project was eventually dropped before completion.

Carter next began work on the Amazon Studios television series *The After*. The pilot episode was made available for viewing on February 6, 2014; the series was green-lit the following month, but finally cancelled on January 5, 2015, without another episode beyond the pilot being shot.

### === Accolades ===

Carter's work has earned him several accolades over his career, including eight nominations at the Primetime Emmy Awards. Carter has also received award nominations for the Directors Guild of America Awards, the Edgar Awards, and the British Academy Television Awards.

### === Filmography ===

### === Film ===

== Television ==