

= Olivia . In the Lab . With the Revolver . =

" Olivia . In the Lab . With the Revolver . " is the 17th episode of the second season of the American science @-@ fiction drama television series *Fringe* , and the 37th episode overall . In terms of production , it is the season ? s sixteenth episode , " Unearthed " being held over from the first season . In the episode , Olivia ( Anna Torv ) investigates a man with a possible connection to her who has the lethal ability to spread cancer by touch .

The episode was written by Matthew Pitts and directed by Brad Anderson . In addition to featuring recurring guest actors Kevin Corrigan and Omar Metwally , the episode marked the only guest appearance from actress / model Diane Kruger . First broadcast in the United States on April 8 , 2010 on Fox , " Olivia . In the Lab . With the Revolver . " received generally positive reviews , with one critic praising the mixture of mythology and standalone elements for the episode .

= = Plot = =

In Providence , Rhode Island , lawyer Miranda Green ( Diane Kruger ) takes a lunch meeting with sickly young man James Heath ( Omar Metwally ) . While he claims to have been with her in preschool , she doesn ? t remember him . She does believe that her firm can help him against those who made him sick . Driving back to her office , Miranda spontaneously develops tumors all over her body and dies in her car .

Olivia ( Anna Torv ) has a sleepless night owing to her recent discovery that Peter ( Joshua Jackson ) was abducted from the " Over There " universe by a grief @-@ stricken Walter ( John Noble ) . She goes to the bowling alley , managed by Sam Weiss ( Kevin Corrigan ) , where he tells her she ? s one of the best people he ? s known , and he ? s sure she ? ll do the right thing .

In the case , it transpires that victims of attacks similar to Miranda Green ? s have been connected to the Cortexiphan trials in Jacksonville , Florida . Olivia visits Nina Sharp ( Blair Brown ) at Massive Dynamic 's headquarters and demands a full list of the subjects , one of which she knows herself to be . Nina claims not to have any such list . They also discuss Peter , and Nina guesses that Olivia is looking for a reason not to tell him .

Heath confronts Olivia in the hall of her apartment building . When he sees her badge , he attacks her but Olivia fends him off with a candlestick . He tells her the story of how he was sick with cancer as a child , and a man visited him in the hospital claiming he could help him fight the disease . But instead of getting better , he got worse , and contagious .

At the end of the episode , Olivia has decided not to tell Peter about his origins . Walter says that he has made the opposite decision , and that the truth must be known .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by production staffer Matthew Pitts , a former assistant to series co @-@ creator J.J. Abrams , while former *Fringe* producer Brad Anderson served as director .

" Olivia . In the Lab . With the Revolver . " featured the first guest appearances by actor Omar Metwally and German model / actress Diane Kruger . Kruger was in a relationship with star Joshua Jackson at the time , and requested that her part be as a " gooey monster " , where her " eyes are popped out " of her head . Kruger 's character Miranda Green became the first victim of Metwally 's character James Heath , though her character died from malignant tumors on her body rather than what she commented . Metwally later made his second appearance in the first part of the second season finale , " Over There " .

The episode contains a deleted scene between Broyles and Olivia discussing the James Heath case , which was available on the second season 's DVD as a special feature . As with other *Fringe* episodes , Fox and Science Olympiad released a lesson plan for grade school children based upon the science depicted in " Olivia . In the Lab . With the Revolver . " ; the lesson 's intention was for " students [ to ] learn about the science behind cancer , with a focus on the causes and prevention of skin cancer . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

On its initial American broadcast on April 8 , 2010 , the episode was watched by an estimated 6 @. @ 33 million viewers . It scored a 3 @. @ 9 / 6 rating among all households , and a 2 @. @ 3 / 7 rating for those aged 18 ? 49 . Fringe dropped from 6 @. @ 7 million to 6 @. @ 1 million viewers in its second half hour , but because it aired against repeats of the normally competitive CSI : Crime Scene Investigation from CBS and ABC 's Grey 's Anatomy , Fringe came in second place for the night .

= = = Reviews = = =

The episode was viewed positively by CJ Stewart at The Celebrity Cafe , who stated " Overall , this was an exciting return to the familiar story structure that Fringe started out with , and yet it also moved along this season 's main story arch , with the writers doing an excellent job of that with plenty of references to the series ' mythos for fans to pick out . It 's always exciting when a serial drama like this throws us longtime viewers a few bones , isn 't it ? " The Los Angeles Times ' Andrew Hanson thought there were too many " Really " ? moments , such as Olivia recalling the height notches in Jacksonville when playing a game of Clue . Hanson also believed the episode seemed too long , especially when compared to the " best episode ever , " ( " Peter " ) , which aired the previous week .

Writing for The A.V. Club , Noel Murray graded the episode with a B + , explaining that after the previous week 's episode , " Olivia . In The Lab . With The Revolver . " was a " return to normalcy " . Murray appreciated the episode 's use of a secret that " eats at people when they can 't bring themselves to air it out " , particularly spotlighting the " look of panic " on Walter 's face when Olivia and Peter leave his lab . Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly also appreciated the balance between mythology and single @-@ episode elements . " This week 's episode stood up as a perfectly comprehensible hour even if you were new to the series , thanks to its medical mystery and fun side @-@ moments such as Walter making brightly colored taffy . But is [ sic ] also wove in characters and names from previous episodes ? Nick Lane , Nancy Lewis ? and raised the tantalizing suggestion that the illness James Heath suffered from might be a malady that 's also afflicting parts of the alternate universe . "

MTV columnist Josh Wigner positively noted " Mysteries of the week are always compelling when they have interplay with the overarching mythology of Fringe , which was exactly the case in tonight 's installment . " He also liked the " interesting dynamic " between the still @-@ clueless Peter and the Fringe team about his unknown past . Ramsey Isler from IGN rated the episode 7 @. @ 8 / 10 ; he compared it to " Peter " , believing that this week 's episode 's had " a tough act to follow ... this story definitely isn 't as good , but it did keep us going along an interesting path to more answers . " The IGN writer praised Walter going back to his old jokes while at the same time possessing " an undercurrent of fear and shame in his personality as he deals with Olivia 's knowledge of Peter 's secret " , but disliked the first half 's " slow , procedural " elements as well as the cancer make @-@ up . Despite these small critiques , Isler " liked most of this installment " , expressing delight that there were a rare two mythology episodes in a row and that there were subtle references to previous episodes such as Nick Lane in " Bad Dreams " . Some reviewers liked the episode title but were disappointed that more elements from the boardgame had not been incorporated into the episode .