

= Our Father (Dexter) =

" Our Father " is the third season premiere and twenty @-@ fifth overall episode of the American television drama series Dexter , which first aired on September 28 , 2008 on Showtime in the United States . The episode was written by Clyde Phillips and directed by Keith Gordon . In the episode , which takes place several months after the second season finale , Dexter Morgan (Michael C. Hall) mistakenly kills an innocent man but forms a friendship with the man 's brother , well @-@ known assistant district attorney Miguel Prado (Jimmy Smits) . Dexter 's sister Debra (Jennifer Carpenter) , meanwhile , has turned over a new leaf in her life and is determined to become a detective .

To carry the remainder of the third season , Dexter 's writers introduced Miguel as a new character so that his relationship with Dexter could serve as a " central arc " . In order to allow them to explore Dexter 's psychological and emotional reactions , the writers revealed Dexter 's girlfriend Rita Bennett (Julie Benz) to be pregnant . They also had Dexter kill an innocent person to develop the ongoing theme of rebellion despite initially rejecting the idea of Dexter killing " somebody who doesn 't deserve it " . Filming of the episode began in early June in Los Angeles , California at Sunset Gower Studios , though a small crew flew to Miami , Florida , where the show is set , to film short pieces of Dexter , which were integrated into " Our Father " and other episodes . The episode brought in 1 @.@ 22 million viewers , an improvement from second season 's premiere and finale , and attracted mixed reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

Several months after the deaths of his colleague Sgt. James Doakes and his Narcotics Anonymous sponsor Lila Tournay (Jaime Murray) , Dexter 's life has returned to normal . He looks up a drug dealer , Fred " Freebo " Bowman (Mike Erwin) , whom he believes to have killed two female college students . Pretending to want to buy heroin , Dexter visits Freebo 's house , where he sees Freebo 's girlfriend Teegan Campbell (Jelly Howie) . He returns to the house at night and finds Freebo fighting with another man (Nick Hermz) . When the man attacks Dexter , Dexter stabs and kills him in self @-@ defense . Dexter flees , shocked about breaking his father Harry 's " code " and killing an innocent person . He is called to the scene the following day and discovers that the man was Oscar Prado , the brother of well @-@ known assistant district attorney Miguel Prado . Miguel seeks an explanation and consolation from Dexter , and invites him to Oscar 's wake . Dexter attends , leaving Debra alone on their dead father 's birthday . He begins to question Harry 's code and whether his loyalty is necessary .

In the police department , Det . Angel Batista (David Zayas) is promoted to a sergeant . Debra has changed her hairstyle and given up men , alcohol and cigarettes . Det . Joey Quinn (Desmond Harrington) , recently transferred to the department , is being investigated by Internal Affairs . Sgt. Yuki Amado (Liza Lapira) asks Debra repeatedly to keep an eye on Quinn , but Debra declines even when she discovers that " snitching " may earn her a detective 's shield . She discovers from one of Quinn 's informants , Anton Briggs (David Ramsey) , that Oscar was a drug addict , but after she loudly divulges the information in Miguel 's presence , Lt. María LaGuerta (Lauren Vélez) asks that Batista remove her from the case . Batista does so and instead puts her on the case of a " Jane Doe " , who Dexter recognizes as Teegan .

Dexter 's personal life is going well ; his relationship with Rita has become more amorous and he is bonding with her children , Astor (Christina Robinson) and Cody (Preston Bailey) . Rita craves chocolate pudding and , recalling the last instance of this , realizes that she is pregnant .

= = Production = =

Dexter 's writing staff began meeting in March 2008 to brainstorm ideas for the third season 's storylines . Writer Clyde Phillips said that , when the writers decided to open season 3 with the revelation of Rita 's pregnancy , " we were thinking about how it would affect Dexter psychologically and emotionally to create a life when he has spent most of his adult life taking lives . " They chose to

introduce Miguel as a new character with the intention for his and Dexter 's relationship to be " the central arc of the season " , according to Hall . Smits was the only actor who was considered for the role of Miguel . Smits was not initially interested in joining the cast , but after Phillips explained Miguel 's dark side to him , Smits accepted the job offer because it was an opportunity to play a character dissimilar to any he had played before . He said , " They promised upfront that this was really going to challenge me , that it would be stuff that I haven 't done before , and they 've really given me a shot . They 've delivered the goods . " In regard to Dexter 's abandonment of Harry 's Code , Hall said that " That need to rebel is a real engine for what unfolds this season . " Smits was hired to appear in ten of the season 's twelve episodes . When asked at the beginning of the second season whether there was any possibility of Dexter killing an innocent person , show runner Daniel Cerone said that by not doing so , they were " protecting the character " . He thought that it was " very important for the show that he does kill people who deserve it " . Phillips said that " We don 't want him knowingly killing somebody who doesn 't deserve it out of impulse or something , but we have explored the notion of his having killed someone without properly vetting that person and perhaps making a mistake . "

Production was scheduled to commence in late May , but was delayed until early June . A small crew flew to Miami with Hall and , according to producer Sara Colleton , filmed " a lot of pieces ? not just Dexter walking in and out of his door or car , but also scenes that we know we 'll need and can use " , before returning to the show 's permanent sets at Sunset Gower Studios in Los Angeles .

= = Reception = =

" Our Father " brought in 1 @. @ 22 million viewers , a 20 percent improvement on both the second season 's premiere and finale , and Showtime 's highest @- @ rated drama season premiere since 2004 when Nielsen Media Research began compiling their ratings for premium networks . In the United Kingdom , the episode was the ninth most @- @ watched program in its timeslot with 194 @, @ 000 viewers and an audience share of 1 @. @ 2 percent , a significant decline from " It 's Alive ! " , the second season premiere .

" Our Father " received mixed reviews from critics ; some thought that it was dull , though Smits ' performance received widespread critical acclaim . Alan Sepinwall of The Star @- @ Ledger said that he was " frustrated " by the episode despite not finding any faults with it , writing , " I can 't help thinking that I 've seen as much of Dexter Morgan 's world as I need to . " Matt Fowler , writing for IGN , thought that the revelation of Rita 's pregnancy was " an interesting development , but not necessarily something that instantly catapults me to the edge of my seat " but that Smits as Miguel could improve " even [a] great [show] like Dexter " . The Australian 's Stephen Romei felt that , with the beginning of the third season , " Dexter has gone from an eight to a six " on a scale of one to ten , saying that the show " has lost its edge " with the hypocrisy of Dexter being a supposed sociopath despite holding several relationships . Los Angeles Times critic Claire Zulkey was " not sure yet whether [the third season 's changes are] good " . Ray Ellis of Blogcritics felt that " the series has settled into a state of complacency " and could not " escape the feeling I 've seen this before " . On the other hand , the San Francisco Chronicle 's Tim Goodman wrote that " the whiff of normalcy for Dexter " gives viewers " a magnificent tease " and likened the fast @- @ moving plot to " the urgency of brilliance " . TV Squad critic Debra McDuffee was " pleasantly surprised by Smits " and said that , thus far , " season three is a good one " . TV Guide 's Paula Paige , who was " thrilled " to see Smits join the cast , said , " What the Dexter season three opener lacked in explosive excitement , it certainly made up for in Jimmy Smits . " Daniel Fienberg , writing for Zap2it , said that the combination of Hall and Smits was " as good as TV acting gets " and that , in comparison to the second season 's opening , " the show 's creative team appears to have done it again " .