

= Exposé (Lost) =

" Exposé " is the 14th episode of the 3rd season and 63rd episode overall of the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) ' s serial drama television series Lost . It aired on ABC in the United States and on CTV in Canada on March 28 , 2007 . The episode was written by Edward Kitsis and Adam Horowitz and directed by Stephen Williams .

The episode 's story focuses on couple Nikki Fernandez (Kiele Sanchez) and Paulo (Rodrigo Santoro) . The flashbacks reveal their lives before arriving on the island , and what they have been doing between day one and day eighty @-@ one . Boone Carlyle (Ian Somerhalder) returned for the fifth time since his death late in the first season . Furthermore , Ethan (William Mapother) and Dr. Arzt (Daniel Roebuck) reprised their guest roles in flashbacks . The episode got a mixed response from critics and fans , with positive reception considering it an entertaining send @-@ off to two unpopular characters , but negative reviews deeming it unnecessary .

= = Plot = =

= = = Flashbacks = = =

The flashbacks begin with Nikki Fernandez (Kiele Sanchez) acting in a popular , Charlie 's Angels @-@ like TV show Exposé filmed in Sydney , in which she is a guest star . She is also having an affair with the septuagenarian executive producer , Howard L. Zuckerman , who is very wealthy , while Paulo (Rodrigo Santoro) works as his chef . Paulo kills Zuckerman by poisoning his food , and the couple steals his diamonds , which are worth \$ 8 million . The couple plan on returning to the United States on Oceanic Flight 815 , encountering Boone Carlyle (Ian Somerhalder) and Shannon Rutherford (Maggie Grace) at the airport . Upon surviving the plane crash , Nikki and Paulo realize that they have lost the bag with the diamonds . Nikki consults Dr. Leslie Arzt (Daniel Roebuck) , who tells her of a spider with the ability to paralyze people . He also gives her a trajectory map which leads them to The Pearl and the Nigerian plane ; they explore neither . When Kate Austen (Evangeline Lilly) mentions that she found luggage from the plane in a lake , Paulo finds the diamonds , but does not tell Nikki . Instead , he hides them in the toilet at The Pearl and overhears a conversation between Juliet Burke (Elizabeth Mitchell) and Ben Linus (Michael Emerson) . The two accidentally leave behind a walkie @-@ talkie that Paulo takes . Later , when Sayid Jarrah (Naveen Andrews) , John Locke (Terry O 'Quinn) , Desmond Hume (Henry Ian Cusick) , Nikki and Paulo visit The Pearl , Paulo retrieves the diamonds by pretending to use the bathroom . Nikki figures out that Paulo has found the diamonds without telling her and decides to lure him into a trap . When he denies that he has the diamonds she unleashes one of the paralyzing spiders on him . She finds the diamonds and Paulo apologizes , claiming that he did it so that she would not end their relationship . As Nikki stands in a state of regret , the pheromones of the female spider attract a group of the male spiders of the same species and she is bitten on her leg . She buries the diamonds and sprints to the beach .

= = = On the beach = = =

Nikki then runs onto the beach , before collapsing where Hugo " Hurley " Reyes (Jorge Garcia) and James " Sawyer " Ford (Josh Holloway) are playing ping pong . As Hurley and Sawyer rush to her , she says something barely audible . She is soon pronounced dead . Hurley and Sawyer try to recount what Nikki said before she died and come to the conclusion that she said , " Paulo lies " , although she actually said " paralyzed " . Sawyer and Hurley begin an investigation and find Paulo lying lifeless in the jungle . Sawyer finds a walkie talkie in Nikki and Paulo 's tent , and concludes they were working with the Others , due to the similarity . Hurley does not think the Others are near their camp , but Sun @-@ Hwa Kwon (Yunjin Kim) reminds them that she was abducted nearby (unaware that it was Charlie who grabbed her) . Sawyer tries to calm them down and says he will do

a perimeter sweep . Meanwhile , Charlie Pace (Dominic Monaghan) , who feels guilty , confesses to Sun that it was he who attempted to kidnap her . Sawyer returns , having found the diamonds , and the other survivors accuse him of being the killer because Desmond saw him arguing with Nikki just that morning . He gives the diamonds to Sun , but she later confronts him about kidnapping her and returns the diamonds because " they 're worthless here . " The survivors then hold a funeral for Nikki and Paulo , where Sawyer pours the pouch of diamonds into the grave . Nikki 's eyelids open just as Hurley and Sawyer are filling the grave , burying her and Paulo alive .

= = Production = =

" Exposé " was the fourteenth episode of the series directed by Stephen Williams , and the ninth written by the screenwriting duo Edward Kitsis and Adam Horowitz . Kitsis and Horowitz intended to make the episode an homage to film noir , with two con artists who did the " perfect crime " , that eventually goes wrong due to them getting stranded on the island . A reference to the genre was added by having Sawyer read Agatha Christie 's *Evil Under the Sun* . A recurring theme is Nikki and Paulo 's selfishness , which eventually leads to their deaths due to them being greedy and " too focused on their own petty needs to really care about anyone else " .

The flashbacks of " Exposé " would show how Nikki and Paulo were always on the island by making them appear in important previous events . The scene set after the crash mixes actual scenes and unused footage of the pilot episode , along with new footage shot in the original location of Mokulua beach . Since not all pieces of the wreckage were found , a few were added with greenscreen effects . The scene with Jack 's speech intersperses new scenes with footage from " White Rabbit " . Other continuity nods were considered , such as Paulo finding Shannon 's inhaler from " Confidence Man " , Nikki seeing Boone and Locke carrying shovels to excavate the hatch , and a filmed , but deleted scene where Nikki sees the sky turning purple .

During season one , the writers had the idea of introducing a character who was an actress and also created the outline of the fictional show where she would work *Exposé* . The " long , daunting hours " on the writer 's room would sometimes lead to creating episodes of the fictional show , with ten being done when the Nikki @-@ centered episode was written . Originally , there was going to be an entire flashback episode in which Nikki was going to be a crime @-@ fighting stripper , only to have it revealed that she was actually an actress . The idea was shortened to just one flashback spot . The role of Mr. LaShade was written with Billy Dee Williams in mind and , when he was cast , the color scheme of LaShade 's hat was chosen in reference to his costume worn in his famed role as Lando Calrissian .

Nikki and Paulo were killed off due to being disliked by much of *Lost* 's fan base . Show runner Damon Lindelof admitted that the couple were " universally despised " by fans . Lindelof explained that " back when we (the producers) had more good faith with the audience , we could have gotten away with these shenanigans . Given the backlash against them , we had to clean up the mess . " The decision to kill them off in one flashback episode was decided by the producers in December 2006 . It was also stated by Lindelof and fellow show runners Carlton Cuse that despite Nikki and Paulo 's bad reception , they felt the episode was necessary to explain their original plan of introducing former background characters to the main cast . Lindelof suggested having the characters be buried alive . Although actress Kiele Sanchez said that she wasn 't bothered by the general dislike of her character , she was very nervous during the burial scene , because she has claustrophobia . Speculation about the duo 's deaths began months before the actual episode aired . Santoro said in an interview with *Brazilian Rolling Stone* that his character was going to die in the middle of the third season . Another clue about the deaths came when it was announced that Sanchez was signed on to film a fall 2007 pilot for the ABC show , *Football Wives* .

= = Reception = =

" Exposé " had 11 @.@ 25 million viewers upon its first US broadcast , being ABC 's third most watched show of the week ? behind the performance show and results of *Dancing with the Stars* ?

and placing *Lost* at the eighteenth spot on the overall weekly ranking . It also attracted 1 @. @ 089 million viewers in Canada , being the fourth most watched show of the night , and 961 @, @ 000 viewers in the United Kingdom , being Sky One 's most watched show of the week .

" *Exposé* " received mixed reviews . Lindelof admitted that the episode " created a varying degree of fan reaction " , with some fans even describing it as " filler " . But Cuse defended " *Exposé* " , saying it was " a little bit more of an anthology episode for the show " , and that he felt that " it 's unrealistic , in a show that is now 72 episodes in , that every episode is gonna be , you know , chock full of plot momentum . I think it 's entirely reasonable , and we sort of by necessity have to have episodes that aren 't super @-@ narratively , you know , propelled . " Daniel of TMZ.com said that the episode " was a complete waste of time " , and that although he " wanted Nikki and Paulo to die " , he did not think their deaths warranted an entire episode . Entertainment Weekly 's Jeff Jensen wrote that although he liked the cameo appearance of Billy Dee Williams , he did not think " *Exposé* " " will do much to change anyone 's minds " about Nikki and Paulo , who were already unpopular characters . Brooke Tarnoff , a writer for UGO.com , wrote that she was " embarrassed " for *Lost* . New York Magazine put " *Exposé* " at the top of its list of " Twenty Most Pointless *Lost* Episodes " . However , TV Guide 's Matt Roush very much praised the episode for " weaving flashbacks that appeared to be posthumous but really weren 't while providing clever new angles on classic *Lost* moments from previous seasons " , Roush went on to say that " *Exposé* " was " a welcome reminder that sometimes these producers really do seem to know what they 're doing after all . " Chris Carabott of IGN also gave a positive review , stating that while Nikki and Paulo had no real impact on the overall storyline , " their ultimate end made for an entertaining hour of television " . The IGN staff later ranked " *Exposé* " 58th out of the 113 *Lost* episodes , describing it as " one of the series ' darkest and most fun episodes " .