

= Little Green Men ( The X @-@ Files ) =

" Little Green Men " is the first episode of the second season of the science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . It premiered on the Fox network on September 16 , 1994 in the United States . It was first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC Two on August 28 , 1995 . The episode was written by Glen Morgan and James Wong , and directed by David Nutter . The episode helped explore the series ' overarching mythology . " Little Green Men " earned a Nielsen household rating of 10 @. @ 3 , being watched by 9 @. @ 8 million households in its initial broadcast . The episode received largely positive reviews from critics .

The show centers on FBI special agents Fox Mulder ( David Duchovny ) and Dana Scully ( Gillian Anderson ) who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files . Mulder is a believer in the paranormal , while the skeptical Scully has been assigned to debunk his work . In the episode , Mulder goes to the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico to continue his search for proof on extraterrestrial life . Meanwhile , Scully attempts to aid him after being separated following the closure of the X @-@ Files .

" Little Green Men " was written specifically as a way for Mulder to question his belief in aliens . The episode features the first appearance of an extraterrestrial , because series creator Chris Carter felt it was time to unveil one . In addition , the episode introduces the character of Senator Richard Matheson . Matheson was named after the sci @-@ fi and horror writer Richard Matheson , who wrote many episodes of The Twilight Zone .

= = Plot = =

In the episode 's prologue , Fox Mulder narrates a history of NASA 's Voyager program and the now @-@ defunct High Resolution Microwave Survey , which sought to contact extraterrestrial life in outer space . At the Survey 's abandoned observatory in Arecibo , Puerto Rico , the equipment inside suddenly activates , indicating a response from an alien intelligence .

Since the closure of the X @-@ Files , the FBI has reassigned Mulder to a low @-@ level wiretap while his former partner , Dana Scully , has returned to teaching at the FBI Academy . The two have a discreet meeting at the parking lot of the Watergate Hotel , where Mulder admits that he has been doubting his belief in the paranormal since Deep Throat 's assassination . Mulder flashes back to the night when his sister , Samantha , was abducted .

Mulder is summoned to a meeting with Richard Matheson , a U.S. senator who is a patron for his work . Matheson directs Mulder to Arecibo , assuring the agent that he will try to hold off a Blue Beret UFO retrieval team said to be headed there in twenty @-@ four hours . Mulder arrives at the Survey station , where he finds a frightened Puerto Rican man , Jorge , who draws a picture of an alien that he claims to have seen . Meanwhile , Scully , unaware of Mulder 's whereabouts , tries to find him . Reviewing a list of flights from Washington , Scully tracks Mulder down to Puerto Rico .

Mulder discovers a signal , possibly originating from an extraterrestrial intelligence . During a storm , Jorge gets scared and runs outside . Mulder finds him dead of fright . When Scully goes to an airport to fly to Puerto Rico , she realizes she 's being tracked by a couple , but manages to escape from them . Meanwhile , as Mulder investigates Jorge 's corpse , the room shakes . The door opens and the shadowy figure of an alien appears . Scully wakes Mulder up the next morning , finding him excited about the readouts and tapes of the signals ? the proof of aliens he has sought for so long . However , the Blue Beret team arrives , forcing them to flee with only a tape reel .

Upon his return to Washington , Mulder is admonished by Assistant Director Walter Skinner and the Smoking Man for his actions . Mulder claims he still had enough evidence with the days missed to prosecute the subject of his assigned wiretap , and that his own phone calls were being monitored . Skinner then demands that the Smoking Man leave the room , and decides to not discipline Mulder . Investigating the tape reel , Mulder finds it blank due to a power surge during the storm , but vows to continue his work regardless .

= = Production = =

### == Writing and casting ==

This episode was written by Glen Morgan and James Wong and directed by David Nutter . Originally , the season two premiere was supposed to be written by series creator Chris Carter . In the rough draft of this version , Mulder would have been sent to Moscow . Carter , instead , assigned Morgan and Wong the task of writing the season opener . Before working on The X @-@ Files , Morgan had written a script with the same name about a man who goes to a telescope located in Chile . The script was never made , but Morgan liked various elements of it , so he cannibalized parts for " Little Green Men " . In addition , the episode was specifically written for Mulder to question himself and his beliefs . According to the two writers , one of the main themes of the episode is ? the idea that we all have to fight our own little green men and carry on . ?

Senator Matheson was named after the sci @-@ fi and horror writer Richard Matheson , who wrote many episodes of The Twilight Zone . Matheson was also originally the character who was to recite the episode 's opening monologue . Darren McGavin , of Kolchak : The Night Stalker , was the casting directors ' first choice for the role of Senator Matheson . McGavin was later sought out to be Mulder 's dad , but he again eluded the staff . In the end , McGavin finally agreed to appear on the show during its fifth season ; he was first introduced in the episode " Travelers " as Arthur Dales , the agent who originally founded the X @-@ Files . The role of Matheson eventually went to Raymond J. Barry . The episode marks the first visualization of Samantha 's abduction by aliens . Although there are discrepancies between the depiction of her abduction in this episode and Mulder 's description of it in both " Pilot " and " Conduit " , Carter has attributed this to the unreliability of Mulder 's hypnosis @-@ induced memories .

### == Filming ==

The Puerto Rican scenes were filmed at the Seymour Demonstration Forest in North Vancouver District , while the Plaza of Nations doubled for the Miami Airport . Gillian Anderson revealed on Late Night with Conan O'Brien that when she and Duchovny were filming the final scene escaping the Blue Berets , the actors portraying the soldiers had to pretend to shoot their guns with their own sound effects , and that " it was very hard to focus without breaking out laughing . " At the airport , Scully is pretending to read the fictional Miami Post Tribune but closer inspection reveals that she is actually reading the " Facts And Arguments " page from Canada 's national paper , The Globe and Mail . The flight manifest that Scully is scanning in search for Mulder is a list of X @-@ Files fans .

Extraterrestrials make their first appearance in this episode , as Carter thought it would be a good moment to reveal them . The image of the alien was stretched in post @-@ production to make it look taller and skinnier . The writers for the episode researched various abductee reports and conspiracy theories in order to get the right feel for the episode and make the aliens appear realistic and not " fanciful " . The episode makes several mentions to the Voyager program and the Voyager Golden Record ; Mulder and Senator Matheson listen to Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F. First Movement while in the latter 's office . The concerto 's first movement is the first piece of music on the Voyager record . In addition , the episode relies heavily on mentions of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence ( SETI ) program , the collective name for a number of activities people undertake to search for intelligent extraterrestrial life . Morgan later explained , ? I always wanted to do something with the SETI background . Hope that kids at school check out SETI , because it was factual as to what exists . ?

### == Broadcast and reception ==

" Little Green Men " premiered on the Fox network on September 16 , 1994 , and was first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC Two on August 28 , 1995 . This episode earned a Nielsen rating of 10 @. 3 , with a 19 share , meaning that roughly 10 @. 3 percent of all television @-@

equipped households , and 19 percent of households watching television , were tuned in to the episode . It was viewed by 9 @. @ 8 million households . In addition , the episode won its time period among the " advertiser @-@ friendly " 18 @-@ 49 age ratings group .

The episode garnered a largely positive reception from critics . Entertainment Weekly wrote that the episode " Powerfully depicts both Mulder 's gnawing sense of defeat and his bond with Scully , strangely growing stronger with separation " before concluding that the episode was " fairly standard . " The site ultimately gave the episode a B. Reviewer Zack Handlen of The A.V. Club positively compared and contrasted the episode to the cartoon Scooby Doo , Where Are You ? writing that , " I used to be a huge " Scooby Doo " fan . [ ... ] Of course , none of [ the villains ] were really monsters . [ ... ] The X @-@ Files exploited a simple truth : we all want to believe . We might be afraid of what 's lurking in the dark , but isn 't there always a bit of wishing inside that fear ? A hope that what we think we know isn 't everything there is to know . That just once it might be nice to reach for a zipper and instead find nothing but cool scales . " Handlen ultimately called the episode " Essential . " Reviewer Dan Barrett from the 400 Club wrote that " The X @-@ Files is off to a stonking good start with this season 2 opening . " Bob Curtright , writing for the Los Angeles Daily News , called the episode " an engrossing chiller about potential contact from outer space . " He compared the episode positively to Close Encounters of the Third Kind and noted that the episode was " both scary and wondrous " and " offer [ ed ] no pat answers that might tend to blow the credibility . " Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @-@ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen , rated the episode five stars out of five , writing that the episode was not " what the fans were expecting , and its reputation isn 't great . But I think this clever and claustrophobic little take , which does so much not only to refresh the show but to analyze what it 's actually about , is one of the very best . "