

= The X @-@ Files ( season 5 ) =

The fifth season of the science fiction television series The X @-@ Files commenced airing on the Fox network in the United States on November 2 , 1997 , concluding on the same channel on May 17 , 1998 , and contained 20 episodes . The season was the last in Vancouver , Canada ; subsequent episodes would be shot in Los Angeles , California . In addition , this was the first season of the show where the course of the story was planned , due to the 1998 The X @-@ Files feature film being filmed before it , but scheduled to be released after it aired .

The fifth season of the series focused heavily on FBI federal agents Fox Mulder 's ( David Duchovny ) loss of faith in the existence of extraterrestrials and his partner , Dana Scully 's ( Gillian Anderson ) , resurgence of health following her bout with cancer . New characters were also introduced , including agents Jeffrey Spender ( Chris Owens ) and Diana Fowley ( Mimi Rogers ) and the psychic Gibson Praise ( Jeff Gulka ) . The finale , " The End " , led up to both the 1998 film and the sixth season premiere " The Beginning " .

Debuting with high viewing figures and ranking as the eleventh most watched television series during the 1997 ? 98 television year in the United States , the season was a success , with figures averaging around 20 million viewers an episode . This made it the year 's highest @-@ rated Fox program as well as the highest rated season of The X @-@ Files to air . Critical reception from television critics was generally positive .

= = Plot overview = =

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 . At the end of fourth season , Scully is dying of cancer . Mulder is convinced that her condition is a result of her earlier abduction , and is prepared to make a deal with the Syndicate to find a cure . While being pursued by an assassin responsible for a hoax alien corpse discovered on a mountaintop , Mulder fakes his own suicide , mutilating the assassin 's face to provide a decoy body . In the fifth season opener " Redux " , he uses the distraction to infiltrate The Pentagon to find a cure for Scully 's cancer , while Scully is able to uncover and reveal a Syndicate connection within the FBI . Due to the information he learns from Michael Kritschgau ( John Finn ) , Mulder loses his belief in extraterrestrials .

Later , as a rebel alien race secretly attacks several groups of former alien abductees , the agents meet Cassandra Spender ( Veronica Cartwright ) , a woman who claims to be a multiple abductee and wants to deliver a positive message about aliens . Eventually , Mulder has Scully put under hypnosis to learn the truth about her abduction after Cassandra goes missing and her son , Jeffrey Spender ( Chris Owens ) , angrily attempts to push his way up in the FBI . The Syndicate , meanwhile , quicken their tests for the black oil vaccine , sacrificing their own to do so . Later , the assassination of a chess grandmaster leads Mulder and Scully into an investigation that they soon discover strikes at the heart of the X @-@ Files ; they learn that the real target was a telepathic boy named Gibson Praise ( Jeff Gulka ) .

= = Production = =

= = = Writing = = =

Due to the pending release of The X @-@ Files feature film , this was the first season where the course of the season was planned in advance , as it had to set up for the film . Originally , the season was supposed to be the show 's last . In this manner , the finale was originally supposed to have segued the television series into a movie franchise . David Duchovny explained , " we were saying , ' Okay , we 're going to do five . We 'll get out of here at five . ' And then five came around , and no one was going anywhere . " The series proved to be so lucrative for Fox that two additional seasons were ordered . Thus , the season was created in a way to segue into the 1998 film , as well

as the sixth season premiere , " The Beginning " .

= = = Filming = = =

Due to the necessity of filming reshoots for the upcoming movie , both Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny are absent in places throughout the season . For instance , the episodes " Unusual Suspects " and " Travelers " ? both of which being flashback episodes ? do not feature Anderson 's character Dana Scully at all . In fact , the former was written entirely as a stop @-@ gap episode when the show 's producers were forced to start production of the fifth season in the last week of August in Vancouver , but still needed series stars Duchovny and Anderson for the filming of The X @-@ Files movie in Los Angeles . The producers decided to create an episode dedicated to The Lone Gunmen , and writing duties were assigned to Vince Gilligan . Other episodes such as " Chinga " and " Christmas Carol " feature minimal appearances by Duchovny 's character Fox Mulder .

The season 's fifth episode , " The Post @-@ Modern Prometheus " , written and directed by Carter , was filmed entirely in black @-@ and @-@ white ? in homage to James Whale 's 1931 film version of Frankenstein . The director of photography , Joel Ransom , had to spend longer than usual lighting each scene because of the grayscale . The stormy skies in the episode , added to emulate the atmosphere of old Frankenstein movies , were a visual effect . Carter also used a wide @-@ angle camera lens throughout the episode , which forced the actors to act directly to the camera , rather than to each other . According to Carter , it also enabled him to give scenes in the episode a more surreal staging than was usual for the show .

This season finale , " The End " , was the last episode of the series to be filmed in Vancouver , Canada prior to production moving to Los Angeles , although the second film in the franchise , The X @-@ Files : I Want to Believe , released in 2008 , was once more filmed in Vancouver . The move was influenced in part by Duchovny , who after five years of filming wanted to be closer to his wife . The audience at the chess match was made up of local fans as a " thank you " to the city for hosting the production during its first five years . The chess match was filmed at Rogers Arena ? then known as GM Place ? the home of the Vancouver Canucks as well as the Vancouver Grizzlies at the time . While the producers expected five thousand people to show up , twelve thousand appeared . Instructions were given to the crowd by director R. W. Goodwin using giant video screens attached to the scoreboard . During breaks between shooting concession stands , music and videos were made available to the attendees . Actors Duchovny and Anderson also answered questions for the audience and over \$ 20 @,@ 000 worth of equipment was raffled off . Series creator Chris Carter directed the second unit filming for the episode in order to be with the show 's Canadian crew members .

= = = Crew = = =

Carter served as executive producer and showrunner and wrote seven episodes . Frank Spotnitz and John Shiban were both promoted to co @-@ executive producer and wrote seven and five episodes , respectively . Vince Gilligan was promoted to supervising producer and contributed six scripts . Tim Minear joined the series for his only season on the series as an executive story editor and wrote two episodes . Writing team Billy Brown and Dan Angel joined the series as story editors for this season only and provided the story for one episode . Writing team Jessica Scott and Mike Wollaeger wrote one freelance episode . Special guest writers for this season included author Stephen King , who co @-@ wrote one episode with creator Chris Carter , and cyberpunk novelists William Gibson and Tom Maddox , who wrote their first of two episodes for the series . Other producers included producer Joseph Patrick Finn , producer Paul Rabwin , and co @-@ producer Lori Jo Nemhauser who previously served as post @-@ production supervisor .

Producing @-@ director Kim Manners directed the most episodes of the season , directing seven . Producer Rob Bowman , executive producer R. W. Goodwin , and series creator Chris Carter , each directed two episodes . The rest of the episodes were directed by Brett Dowler , Peter Markle ,

Daniel Sackheim , Ralph Hemecker , Cliff Bole , William A. Graham and Allen Coulter , who each directed one episode .

= = Cast = =

= = = Main cast = = =

David Duchovny as Special Agent Fox Mulder ( 20 episodes )  
Gillian Anderson as Special Agent Dana Scully ( 18 episodes ) a  
a ^ She does not appear in " Unusual Suspects " or " Travelers " .

= = = Recurring cast = = =

= = = = Also starring = = = =

Mitch Pileggi as Deputy Director Walter Skinner ( 8 episodes )  
William B. Davis as Cigarette Smoking Man ( 4 episodes )  
Nicholas Lea as Alex Krycek ( 3 episodes )

= = = = Guest starring = = = =

= = Episodes = =

Episodes marked with a double dagger ( ) are episodes in the series ' Alien Mythology arc .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

The fifth season of The X @-@ Files debuted with " Redux I " on November 2 , 1997 . This episode earned a Nielsen rating of 16 @.@ 1 , with a 22 share , meaning that roughly 16 @.@ 1 percent of all television @-@ equipped households , and 22 percent of households watching television , were tuned in to the episode . The episode was viewed by 27 @.@ 34 million people , a marked increase from the fourth season 's finale , " Gethsemane " , which was viewed by 19 @.@ 85 million viewers . " Redux I " also marked a drastic increase from the fourth season debut , " Herrenvolk " , which garnered 21 @.@ 11 million viewers . As the season continued , however , ratings began to drop slightly , stabilizing around approximately 20 million viewers @-@ per @-@ episode . The season hit a low with the seventeenth episode , " All Souls " , which was viewed by 13 @.@ 44 million viewers . The season finale , " The End " , earned a Nielsen rating of 11 @.@ 9 , with an 18 share , and was viewed by 18 @.@ 76 viewers , marking a 31 @.@ 4 percent drop in viewers when compared to the season premiere , and a 5 @.@ 5 percent drop in viewers when compared to the previous season finale . The season ranked as the eleventh most watched television series during the 1997 ? 98 year , with an average of 19 @.@ 8 million viewers . This made it the highest @-@ rated season of The X @-@ Files to air as well as the highest rated Fox program for the 1997 ? 98 season .

= = = Reviews = = =

Michael Sauter of Entertainment Weekly gave the season an " A ? " , writing that it " proves the

show was ? even then ? still at its creative peak ( if only for another year or so ) and full of surprises " . He praised the new additions to the series ' mythology and concluded that " many stand @-@ alone episodes now look like classics " . Francis Dass , writing for the New Straits Times , noted that the season was " very interesting " and possessed " some [ ... ] truly inspiring and hilarious " episodes . " Not all seasonal reviews were glowing . Paula Vitaris from Cinefantastique called the season " a mixed bag of episodes " .

The episodes themselves received varied responses from critics . Several were culled out as highlights of the series . " The Post @-@ Modern Prometheus " was heralded as a classic by several reviewers and was called the finest stand @-@ alone episode produced by the series by another . The episode " Bad Blood " was praised by critics for its mix of horror and comedy . Dass called the episode " an absolute gem " and " the most hilarious X @-@ Files episode I have ever seen . " The episode has also appeared on various " Best @-@ Of " lists of The X @-@ Files . Other episodes fared worse . " Schizogeny " was derided by critics : The A.V. Club reviewer Todd VanDerWerff noted that the episode " might be the very worst episode of The X @-@ Files " " Chinga " , written by Stephen King , was criticized for having a poor story . Vitaris called the entry " a major disappointment " and wrote that it " isn 't scary in the least " .

= = = Accolades = = =

The fifth season earned the series a record of sixteen Primetime Emmy Award nominations , the most a single season of The X @-@ Files received . It won two of the awards it was nominated for ? Outstanding Art Direction for a Series for " The Post @-@ Modern Prometheus " and Outstanding Single Camera Picture Editing for a Series for " Kill Switch " . The series received its fourth consecutive nomination for Outstanding Drama Series . David Duchovny received his second consecutive nomination for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series , while Gillian Anderson received her third nomination for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series , which she won the previous year . Lili Taylor and Veronica Cartwright both received nominations for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series . The episode " The Post @-@ Modern Prometheus " received multiple nominations , with the exception of its single win , it was also nominated for Outstanding Directing for a Drama Series ( Chris Carter ) , Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series ( Chris Carter ) , Outstanding Cinematography for a Series ( Joel Ransom ) , Outstanding Music Composition for a Series ( Mark Snow ) , Outstanding Single Camera Picture Editing for a Series ( Lynne Willingham ) , and Outstanding Makeup for a Series . Other nominations were for Outstanding Single Camera Picture Editing for a Series for " Mind 's Eye " , and Outstanding Sound Editing for a Series and Outstanding Sound Mixing for a Drama Series for " The Red and the Black " . The series also won its third and final Golden Globe Award for Best Television Series ? Drama , while Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny received nominations in the television series drama acting categories .

= = DVD release = =