

= Jacksonville (Fringe) =

" Jacksonville " is the 15th episode of the second season of the American science fiction drama television series Fringe , and the 35th episode overall . In the episode , Olivia is forced to recount her time spent as a child in tests conducted by Walter to regain the ability to see objects that have been influenced by the parallel universe and prevent the deaths of innocents . Though successful , Olivia comes to learn the truth about Peter , that he is from the parallel universe .

The episode was a mid @-@ season finale . It was written by Ashley Edward Miller and Zack Stentz , and directed by filmmaker Charles Beeson . It premiered to mostly positive reviews on February 4 , 2010 in the United States , earning an estimated 7 @.@ 76 million viewers .

= = Plot = =

A localized earthquake in New York City damages only one building , killing nearly all inside . The Fringe team discovers that a second building appeared at the same location as the first , fusing the structure and people inside together . Walter (John Noble) realizes that the second building has been pulled from the parallel universe by Thomas Jerome Newton , using the technology that Walter and William Bell had discovered years ago . Walter warns that because of conservation of mass , a building of similar mass will be taken from the prime universe to the parallel one sometime in the next few days .

While Massive Dynamic offers its computing resources to identify possible buildings of similar mass , Walter implores Olivia (Anna Torv) to recall her childhood Cortexiphan @-@ induced ability to see objects from the alternate universe , believing she will be able to foresee which building will be affected and warn everyone in time . He takes her to the disused child @-@ care facility in Jacksonville , Florida , where the Cortexiphan trials were performed . Walter first puts Olivia under heavy sedation , and she experiences meeting her younger , frightened self , but is still unable to trigger her ability . Olivia begins to remember the gruesome trials she experienced , including footage from one test where she exhibited pyrokinesis . As Walter 's deadline nears , he realizes that Olivia is no longer frightened and thus she cannot engage her abilities , which were triggered by fear .

They return to New York City as small micro @-@ quakes occur , indicating the onset of the event . Though a few buildings have been identified as possible targets , there are far too many to evacuate without starting a mass panic . Olivia , unable to help , goes off privately , but Peter (Joshua Jackson) follows and comforts her . Olivia soon recognizes she is frightened again , and races to a rooftop , seeing a building " shimmer " in the distance . The building , a hotel , is quickly identified from the list of candidates , and it is evacuated in time , moments before it is pulled into the parallel universe .

Agent Broyles (Lance Reddick) provides a cover story of an unexpected controlled demolition to explain the disappearance of the hotel . Olivia later meets Peter at his house prior to them going out on a date , but when she arrives , she sees the same shimmer on Peter . Walter quietly asks Olivia not to tell Peter that he is from the other universe .

= = Production = =

Producers Ashley Edward Miller and Zack Stentz co @-@ wrote " Jacksonville " , one of their frequent collaborations . Filmmaker Charles Beeson served as the episode 's director . Prior to the initial broadcast of " Jacksonville " , co @-@ creator J.J. Abrams and showrunners / executive producers Jeff Pinkner and J.H. Wyman released a joint statement about its plot , " Along with the usual mystery , suspense , science and general wackiness , the episode contains one big answer , the consequences of which will affect our team for the remainder of the season and beyond . " Stentz later explained in the DVD audio commentary that in " Jacksonville by and large , the fringe event is Olivia . Olivia realizing that even in chasing all of these fringe events , she is the biggest fringe event of them all . " Also in the commentary , Pinkner added that for the episode 's final scene

, " We knew it would be in the back third of the season that we would really acknowledge for Olivia that Peter came from the Other Side . The worst circumstance that could happen in is at a moment when they are getting as close together as possible " .

Commenting on Peter 's secret origins affecting their relationship , actress Anna Torv stated in an interview with Digital Spy that " Jacksonville " is " the episode that pushes us forward with a huge amount of momentum towards the end of the season . It all gets mixed up and then you find out what the drive is behind all of this . It 's the big spanner in the works ! The secret definitely has a huge impact on the lives of everyone involved . "

" Jacksonville " was the first episode of Fox 's initiative with Science Olympiad to release lesson plans for grade school students . Each lesson would relate to the week 's particular science ; in " Jacksonville " ' s case , the intention was for " Students [to] learn about earthquakes of different magnitudes , as well as their impact on buildings and how it can be mitigated . " Jeff Pinkner commented , " Everything we do is grounded in some version of authentic fringe science and what scientists believe is possible , " and was pleased to be a part of " anything that can help invest kids in learning . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

On its initial American broadcast on February 4 , 2010 , " Jacksonville " was watched by an estimated 7 @. @ 76 million viewers , gaining a 2 @. @ 8 ratings share for those aged 18 ? 49 . " Jacksonville " was the winter finale for the series , as the next episode did not air until April 1 .

= = = Reviews = = =

" Jacksonville " premiered to generally positive reviews . James Poniewozik of Time Magazine called it " fine " and " well @- @ acted " , especially liking John Noble 's performance . Noel Murray of The A.V. Club graded the episode an A- , explaining " I liked ' Jacksonville ' for the way it plunged directly into the heart of the show 's mythology for the first time in a while , and even if it didn 't tell us much we didn 't already know , having the story become more personal for our heroes served to create that unsettled feeling at which Fringe excels " . Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly loved " Jacksonville " , believing it to be a " tremendously moving , startling episode " and " one of [Fringe 's] finest hours " . AOL TV writer Jane Boursaw particularly praised the scene of Olivia trying to comfort her younger self , and then confronting Walter over it . She also felt Olivia 's loss of memory to be " interesting , " and became " practically gleeful " at her and Peter 's near kiss .

Giving the episode an 8 @. @ 0 / 10 rating , IGN 's Ramsey Isler thought the episode wasn 't " as hard @- @ hitting as most of the previous ' mythology ' episodes , but it still leaves a good impression " . Isler enjoyed the " tense and intriguing " opening and ending of the episode , but kept waiting for more to happen in the middle . SFScope contributor Sarah Stegall called the opening " one of the best in the entire series " and " certainly the best television I 've seen this year . " In addition , Stegall praised Olivia 's dream sequence and subsequent accusation of Walter , the inclusion of Massive Dynamic as allies , Broyles ' role as " support " rather than " the usual role of Plot Obstacle , " and the science behind the episode (" The very fact that we can have two different yet legitimate quantum physics explanations on a television drama is , in itself , cause for applause . ") . She concluded her review by noting Anna Torv has made " the most progress " in her performance , evolving from " downright wooden in the first year " to " carrying the role with grace and strength . " Website blogger io9 listed " Jacksonville " as one of the " crucial " episodes new viewers must watch to get into the show .