

= Unearthed (Fringe) =

" Unearthed " is the 11th episode of the second season of the American science fiction drama television series Fringe . While the body of a young , recently deceased girl is being harvested of its organs , she suddenly comes back to life yelling classified naval launch codes and Russian phrases , leading the Fringe Division to a recently murdered naval officer . The episode was written by co @-@ executive producers David H. Goodman and Andrew Kreisberg , and was directed by producer Frederick E. O. Toye .

Though the episode was produced at the end of the first season " Unearthed " first aired during the second season , on January 11 , 2010 , in a one @-@ time timeslot . An estimated 7 @.@ 79 million viewers tuned into the episode , giving it a " whopping " ratings improvement over its best ratings of the season . It was included in the second season 's DVD release as a special feature . The episode was almost unanimously disliked by critics , with one reviewer calling it " a stinker that should have remained safely out of public view . " Numerous critics also disliked guest actress Alice Kremelberg 's performance , particularly when her character becomes possessed by a male ghost .

Netflix streaming service lists " Unearthed " as episode 21 of season one .

= = Plot = =

A seventeen @-@ year @-@ old girl , Lisa Donovan (Alice Kremelberg) , is declared brain dead at a hospital and is pulled off life support . While the doctors remove her organs for donation , she suddenly comes back from the dead and yells highly classified naval missile codes . Fringe Division arrives to investigate , along with a naval officer ; he tells them the codes are tied to a missing sailor called Andrew Rusk (Chazz Menendez) . Lisa is unaware of the numbers or Rusk , but suddenly starts speaking Russian while Olivia (Anna Torv) , Peter (Joshua Jackson) , and Walter (John Noble) question her . The naval officer informs them that Rusk is fluent in the language .

Olivia asks Lisa 's mother Maureen (Amy Carlson) for permission to run more tests on the girl as a means to find Rusk , but Maureen disagrees . Meanwhile , Lisa has a vision of Rusk standing behind her , which leads Maureen to conclude they should end the investigation , as it is causing Lisa to experience these strange occurrences . Walter posits that Lisa 's aneurysm tied her to Rusk and gave them a psychic bond . Having continued to suffer visions , Lisa soon calls Olivia and leads her to Rusk 's body . It is determined that at the same time Lisa was taken off life support , Rusk was murdered . Walter believes that part of Rusk 's consciousness transferred over to Lisa . Walter clashes with the family 's priest (Sean Dugan) over her resurrection . Olivia learns that Rusk had recently experienced high levels of radiation ; Walter posits that , due to this heavy radiation exposure , Rusk 's energy is not completely " expended " .

Lisa is transferred to Walter 's lab , where he gives her special drugs to extract Rusk 's thoughts from her mind . Instead , Rusk gains control of Lisa 's body and demands to know where he is . His description of the murderer leads them another naval officer , who tells them Rusk 's physically abused wife Teresa (Annie Parisse) hired him for the murder . Believing that he has left her mind , they learn too late that Rusk is still in control of Lisa ; he goes to exact revenge on Teresa , but is stopped by Peter before he can go through with the murder . Lisa is eventually able to purge Rusk from her consciousness . The final scene shows an unrelated car crash victim suddenly waking up , mumbling in Russian : " My Star " , the pet name Rusk called his wife , meaning that Rusk is back .

= = Production = =

Co @-@ executive producers David H. Goodman and Andrew Kreisberg wrote " Unearthed " , while producer Frederick E. O. Toye worked as the episode director . " Unearthed " was the last episode filmed during the first season schedule . Although it was filmed during the first season , " Unearthed " aired during the following season on Monday , January 11 , 2010 , a departure from its normal timeslot on Thursdays . Actor Joshua Jackson explained the move in April 2009 , " [It 's] for boring reasons . They only had 22 airdates for our show this year , but they ordered 23 episodes ,

so we shot one for next year , which is just silly TV network stuff . It 's not for any cool reason like we had something we needed in New York that we couldn 't shoot elsewhere . It 's just an accounting issue . " That same month , executive producer / showrunner Jeff Pinkner further commented on the episode chronology for the new season , " It won 't be the first episode , and it probably won 't be the second , but it 'll be somewhere in the first batch of episodes . It 's a stand @-@ alone , but it still honors the condition that we know it will fall into the world . "

Fox issued a press release on January 11 previewing the episode 's plot . It concluded , " While the girl 's mind @-@ bending condition intensifies , Walter dusts off some old lab videos and hypothesizes the unthinkable , sending Olivia and Peter to investigate the bewildering case in an original ' Unearthed ' episode of Fringe and here 's another mystery : is it an unaired episode from Season One or is it from an alternate universe ? " As the press release purposely alluded to whether the episode was indeed originally part of the first season or from the parallel universe , one critic wrote that " FOX [was just] having fun with the fact that Fringe has alternate universes " and that readers of the press release should " take this with a grain of salt " . According to Fox 's media site , " Unearthed " was listed as the 21st episode of season one , despite its broadcast during the second season and inclusion in that season 's DVD release as a special feature . Though one character had been killed off earlier in the second season , a former series regular appeared in the episode , sparking confusion among some viewers . As the broadcasting change went unexplained at the time , one media outlet speculated it was a marketing ploy on the network 's part , believing the episode title was " more than a stunning coincidence " and that it was a reference to co @-@ creator J.J. Abrams ' other television series , Lost .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

On its initial broadcast in the United States , " Unearthed " was watched by an estimated 7 @.@ 79 million viewers , earning a 2 @.@ 8 / 7 share among viewers aged 18 ? 49 . The episode aired on a Monday night , which was a departure from its usual timeslot on Thursdays . This led it temporarily into direct competition with another science fiction series , Heroes ; Fringe easily won , as Heroes had its lowest rated airing in the show 's history while , according to SFScope 's Sarah Stegall , " Unearthed " gave Fringe a " whopping 24 percent improvement over its best ratings this season . "

= = = Reviews = = =

Critical reception to the episode was generally negative . A.V. Club 's Noel Murray graded the episode with a C- , explaining he didn 't want to watch a season one cast @-@ off , and that some of the episode moments were " generic [ally] embarrassing " , such as when Olivia tricked someone into telling her Rusk was sick and when Rusk failed to kill his wife after falling into the " old Fallacy Of The Talking Killer " cliché . New York 's Tim Grierson thought it was " the lamest in recent memory " and " a stinker that should have remained safely out of public view " . He did however remark that the episode allowed him to see how far the show had improved since its first season . In a slightly more positive review , MTV 's Josh Wigler wrote " As far as standard installments of Fringe go , ' Unearthed ' ranks somewhere in the middle of the pack , but the quality diminishes due to its awkward placement in the middle of season two " . IGN 's Ramsey Isler rated the episode 6 @.@ 4 / 10 , commenting that it was " cheesy , with mediocre writing and some fairly bad performances from the guest supporting cast " . Isler found little to redeem the episode , and wished the story 's partial focus on the intersection of science and faith had been further explored .

Andrew Hanson from the Los Angeles Times thought the " premise was a little thinly stretched over the hour " and believed it would have been overshadowed by stronger episodes in season one , but was glad to have another hour of Fringe regardless . SFScope contributor Sarah Stegall disliked that the network failed to issue a " disclaimer " about the episode 's production date , stating " ...

maybe the producers assume that all their audiences are brand new to the franchise . Or perhaps , unhappily , it is a sign that Fox has given up on this show , and no longer cares whether its lingering audience is confused . " She concluded , " As a standalone episode , this one was of middling interest , and I can see why Fox would have dropped it from the Season One lineup . Fans looking eagerly for more ' mythology ' episodes , where the links between the Fringe team , Massive Dynamics [sic] , Nina Sharpe , William Bell and , for all I know , the Illuminati are explored , may be disappointed . " Jane Boursaw of AOL TV was also critical of Fox for giving no warning about the episode and thought it should actually have been titled ' Walter vs. The Priest . ' " She continued , " The whole episode was an interesting intersect between science and faith , not to mention the whole ' being possessed by a dead person because your brain waves crossed during life and death ' thing . You can tell it was vintage Fringe -- if indeed it was -- because the storylines are more complex than that these days , what with the alternate universe and Leonard Nimoy and all . " Various critics noted guest actress Alice Kremelberg 's performance , particularly when she had to give the impression she was possessed by a male ghost ; most reviews were negative , though Boursaw praised it , giving Kremelberg " high fives " .