

= The X @-@ Files (season 7) =

The seventh season of the American science fiction television series The X @-@ Files commenced airing on the Fox network in the United States on November 7 , 1999 , concluded on May 21 , 2000 , and consists of twenty @-@ two episodes . Taking place after the destruction of the Syndicate , this season marks the end of various other story lines ; during this season , Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) learned the true fate of his sister , Samantha . The season concludes with Mulder being abducted by aliens and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) learning that she is pregnant .

Before the broadcasting for the season began , Duchovny sued Fox and eventually announced his decision to leave the show . As a result , the season would be the last to feature Duchovny in a full @-@ time capacity , although he would return in later seasons as an intermittent main character . Due to this eventual character change , this season would be the last to feature the original opening sequence for the series , as the two later years updated the intro in an attempt to renew and revive the series .

The seventh season premiere " The Sixth Extinction " , debuted with a Nielsen rating of 10 @.@ 6 and was viewed by 17 @.@ 82 million viewers , marking a noticeable drop in viewership since the sixth season . The series fell from number 12 to number 29 for the 1999 ? 2000 television year . Critically , the show 's seventh season received mixed to positive reviews ; many reviewers felt that the show still produced good episodes , but that it was the weakest of the Duchovny and Anderson seasons of the show .

= = Plot overview = =

After the events of the season six finale , Walter Skinner (Mitch Pileggi) and Michael Kritschgau (John Finn) are desperately attempting to find the truth behind the so @-@ called alien object . Meanwhile , Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) is still imprisoned by his own frenetic brain activity . Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) and Skinner are unaware of FBI Special Agent Diana Fowley 's (Mimi Rogers) duplicity ? she is working for Cigarette Smoking Man (William B. Davis) . Scully then travels to Africa to unravel the secrets of the alien artifacts , finding something that looks like a spaceship buried under the shoreline off the Côte d 'Ivoire coast . The object may prove that life originated elsewhere , and all religion is based on the Navajo contact with alien life . Unsuccessful , Scully returns from Africa to revisit Mulder in Washington , D.C. , but instead she finds out that he has disappeared . She contacts Kritschgau and Skinner to find her partner . Cigarette Smoking Man has taken Mulder to a place where all his problems seem to have disappeared . Fowley helps Scully locate Mulder , which leads to her death at the hands of Cigarette Smoking Man .

While investigating a bizarre disappearance of a young girl from her home , Mulder becomes obsessed with the number of children who have vanished in similar circumstances . Scully fears that he is emotionally involved due to his sister 's disappearance . At the same time it is revealed to him that his mother , Teena Mulder (Rebecca Toolan) , committed suicide . He then tries to prove that his mother did not take her own life , but is ultimately forced to accept that his mother 's death was by her own hand . He is led by a man whose son disappeared years earlier to another truth ? that his sister may be among the souls taken by " walk @-@ ins " , saving the souls of children doomed to live unhappy lives . Together they locate evidence that proves that Samantha was abducted by Cigarette Smoking Man and was forced to live in a now @-@ abandoned US Army base . It is later revealed that Samantha had become a " walk @-@ in " spirit .

Mulder and Scully investigate a case which leads them back to Oregon , the site of their first case together . With a series of Alien abductions taking place , Mulder and Scully are contacted by Billy Miles (Zachary Ansley) . Scully falls ill during the investigation and returns to Washington , D.C. Cigarette Smoking Man contacts Marita Covarrubias (Laurie Holden) and Alex Krycek (Nicholas Lea) , in an attempt to revive the government conspiracy . With Covarrubias unwilling to assist , and Krycek seeking revenge , they contact Mulder after he visits an alien crash site . Skinner and Mulder return to Oregon , while Scully is hospitalized in Washington , D.C. Mulder becomes trapped by an alien device , and is abducted by an Alien Bounty Hunter (Brian Thompson) together with Miles

and several others . Skinner returns to Washington , D.C. where Scully informs him that she is pregnant .

= = Production = =

= = = Background = = =

After five seasons in Vancouver , Canada , production of The X @-@ Files moved to Los Angeles . The X @-@ Files ' sixth season was the first season of the show to be filmed in the new location . The move was instigated by Duchovny in order to facilitate his work in films as well as to give him a chance to be nearer to his wife , Téa Leoni . Series creator Chris Carter opposed the move , but Fox network officials eventually made the decision to film in California . Although the move was unpopular with some members of the cast and crew , both series director Kim Manners and Anderson supported the move , although less vocally than Duchovny . Many fans accused the show of " Hollywood @-@ izing " by adding notable guests stars as well as making the plots simpler and more enjoyable for mass audiences . Furthermore , the move to Los Angeles also meant a drastic increase in production costs .

= = = Development = = =

Originally , the mythology for season seven was supposed to continue from and show the ramifications of the " Two Fathers " / " One Son " story arc . Frank Spotnitz , in an interview , explained that the mythology episodes for season seven would feature " characters you saw in ' One Son ' coming back " and explore " what happens now that the conspiracy has been destroyed , what are the politics of the new landscape that exists . [?] There are aliens from outer space , two different races that are warring with each other . " In addition , he said that the then @-@ planned series finale would feature " the big idea that Chris [Carter] had in the beginning . " However , these ideas never came to pass , and the season finale , " Requiem " , segued directly into the eighth season premiere " Within " . Duchovny later revealed that , had the show ended , the final three episodes would have been devoted to the myth @-@ arc .

While filming was underway for the seventh season , many members of the crew felt that the show had entered into its final season . Executive producer Frank Spotnitz later explained , " There was a pretty strong sentiment inside and outside the show that it was time to call it a day . " Because the show 's producers felt that the show was nearing its end , many story arcs were ended in the season . The fourth episode , " Millennium " was written as a way to bring closure to the recently cancelled Carter @-@ created series of the same name . The episode features Lance Henriksen reprising his role as Frank for the last time . The eleventh episode , " Closure " , features Mulder discovering what happened to his sister . The idea to close the story arc received mixed reactions from various production and crew members . However , many of the show 's producers realized that the time had come to answer one of the show 's biggest questions . Paul Rabwin noted that , " It 's been seven years . I don 't think any of us are going to miss Samantha Mulder . That device and motivation were very strong in the early years of the show . But as the years have gone by , the speculation kind of melted away . " As the season progressed , however , the idea of producing another season emerged . Paul Rabwin explained that , " we found ourselves starting to get energized again . [...] As we got toward the end of the season , everyone was kind of hopeful . "

The season also saw several of the show 's cast write their own episodes . Series co @-@ star Gillian Anderson directed and wrote her first episode of the series , " all things " . Anderson originally approached Carter about writing and directing an episode of the series during the sixth season . Anderson crafted a script that would see Scully pursuing a " deeply personal X @-@ File , one which in [she] is taken down a spiritual path when logic fails her " . Anderson had only a rough outline of the script until one day she wrote a majority of the story in one sitting . She explained , " A certain concept began to form , [and] I just wrote the entire outline for ' all things ' right then and

there . It all just kind of came together on the page " . The next day , Anderson pitched the script to Carter , who approved of the " personal and quiet " characteristics of the story . In addition , series regular Davis wrote his only episode , " En Ami " . Davis approached Carter with his idea about Cigarette Smoking Man trying to seduce Scully with medical knowledge , and Carter , who was intrigued , responded positively to the idea . He assigned executive producer Spotnitz to work with Davis and craft a full @-@ fledged script . The script went through many revisions . Because Cigarette Smoking Man was able to manipulate Scully , Carter later referred to the " En Ami " as " the creepiest episode of the year . "

= = = Lawsuit = = =

Before the season aired , David Duchovny filed a lawsuit against 20th Century Fox . Duchovny was upset because , he claimed , that Fox had undersold the rights to its own affiliates , thereby costing him huge sums of money . Originally , in the contract , Duchovny was eligible for an estimated five percent , but , according to him , he " had seen only a fraction " of the money . Eventually , the lawsuit was settled , and Duchovny was awarded a settlement of about \$ 20 million . The lawsuit put strain on Duchovny 's professional relationships . Although his lawsuit never called Chris Carter a defendant , their friendship was notably impacted . One anonymous source noted that " the whole lawsuit thing revealed that Carter knew (Duchovny) was getting screwed and didn 't warn him . Carter proved where his loyalties lay with his actions . "

Neither Carter nor Duchovny were contracted to work on the series beyond the seventh season ; however , Fox entered into negotiations near the end of season in order to bring the two on board for an eighth season . After the airing of " Requiem " , Duchovny expressed his intentions to leave the series . He explained , " I was kind of a free agent after season seven , and to me , there was not much else to do in terms of the character . So it was really about me wanting to pursue other parts of my career as a writer , director , and actor . " Rumors began spreading ? and were eventually confirmed ? that , since Duchovny had not expressed an interest to appear as a main character in the eighth season , that another character would take Mulder 's place . Many fans on the internet believed that Mitch Pileggi , who portrayed Walter Skinner , would take the role ; Pileggi later called this guess " ridiculous . "

= = = Crew = = =

Series creator Chris Carter also served as executive producer and showrunner and wrote six episodes . Spotnitz continued as executive producer and wrote five episodes . Vince Gilligan continued as co @-@ executive producer and wrote six episodes . John Shiban was promoted to supervising producer and wrote two episodes . David Amann was promoted to co @-@ producer and wrote two episodes . Jeffrey Bell was promoted to story editor and wrote two episodes . Cyberpunk novelists William Gibson and Tom Maddox returned to write their second of two episodes for the series . Cast member Duchovny wrote two episodes in the season , while other cast members Anderson and Davis also wrote an episode each . New writers in the seventh season included Steven Maeda and Greg Walker , who wrote one episode ; and Chip Johannessen who wrote a single freelance episode . Other producers included Paul Rabwin and Bernadette Caulfield , and Michelle MacLaren who joined as co @-@ executive producer .

Producing @-@ directors for the show included producer Rob Bowman , supervising producer Manners , and co @-@ executive producer Michael Watkins , who directed the bulk of the episodes for the season . Bowman directed two episodes for his final season on the series , Manners directed seven , and Watkins directed three . Cast members David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson each directed one episode each . Series creator Chris Carter directed a single episode , while series writer Vince Gilligan made his television directorial debut . Other directors for the season included Thomas J. Wright who directed three episodes , with Robert Lieberman , Cliff Bole , and Paul Shapiro each directing one .

== Cast ==

=== Main cast ===

David Duchovny as Special Agent Fox Mulder (22 episodes)
Gillian Anderson as Special Agent Dana Scully (22 episodes)

=== Recurring cast ===

==== Also starring ====

Mitch Pileggi as Walter Skinner (11 episodes)
William B. Davis as Cigarette Smoking Man (4 episodes)
Nicholas Lea as Alex Krycek (2 episodes)

==== Guest starring ====

== Episodes ==

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

== Reception ==

=== Ratings ===

The seventh season of The X @-@ Files debuted with " The Sixth Extinction " on November 7 , 1999 . This episode earned a Nielsen rating of 10 @.@ 6 , with a 16 share , meaning that roughly 10 @.@ 6 percent of all television @-@ equipped households , and 16 percent of households watching television , were tuned into the episode . The episode was viewed by 17 @.@ 82 million people , an increase from the sixth season 's finale , " Biogenesis " , which was viewed by 15 @.@ 86 million viewers . However , the debut marked a decrease from the sixth season debut , " The Beginning " , which garnered 20 @.@ 34 million viewers . As the season continued , however , ratings began to drop . The season hit a low with the eighteenth episode , " Brand X " , which was viewed by 10 @.@ 81 million viewers . The season finale , " Requiem " , earned a Nielsen rating of 8 @.@ 9 , with a 14 share , and was viewed by 15 @.@ 26 million viewers , marking a 14 percent drop in viewers when compared to the season premiere , and a 4 percent drop in viewers when compared to the previous season finale . The series was ranked at number 29 during the 1999 ? 2000 television season , finishing with an average of 14 @.@ 2 million viewers .

During 2000 , companies were paying Fox \$ 225 @,@ 000 for every 30 @-@ second spot that would air between acts of The X @-@ Files . Many Information technology (IT) companies were buying commercials during the show , largely due to the fact that " many [' coders IT geeks '] get their weekly fix of science fiction from this prime @-@ time show . "

=== Reviews ===

The seventh season received moderately positive reviews from critics , although increasingly critical reviews were more common this season . While critics enjoyed many of the episodes , many also felt that , as a whole , the season was the weakest of the show 's original seven . Eric Mink of the New York Daily News praised the season , noting that it was " proof that The X @-@ Files still has

more than enough creative life in it to justify an eighth season ". He called many of the stand @-@ alone episodes " wonderfully creepy " and noted that the season possessed a " terrific bunch of episodes ". Thomas Doherty from Cinefantastique gave the season a mixed review and noted that the series was hurt by the partnership between Mulder and Scully " settl [ing] into the comfortable groove of a modern two career marriage ? supportive , professionally rewarding , and utterly sexless . " Further , he noted that " the most entertaining episode lately have been the self parodies , where killer cockroaches scurry and living dead roam , or where (in the Duchovny written and directed episode) Scully and Mulder are played by Téa Leoni and Garry Shandling in a motion picture only slightly more ludicrous than a 1998 motion picture called The X @-@ Files . " Doherty argued that the " self @-@ parody " style of the series caused viewers to not take it seriously anymore , explaining that , " No longer going for the big chill , Carter and company are winking at their audience , as if to say : even we can 't pretend to believe in this muddled mishmash anymore . " Tom Kessenich , in his book Examination : An Unauthorized Look at Seasons 6 ? 9 of the X @-@ Files , was positive towards the first half of the season , but soon saw the episodes in more of a negative light . He wrote , " A season that began with such hope ended with a sense of sorrow given the end result of the season @-@ long backstage wheeling and dealing [a reference to David Duchovny 's lawsuit] . Not even the magnificent season finale [?] could erase the nagging doubts I had that a series that had been so amazing for so long would soon embark upon a new course wrought with pitfalls and turmoil . " The A.V. Club noted that while the first eight seasons of The X @-@ Files were " good @-@ to @-@ great " , the seventh season of the show was " flagging " and possessed " significant problems .

The episodes themselves received a variety of reviews . Some were positively received : several reviews praised the episode " X @-@ Cops " , the show 's highly promoted cross @-@ over with the police reality show COPS . One review from the New York Daily News called the outing " exceptionally clever " whereas Starpulse named the episode the funniest of the series . The Duchovny @-@ penned " Hollywood A.D. " was praised for its self @-@ reflexive comedy by several reviews . Other episodes were more harshly received . Anderson 's writing debut , " all things " was critiqued for being " dull " and " heavy @-@ handed " . " Brand X " , on the other hand , was called " a waste of an episode . "

= = = Accolades = = =

The seventh season earned the series six Primetime Emmy Award nominations , with three wins . The episode " First Person Shooter " won for Outstanding Sound Mixing for a Drama Series and Outstanding Special Visual Effects for a Series . The episode " Theef " won for Outstanding Makeup for a Series . Other nominations included Mark Snow for Outstanding Music Composition for a Series (Dramatic Underscore) for " Theef " , the episode " First Person Shooter " for Outstanding Sound Editing for a Series , and " Rush " for Outstanding Special Visual Effects for a Series . The series , as well as Gillian Anderson , won a Teen.com Entertainment Award for Best Drama Series and Best Actress in a Series , respectively . Other nominations included two Screen Actors Guild Award nominations for David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson , an Environmental Media Awards nomination for " Brand X " , and an International Monitor Award nomination for " Rush " .

= = DVD release = =