

= The X @-@ Files (film) =

The X @-@ Files (also known as The X @-@ Files : Fight the Future) is a 1998 American science fiction thriller film directed by Rob Bowman . Chris Carter wrote the screenplay . The story is by Carter and Frank Spotnitz . It is the first feature film based on Carter 's television series The X @-@ Files that revolves around fictional unsolved cases called the X @-@ Files and the characters solving them . Five main characters from the television series appear in the film : David Duchovny , Gillian Anderson , Mitch Pileggi , John Neville , and William B. Davis reprise their respective roles as FBI agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully , FBI Assistant Director Walter Skinner , Well @-@ Manicured Man , and the Cigarette @-@ Smoking Man . The film was promoted with the tagline Fight the Future .

The film takes place between seasons five (episode " The End ") and six (episode " The Beginning ") of the television series , and is based upon the series ' extraterrestrial mythology . The story follows agents Mulder and Scully , removed from their usual jobs on the X @-@ Files , and investigating the bombing of a building and the destruction of criminal evidence . They uncover what appears to be a government conspiracy attempting to hide the truth about an alien colonization of Earth .

Carter decided to make a feature film to explore the show 's mythology on a wider scale , as well as appealing to non @-@ fans . He wrote the story with Frank Spotnitz at the end of 1996 and , with a budget from 20th Century Fox , filming began in 1997 , following the end of the show 's fourth season . Carter assembled cast and crew from the show , as well as some other , well @-@ known actors such as Blythe Danner and Martin Landau , to begin production on what they termed " Project Blackwood " . The film was produced by Carter and Daniel Sackheim . Mark Snow continued his role as X @-@ Files composer to create the film 's score .

The film premiered on June 19 , 1998 in the United States , and received mixed to positive reviews from critics . Although some enjoyed the style and effects of the film , others found the plot confusing and viewed it as little more than an extended episode of the series . A sequel , entitled I Want to Believe , was released ten years later .

= = Plot = =

The film opens in what will become North Texas , 35 @,@ 000 BC . Entering a cave , two cavemen hunters stumble upon a large extraterrestrial life form . One is killed by the creature while the other one fights and wins , stabbing the creature to death , but he is also infected by a black oil @-@ like substance which crawls into his skin . In 1998 , in the same area , when a group of boys are digging a deep hole , a young boy named Stevie falls down the hole and finds a human skull . As he holds it , black oil seeps into his body until it reaches his head , causing his eyes to turn black . Later , four firefighters descend into the hole to rescue him , but do not come out . A team of biohazard @-@ suited men arrives on the scene .

Meanwhile , FBI Special Agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully have been assigned to other projects since the closure of the X @-@ Files . They are helping investigate a bomb threat against a federal building in Dallas . Mulder inspects a building across the street from the supposed target and discovers the bomb in a vending machine . Special Agent in Charge Darius Michaud stays behind to disarm the bomb as Mulder and Scully evacuate the building . Unknown to the agents , Michaud makes no effort to disarm the bomb , which detonates .

Returning to Washington , D.C. , Mulder and Scully are chastised because , in addition to Michaud , five people were apparently still in the building during the bombing . There are scheduled separate hearings at which their job performances will be evaluated . That evening , Mulder encounters a paranoid doctor , Alvin Kurtzweil , who explains that the victims were the firefighters and boy , that they were already dead , and that the bomb was allowed to detonate in order to destroy evidence of how they died . At the hospital morgue , Scully is able to examine one of the victims , finding evidence of an alien virus .

Meanwhile , Mulder and Scully 's enemy , the Cigarette Smoking Man , meets with Dr. Ben

Bronschweig in Texas , which they locate one of the firefighters who contains the same alien virus , but with an alien organism residing inside the body ; the Cigarette Smoking Man orders to administer a vaccine to it , but should it fail , have the body burned . Later , the alien organism gestates and kills Bronschweig .

Mulder and Scully travel to the crime scene in Texas . They come across a strange train hauling tanker trucks and they follow it to a large cornfield surrounding two glowing domes . They enter the domes , only to find them empty . Suddenly , grates leading to an underground area open in the floor and a swarm of bees chases the agents out into the cornfield . Black helicopters appear and begin to chase them , but they escape and head back to Washington .

After returning , Mulder unsuccessfully tries to get help from Kurtzweil , while Scully attends her performance hearing and learns that she is being transferred to Salt Lake City , Utah . Mulder is devastated to lose Scully as a partner . The two are about to share a kiss when Scully is stung by a bee which had lodged itself under her shirt collar . The sting causes Scully to quickly lose consciousness . Mulder calls for the paramedics but when an ambulance arrives , the driver shoots Mulder in the head and whisks Scully away . Waking up in hospital , Mulder is told the bullet only grazed his temple and leaves with the help of The Lone Gunmen and FBI Assistant Director Walter Skinner . Mulder then meets a former adversary , the Well @-@ Manicured Man , who gives him Scully 's location in Antarctica , along with a vaccine to combat the virus that has infected her . The Well @-@ Manicured Man then kills himself in a car bomb , before his betrayal of The Syndicate is discovered .

Mulder travels to Antarctica to save Scully , and discovers a secret underground laboratory run by the Cigarette Smoking Man . Mulder uses the vaccine to revive Scully , disrupting the stable environment of the lab and reviving the cocooned aliens . The lab is destroyed just after Mulder and Scully escape to the surface . It turns out to be part of a huge alien vessel lying dormant beneath the snow ; the vessel pushes up through tons of ice and snow and travels straight up into the sky . Mulder watches the ship fly directly overhead and disappear into the distance , as Scully regains consciousness .

Some time later , Scully attends a hearing , where her testimony is ignored and the evidence covered up . The only remaining proof of their ordeal is the bee that stung Scully , collected by the Lone Gunmen . She hands it over , noting that the FBI does not currently have an investigative unit qualified to pursue the evidence at hand . Outside , Mulder is reading an article that has covered up the domes and crop field in Texas ; Scully informs Mulder that she is willing to continue working with him .

At another crop outpost in Tunisia , the Cigarette Smoking Man warns Strughold that Mulder remains a threat , as he explains what Mulder has found out about the virus . He then hands him a telegram revealing that the X @-@ files unit has been re @-@ opened .

= = Cast = =

David Duchovny as Special Agent Fox Mulder
Gillian Anderson as Special Agent Dana Scully
Martin Landau as Alvin Kurtzweil
Blythe Danner as Jana Cassidy
Armin Mueller @-@ Stahl as Conrad Strughold
Mitch Pileggi as Assistant Director Walter Skinner
William B. Davis as Cigarette @-@ Smoking Man
John Neville as Well @-@ Manicured Man
Dean Haglund as Richard " Ringo " Langly
Bruce Harwood as John Fitzgerald Byers
Tom Braidwood as Melvin Frohike
Jeffrey DeMunn as Ben Bronschweig
Michael Shamus Wiles as Black @-@ Haired Man
Terry O 'Quinn as Special Agent in Charge Darius Michaud

Lucas Black as Stevie

= = Production = =

= = = Conception and pre @-@ production = = =

After five successful seasons , Chris Carter wanted to tell the story of the series on a wider scale , which ultimately meant creating a feature film . He later explained that the main problem was to create a story for which the viewer would not need to be familiar with the show 's setting and the various story arcs .

Carter and Frank Spotnitz wrote major parts of the script in Hawaii over Christmas 1996 . They used the same method that they had used when writing episodes and sketching out scenes for the series on 3x5 index cards . By the time the Christmas break had ended , the whole narrative for the film had been written . Upon his return from Hawaii , Carter looked for spare time to write the script . He returned to Hawaii and in ten days wrote about half of the 124 @-@ page screenplay for the film .

Carter gave 90 pages of the screenplay to Fox who received it well . While not officially greenlighted , he got a budget from Fox and began to make plans as to when and where it would be filmed . Carter then enlisted Daniel Sackheim as a producer on the film . Sackheim had previously produced the pilot episode of The X @-@ Files and directed several episodes in the first two seasons . The X @-@ Files marked his first contribution as producer to a feature film . Carter 's choice for director was Rob Bowman , who had been the series ' executive producer and a director before the production base was moved from Vancouver to Los Angeles .

During production , the filmmakers went to great lengths to preserve secrecy , including printing the script on red paper to prevent photocopying , and leaking disinformation to the media and giving the film the codename " Project Blackwood " . The code was cracked by fans who speculated on the meaning behind it . According to Spotnitz , " Blackwood " held no particular significance .

At the beginning of the pre @-@ production phase , Carter and Bowman were busy with the television series , leaving Sackheim to work alone . Sackheim hired executive producer Lata Ryan , who had previously collaborated with Steven Spielberg for his 1993 film , Jurassic Park . Once hired , Ryan was allowed to read the script in front of the Ten Thirteen Productions staff members ? but not to take it away . At this time , most of the staff members had not read the script for themselves . After Ryan accepted the offer of becoming executive producer , Chris Nowak was hired as production designer , Ward Russell as director of photography and Bill Liams as construction coordinator . According to Ryan , they had secured all key personnel six weeks before principal filming began .

= = = Writing and casting = = =

Both Carter and Spotnitz wanted to make the film " bigger " than the series , so they decided to start and end the film at an " extreme place " and explain aspects of the story arc that the show had not . While gathering research materials , they learned that the Earth was once covered with ice and decided to open the film in Texas in 35 @,@ 000 BC with human " Primitives " as the first characters to appear .

The film included known actors from the show such as David Duchovny as Fox Mulder , Gillian Anderson as Dana Scully , Mitch Pileggi as Walter Skinner and William B. Davis as the Cigarette Smoking Man , as well as new actors and characters to the franchise . These included Martin Landau and Blythe Danner . The signing of these actors broke with what had become tradition for The X @-@ Files . Carter had purposely cast virtually unknown actors for the television series , to make it more believable ; " As soon as you put in an actor whose face is very recognizable , you 've got a situation that works against the reality of the show . " He saw creating the film as a chance to break this rule . He offered Glenne Headly the small role of a bartender . A fan of the show , she

accepted enthusiastically .

= = = Set design = = =

Chris Nowak was hired as production designer for the film by Daniel Sackheim . Nowak was a former architect who had worked as a professional theater set designer for eight years , before moving towards the film business as an art director . Nowak had previously worked with Sackheim on a television production , which led to Sackheim contacting him to do an interview for the selection of a production designer . According to Sackheim , Nowak was hired because he was the only one able to create a " focused vision " for the film .

Nowak wanted to start the design process after talking through the story with the filmmakers so that he could formulate " a sense of the atmosphere " which they wanted to create for the film . He wanted to create a " dark , scary and oppressive environment " for the characters , especially Mulder . While familiar with the television series , Nowak decided not to review any episodes as preparation for his role in the production . Explaining this decision , he said , " I wanted the movie to be as fresh and new as possible in its design . Of course , there were some elements from the show that had to be retained . "

The design department found all their locations and designed sets in eight weeks , guided by input from the filmmakers . Nowak started by creating artwork for all the major sets and locations , working with the two concept artists Tim Flattery and Jim Martin . Nowak created drafts and sent them to Flattery and Martin who continued to develop them until they were complete . The complete artwork was then presented to Chris Carter , Rob Bowman , Lata Ryan and Sackheim for approval . While considering the time schedule , they made no notable changes to the artwork .

Once the set concepts were approved by Carter , Bowman , Sackheim and Ryan , they were sent to the blueprint stage so that construction of the sets could begin under the supervision of construction coordinator Bill Liams . All the major sets were constructed " simultaneously " because of the schedule . However , this proved to be a challenge for the production team , because it meant they had to pay the rent on all the stages at the same time . The set construction started seven weeks before filming .

= = = Filming = = =

Carter and Bowman wanted to film in as many different locations as possible to give the film a " grander " feel than had usually been achievable for the television episodes . The tighter schedule , with only eight weeks of pre @-@ production and 45 days of principal photography , still caused the production to have less location shooting than planned . Los Angeles ended up standing in for Dallas and London (though a shot was done in London with a double) , and the ice scenes , initially envisaged for an ice field in Alaska , were moved to Whistler , British Columbia , nearby the show 's regular locations in Vancouver . Principal photography for the film started on June 16 , 1997 .

The X @-@ Files was filmed in the hiatus between the show 's fourth and fifth seasons and re @-@ shoots were conducted during the filming of the show 's fifth season . Due to the demands of the film shoot on the actors ' schedules , some episodes of the fifth season did not revolve around both Mulder and Scully but just one of the two lead stars .

= = = Music = = =

Two soundtracks , The X @-@ Files : Original Motion Picture Score and The X @-@ Files : The Album were both released to home markets in 1998 . The X @-@ Files : The Album included a take on the original theme song by the American duo The Dust Brothers , and included a hidden track on which Chris Carter details a summary of The X @-@ Files mythology . Mark Snow , who had worked on the television series as a composer , was hired to score the film . Chris Carter wanted a " very minimal approach " to the music . He did not want much " melody " and wanted to replace it with plain " ambient atmosphere " and " sound design " . Snow mixed electronic music with an 85

@-@ member orchestra to give the film a " great sense of scope and grandeur . "

When creating the music for the film , Snow had a couple of months to write and produce the music , composing the television series simultaneously . The film marked the first time in the history of the franchise that music was composed and recorded with the help of an orchestra , although , according to Snow , there was no significant change in the recording and writing process during the production of the film . The most substantial difference was that Snow used MIDI files to save his musical scores and pieces , which would afterward be sent to a copyist who would take it through one of their programs and eventually give it to the orchestrators .

= = Release = =

= = = Theatrical run = = =

The film premiered theatrically in the United States (as well as Canada) on June 19 , 1998 , distributed by 20th Century Fox . It closed after 14 weeks , with its widest release having been 2 @, @ 650 theaters .

= = = Home media = = =

The same year as the international theatrical release , the film was released on VHS in an Extended Cut edition . The film made its first appearance on DVD on January 24 , 2000 in Region 2 and in early 2001 in Region 1 . In 2008 , producer Frank Spotnitz announced plans to release a new special edition DVD and Blu @-@ ray edition of the movie . " We are working on packing the [re @-@ issued] DVD and Blu @-@ ray releases with as many extras as they will fit , including video and audio commentaries , behind @-@ the @-@ scenes footage , bloopers , trailers , a new documentary , and several other cool surprises . " The Blu @-@ ray version was released on December 2 , 2008 . In addition , a novelization of the film was written by Elizabeth Hand and released on June 19 , 1998 .

= = Reception = =

= = = Box office = = =

The film grossed \$ 83 @, @ 898 @, @ 313 in the U.S. and \$ 105 @, @ 278 @, @ 110 abroad , giving a total worldwide gross of \$ 189 @, @ 176 @, @ 423 . In its opening weekend , showing at 2 @, @ 629 theaters , it earned \$ 30 @, @ 138 @, @ 758 which was 35 @. @ 9 % of its total gross . According to Box Office Mojo , it ranked at No. 23 for all films released in the U.S. in 1998 and No. 10 for PG @-@ 13 rated films released that year .

= = = Critical response = = =

The film received generally positive reviews . The review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes reported that 64 % of 69 listed film critics gave the film a positive review , with an average rating of 6 @. @ 1 out of 10 .

Roger Ebert gave a positive review of the film with three out of four stars , saying , " As pure movie , The X @-@ Files more or less works . As a story , it needs a sequel , a prequel , and Cliff Notes . " Joyce Millman of Salon was more equivocal , writing , " ... You really can 't treat The X @-@ Files as a movie because it isn 't one . It 's a two @-@ hour episode of the show , " and said it was far from the " most satisfying " of X @-@ Files releases . San Francisco Chronicle reviewer Bob Graham was positive towards the film , calling " David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson [...] enormously sympathetic heroes . " Michael O 'Sullivan , a reviewer from The Washington Post called the film , "

stylish , scary , sardonically funny and at times just plain gross . "

Los Angeles Times reviewer Kenneth Turan felt that it was difficult to make sense of the film , saying that it relied too heavily on the series ' mythology . Lisa Alspector wrote that " Only two scenes in this spin @-@ off are worth the time of followers of the TV series . " Variety reviewer Todd McCarthy remarked , " As it is , the pic serves up set @-@ pieces and a measure of scope that are beyond TV size but remain rather underwhelming by feature standards . " Janet Maslin of The New York Times responded negatively towards the film , complaining that it was uneventful and scorning the " hush @-@ hush atmosphere " surrounding the production .

= = Sequel = =

The X @-@ Files has spawned one sequel , a 2008 film entitled The X @-@ Files : I Want to Believe released six years after the series ended . The film performed modestly at the box office and received a less positive response than the first film . In an interview with Entertainment Weekly , Chris Carter announced that if I Want to Believe proved successful , he would propose that a third movie go back to the television series ' mythology and focus on the alien invasion foretold within the series , due to occur in December 2012 . No third movie appeared ; instead the TV series was revived in 2016 .