

= White Tulip =

" White Tulip " is the 18th episode of the second season of the American science fiction drama television series *Fringe* . It follows a scientist ( Peter Weller ) in his quest to time travel back and save his fiancée , while the *Fringe* team investigates the consequences of his actions , and Walter ( John Noble ) struggles to tell his son Peter ( Joshua Jackson ) he was stolen from the parallel universe as a boy .

The episode was co-written by J.H. Wyman and Jeff Vlaming , and was directed by Thomas Yatsko . Wyman later stressed the importance of " White Tulip " in the show 's evolution , calling it a " mythalone " because its elements were designed to create the ideal episode to satisfy both new and hardcore viewers . Elements from this episode , in particular the idea of the white tulip as a sign of forgiveness , would be reused in later episodes .

It first aired in the United States on April 15 , 2010 on Fox to an estimated 6 .6 624 million viewers . It received positive reviews , and earned a nomination for Outstanding Sound Editing For A Series at the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards . It was ranked the best episode of the entire series by *Entertainment Weekly* , while *IGN* and *Den of Geek* ranked it as the second best .

= = Plot = =

Walter ( John Noble ) struggles with writing a letter to Peter ( Joshua Jackson ) to explain the events from 1985 that led Walter to bring Peter to his universe from the parallel one . As he contemplates the final letter , he and the rest of the *Fringe* team are called to investigate several dead bodies in a passenger car of a train . Walter , after being told the victims ' personal electronics were drained of power , suspects someone drew energy from both the people and their devices ' batteries . They trace the man responsible to MIT astrophysics professor Alistair Peck ( Peter Weller ) , and enter his residence to search for clues , finding evidence that Alistair was studying time travel . Alistair arrives while the *Fringe* team is there , and activates a mechanism on his body , causing him to travel back in time .

Alistair reappears on the train at the same point in time as his previous travel , again having drained the people aboard it , and alters his behavior to avoid another encounter with the *Fringe* team . However , when they are brought to investigate this time , they have a feeling of déjà vu and find other evidence that points to Alistair , and determine that he is trying to go back in his personal time line several months ago to prevent the death of his fiancée in a car collision . Alistair is found at his MIT office . Walter , having read through Alistair 's writings on time travel , offers to go in and talk to Alistair first before the armed officers attempt to seize him .

Walter approaches Alistair as a fellow man of science , who is replacing components that form a time machine that he has constructed within his body . Walter professes that Alistair 's attempt to jump back several months would require a great deal more power than Alistair has predicted , possibly killing hundreds in the area near where he appears . Alistair , aware of this , recalls an empty field where he was at , a few blocks from where his fiancée died , and plans to use this field where only the vegetation will die out from his arrival . Walter continues to try to discourage Alistair from making the attempt by explaining his own case of coming to believe in a higher power , hoping for a sign of forgiveness in the form of a white tulip for his actions in stealing Peter from the parallel universe . With God 's forgiveness , Walter believes it will be possible for Peter to forgive him once he learns the truth of who he is .

Alistair considers this , but with Walter 's time up , a SWAT team starts to move in . Alistair jumps back in time again by only a few hours to complete the modified power calculations based on Walter 's comments , and to prepare a pre-written addressed letter he brings with him . As the SWAT team barges in , Alistair re-engages his time machine . Alistair 's modifications have worked , as he finds himself in the field , minutes before his fiancée 's death . Alistair is able to make it to his fiancée in time , reuniting just long enough to say " I love you " before they are both killed by the collision .

In the present , the events of the episode never occurred , and Walter , having time to contemplate

the letter to Peter instead of being called to the case , tosses it into the fireplace . Later , he receives an envelope in the mail ? the one Alistair had prepared and instructed to be delivered to Walter on this specific date . Inside , Walter finds a drawing of a white tulip .

= = Production = =

" White Tulip " was co @-@ written by executive producer J. H. Wyman and supervising producer Jeff Vlaming . Cinematographer Thomas Yatsko directed the episode , his first directing credit for Fringe .

IGN announced in January 2010 that actor Peter Weller had been cast in a guest starring role for an upcoming episode . Though he had normally kept his distance from episodic television because it " burns [ him ] out " and he was pursuing a Ph.D at UCLA , his wife , a big Fringe fan , read the script and convinced him to accept the part of Alistair Peck , telling him " You 've got to do this , it 's beautiful , it 's about a guy who wants to save his wife " . During a conference call with journalists , Weller also cited the character 's " tremendously romantic and very moving " storyline as another reason he accepted the part . He thought the four @-@ page scripted scene between him and John Noble was " rare for television [ and ] wonderfully written . I was thrilled to do [ Fringe ] " . Weller has since become a fan of Fringe because of his work in the episode , and would love to return and direct for the show . In a later Twitter post , Wyman dismissed speculation and confirmed that Weller 's character Alistair Peck did indeed die at the end of the episode .

For the episode 's time travel elements , sound effects editor Bruce Tanis explained his choices of sound during an interview with Designing Sound : " I used vocals from the dialog to create high @-@ pitched jittery tones that played against the visual of his time @-@ jumping . He would start to flicker faster and faster as he ramped up to the moment of leaping so I wanted to play up the fragmented sense of time we had visually and create the idea that he was somehow jumping over other people to land at a different point in time . It also had electrical humming and zapping to support the electrical nature of the device " .

Executive producer J. H. Wyman later indicated how " White Tulip " helped with the evolution of the show in an interview : " It 's very important to constantly try to attract more viewers and to try and not make the show alienating ... Our solution came in the form of ? White Tulip ' and episodes like that , because we realized what we need to do to satiate both our hardcore fans and our financial responsibility is to create a term that we coined a ' mythalone . ' It sounds really simple when you say it now , like , ? Yes , sure , you have a great standalone case , plus you thread in some great mythology . ' But I 've got to tell you it took us a long time to get there and realize it . Now we have that our template for telling stories that we think satisfies both parties " . He and Pinkner later listed " White Tulip " as one of their favorite episodes .

As with other Fringe episodes , Fox and Science Olympiad released a lesson plan for grade school children based upon the science depicted in " White Tulip " ; the lesson 's intention was for " students [ to ] learn about scientific concepts related to time such as astronomy and physics , with a focus on timekeeping . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" White Tulip " was watched by an estimated 6 @.@ 62 million viewers in the United States , with a 4 @.@ 0 / 7 share among all households and a 2 @.@ 5 / 7 share among those aged 18 ? 49 .

= = = Reviews = = =

Reviews of " White Tulip " were overwhelmingly positive . Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly enjoyed the episode , writing " Fringe is becoming ever more adroit at blending its mythology with its

paranormal cases " . He also praised guest star Peter Weller 's performance . After initially expecting a " filler " episode , Ramsey Isler of IGN said he was " pleasantly proven wrong " , as the " story turned out to be one of the best of the series " . Isler continued that " the writers really did a good job of integrating the overall mythology into a standalone story that is actually damn good ... It 's brilliant storytelling " . Andrew Hanson of Los Angeles Times enjoyed the episode , but wished Astrid got more screen time .

Steve Heisler of The A.V. Club gave the episode an A , explaining " Horror . Confusion . It 's a moment that finds Fringe at its finest " . New York Magazine 's Tim Grierson loved all the interactions between Noble and Weller , and thought they were so " compelling together that they helped justify an episode that could have very easily been terribly hokey ? instead , it was one of the season ? s best standalone stories " . Josh Wigler from MTV also thought the scenes between Noble and Weller were the best thing about the episode . Jane Boursaw of TV Squad wrote it was " another great episode that served to propel the story forward , and another great performance by John Noble " . Television Without Pity gave the episode a B + .

The A.V. Club ranked Fringe the 15th best show of 2010 , in particular highlighting " White Tulip " , while Den of Geek listed it as the second best of the series . Jeff Jensen of Entertainment Weekly named " White Tulip " the best episode of the entire series , calling it " a near @-@ perfect blend of mythology and stand @-@ alone episode . ' White Tulip ' is Fringe 's purest , finest example of fulsome emotions tempered by stringent ideas . The tulip of the title represents forgiveness ? faith in love ? and became within the series a semi @-@ recurring symbol of fragile hope , and , to the show 's audience , a cynosure of the devotion of Fringe fandom . " IGN ranked it as the second best , explaining that " despite a few technical flaws with special effects and a little under @-@ utilization of Weller in the first half , the veteran cast delivers an excellent script with skill . "

" White Tulip " was referenced multiple times in the season three episode " Subject 13 " . Executive producer J. H. Wyman later commented in an interview that " the ' White Tulip ' stuff is all connected thematically because that was the episode where Walter believes in God , " and further explained that these themes would return again in the season three finale . The final reference to the white tulip is in season five , the series finale , which aired January 18 , 2013 .

= = = Awards and nominations = = =

See also : List of awards and nominations received by Fringe

" White Tulip " was nominated for Outstanding Sound Editing For A Series at the Creative Arts portion of the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards , with the crew composed of Supervising Sound Editor Paul Curtis , Sound Editors Rick Norman and Bruce Tanis , Music Editor Paul Apeltgren , and Foley Artists Shelley Roden and Rick Partlow . It lost to an episode of 24 . " White Tulip " was also nominated for Outstanding Sound at the 2010 HPA Awards , but it lost to an episode of House .

Also at the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards , writers J.H. Wyman and Jeff Vlaming submitted " White Tulip " for consideration in the Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series category , but failed to garner a nomination . Peter Weller submitted the episode for consideration in the Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series category . Weller and fellow guest actor Leonard Nimoy ( who appeared in " Over There " ) were not chosen for nominations .