

= Duane Barry =

" Duane Barry " is the fifth episode of the second season and 29th episode overall of the science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . It originally aired in the United States and Canada on October 14 , 1994 , on Fox . The episode was written and directed by executive producer Chris Carter . " Duane Barry " received a Nielsen rating of 8 @.@ 9 and was viewed by 8 @.@ 5 million households . The episode received largely positive reviews from critics .

The show centers on FBI special agents Fox Mulder ( David Duchovny ) and Dana Scully ( Gillian Anderson ) who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files . In the episode , Mulder becomes involved in a hostage situation with an escaped psychiatric patient , named Duane Barry ( Steve Railsback ) , who claims to be terrified of frequent alien abductions . " Duane Barry " was a storyline milestone for the series , marking the events which would lead up to Scully being abducted by aliens , which in turn would lead to her developing cancer in the fourth and fifth seasons . It would also lead to the birth of her son , William , at the end of the eighth season .

The episode marked Chris Carter 's debut as a director . While never directing before , he would direct such episodes as " The List " , " The Post @-@ Modern Prometheus " , " Triangle " , and " Improbable " , as well as the second feature film , The X @-@ Files : I Want to Believe and three episodes of the tenth season . The storyline was inspired by the true story of Phineas Gage , a 19th @-@ century medical case .

= = Plot = =

In 1985 , at his home in Pulaski , Virginia , Duane Barry ( Steve Railsback ) is abducted by aliens . Eight years later , Barry has become a violent patient in a mental institution , refusing to take his medication and insisting that the aliens are coming back for him . He attacks a security guard and steals his gun , taking head psychiatrist Dr. Hakkie hostage before escaping . Barry seeks to return to his original abduction site with Dr. Hakkie , in the hopes that the aliens will take the doctor instead when they return . But since he can 't remember where the abduction site is located , Barry heads to a travel agency in Richmond and holds the three clerks hostage along with Dr. Hakkie .

Fox Mulder ( David Duchovny ) and Alex Krycek ( Nicholas Lea ) are summoned to the ensuing hostage situation by Agent Lucy Kazdin ( CCH Pounder ) , since Barry insists that he is an alien abductee . Mulder contacts Dana Scully ( Gillian Anderson ) for assistance , asking her to look into Barry 's history . Mulder acts as a hostage negotiator , calling Barry in order to earn his trust so that the standoff may be peacefully resolved . Barry quickly figures this out , causing Mulder to learn that he is a former FBI agent . A power outage occurs , frightening Barry and causing him to fire his gun , hitting one of the hostages . Mulder heads inside the travel agency with a paramedic . Barry releases the wounded hostage in exchange for Mulder , who is instructed to get Barry near the agency 's front door so that snipers can fire on him .

Scully arrives and reveals that Barry 's frontal cortex was damaged when he was shot in the head in 1982 ; she thinks this injury has made Barry a psychopathic pathological liar . Mulder talks to Barry , who claims that the aliens performed painful tests on him and put tracking devices in his body . Mulder ? against Agent Kazdin 's orders ? tells Barry that he believes his story , convincing him to let two more hostages go . However , when Mulder questions whether Barry is lying , he becomes enraged . Mulder tricks Barry into approaching the front door where Barry is shot by a sniper .

The next day , Mulder visits Barry in the hospital . Agent Kazdin appears , revealing that metal implants were found in Barry 's body and that tiny holes were found in his teeth , in the same manner he had described . Mulder gives one of the implants to Scully , who has it reviewed by a ballistics expert ; they find a microscopic barcode imprinted on it . Later , at a supermarket , Scully swipes the implant across a checkout scanner , causing the machine to malfunction while displaying a strange serial number . At her house , Scully leaves a message on Mulder 's voicemail , suggesting that Barry had been " catalogued " by the implant . But just then , Barry ? having just escaped from the hospital ? breaks in through Scully 's window and kidnaps her .

= = Production = =

= = = Conception = = =

Originally planned to be a standalone mythology episode , but the news of Gillian Anderson 's pregnancy led to the creation of a two @-@ part episode , since the production crew knew they needed Anderson to disappear until she had given birth . The follow @-@ up episode , " Ascension " , was written by Paul Brown .

Much of Carter 's inspiration for the episode came from reports of Phineas Gage , who underwent a personality change after a blasting accident drove an iron rod completely through his head ( though the idea that Gage became violent , immoral , or a pathological liar , as Scully describes him , is without foundation ) . The aliens ' use of a dental drill on Barry was inspired by a neighbour of Carter who said that he was abducted and that the aliens drilled holes into his teeth ? which a dentist analyzed and said could not be done with any equipment he knew .

The aliens seen at the start of the episode were portrayed by children . Carter wrote specifically the part of Duane Barry with Steve Railsback in mind , saying " I 've resisted casting the marquee names only because it takes you out of the show ; makes the show less believable . But there are certain actors who just call out for the part . " Originally , Railsback character was named Duane Garry , but it was changed to Duane Barry after learning that a person within the Federal Bureau of Investigation had the same name . Carter has mentioned that he disliked the new name at first , but got used to it over time .

= = = Filming = = =

This episode marked Chris Carter 's directing debut . Being the first he had ever directed , David Nutter from the directing staff helped , tipped , and showed him what to do . With Nutter 's help , Carter learned how to block entire scenes . When commenting on his experience , Carter told that he sometimes followed Nutter 's advice down to " the letter " . When directing the episode , Carter wanted to create a different feel for the episode , by focusing more on the performances given by the actors , than the mechanical set designs . Carter declared that directing he learned about " things you take for granted as a writer and producer " , that lead to " compromises " for things Carter could not do on @-@ screen , and compared the episode to a stage play as most is set in a single place , the travel agency .

During the filming of Duane Barry 's abduction , they had a " film run out " which , according to Carter , gave the scene a " very eerie effect " . Shooting that scene was a " real test " according to Carter . Carter was pleased with the outcome , saying he was able to show viewers what he wanted out of The X @-@ Files , which he felt he was " very successful " at . The visual effects ' crew had to hang a " giant light " over the house where Barry was being abducted . It took the course of 45 minutes to shoot the scene . According to Carter , much teamwork was required to film that particular scene . As Carter puts it , he was actually forced to stay " behind the camera " to see the end results . For the experiments , Railsback was put in a plaster model of his back as he was lifted by a hydraulic device , and had water squirted on his mouth for the dental drill .

= = Reception = =

" Duane Barry " premiered on the Fox network on October 14 , 1994 . This episode earned a Nielsen rating of 8 @. @ 9 , with a 16 share , meaning that roughly 8 @. @ 9 percent of all television @-@ equipped households , and 16 percent of households watching television , were tuned in to the episode . It was viewed by 8 @. @ 5 million households . CCH Pounder and Chris Carter both earned Primetime Emmy nominations for " excellence in primetime television " for their work in this episode . Pounder was nominated in the category " Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series " , while Carter was nominated in the category " Outstanding Individual Achievement in Writing for a

Drama Series " . The episode was also nominated in the categories " Outstanding Individual Achievement in Sound Editing for a Series " and " Outstanding Individual Achievement in Editing for a Series - Single Camera Production " . Director of Photography John Bartley also received a nomination for Outstanding Achievement Award for Episodic Television by the American Society of Cinematographers .

The episode was well received by the cast and crew of The X @-@ Files . Producer J.P. Finn praised the episode and Carter 's directing , saying " We were all pretty nervous doing that one , because Chris Carter was a new director . It turned out that he directed very ... It was a great script , a great cast , and he ended up directing a home run . One of the charming things about it was the end , where we had these alien heads placed on young children . It was so endearing to see them on the set between takes , playing with Chris and everyone " . Actor David Duchovny said of Carter 's directing " Chris came in meticulously prepared , which is his nature . I think his first episode was great " . Carter himself described it as one of his favorite episodes because " it was a chance for me to sort of do it all , and it came out in ways better than I imagined it would " .

The episode received largely positive reviews from television critics . Matt Roush from USA Today said Steve Railsback 's performance as Duane Barry rivaled that of his portrayal of Charles Manson in the 1976 television miniseries Helter Skelter . An unnamed reviewer from the Contra Costa Times called the episode " seminal " . San Jose Mercury News said Railsback gave what was to be the " ultimate X @-@ Files performance " in 2002 after the show had been cancelled . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @-@ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen , gave the episode a glowing review and rated it five stars out of five . The two called it " a career best for Chris Carter " and praised his writing and directing , noting that both were " powerfully " and " passionately " done . Shearman and Pearson also applauded the episode 's simplicity , citing it as the factor that made the entry stand out from others . Zack Handlen from The A.V. Club named it an " essential " episode of The X @-@ Files . Furthermore , he praised Railsback 's performance , writing that " there 's a sweaty intensity to his best performances that makes him impossible to look away from ; but you still can 't accept anything he says at face value . "