

= 6 : 02 AM EST =

" 6 : 02 AM EST " is the 20th episode of the third season of the American science fiction drama television series *Fringe* , and the 63rd episode overall . The narrative follows the activation of the doomsday device by the parallel universe , and the subsequent devastating consequences experienced by our world .

David Wilcox , Josh Singer , and Graham Roland co @-@ wrote the episode , while Jeannot Szwarc directed it . Guest star Kevin Corrigan returned as the mysterious Sam Weiss . Actor John Noble and executive producer Jeff Pinkner have referred to " 6 : 02 AM EST " as the start of an " epic trilogy " , as it and the following two episodes would be " linked in one continuous story arc " .

The episode received generally positive reviews ; many critics noted its purpose was meant to set the stage for the season finale .

= = Plot = =

In the parallel universe , Walternate has been able to use the blood sample from Fauxlivia 's child to create a serum made up of half of Peter Bishop 's DNA . He uses this serum to activate his doomsday machine at 6 : 02 AM . In the prime universe , this results in a series of unusual events , including the formation of a vortex that wipes out a long swath of land in rural New York state , including a herd of sheep and two of their shepherds . The *Fringe* division learns that their version of the machine activated at 6 : 02 AM on its own , and Walter suspects the two machines are tied by quantum entanglement , with their version of the machine destroying their world to stabilize the parallel one . Unknown to the prime universe , Walternate 's experiment has not affected the stability of their world .

In the prime universe , Nina Sharp helps to set up Massive Dynamic 's resources to track these occurrences , preparing to deploy limited supplies of the amber substance to contain them if needed . Nina advises Olivia to find Sam Weiss , a man that William Bell had trusted and instructed Nina to also listen to . However , Sam has disappeared and cannot be found . Walter and Peter , along with Massive Dynamic staff , debate how to disable the machine , but Peter realizes that he himself is the only option . Walter comes to recognize that the Observer 's efforts from earlier (" The Firefly ") were to prepare him to lose Peter . After preparing himself , Peter goes to touch the machine , but is sent flying by an electrical spark , wounding him and knocking him unconscious . At the hospital chapel , Walter tries to find repentance from God for his actions , while Olivia arrives after hearing the news . She steps outside to observe the sunset when Sam Weiss runs up to her and demands to be taken to the machine to stop what is already happening .

In the parallel universe , Walternate 's machine has been detected by the *Fringe* division and Fauxlivia and her team go to investigate . When Walternate tells them to stand down , Fauxlivia asks him about her recent mission to the prime universe and the part that she recovered . Walternate admits to her that the machine has been activated , having sacrificed his own son Peter to allow Fauxlivia 's son to live . Fauxlivia becomes distressed at Walternate 's actions , and later returns to Liberty Island to obtain the devices to allow her to cross to the prime universe , but is caught before she can use them . Walternate locks her away , seeing her as a traitor to his cause .

= = Production = =

" 6 : 02 AM EST " was written by co @-@ executive producers David Wilcox and Josh Singer , and executive story editor Graham Roland ; filmmaker Jeannot Szwarc directed it .

Though the season 3 finale was scheduled to be just an hour long , executive producer Jeff Pinkner confirmed that the last three episodes would be " linked in one continuous story arc " . This was a reflection of Pinkner and fellow executive producer J.H. Wyman 's intent to have the last three episodes of every season seem like " you 're turning the last page of a chapter in a novel . And usually in a good novel , the last pages [of a chapter] compels you forward with a new understanding of what the subject matter is and you get deeper and you can ? t wait to turn that

page . " Some media outlets have referred to the episodes as a " three @-@ part third @-@ season finale " .

During a conference call with journalists , actor John Noble called " 6 : 02 AM EST " and the next two episodes of the third season an " epic trilogy " . He elaborated " All year we 've been heading toward the fact that there seems to be an inevitable conflict between the two universes . And we 've gotten to know the people on both sides now , so we now bring it to a conclusion starting with ' 6 : 02 . ' By the next episode we start to deal with the issue because our earth starts to deteriorate . Events start to happen here which indicate that our world is degrading . And so everyone has to move into another gear and say , ' Okay , this problem is not going to go away . It 's now affecting our side . We do have a machine which we believe can assist in the resolution of this problem . ' And so the episode basically deals with the lead @-@ up in the first part of that trilogy , leading up to the use of that machine . " In the same interview , Noble called the episode 's title very critical to the series , stating " That time frame plays through the three episodes . Very important to remember as we get to the finale , that time frame . "

In March 2011 , TVline 's Michael Ausiello exclusively confirmed that previous guest actor Kevin Corrigan would be returning for the twentieth and twenty @-@ first episodes of the season . Corrigan last appeared in the season 's twelfth episode " Concentrate and Ask Again " ; his role in " 6 : 02 AM EST " and the following week 's episode " The Last Sam Weiss " marked his sixth and seventh appearances on Fringe , respectively .

As with other Fringe episodes , Fox released a science lesson plan in collaboration with Science Olympiad for grade school children , focusing on the science seen in " 6 : 02 AM EST " , with the intention of having " students learn about weather forecasting . "

Ironically , the sunny post @-@ daybreak conditions depicted as occurring at the time used as the episode 's title (6 : 02 AM Eastern Standard Time) cannot ever occur anywhere in New York state under the Daylight Saving Time rules used in the contemporary United States . Even on the very first days of the period in the autumn when DST ends and New York returns to Standard Time , the sun has not yet risen over any part of the state . The same is true on the last day of Standard Time in the spring (even in Montauk , Long Island , which is the southeasternmost point of New York , the sunrise on the final day of EST in 2011 was at 6 : 06 AM) . A better title for the episode would have thus have been " 6 : 02 AM EDT " .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

On its initial broadcast in the United States , the episode was watched by an estimated 3 @.@ 51 million viewers , with a 1 @.@ 2 / 4 ratings share for those aged 18 ? 49 . It was seen by 14 percent fewer viewers than the previous week , though several other series airing that night were also down in viewers . The 1 @.@ 2 ratings share resulted in a series low for Fringe .

= = = Reviews = = =

The A.V. Club 's Noel Murray graded the episode with an A- , explaining that though he did not want to give a full review until the season finale aired , he was " enjoying how Fringe 's third season is wrapping up " , such as " the cross @-@ cutting between Earth @-@ 1 and Earth @-@ 2 , and the sense of imminent doom . " Murray continued that he " especially liked ... that in the midst of all this end @-@ times rush , it pauses periodically to check in with the various characters in short one @-@ on @-@ one scenes , strengthening our sense of what these relationships mean . (It 's something that Fringe has gotten good at in the past year @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half , and something I wouldn 't have predicted for the show back in season one .) " Writing for the Los Angeles Times , critic Andrew Hanson noted Fringe is preparing for the finale , calling " 6 : 02 AM EST " a " movement episode [that] give [s] an opportunity to get everyone into place for the big

climax " in a vein similar to the television series *Lost* . Hanson enjoyed the two " sleights of hand " , explaining he was surprised by Fauxlivia 's universe @-@ crossing device failing and what happened to Peter after touching the machine .

IGN 's Ramsey Isler rated the episode 7 @. @ 5 / 10 , writing " This week 's episode wasn 't an edge @-@ of @-@ your seat masterpiece , but it scores high marks for character development and putting the pieces in place for a great season finale . " Like Hanson , Isler loved the outcome of Peter and the machine , calling it a " nice plot twist " ; he also praised Blair Brown as " one of the many under @-@ appreciated elements of the series . " Writing for *Mania.com* , critic Kurt Anthony Krug acknowledged the episode " had a tough act to follow " after the previous week 's episode , but stated " it 's still pretty good " . Sarah Stegall from *SFScope* was happy to see Peter " taking a more active role " with the machine plotline , but disliked the episode 's religious elements , believing that Walter 's scene in the church " felt forced " . Stegall concluded her review noting " This episode felt like the first part of a chess game , as the pieces are arranged on the board . The big move is coming up , the endgame that will decide who wins and who loses " .