

= Tricia Tanaka Is Dead =

" Tricia Tanaka Is Dead " is the tenth episode of the third season of the American drama television series *Lost* , and the show 's 59th episode overall . The episode was written by Edward Kitsis and Adam Horowitz and directed by Eric Laneuville . The character of Hugo " Hurley " Reyes (Jorge Garcia) is featured in the episode 's flashbacks , as he reminisces over his father (guest star Cheech Marin) abandoning his family for seventeen years . On the island , Hurley works with Jin @-@ Soo Kwon (Daniel Dae Kim) and James " Sawyer " Ford (Josh Holloway) to repair an old Volkswagen camper van while Kate Austen (Evangeline Lilly) ponders what to do about the still @-@ captured Jack Shephard (Matthew Fox) .

In interviews , Garcia , Dae Kim , and Holloway commented that they had a lot of fun shooting their scenes , as they had not worked together for a while . The episode marked the first appearance of recurring guest actor Cheech Marin . It first aired on February 28 , 2007 , in the United States on ABC , with an estimated 12 @.@ 78 million viewers . The episode received mixed reviews , with many praising its humor but still noting that little was learned concerning the show 's overall mythology .

= = Plot = =

= = = Flashbacks = = =

Young Hurley (Caden Waidyatilleka) joins his father , David Reyes (Cheech Marin) , over an old Camaro that they want to repair . It won 't start however , and David assures him good things happen when you believe they will , and that in this world you have to " make your own luck . " While leaving for Las Vegas , David gives Hurley a chocolate bar and promises to return soon .

Now an adult , Hurley (Jorge Garcia) watches as his new Mr. Cluck 's chicken restaurant gets hit by a meteorite , killing those inside , including Tricia Tanaka (Sung @-@ Hi Lee) , the newswoman who just interviewed him about his lottery winnings . Hurley arrives home , telling his mother his intent to go to Australia to end the bad luck curse he believes was bestowed upon him after he won the lottery . She tries to disprove the curse by revealing his father has returned to them after seventeen years . Suspecting his father of only wanting the lottery money , Hurley reacts angrily . David brings his son to a tarot card reader (Suzanne Krull) , who tells Hurley she can ' remove ' the curse before admitting that David paid her to say this . Hurley vows to give the money away , and begins packing for Australia . David acknowledges he just returned for the money , but approves of Hurley 's decision and promises he will be waiting for him when Hurley gets back .

= = = On the Island = = =

On the island , Hurley sorrowfully speaks to Libby 's grave about what happened to Jack Shephard (Matthew Fox) , Kate Austen (Evangeline Lilly) and James " Sawyer " Ford (Josh Holloway) after they were taken by the Others . Hurley learns that Charlie Pace (Dominic Monaghan) believes that Desmond Hume (Henry Ian Cusick) sees visions of Charlie 's death . Hurley believes this and tells Charlie that he thinks he brings bad luck . Vincent the dog shows up with a mummified human arm , leading Hurley to a Volkswagen camper van on its side underneath the foliage . Inside is a skeleton wearing a DHARMA Initiative jumpsuit sporting the name " Roger " on its chest and the Swan station 's logo . On the beach , Hurley 's requests for help are turned down . Jin @-@ Soo Kwon (Daniel Dae Kim) , who doesn 't understand what Hurley is saying , is roped into helping .

Hurley finds beer in the van and a returned Sawyer outside . He learns from Sawyer that he and Kate escaped but Jack is still prisoner . Hurley is very optimistic about the future and volunteers Sawyer to help him fix the van . Meanwhile , Desmond refuses to tell Charlie when he will die . Kate informs Sayid Jarrah (Naveen Andrews) of all she knows about the Others and then leaves , saying she 's going to get help to rescue Jack , but she won 't say from whom .

Hurley , Jin and Sawyer raid the van and find maps and beer . Meanwhile , Hurley tells Charlie to stop moping and help him start the car , saying that he might die doing it but they should make their own luck , face death , and possibly win . Hurley eventually convinces the others to push the van to a slope in order to get it started . Despite Sawyer 's warnings , Hurley goes through with the plan . Charlie declares " victory or death " and rides with Hurley , as Sawyer and Jin push the vehicle down the steep hill . At first it looks as though they will crash , but the van starts just in time . Later , the entire group enjoys a ride .

Hurley is later left with the van and continues driving . Jin gives Sun @-@ Hwa Kwon (Yunjin Kim) a flower , Charlie talks with Claire Littleton (Emilie de Ravin) and Sawyer brings some beer for Kate but finds that she isn 't around . Meanwhile , Kate meets up with John Locke (Terry O 'Quinn) and Sayid on her way to find Danielle Rousseau (Mira Furlan) , who she hopes to get help from . Locke reveals he has compass readings from Mr. Eko 's stick . Kate 's recruiting of Rousseau seems to fail until she mentions her suspicions about Alex , who helped Kate escape , being Rousseau 's daughter .

= = Production = =

Having worked with executive producer Carlton Cuse on Nash Bridges , guest actor Cheech Marin was called by Cuse requesting he appear on Lost , to which Marin responded " You know , that sounds like a lot of fun ... It 's in Hawaii , right ? I can do that ! " Cuse later commented , " He 's quite a good actor . People only think of him as the doobie @-@ smoking ' 70s dude . But he played Tyne Daly 's love interest in Judging Amy . C 'mon ! "

While shooting the episode , Jorge Garcia noted " the group on the beach has been quite big . They laid out the most cast chairs I 've ever seen at one time since the pilot and it 's been fun . " Garcia previewed his character 's flashback in a New York Post interview , " [it is] the kind of relationship Hurley has with his father and how it 's changed from when he was a kid now that he 's an adult and a lottery winner . He finds something on the island that brings him back to that time and that 's how it all gets started " . Actor Josh Holloway was told that an emotional undercurrent of the episode concerned his failed relationship with Kate . Holloway commented that Sawyer is thinking I have " my beer ... but I don 't have my girl . He 's worried , and drowning it with beer " .

To help train the dog playing Vincent for the episode 's needed scenes , Madison was given the fake arm to take home and play with ; when finally brought on the set , the crew had difficulty shooting her because Madison would bring and drop off the arm slightly differently each time , causing trouble recreating the same camera angles . Actor Daniel Dae Kim described their scenes with the beer in the DVD special features , " The comedic scenes with Josh were so much fun to play because it was a lighter side . A nice change of pace . " Like their characters , the actors had not been in scenes together in a while , so Dae Kim thought it " was fun to catch up and have fun in the process " . The episode featured Hurley driving a bus down a hill . To create this scene , Garcia had to drive the bus down a small hill " very stead [ily] " to ensure the cameraman could record it all ; towards the end however , they told Garcia to just " go for it " , allowing him to " cut loose a little " . For the close @-@ up shots of Garcia and Dominic Monaghan , the production crew would shake the bus to simulate driving , and brush various pieces of foliage across the windshield to make it seem the bus was hitting bushes or trees . A stunt double standing in for Garcia performed the largest hill in the drive down ; they were unable to rehearse due to getting rained out , so their first rehearsal was done on film . Dae Kim commented that " it was just great to have as much fun on camera as we do off camera " , and that there was no real acting that day , as they were all enjoying themselves as much as their characters . The Volkswagen campus van ? still in operating condition ? along with Hurley 's Camaro , were later auctioned off with other Lost props and costumes at the Santa Monica Airport in 2010 .

The song " Shambala " by Three Dog Night is used several times in the episode , both in Hurley 's flashbacks and on the Island .

= = Reception = =

On its original American broadcast on February 28 , 2007 , an estimated 12 @. @ 78 million viewers tuned into the episode , making it the 24th most watched television program of the week .

After what he felt was a period of bad episodes culminating with " Stranger in a Strange Land " , critic Andrew Dignan of Slant Magazine praised " Tricia Tanaka Is Dead " as a " palate cleanser , reminding us that this show is meant to be , above all else , fun " . He described the episode as an " expected pleasure , disarming in a way [Lost] hasn 't been since Season One , back before these people became jaded by " Others " and consumed with tedious busy work while the show 's producers figured out what frequently disappointing direction to push them in next . " Dignan did however acknowledge that others might not have found the episode as enjoyable as he did . Erin Martell of TV Squad wasn 't sure what to think of the episode , believing that it was " entertaining " but produced nothing new for viewers . She did note that the characters are now in place to take action for following episodes , and hoped that the episode 's " slow @-@ moving events " were " building up to some serious resolution " . Rather than dismiss the episode for lacking a mythology @-@ related storyline , Jeff Jensen from Entertainment Weekly called it " a joyous and poignant hour of television " , and said that it " could very well be a cleverly crafted allegory for the history of The Dharma Initiative on The Island . "

New York Magazine put " Tricia Tanaka Is Dead " as third of its list of " Twenty Most Pointless Lost Episodes " , claiming that " because with all his other problems , daddy issues don 't feel like something that needs to be thrown at Hurley " and David could have been written as a positive character " just to add some variation to the bad @-@ dad overkill on this show " . IGN ranked " Tricia Tanaka Is Dead " as the second worst Lost episode , above only " Stranger in a Strange Land " , explaining " Is there a better metaphor that Lost was running in circles at this point in Season 3 than seeing several of the castaways driving in circles on the island , with goofy grins on their faces ? ... With a dull story on the island and flashbacks weakly giving Hurley the requisite daddy issues so many of the other characters already had , it was clear Lost needed to make a big change soon to recapture what was special about the show . Thankfully , they did . " A similar list by the Los Angeles Times ranked the episode much higher at 31 , writing " The haters need to shut up . This is a nearly pure embrace of the Lost ethos . You make your own fate up until the moment when you don 't . "

Various reviewers praised Jorge Garcia 's performance , with one believing the episode " was a reminder that Garcia 's not only a wonderful (and much needed) comedic outlet for the show but a fine actor who specializes in intimate dramas of anxiety and self @-@ realization " .

Garcia submitted this episode for consideration for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series at the 59th Primetime Emmy Awards .