

RECREATING *The X-Files*

Its return to TV has been an unmitigated success — now discover the truth behind the sci-fi series' second coming



There are some creators of TV series who become as well-known as the stars of the show. Think JJ Abrams (*Alias*, *Lost*), Shonda Rhimes (*Grey's Anatomy*, *Scandal*) and Dick Wolf (the *Law & Order* franchise).

Add to that list the brains behind *The X-Files*, Chris Carter (above right), whose work on the sci-fi classic ensured it went down in history as one of the most original and popular TV shows of all time.

So, you would've thought that it was Chris who was the driving force behind the series returning to the small screen in 2016. Not so. It was David Duchovny, who plays Fox Mulder, who got the wheels in motion.

"I got a call from [production company] 20th Century Fox," Chris, 58, says. "They had been talking to David about it.

"The idea that we would come back to television more than 20 years later was a brand-new idea to me. But, I saw the beauty of it very quickly."

The new miniseries saw lead actors David and Gillian Anderson (both left centre) return, as well as other former cast members, including Mitch Pileggi (far left) and William B Davis (left).

Of particular appeal to Chris was the chance to tell the types of stories *The X-Files* was known for in a modern setting.

"After the Twin Towers [were attacked], we put all our faith in the government to protect us," he says. "We gave up rights and liberties. I think in doing so we've given up more than we bargained for – much of our privacy."

In such an environment, *The X-Files* is now more relevant than ever.

"We are living in a time where there is a sense that there are conspirators afoot," Chris explains.

"Much like we suggested in the '90s, there may be people working against your best interests."

The premise of the series

might be the same – FBI agents investigate paranormal incidents, often fighting against attempts to cover things up. But, much has changed since the '90s.

"We live in a technologically different world," Chris observes.

"Remember when Mulder and Scully would talk to each other with these giant mobile phones? Now, the phones are so small we actually had to choose bigger ones so they didn't get lost in their hand.

"Simple things like that have changed. You have a camera on your computer and people could be looking at you through [it]...

"*The X-Files* grew up with the internet. But, it has to now be mindful of what the internet has become."

"What I'm doing is controversial"

He is quick to distance *The X-Files* from other upcoming reboots, though.

"I call this programming by feather duster," he laughs. "You know, let's dust off an old title and see – if it was popular then, maybe it'll be popular now.

"It wouldn't be interesting to me to just come back and dust it off. This isn't a nostalgia trip. This is something fresh and new and not just a victory lap."

As we've already seen, this new miniseries is taking a "fresh and new" look at the alien mythology that ran for nine seasons.

Chris believes these mythology episodes (the first and last of this six-episode run) will obviously appeal to long-established fans, but also to younger converts.

"Millennials, with their cynicism or jadedness... we are speaking to that in those mythology episodes," he says.

"What I'm doing I think will be controversial. You want to be controversial, but you don't want to run the risk of seeming as though you're suggesting something outlandish.

"The things I'm suggesting I believe are within the realm of possibility, which is where *The X-Files* really lives and breathes."



WANT THE TRUTH?

David Duchovny spills on money and music

1 He didn't go crazy with all the money he earned from *The X-Files*

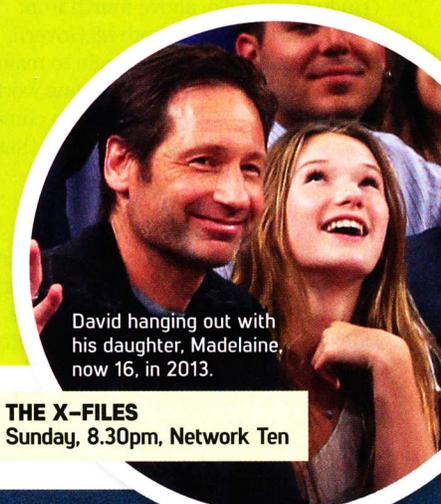
"I bought a lot of sneakers," the 55-year-old laughs. "If I splurge, it's on vacations with my kids. I don't know how to spend money. I still get nervous if I buy an expensive T-shirt or something. I don't need that."

2 He's full of praise for his kids and ex-wife Téa Leoni

"My kids are very level-headed," David tells us. "I'm really impressed with my kids and so much of that has to do with Téa. She really took the lead. She's done an amazing job and I kind of just tag along and say, 'Yeah, what she said.'"

3 He loves being a rock star

"Music is fantastic – I've loved doing it," he says of his 2015 album, *Hell Or Highwater*. "I had two performances in Chicago – probably like 500 [or] 800 people. I am not a natural singer, so I've worked hard to try to remain in tune live without the help of many, many takes that I would need in the studio."



David hanging out with his daughter, Madelaine, now 16, in 2013.

THE X-FILES
Sunday, 8.30pm, Network Ten

STORIES: JENNY COONEY; CARRILLO: GAVIN SCOTT; PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES; INSTAGRAM

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