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17 Seasons - 44min Buy Starts at $2.99 / Episode Cast & crewUser reviewsTriviaFAQTopTop-rated19 seasonsSee all191817161514131211109876543212 0 yearsSee all2025202420232022202020192018201720162015201420132012201120102009200820072006 2005Sign in to rate and Watchlist for personalized recommendationsSign inSuggest an edit or add missing contentYou have no recently viewed pages This second part of the Criminal Minds Season Finale finally brought The Replicator to an end. It was a dramatic finale and the entire team was in jeopardy throughout, with a loss of one member. The Breakdown The Season Finale of Criminal Minds finally had The Replicator show his face, but not until after a bit of torment. It started in New York where the team had been working on the drug overdose case, Brothers Hotchner. After that case ended, an exhausted Section Chief Erin Strauss headed back to her hotel to relax. Unfortunately for her, The Replicator had other plans. He drugged her and then left her on the streets of New York. When the team finally found Strauss, she was barely holding up. Agent Hotchner spoke to her and held her until she took her last breath. David Rossi took the death of Chief Strauss very hard as the two had a secret relationship for some time. Rossi headed back to Bethesda with her body so that he could speak to her children. The rest of the BAU team stayed behind in New York to try to catch The Replicator. Once Garcia's computers were hacked and The Replicator took over, they knew they were in real trouble. But, they were able to determine from this as well as the fact that Strauss continued investigating him while the team was on other assignments, that it was an inside job. The Replicator knew things that only and inside source could know. The Replicator was part of the FBI. Hotchner took steps to find out who was receiving his reports since some of the information The Replicator obtained came from there. This allowed the team to narrow down the suspect pool. The Replicator continued to taunt the team by sending a letter to Rossi. Once Rossi returned to the office and sat in his chair reading the letter, Morgan popped in to make sure he was doing all right. Rossi pulled a gun on him and accused him of being the one in Strauss's hotel room. Hotchner spotted this and explained to Rossi that he had been drugged. Rossi was taken to the medical examiner and it was determined that the letter he received was from The Replicator had traces of a drug on it that affected Rossi. After a lot of investigating, the team was able to narrow down their pool even further and come up with a name: Agent John Curtis. Agent Blake had worked with him previously and after a case they both worked on with Chief Strauss, Curtis was demoted. This was the trigger and Curtis aka The Replicator went after Blake, Strauss and the BAU team. The team finally tracked Curtis to a remote area. As their helicopters flew to corner him, he had controls in place to take down one of the helicopters. Upon crashing and learning that everyone on the team was okay, they discovered that Blake was missing. Curtis had her in his mini-compound chained to a chair. The team found her but also found that the basement they were all in was rigged to blow up. Between Blake's chair being booby-trapped and the team barely making it out alive, they lost one member: Rossi. He was still inside with Curtis but beat him at his own game and escaped before the place blew. The BAU shared stories and glasses of wine after Strauss's funeral in a touching conclusion to this season of Criminal Minds. The Analysis This episode of Criminal Minds was the best one of the season, in my opinion. The Replicator case has been here and there throughout the season, so it was only fitting that the finale end with it. Unfortunately, a member of the team went with it in Chief Strauss. This made for a solid start of the episode as well as a heartfelt finish. I think the story was thought-out in that The Replicator was actually a member of the FBI. But, I did find it hard to believe that he appeared to be a genius in everything from biochemistry to computers to everything else he needed to torment the BAU team. However, I still liked the concept and the episode. Mark Hamill did a terrific job in the role of Agent Curtis. As far as season finales go, this one really did have it all. We went through emotions of loss and sympathy, was saw action with helicopter crashes and an explosion, and we felt the heartfelt closing when the team said a final good-bye to their friend and fellow agent. I liked it and I am pleased with the way they really went out with a bang on this one. The Behavioral Analysis Unit in Criminal Minds, an American police procedural crime drama, has profiled cold-blooded killers, cult leaders, and cannibals — but nothing could have prepared them for The Replicator. Making his debut during Season 8 of Criminal Minds, The Replicator was one of the most twisted and dangerous villains the BAU ever encountered. He wasn't merely another type of criminal with a weird calling card. He was a former FBI agent with insider knowledge, a genius-level IQ, and a serious grudge. His crimes weren't chaotic or random—they were calculated, chillingly precise, and designed to hit the BAU right where it hurt. But before diving into what made The Replicator such a standout, let's backtrack a little. Criminal Minds premiered in 2005 and was created by Jeff Davis. It is a gripping cultural phenomenon, respected for its dark psychological touch and compulsive storytelling. The foundation is the BAU—profiling agents who work in tight-knit circles out of Quantico, Virginia. These are agents who analyze patterns, interpret behavior, and delve into the psyche of serial killers to catch them before they kill again. Throughout its extended course, Criminal Minds brought dozens of its iconic "unsubs" (unknown subjects), but few bothered the BAU quite so much as The Replicator. Stealing onto the scene in Season 8, this bad guy was no ordinary deranged murderer. He was something much worse: one of them. A former FBI agent with an IQ of genius level and an even more serious grudge, he knew what the BAU was going to do before they did — and used that awareness to initiate one of the most personal, psychologically vicious battles the team had ever encountered. What was so frightening about The Replicator in Criminal Minds wasn't his body count — it was his modus operandi. He copied previous BAU cases, leveraging insider information and scientific accuracy to recreate murders that echoed older investigations. It wasn't copycat killing — it was deliberate psychological warfare. The edge of the Replicator lay in knowing the team both professionally and personally. He knew their thought processes, their weak points, and how to leverage their strengths against them. And he was not seeking fame or fortune. His motivation lay in revenge and pride — a former agent who had been wronged and ignored, now bent on outsmarting those who once rejected him. By recreating the most chilling cases in Criminal Minds, he wasn't merely acting out crimes — he was making the team relive their darkest hours and face their innermost fears. His campaign dismantled the distinction between hunter and hunted, and for the first time, the BAU wasn't in charge. Who is The Replicator in Criminal Minds? John Curtis in Criminal Minds (Image via Amazon Prime Video) In the long tradition of Criminal Minds villains, The Replicator was notable not only for his cruelty, but for how close to home he worked. Under the pseudonym was John Curtis, a retired FBI agent who had become a vengeful predator, whose scientific expertise and intelligence-level intellect made him an unusually deadly force. While most unsubs emerged from nowhere, Curtis had been a badge-wearer. He was familiar with the system. He knew the folks. And he knew just how to break them. Curtis did not kill indiscriminately — he copied. Slowly, case after case of old BAU work came back to life with eerie precision. Crimes that the team had already cracked were being reenacted down to the last detail, a sickening tribute to their previous successes. It seemed like a coincidence at first. But by mid-Season 8, the trend was unmistakable. Someone was stalking them. Observing them. Taunting them. And eventually, hunting them. What made The Replicator so deadly wasn't simply his intellect; it was his motive. Years before, Curtis had been quietly shoved out of the FBI, blamed for a botched case, and skipped over for promotion in favor of linguist Alex Blake. That disappointment didn't just hurt his ego; it ignited it. What came after was a years-long, slow-building smolder of anger that spread into a vendetta. Each case he copied wasn't simply a matter of beating the BAU — it was about embarrassing them the way he was embarrassed. And atop that list was Blake. Unlike most serial killers on Criminal Minds, Curtis did not kill out of sheer impulse. His background in biochemistry provided him with access to deadly tools, from exotic toxins to chemical compounds, which made his murders science experiments with psychological payloads. It was clinical. Precise. And always personal. The breakthrough was when Curtis ramped up his attacks from symbolic to specific. The most jarring act of his campaign was the poisoning and killing of Section Chief Erin Strauss — an action that pushed the boundaries from games of the mind to all-out war. With a single deliberate blow, Curtis destroyed team morale and established that no one in the BAU was safe. The Criminal Minds Season 8 finale's showdown unfolded as a psychological thriller. Curtis set up the team for a trap with a touch-activated nerve agent, aiming to assassinate both Blake and Aaron Hotchner. But the BAU was one step ahead this time. Curtis was caught in an explosion during the take-down — an explosive end to an all-season game of chess. His demise was never depicted with absolute certainty, but the threat was eliminated. The Replicator's story was brought to a close, not with applause, but with fatigue. Criminal Minds: Imitation as a psychological weapon John Curtis in Criminal Minds (Image via Amazon Prime Video) Curtis didn't create a new model of murder. He didn't have to. Rather, he recreated the BAU's case files against them, mirroring past crimes in eerie detail. The staging was almost surgical: same configuration, same victim type, same message — but with enhancements. Where the initial cases left off in Criminal Minds, Curtis picked up the thread and warped it, adding biochemical agents, explosives, or surveillance malware that only someone with top-level insider information could replicate. It wasn't imitation — it was a message: You've done it before, and you still can't stop me. Every copied crime made the team relive their failure and doubt their instincts. It was psychological warfare disguised as home ground. Curtis didn't lash out randomly. He selected crimes that would haunt the BAU. Cases that left emotional scars. And victims who resonated with personal stakes. The result was something more than murder. It was a perverse form of theater in Criminal Minds: intended to manipulate, destabilize, and demoralize the very people trained to resist those means. A narcissist with an FBI resume Mark Hamill at CinemaCon 2025 (Source: Getty) Beneath the surface, Curtis comes across as a textbook example of narcissistic personality disorder — a grandiose sense of self-importance, pathological need for affirmation, and complete absence of empathy. What killed him, however, was not the diagnosis — it was the credentials. He wasn't intelligent; he was Bureau intelligent. He knew protocol. He knew loopholes. He knew how the BAU worked, what they'd weigh most heavily, and where they wouldn't look. That mix — top-notch training and boiling-sewer resentment — made him a precision-guided missile fired at the team's blind spots. The longer Curtis hid in the shadows, the more overt his attacks grew. What began as copycat killings in Criminal Minds evolved into calculated strikes. He poisoned Erin Strauss, who died in one of the easiest show kills to ever make your heart hurt. He set traps for Alex Blake, coordinated attacks that put core team members' lives in danger, and persisted in demonstrating that no firewall — professional or emotional — would be able to keep him out. Maybe the most frightening aspect of The Replicator in Criminal Minds wasn't his IQ or his capabilities — it was his familiarity. He knew bureaucracy. He worked with its delays, its politics, its impulse to safeguard image rather than truth. He navigated through the institutional cracks because he knew precisely where they were — and how frequently they were disregarded.By the time the BAU knew who they were fighting, Curtis was already embedded within the design of their reality. He wasn't merely evading justice — he was employing the instruments of justice to remain concealed. Edited by Priscillah Mueni The ultimate victor in the streaming wars has been the audience, which now enjoys the spoils of a content-starved environment in which death is never final, and any familiar TV franchise has a good shot at being resurrected. For proof, as if any more is needed, look to the motley crew of psychopath hunters from the long-running procedural "Criminal Minds," now back in action on Paramount+ less than three years after CBS took them off the case. But this is not quite the show viewers watched for 324 episodes. This is "Criminal Minds: Evolution," a 10-episode-long soft reboot clearly intended to push the franchise into a more mature territory with deliberate pacing and a renewed focus on the profilers solving the murders, rather than the perpetrators committing them. It's a logical progression for the show, which for all its success on CBS, always felt a bit too dark for the network, but still not as dark as it should be given the ghastly subject matter. With "Evolution" comes a chance to build a richer and more authentic iteration of "Criminal Minds" beyond the strictures of the 10 p.m. timeslot. At the very least, "Evolution" gives the show another shot at a proper sendoff. "Criminal Minds" confronted the conundrum faced by every retiring series with gruesome subject matter or a nasty tone: try on optimism, even if doing so defies what came before it, or commit to a brand-appropriate ending that bums the audience out. The February 2020 episode now technically considered the Season 15 finale, rather than the series finale, opted for sweetness and light at the cost of tonal inconsistency and unattended plot threads. "Evolution" will be far closer to what fans remember, with each character quivering under the massive psychic burden of a job that requires occupying the headspaces of serial killers. Joe Mantegna reprises his role as David Rossi, the shrewd and fastidious lead profiler of the FBI's Behavior Analysis Unit, who is in a far worse state of mind than he was last seen in. There's a time jump — essentially in real-time — to account for the pandemic, during which Rossi has suffered a crippling personal loss. He redirects his grief into the work, making him more likely to lash out at his colleagues when they second-guess the professional opinions that now comprise his entire existence. The rest of the BAU gang is more or less intact, with the exception of Spencer Reid (day-one regular Matthew Gray Gubler) and Season 13 addition Matt Simmons (Daniel Henney). Emily Prentiss (Paget Brewster) is still heading up the unit after a failed bid to run the entire agency, but is now under the thumb of a smug new superior who will happily short-change the BAU to get further in his career. Tara (Aisha Tyler) and Luke (Adam Rodriguez) are still on the beat, closing in on their latest twisted "unsub." ("Unknown subject," for those out of the loop.) Meanwhile, resident white hat Penelope (Kirsten Vangsness) is decidedly not on the beat, having resolved to prioritize self-care over hunting killers. This may all sound like just another season of "Criminal Minds" rather than an "Evolution." And that's to be expected, with the show under the direction of showrunner Erica Messer, an OG producer who also worked on the short-lived spinoff "Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders." But the step forward is in the plotting, which is designed to make "Evolution" a more serialized serial killer procedural. Rather than juggle a season-long Big Bad with mostly contained monster-of-the-week stories, "Evolution" braids the two together, lending the show a new momentum and cohesiveness that it's only hinted at before. With each killer the team neutralizes, they get closer to their bigger target. The real masterstroke is casting Zach Gilford as the prime unsub, the spiritual leader of a nationwide network of murderous acolytes. Gilford's intensity makes for a truly creepy foe against which the BAU feels well-matched, and he makes the most of his opportunity to play the anti-Matt Saracen, his beloved "Friday Night Lights" character. For loyal viewers, the ones who bemoaned the hastiness of the series finale, business as usual will be just fine given how recently the show signed off. But it's hard to make the case that "Evolution" takes full advantage of its jump to Paramount+. Sure, there's a smattering of premium cable language here and there, but aside from a few naughty words, there's not much to differentiate the show from its predecessor. A higher level of gore would have taken the series in a more disturbing new direction. Granted, "Evolution" is as gothic as ever in its subject matter, but the depravity of its killers is still mostly implied and takes place mostly off-screen. The subtlety certainly makes the show easier to stomach, but also makes it feel trapped in primetime rather than truly evolved. Perhaps "Evolution" feels tame because its logline – a charismatic leader commands a legion of serial killers – is identical to that of "The Following," the three-season Fox thriller. For all that show's shortcomings, its violence delivered gut punches that forced the to audience to face down the horror of the subject matter. "Evolution" is a lively and competent extension of a recently ended series, but little more, and it's certainly not a leap forward. "Criminal Minds: Evolution" premieres with two episodes on Paramount+ on Nov. 24. Who Is in the Cast of 'Sullivan's Crossing'? Scott Patterson, More Stars Where Is 'Sullivan's Crossing' Filmed? Inside the Show's Scenic Locations Why Is Sheinelle Jones Not on the 'Today' Show? Updates Amid TV Hiatus Everything Hoda Kotb Has Said About Dating Again After Joel Breakup Does Maggie Lose Her Baby in 'Sullivan's Crossing'? Season 3 Spoilers Make Investments, Gemini! Horoscope Forecasts for June 1 Through 7 Recipes From Nutritionist Cara Clark's 'The Feel-Good Way' Cookbook Joy Behar Kisses Sarah Silverman on the Lips on 'The View' During Segment Dolly Parton Says Husband Was 'Ill for Quite a While' Before His Death 'Blue Bloods' 1 of Top 100 Most-Watched Shows of 2024-2025 After Cancellation Are John Corbett and Bo Derek Married? Inside Their Relationship 5 Ways to Recover From Burnout: Tips to Restore Your Energy From Experts Matt Rogers Reflects on Being Told to 'Shut Up' By Joy Behar on 'The View' 'S.W.A.T.' Star David Lim Says It Was 'Tough' to Hear About Spinoff Hoda Kotb Finally Reveals Project With Joanna Gaines Amid Brand Launch Inside Hoda Kotb's Daughter Hope's Type 1 Diabetes Diagnosis and Treatment ExclusiveReba McEntire Would 'Say Yes' If Longtime Partner Rex Linn Proposed ExclusiveHugh Jackman and Sutton Foster Moving in Together 'Would Make Sense' Hoda Kotb Opens Up About Reason Why She Left 'Today': 'Needed to Be Here' Where Has Sheinelle Jones Been? Broadcaster's Absence From 'Today' Show Why CBS Canceled Multiple Shows Ahead of 2025-2026 Broadcast Season Deborra-Lee Furness Settles Divorce From Hugh Jackman 2 Years After Split A Pioneer's Family! Meet Ree Drummond's Children With Husband Ladd Sutton Foster's 'Confidence Emerging' With Hugh Jackman, Expert Says Next Criminal Minds Season 8 Spoilers: Rossi & Strauss' Affair Gets More Steamy,Exploited & MoreRossi & Strauss' affair gets more steamy,exploited & more in this new Criminal Minds season 8 spoiler tease. Recently, we got some new spoiler scoopage for CBS' Criminal Minds season 8 ,and it turns out that we're going to see more steamy action go down with characters Erin Strauss and David Rossi. It's also going to start getting exploited, as little comments will start popping up here and there. According to TV Guide, there's mention that the last two episodes will actually show the two love birds ,sneaking some more,in and out of hotels and so son, and so forth. In their Mega Buzz spoiler chat session, they stated, "Following Strauss' return in last Wednesday's episode, you can expect a few offhand comments about their hush-hush fling in the coming weeks. But executive producer Erica Messer tells us that their relationship will really come into play in the final two episodes of the season.See full article at OnTheFlix3/7/2013by ChrisOnTheFlixCountdown Review: Ticking-Clock Thriller Isn't Thrilling In The Slightest6/23/2025by Callie HannaFandomWireCriminal Minds on Paramount+ Got a Korean Cousin, and It's the Forgotten Sibling of the Franchise6/21/2025by Kaberi RayFandomWireWere Arachnophobes Bugged by Criminal Minds? Is Resident Alien's Joseph Gone for Good? Did Steamy Adults Kiss Launch 'Ship? 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This content is published for the entertainment of our users only. The news articles, Tweets, and blog posts do not represent IMDb's opinions nor can we guarantee that the reporting therein is completely factual. Please visit the source responsible for the item in question to report any concerns you may have regarding content or accuracy.You have no recently viewed pages Beginning in 2005, millions of TV viewers dutifully tuned in each week to CBS's juggernaut of a crime drama, Criminal Minds. The show followed the high-stakes work of the FBI's Behavior Analysis Unit, a specialized group of law enforcement and psychology all-stars who profile, track down, and stop the worst of the worst bad guys, or "unsubs" (short for "unknown subjects"). Why so popular? Well, it's always satisfying to see the consistent triumph of good over evil, embodied by hard-working, morally upright investigators such as Dr. Spencer Reid (Matthew Gray Gubler), David Rossi (Joe Mantegna), Emily Prentiss (Paget Brewster), Derek Morgan (Shemar Moore), and Penelope Garcia (Kirsten Vangsness). But that's all over now. In February 2020, Criminal Minds came to an end after 15 seasons and more than 300 episodes. Why would the network say goodbye to this still popular, still engaging, still prominent hit? It's got its reasons, baby girl. It's usually quite easy to tell just how valuable a show is to a network by how quickly its executives ask that show's producers for another round of episodes. For example, NBC's Will & Grace revival did so well during its first season (2017–18) that the network renewed it for seasons two and three before that first season had concluded. Conversely, last-minute re-ups generally indicate a network that's wishy-washy on its decision, meaning a show is likely getting ready to be canceled. Deadline reported in May 2018 that the Criminal Minds renewal for season 14 "came down to the wire" as network and studio hashed out negotiations. Another sign of dwindling network interest: smaller episode counts. The number of Criminal Minds season 14 episodes wasn't initially revealed, but CBS eventually decided on 15, far less than the standard order of 22. The final season was even shorter — just ten installments. This point in time is something of a crossroads for CBS. The network just might be looking ahead to the future and a new era of programming. Not only did it lose its highest-rated comedy with The Big Bang Theory coming to an end in the spring of 2019, but a big chunk of the network's primetime programming is decidedly long in the tooth. Blue Bloods, Big Brother, Survivor, NCIS, and NCIS: Los Angeles have all hit at least ten seasons. Actively losing another of its ancient, flagship shows in Criminal Minds signals a new start for the Eye. It may also represent a symbolic break with the CBS of yore, the one controlled by disgraced CBS Corporation chairman and CEO Les Moonves. The veteran broadcasting executive resigned his post in September 2018 amid a slew of sexual misconduct allegations. CBS's new leaders just may want to have anything Moonves approved off the air as soon as possible. Most any job is stressful, including making television. Criminal Minds was plagued by more than its share of ugly and embarrassing scandals over the years. Original cast member (and arguably the show's lead actor) Thomas Gibson got himself fired in 2016 after 11 seasons playing Aaron Hotchner when a heated discussion with writer/producer Virgil Williams escalated into the actor kicking Williams. In 2010, Paget Brewster (Emily Prentiss) and A.J. Cook (J.J.) were ostensibly fired due to budget cuts. Brewster later told the A.V. Club what actually happened — a CBS executive called then-showrunner Edward Allen Bernero with an order to replace the fired actresses with younger ones. Bernero ultimately quit, and Brewster and Cook eventually returned to the show. Those incidents — among others — could have very well played into CBS's decision to throw its proverbial arms up in the air when Criminal Minds was finally canceled. Who wants a workplace that's more than occasionally full of this kind of weirdness and generally bad stuff? Numerous Criminal Minds cast members have moved on and CBS is obviously ready to do the same. It would seem that the main creative force behind the crime procedural is ready to try new things in a new environment. ABC Studios, a division of the ABC television network, produces Criminal Minds, and CBS pays a lot of money for the privilege of airing it. In 2017, ABC struck a big deal with Criminal Minds showrunner Erica Messer. The network now funds her own boutique imprint, Erica Messer Productions, from which she develops new TV drama series. Messer knows good television — before Criminal Minds, she worked on Party of Five, Alias, and Charmed. It would be hard to keep a show on CBS when the showrunner has a lucrative deal at a production company owned by a rival network. ABC would probably prefer to keep its talent in-house, and have Messer produce shows exclusively for networks in the ABC family. In 2019, the network announced that two new dramas from Messer's camp were In the works: Best Kept Secret and Nightingale. Broadcast networks aren't like streaming services. While Netflix and Hulu can host a seemingly infinite number of options, networks are constrained by time. CBS's evening schedule consists of three hours of programming every night of the week, and four on Sundays. That's only 22 total hours of TV, and even within that limited amount of space, there isn't much turnaround. Stalwarts like 60 Minutes and various iterations of NCIS aren't going anywhere, so the Eye Network doesn't have the bandwidth to launch many new series each fall. Canceling a fading show like Criminal Minds frees up a precious hour of room in the schedule. That's some space that CBS really needs. The final season of Criminal Minds aired for only 10 weeks, and then got out of the way to allow a new show the chance to develop a following (and earn the network some advertising revenue). There are plenty of shows awaiting the chance — CBS ordered seven new shows for the 2019-2020 season. Criminal Minds had been on the air since 2005, spanning well over 300 episodes. That's a staggeringly long and impressive run, and one that places it among the most enduring network dramas of all time. However, there are only so many twisted murderers, demented cult leaders, and creepy kidnappers out there in the Criminal Mindsverse, and the show's brave and dedicated law enforcement officials may have just about rounded up the last of them. In short, the show has simply run its course. Even the best series can and eventually do run out of ideas at some point, and having passed the 300 episode benchmark makes this a logical, understandable time to close up the Behavioral Analysis Unit. Not only has Criminal Minds' time come, but it's out of step with other law enforcement shows on the air. Its reliable formula feels like it came from another, bygone era of TV... because, well, it did. Today's crime series have gone in two directions: gritty, challenging, and artsy — such as True Detective or American Crime Story — or safe and comfortable reboots like Magnum, P.I. Criminal Minds just didn't fall into either camp. A lot of factors play into a network's decision to end a popular series, but it almost always comes down to one big X-factor: ratings. If enough people watch a show, a network can charge companies big bucks to advertise their products during that show. If the ratings stay high, the network earns a tidy profit in ad revenue. Should that pattern hold, a show could stay on the air indefinitely. Case in point: 60 Minutes, still a major draw after more than 50 years on the air. But if ratings drop too far and/or too fast, well, there's the door. Criminal Minds' most recent numbers are nowhere near its highest levels. In the 2018-19 season, it placed just outside the top 40 most-watched shows on broadcast TV, pulling in an average of 8.22 million viewers. That's a big fall from the 2008-09 season, when Criminal Minds was the 11th-most-watched show on TV. The numbers don't justify CBS keeping it around after next year. The longer a show sticks around, the more expensive it is to produce. Actors can earn more money each time they re-negotiate their contracts to stick around for a few more seasons. They've got producers in a bind — they kind of have to pay the actors what they want so as to keep a show's audience-drawing cast intact. However, a show's popularity and ratings tend to naturally slip over time, meaning the longer a series runs, it becomes less profitable due to declining ad rates and increasing production costs. If it's no longer financially worth it for a network to proceed in such a matter, they'll cut the dead weight of an expensive, long-running show. For example, Criminal Minds ratings were nowhere near series highs, but in 2017, original cast members Kirsten Vangsness and A.J. Cook signed new contracts and got substantial raises, ones that gave them salary parity with well-paid co-star Matthew Gray Gubler. All those salaries stick out on the CBS ledger, and couldn't help but play a part in the show being canceled. Crime procedurals are supposed to be rock-solid, ultra-reliable TV institutions. Viewers expect these kinds of shows to be pretty much the same thing, week in and week out, populated by the same set of familiar faces for years on end. Criminal Minds didn't adhere to those unwritten rules, churning out more than 300 episodes despite sporting one of the most active revolving doors in TV casting history. That lack of stability tends to turn off viewers, as Criminal Minds' downward-trending ratings over the last decade would indicate. Mandy Patinkin (BAU Chief Jason Gideon) left in 2007, Thomas Gibson (Aaron "Hotch" Hotchner) got terminated in 2016, Shemar Moore departed in 2016 and moved on to S.W.A.T., and Paget Brewster and A.J. Cook's characters, Emily Prentiss and Jennifer Jareau, respectively, were written out for a spell. Other actors and actresses who came and went from the BAU: Jennifer Love Hewitt, Jeanne Tripplehorn, Damon Gupton, and Rachel Nichols. Throughout the 1990s and into the early 2000s, CBS got into a nostalgia habit, regularly airing two-hour-long, made-for-TV revival movies of some of its most popular crime, cop, and mystery shows of yesteryear. Viewers got the chance to watch one or two more exciting adventures featuring well-known characters from Simon & Simon, Diagnosis Murder, Cagney & Lacey, and Murder, She Wrote. Producing and broadcasting such projects grew dormant at CBS, but the idea just might make a comeback with Criminal Minds. In advance of the series finale, Parade asked Criminal Minds showrunner Erica Messer if the storyline allowed for the possibility of a TV movie. "You don't shut down the BAU. Can't do that," she said. "And it was that interesting thing of having to please so many people at the end of this show, where it's like, 'Well, don't end it forever and ever because what if it could have another life elsewhere?'" Cast & crewUser reviewsTriviaFAQTopTop-rated19 seasonsSee all191817161514131211109876543212 0 yearsSee all2025202420232022202020192018201720162015201420132012201120102009200820072006 2005Sign in to rate and Watchlist for personalized recommendationsSign inSuggest an edit or add missing contentYou have no recently viewed pages Unnamed ex-husbandUnnamed sonTwo unnamed daughters "No Way Out II: The Evilution of Frank" "And in the End..." (via visions) SES Erin Strauss was the BAU Section Chief, the direct superior to SSA Aaron Hotchner. Her job lay in administration, and she had little actual field experience. She appeared on Criminal Minds as a recurring character until Season Eight, where she was murdered by "The Replicator". In Season Nine, her position was taken over by Mateo Cruz. Background[] Erin Strauss was born on December 14, 1959. She eventually signed up as BAU Section Chief. She later got married, and had three children before divorcing. Seasons Two and Three[] Strauss appears in the Season Two finale, "No Way Out II: The Evilution of Frank". She seemed to be under the impression that Hotch's team was disorganized and posed a threat to the BAU, prompting her to enlist Emily Prentiss to spy on the team; even calling the latter in "Doubt" during a case in Arizona, (a maneuver that backfires when Prentiss, having become close to her team members, eventually resigns from her position) and to attempt Hotch's removal from the BAU with a pending investigation on his methods. She backs off her attention from the team after experiencing firsthand what the team lives with every case in the field, as seen in "In Name and Blood", but not before making sure that they understand that none of them will ever be able to move up in any higher positions within the FBI (though this opinion appears to have been proven wrong in later episodes). Season Five[] In episode "100", Strauss conducts the inquiry into the events surrounding the actual beating to death of George Foyet. She questions each team member to get to the bottom of the situation and ensure that "a bloodbath like this never happens again." She finally questions Hotch, who tells her that he believed if Foyet were allowed to get up off of the floor, he would have killed Jack too. She effectively clears him saying, "That's good enough for me." She also falls away from her cold and spiteful personality that was the norm for most previous episodes and sincerely tells Hotch how sorry she is and that "if there is anything you [Hotch] or your son need..." she will help. Strauss appears in "The Fight" reprimanding Sam Cooper for his unauthorized involvement in a case assigned to Hotch's team. After the conclusion of the case, she calls Cooper and warns she still plans on reading him and Hotch "the riot act" but congratulates him and orders him to return with the rest of the BAU to work on cases she has for Cooper to handle. Season Seven[] In the episode "Self-Fulfilling Prophecy", it is revealed that Strauss is fighting alcoholism and that Hotch knew that she was getting help. However, it seems that she had relapsed as she tried to keep it a secret. In the end, Hotch and Morgan arranged for her to be checked in privately. In the Season Seven two-part finale "Hit" and "Run", she is hired to supervise the hostage situation at the Colonial Liberty Bank perpetrated by the infamous Face Cards. Hotch convinces her to delay the Director's order for SWAT teams to move in. By the end of Run, she thanks Morgan for finding out about her drinking problem and even jokes to him that Morgan won't be happy when she returns to duty when he states it will be an honor to have her back, possibly her first instance at displaying humor to the team. She is present at JJ and Will's wedding and happily dances with Rossi and the team, showing that she might have become a better person towards them. Season Eight[] Strauss becomes more prominent in Season Eight. It is revealed in "The Silencer" that the newest member of the BAU team, Alex Blake, worked with her during the Amerithrax case, during which Strauss left her to take the fall when a linguistics flub led to the arrest of the wrong suspect. As a result, Blake didn't get along with her afterward. At the end of The Silencer, Strauss tries apologizing to her, but she is turned down. In "Carbon Copy", she specifically oversees the investigation into the Replicator, and by the end of the episode, she apologizes to Blake again, and this time, her apology is accepted. In "Brothers Hotchner", she is abducted by the Replicator, later revealed to be a disgruntled FBI agent named John Curtis, whom she left to take the blame along with Blake following the Amerithrax case. In "The Replicator", Curtis poisons her with spiked wine and leaves her to die. She is found on the streets by Hotch, and she admits that the Replicator forced her at gunpoint to drink again. She dies in Hotch's arms after begging him to stay with her as she doesn't want to die alone. Strauss indirectly helps defeat Curtis post-mortem when Rossi uses her sobriety chip to escape his trap, leaving him to apparently die in an explosion. After her funeral, the team celebrates her life during dinner at Rossi's garden, discussing happy stories of her time with them and acknowledging her as a good woman, friend, and mother. In the episode "Hit", it is implied that she and Rossi had spent the night together in a hotel. In Season Eight, more and more hints are given that they are indeed in a romantic relationship, and in "Brothers Hotchner" and "The Replicator", neither of them attempts to hide it. The way Rossi grieved over her death and the fact that he knew her children were the last pieces of proof of their relationship. Season Nine[] Starting with the episode "To Bear Witness," her position is now occupied by Mateo Cruz. She reappeared in "200" in a flashback scene with JJ and Cruz talking about an assignment by Undersecretary Rosemary Jackson. Season Ten[] After Gideon is found murdered and the conclusion of the case, Strauss is mentioned by Rossi, listing her among people close to him who had died, along with Gideon and Harrison Scott. Season Fifteen[] Strauss returns as a vision in the series finale "And in the End..." in Season Fifteen after Reid suffers from a brain injury sustained at the hands of Everett Lynch. Personality[] Initially being antagonistic towards the team, Strauss's opinion of the BAU progressively changes due to her experiences in the field during the episode "In Name and Blood" and seeing the aftermath of the events in "100". She appeared to be very disturbed while reading the autopsy report on Haley and determined that Hotch was justified in killing Foyet. She also expresses concern for Hotch in "25 to Life" and was glad he is taking some time off. It is then shown in the episode "The Stranger" that all of the animosity with the BAU she had once held had vanished when Strauss told Hotch that his team had dealt with terrible things in one year, namely the "death" of Emily Prentiss and the events surrounding Foyet, but that they had dealt with them exceptionally. She also told Hotch that she was taking some time off due to reasons that are believed to be personal (later revealed to be her alcoholism) and that she wanted him to take care of the departments under her responsibility while she was absent. Through Season Three to Season Five, Strauss changes from being an antagonist to the team to a woman who understands the team's difficulties and has started to respect them. In "About Face", she apparently doesn't believe people can be selfless. It is revealed that she is an alcoholic in "Self-Fulfilling Prophecy", something that ruined her relationship with her children. By the time of her death in "The Replicator", she is over a year sober and a sponsor to other struggling alcoholics, having developed a strong animosity for alcohol, but is forced to drink again before she dies at the hands of the Replicator, the alcohol she drank having been poisoned by him. Notes[] Though Strauss was stated to have little field experience, Morgan told the team after her death that she was an excellent shooter. It is possible that she just never fired a gun while on the job, or he was referring to something else entirely ("The Replicator"). It is possible that, prior to her death, Strauss may have recently spent time at the shooting ranges, where Morgan may have seen her skill with a firearm. Strauss's FBI database username was "Strauss_E_218" ("The Replicator"). Appearances[] Criminal Minds[] Season Two[] "No Way Out II: The Evilution of Frank" Season Three[] "Doubt" "In Name and Blood" "Scared to Death" "About Face" Season Five[] "Cradle to Grave" "The Eyes Have It" "100" "The Slave of Duty" "The Fight" Season Six[] "J.J." "25 to Life" "Hanley Waters" (mentioned) "The Stranger" Season Seven[] Season Eight[] Season Nine[] "To Bear Witness" (mentioned) "200" (via flashbacks) Season Ten[] "Nelson's Sparrow" (mentioned) Season Eleven[] "The Sandman" (via photo) Season Fourteen[] "Flesh and Blood" (via flashbacks) Season Fifteen[] "And in the End..." (via visions) The dirty little secret of all the streaming services: Even though they pour all their energy into promoting their original series, it's often the reruns of existing shows that keep subscribers watching. It's why HBO Max reclaimed "Friends" and Peacock clawed back rights to "The Office." (The week of Oct. 10, reruns of "The Blacklist" and "NCIS" were No. 5 and 10, respectively, on the Nielsen Top 10 streaming programs list.) And the next best thing for a streaming service? A reboot of a familiar title, which is why the former CBS drama "Criminal Minds" (2005-2020) is back for a 10-episode 16th season on streaming service Paramount+. Streaming Thursday – because who doesn't want their Thanksgiving dinner served with a heaping helping of a serial killer cutting open the back of a victim and giving the poor man the choice of permanent paralysis or death? – "Criminal Minds" returns with most – but not all! – of its cast returning. The show, now called "Criminal Minds: Evolution," also has a season-long storyline about a serial killer who, stuck at home due to the pandemic, creates a network of serial killers, which allows "Criminal Minds" to have its procedural element (serial killer of the week!) and a perfect-for-binging on streaming serialized arc too (serial killer for the season who directs the serial killers of the week!). Since "Criminal Minds" was always a show about brutal crimes, the move to Paramount+ doesn't result in that much more violence on screen, but it does allow star Joe Mantegna to drop the occasional f-bomb. "I'm very aware that teenage kids watch this show," said "Criminal Minds: Evolution" executive producer Erica Messer in a virtual press conference during the Television Critics Association summer 2022 press tour in September. "I never wanted us to go into full Rated R, extra violence or anything that would suddenly feel like a very different series. … So while I don't think you're going to be shocked at the graphics being worse or anything like that, there is some language that I feel is very appropriate even though some might consider it inappropriate. … It just sounds normal. It sounds like what they would have been saying all along. So that part, I'm kind of excited about, because I feel like the dialogue feels more authentic in that sense of law enforcement." "Criminal Minds: Evolution" also allows more time for character/relationship development. Prentiss (Paget Brewster) has a new job. Rossi (Mantegna) mourns the death of his wife. Penelope Garcia (Kristen Vangsness) hosts British baking parties at home and wants nothing to do with the FBI's elite team of criminal profilers (of course, she'll get pulled back in). Reid (Matthew Gray Gubler) and Simmons (Caniel Henney) are on a secret assignment and not back for this season. "Our hope is that the team members that we ended the series with on CBS will be able to come back and play at some point," Messer said. "But everybody does have other projects. … There was like a short window to try to get all of our friends to play, and we weren't able to [get all of them]. It's a little bit more of a mystery what Reid and Simmons are up to, but they're certainly not forgotten. Dr. Reid and Matt Simmons' desks are still there, still have stuff

the writers could no longer come up with inventive ways of killing off victims (unnervingly, that never seems to have been a problem). What's kind of humorous about the situation is that the network is actually giving fans a break by letting them know this early rather than continuing the yearly hang-on-to-your-seats guessing game that's been played in the past until the series was inevitably renewed. Think we're joking? Renewal for Season 13 was still an issue in March 2017, when CBS announced the renewal of 14 shows on their lineup — but conveniently left out Criminal Minds. Word that there would be a 14th year didn't come until May 12, 2018, and even then it was with a reduced count of 15 episodes. So the plan as we know it is that, again, Season 15 will consist of 10 episodes that are going to be shot back-to-back with Season 14. In other words, this year's season finale will air on Feb. 6 but the show will stay in production, filming the episodes that will begin airing next season. Getty Images Amy Reisenbach, CBS' Executive Vice President of Current Programs, issued a statement, noting, "Criminal Minds is the quintessential CBS hit. We are so proud to have aired it. It speaks to everything we do best, which is air quality television. It's been successful not only on air, but online, in syndication, and internationally. We [also] wanted to make sure executive producer/showrunner Erica Messer had the time and ability to write a finale that honors the characters and the fans. We discussed wanting to keep the show in continuous production, so 10 felt like the right number for us to roll straight into and give Erica enough episodes to end the series the way she wanted to." R/R Let's face it: it's also a lot cheaper to stay in production than to shut down only to gear up again a few months later. So, why has CBS waited so long to renew the show every year? Whereas CBS owns most of their dramas outright, Criminal Minds comes from CBS Television Studios and ABC Studios, which means that CBS only owns half the show. That means there is a lot of negotiation to be had. And the reality is that the longer a show goes on, the more expensive it becomes. Cast and crew salaries usually go up every year and it eventually reaches a point where there are diminishing returns, leading to cancellation no matter how strong the ratings are. So when you ask yourself, "Why is Criminal Minds being cancelled," if it's not over ratings, it's the same thing it's always over: money. Either way, it's been a hell of a ride and we're just sorry to see it come to an end. Still, nobody should feel sorry for any series that's lasted 15 seasons and produced an incredible 325 episodes. Tags: criminal mindstv newsTV Shows Erica MesserKirsten Vangsness Previous: Next: "Face Off" N/A "And in the End..." is the tenth episode, part two, and season finale of Season Fifteen, and the 324th episode overall and series finale of Criminal Minds. Summary[] Reid encounters ghosts from his past following an encounter with The Chameleon and the BAU makes a discovery that personally affects Rossi. Guest Cast[] Music[] "Heroes" by David Bowie "Soft Dark Nothing" by Lily Kershaw Bookend Quotes[] Maeve Donovan and Spencer Reid: E. E. Cummings: "Whenever you think or you believe or you know, you're a lot of other people: but the moment you feel, you're nobody-but-yourself. To be nobody-but-yourself — in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else — means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight; and never stop fighting." Penelope Garcia: My favorite band said, "The love you take is equal to the love you make." Notes[] It would be physically impossible for JJ to ignite to BAU jet's fuel tank by shooting at its leaking fuselage with a flare gun as shown in the episode. This was proven in an episode of Mythbusters. This may have, however, been inspired by the climax of the action thriller Die Hard 2, where a similar event happens, albeit with the use of a cigarette lighter. Signed in Existing password New password Submit Updating your password... Success! Email New Where is the password field? Trouble logging in? By continuing, you agree to the Privacy Policy and the Terms and Policies, and to receive email from the Fandango Media Brands. First name (Required) Last name (Required) Create my account By creating an account, you agree to the Privacy Policy and the Terms and Policies, and to receive email from Rotten Tomatoes and to receive email from the Fandango Media Brands. 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The core group includes an official profiler who is highly skilled at getting into the minds of criminals, a quirky genius, the former media liaison who manages to adeptly balance family life and the job, and a computer wizard. Watch on Fandango at Home Buy Now Fandango at Home Seasons 1-16 Disney+ Seasons 1-15 Hulu Seasons 1-15 Paramount+ Seasons 1-16, 18 Watch Criminal Minds with a subscription on Disney+, Hulu, Paramount+, or buy it on Fandango at Home. Season 18 Next Ep Thu Jun 26 Details Season 17 2024 Details Season 16 85% 2022 Details Season 15 2020 Details Season 14 2018 Details Season 13 2017 Details Season 12 2016 Details Season 11 2015 Details Season 10 2014 Details Season 9 2013 Details Season 8 2012 Details Season 7 2011 Details Season 6 2010 Details Season 5 2009 Details Season 4 2008 Details Season 3 2007 Details Season 2 2006 Details Season 1 46% 2005 Details Evil 96% 84% Evil Watchlist TRAILER for Evil The First 48 % % The First 48 Watchlist In Justice 40% % In Justice Watchlist CSI: Miami % 62% CSI: Miami Watchlist The Closer 83% 84% The Closer Watchlist Discover more movies and TV shows. View More Criminal Minds: Season 18 Trailer Criminal Minds: Season 18 Trailer 2:13 Criminal Minds: Evolution: Season 18 Teaser Criminal Minds: Evolution: Season 18 Teaser 0:30 Criminal Minds: Evolution: Season 17 Trailer Criminal Minds: Evolution: Season 17 Trailer 1:20 View more videos Tap to Unmute See Details , the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit. 110,144 active editors 7,022,728 articles in English Sirius A with Sirius B, a white dwarf, indicated by the arrow A white dwarf is a stellar core remnant composed mostly of electron-degenerate matter, supported against its own gravity only by electron degeneracy pressure. A white dwarf is very dense: in an Earth sized volume, it contains a mass comparable to the Sun. What light it radiates is from its residual heat. White dwarfs are thought to be the final evolutionary state of stars whose mass is insufficient for them to become a neutron star or black hole. This includes more than 97% of the stars in the Milky Way. After the hydrogen-fusing period of such a main-sequence star ends, it will expand to a red giant and shed its outer layers, leaving behind a core which is the white dwarf. This, very hot when it forms, cools as it radiates its energy until its material begins to crystallize into a cold black dwarf. The oldest known white dwarfs still radiate at temperatures of a few thousand kelvins, which establishes an observational limit on the maximum possible age of the universe. (Full article...) Recently featured: Battle of Groix Scott Carpenter Johann Reinhold Forster Archive By email More featured articles About A Royal 10 typewriter ... that a Royal 10 (pictured) used in the music video for "Fortnight" caused an interest in typewriters among Swifties? ... that the Brazilian government advocated the use of COVID kits, which contained a drug used to treat head lice? ... that Brave Bunnies was among the children's series streamed ad-free on Sunflower TV for Ukrainian refugees? ... that it took more than two years after the Romans invaded Africa in 204 BC for them to completely defeat the Carthaginians? ... that the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported that "half of the residents of Mount Desert Island, Maine, are convinced they are millionaires since the body of Karl N. Mellon" was discovered? ... that AiScReam's recent debut song "Ai Scream!" went viral on social media? ... that Laura LeRoy Travis was the first woman at the University of Delaware to coach a men's sports team? ... that the screenplay for Smashing Frank was developed from an assignment in a filmmaking course? ... that the iconic 1937 photograph At the Time of the Louisville Flood identifiably depicts neither Louisville nor the flood? Archive Start a new article Nominate an article Vera Rubin Observatory The Vera C. Rubin Observatory (pictured) in Chile releases the first light images from its new 8.4-metre (28 ft) telescope. In basketball, the Oklahoma City Thunder defeat the Indiana Pacers to win the NBA Finals. The United States conducts military strikes on three nuclear facilities in Iran. In rugby union, the Crusaders defeat the Chiefs to win the Super Rugby Pacific final. In ice hockey, the Florida Panthers defeat the Edmonton Oilers to win the Stanley Cup. Ongoing: Gaza war Iran–Israel war Russian invasion of Ukraine timeline Sudanese civil war timeline Recent deaths: Frederick W. Smith Ron Taylor Mohammad Kazemi Marita Camacho Quirós Kim Woodburn William Langewiesche Nominate an article June 24: Jaanipäev in Estonia Julia Gillard 1374 – An outbreak of dancing mania, in which crowds of people danced themselves to exhaustion, began in Aachen (in present-day Germany) before spreading to other parts of Europe. 1717 – The first Grand Lodge of Freemasonry, the Premier Grand Lodge of England, was founded in London. 1724 – On the Feast of St. John the Baptist, Bach led the first performance of Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam, BWV 7, the third cantata of his chorale cantata cycle. 1943 – Amid racial tensions, U.S. Army military police shot and killed a black serviceman after a confrontation at a pub in Bamber Bridge, England. 2010 – Julia Gillard (pictured) was sworn in as the first female prime minister of Australia after incumbent Kevin Rudd declined to contest a leadership spill in the Labor Party. William Arnold (b. 1587)John Lloyd Cruz (b. 1983)Lisa (b. 1987)Rodrigo (d. 2000) More anniversaries: June 23 June 24 June 25 Archive By email List of days of the year About The springbok (Antidorcas marsupialis) is a medium-sized antelope found mainly in the dry areas of southern and southwestern Africa. A slender, long-legged bovid, it reaches 71 to 86 cm (28 to 34 in) at the shoulder and weighs between 27 and 42 kg (60 and 93 lb). Both sexes have a pair of long black horns that curve backwards, a white face, a dark stripe running from the eyes to the mouth, a light-brown coat with a reddish-brown stripe, and a white rump flap. Primarily browsing at dawn and dusk, it can live without drinking water for years, subsisting on succulent vegetation. Breeding peaks in the rainy season, when food is more abundant. A single calf is weaned at nearly six months of age and leaves its mother a few months later. Springbok herds in the Kalahari Desert and the semi-arid Karoo used to migrate in large numbers across the countryside. The springbok is the national animal of South Africa. This male springbok was photographed in Etosha National Park, Namibia. Photograph credit: Yathin S Krishnappa Recently featured: Geraldine Ulmar Shah Mosque (Isfahan) Cape Barren goose Archive More featured pictures Community portal – The central hub for editors, with resources, links, tasks, and announcements. Village pump – Forum for discussions about Wikipedia itself, including policies and technical issues. Site news – Sources of news about Wikipedia and the broader Wikimedia movement. Teahouse – Ask basic questions about using or editing Wikipedia. Help desk – Ask questions about using or editing Wikipedia. Reference desk – Ask research questions about encyclopedic topics. Content portals – A unique way to navigate the encyclopedia. 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