

“Exactly Awesome” BUT Do Not Read Until You Have Seen Episode 3 Of Season Seven!

DISCLAIMER:

If you have yet to watch Season 7, Episode 3 of The Office... DO NOT PROCEED. There is a great abundance of spoilage here!

WOW! WHAT AN EPISODE! The opening musical number was even better than the season premiere's. If they can keep them coming like this, then they should open every episode this way.

In an attempt to win the heart of Erin back from Gabe, Andy auditions for and snags the role of Anthony in Sweeney Todd.

The entire office staff (minus one) takes in the final performance of the community theatrical production. The lead role is played by a ringer who just happened to be Darryl's plumber. This would not have been such a dramatic turn of events had Michael not auditioned for the role, himself. His reaction during the curtain call is classic! Check out Mr. Scott's hilarious audition during the closing credits.

Unfortunately, Erin is unable to attend the performance. Jim and Pam have baby-sitting problems and the receptionist volunteers her services.

Andy's performance and bits of singing are tremendous. "I feel you... Johanna." On stage, one of the most annoying things that could happen from the audience of a live performance (and I have been on-stage as it happened) happens to Andy while he is on stage. "I killed it!"

I loved this episode! One of my favorites by FAR! I can definitely relate to Andy: disappointment when his co-workers "cannot make it" to the performance; seeing them in the

audience; hoping beyond hope that “that person” can somehow make it. I’m sure that the audience member sitting next to Dwight found his whispering annoying.

Wouldn’t it be a riot if Michael did keep auditioning with his normal brand of hilarity and was cast in a musical? HMMM... possibly the plot device for his exit?

View and download the colorful playbill of the Loose Screw Playhouse production of [Sweeney Todd](#)

The Office – Season 7!!

I am behind on blogging about my favorite tv show (and the only one that’s left that is good enough for me to watch these days!), The Office! Time flew so fast that the season premiere was a few weeks ago now, and it’s been a great season so far!

The Office is on Season 7 already, and unfortunately for us fans, this is reportedly the last season for the show’s lead actor, Steve Carell. As a huge fan of the show, I personally don’t see how it will work without Carell’s lovable idiot boss character, Michael Scott, and I’m hoping that he will change his mind about leaving. Although he has yet to win an Emmy for his performance as Michael Scott (darn Alec Baldwin on 30 Rock takes it every year!), episode 2 of season 7 of The Office saw the best performance I’ve ever seen Carell give and probably the best acting I’ve ever seen on a tv sitcom! If you’re a fan, I’m talking about the scene where he is in a counseling session with Toby, and Toby is kind of manipulating him to actually talk to him. For a few minutes, Michael is actually talking and playing cards with Toby – a man he simply cannot stand. He even has an “I loathe Toby” face that is

priceless. So anyway, he's playing cards with Toby, and Toby is actually making some valuable psychiatric headway with Michael... until Michael realizes it. Within seconds as he's realizing what Toby has done, his transformation back into his "I loathe Toby" mode is just... WOW. Emmy-worthy material, for sure in my opinion, but only time will tell.

Unfortunately, if you are not already watching this great show, then I can't recommend you start now in the 7th season – nowadays the show seems to be written for its fan base, and newcomers might not be able to follow the plots which are seemingly being developed around the already established characters. But I do highly recommend you check out the show beginning in Season 1 – you can do this on dvd or perhaps even on NBC's website? That way, you can watch the The Office characters hilariously evolve yourself. If you work in an office yourself, are looking for a new tv show to watch, or are simply a fan of good tv, talented script-writing, try The Office!!

I cannot wait to see what the 3rd episode of this new season will bring us on Thursday!!

One of the Michael Scott's (aka Steve Carell's) famous "I loathe Toby" faces:



A Movie Suggestion For An Upcoming Date Night

Prior to viewing *Sherlock Holmes* amongst all the needless ads, I did see a trailer for a movie that is definitely high on my list for viewing. Although NOTHING can take away the comedic genius which he brings to his portrayal of Michael Scott, Steve Carrel has made some great movies as well. Some of my favorites: *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Evan Almighty* (I actually enjoyed it more than its predecessor, *Bruce Almighty*), and the updated *Get Smart*. This spring, he will be paired with his female counterpart, Tina Fey in the new movie *Date Night*. Sure to be a hilarious movie coming April 9.

Missing The Office

Last week I really could have used a Thursday night pick-me-up from my favorite show, The Office, but alas, no new episode. I was sure I couldn't be disappointed two weeks in a row, but this week's ep is also a re-run! Then I started thinking about how it's been in the news lately that NBC is changing around their scheduling, most of it having to do with the Olympics and Jay Leno. Then I realized that if the Olympics are on NBC, the Office probably won't be on for the entire duration of the Winter Games! I did a quick search, and to my relief, I found that a new Office is scheduled to air on January 21 – not this week, but next week thankfully. We might have to wait out the entire airing of the Winter Olympics, but at least they're not going to make us wait until it's over and we'll have at least one new Office episode to enjoy in the meantime. Any other Office fans out there? Does anyone know how many more new episodes we get for the rest of the season, or at least how many we can expect to enjoy before the beginning of the Olympics? How long IS the Olympics, anyway? And fyi, the Jan. 21 episode of the Office is called, "The Banker", and the plot outline is this: When a prospective buyer for Dunder Mifflin visits, everyone looks to impress and Michael gets nostalgic.

Sounds hilarious, as usual! And don't get me wrong, this show is so great that reruns are tons of fun too. We were just watching the "Frame Toby" episode from season 5 last night, and we had to rewind 4 times to listen to Creed's classic line about the quarry – I'm not going to repeat it here because it's mostly the WAY he says it, but it has to be one of the funniest Office moments EVER! Which got me to thinking about a hypothetical situation – what if Creed were a character who

came to our semi-regular game nights? HAHA!

Clue – The Office!

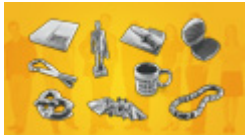
My first Christmas present of 2009 – Clue The Office Collector's Edition!



Ok, I have to be honest – could you tell I started the draft of this post weeks ago? But I had to finish it, cuz this is a super-cool game given by a very thoughtful friend. In addition, I received some other awesome gifts: Walmart gift cards and a gift certificate to the local pet store so I can get my parakeet – more on that later. My gifts also included something incredibly touching and sentimental from my husband and kids, but that's all I need to say about that to keep from traveling the dark road of sadness.

Back to Clue – The Office version – it was so fun! In true keeping with Office traditions, the victim in the game is Toby Flenderson! Obvious, especially when the game's instructions were penned by Michael. Each player chooses an available character, and they get a little Office ID card for their person (Office fans at our church exchanged this game for Christmas, and they replaced the little Office ID's with pictures of church staff – hilarious!). Players then move about the Office, entering rooms like Michael's Office or

Accounting, and play continues just like the other versions of the game Clue – you make accusations about who killed Toby with which weapon in which room. My favorite part of this game (aside from the fact that I won the first round we played!) are the weapons – pewter figures representing various hilarious Office plot lines; for example, a bike chain, a Dundie award, and my personal favorite: a George Foreman grill!!



It's a must-have for any fan of The Office, to be especially appreciated by game collectors like myself!

“It's Kind Of Like A Kid's Birthday Party...”

The title of this post is a quote from my favorite tv show, The Office. Now I must go on a brief tangent to find out when this awesome show starts for the season – there it is, September 17, ugh, almost two months to go! Time to add a countdown to the site...

Tangent over. Anyway, in the tv show The Office, they have an annual awards show called The Dundies. The lovable yet jerk of a boss, Michael Scott, gives (mostly silly) awards to his staff, and the workers generally are not thrilled about the Dundies. A character named Oscar Martinez says the following about Michael and his Dundies: *“The Dundies are kind of like a kid's birthday party, and you go, and there's really nothing for you to do there, but the kid's having a really good time,*

so you're kind of there? That's... that's kind of what it's like." The reason I'm sharing the quote with you is because it floats through my mind every time I invite our family friends to one of my kids' birthday parties. I have 4 kids, one born in every season, so we have a birthday party around here every few months. For the older ones, we invite their friends from school, and we invite family and a few of our adult friends to the parties for the younger ones. I really hope no one is ever bored – it is, after all, a bunch of adults sitting around at a kid's birthday party. We don't play "pin the tail on the donkey" or break a piñata; it's just a reason for a bunch of us adults to get together, chat, and have some cake. This is exactly what we did this past Sunday at my son's first birthday party. He had a really great time, and so did his sisters helping him open the presents. He turned blue from his birthday cake, which he absolutely loved, of course!



BEFORE: *(his bib says "My 1st Birthday", but he hated it and is trying to get it off in this picture)*



AFTER:

He also got lots of great presents – some adorable outfits and cool toys that actually kept him busy for more than 10 minutes! He likes his new toys so much that he's been playing with them non-stop! They've actually kept him out of trouble – well, kind of, he did have two baths out of necessity already today and he spilled a glass of water all over my computer wires, but that's nothing for him.

So thanks again to everyone who attended – he especially loved it when everyone sang 'happy birthday' to him!

A-Z's of Me

I received another 'getting to know you' email forward, and this one promises to be 'different' so here goes...

Here's a new one & it's much better than previous versions. Cut and paste and fill in the answers. Then, send to all your friends!

- *A – Age: 30
- *B – Bed size: Queen
- *C – Chore you hate: drying dishes
- * D Dessert you love: depends upon my mood

*E – Essential start of your day item: yogurt

*F – Favorite actor(s): Steve Carell, Tom Hanks

*G – Gold or Silver: Gold

*H – Height: 5 ft. 8 in.

*I – Instruments you play: little bit of piano, various percussion instruments

*J – Job title: Homemaker

*K – Kid(s): 3 girls and a boy

*L – Living arrangements: Husband, 4 kids, 2 dogs, and a parrot

*M – Mom’s name: Phyllis

*N – Nicknames: Mom, Lis

*O – Overnight hospital stay other than birth: other than MY birth or any birth? Cuz I’ve had 4 kids... Also some ear infections when I was a baby.

*P – Phobia or fear: frogs

*Q – Favorite quote: Until I can think of a better one – “Abraham Lincoln said, if you are a racist, I will attack you with the North.” – Michael Scott

*R – Right or left handed: Right

*S – Siblings: 1 older sister

*T- Talent: multi-tasking

*U – Unique skill: I can hang a spoon off the end of my nose

*V – Vegetable you hate: peas

*W Worst habit: procrastination

*X – X ray: dental

*Y – Yummy food you make: I just made a California blend soup yesterday out of leftovers that everyone loved

*Z – Zodiac Sign: Cancer, the crab!

The Office – Great As Ever

Well, we've now gotten a taste of two new episodes for this season, and I think I can safely say that the Office is back on track and as funny as ever! It's always been funny; it's just that the few episodes that aired after the writer's strike weren't the best ones. But I'm happy to see that so far, this season is a riot and will keep me looking forward to Thursday nights.

Entitled, 'Business Ethics', the 2nd Office episode of the season saw Michael and Holly in a major disagreement. But no need to fret, it was resolved by the end of the show, thank goodness. Sorry if I spoiled something for you, but you wouldn't want to be left hanging about that, now would you? I think I'll copy n paste the tvguide.com episode synopsis and comment on it. That's an easy way to write a review of the show and share the tvguide.com summary which I always enjoy. Tvguide.com is in *italics*, my comments are in **BOLD CAPS**.

With the exemplary premiere behind us, in which we were treated to Jim and Pam's engagement, Dwight and Angela's torrid and super-secret affair, Michael and Holly's evolving 'friendship' and Ryan's return as Pam's temporary replacement, does the second episode of the Office continue the momentum? The answer, my friends, is ...

Definitely. Maybe. Ummm ... Not so much.

It's hard to follow up near-perfection. WHILE I AGREE WITH THAT COMMENT, I WILL DISAGREE WITH THIS WRITER TO SAY THAT I THINK THE 2ND EPISODE WAS ALMOST AS GOOD AS THE FIRST – THERE'S JUST NO COMPETING BETWEEN AN HOUR OF THE OFFICE AND A HALF-HOUR OF THE OFFICE. "Weight Loss" was a one-hour gem, while "Business Ethics" had some nice moments, particularly during the beginning of the show, but it had some

disappointments for me as well. I'll list out my quibbles with this episode first, and then I'll get to the funny:

1) The Absence of Pam

*After their shocking engagement, Pam is relegated to a disembodied voice on the telephone at the beginning of the show. No doubt there will be plenty of opportunities for her to take center stage as the season develops, and I understand that sending her to school makes it difficult to include her in the office's day-to-day, but it was jarring to all but ignore the Jim and Pam relationship right after their shocking engagement. **AGREED – I MISSED PAM TOO, BUT IT WAS ONLY ONE EPISODE, AFTER ALL. IF SHE ISN'T THERE NEXT WEEK, I WILL HAVE A BEEF.***

2) Ryan's ethics

*Reflecting back on an episode entitled "Business Ethics" I guess I was surprised that it focused primarily on Michael, Holly and Meredith, and only tangentially referred to the busted and now-humbled Ryan. I was expecting the episode to center more on Ryan somehow (don't ask me how, I'm just a recapper). **RYAN CAN BE ANNOYING IN LARGE DOSES, SO I'M GLAD HE WAS ONLY ON THIS EPISODE FOR A LITTLE BIT.***

3) Holding back the crazy

*Creed didn't say or do anything [Creed-like](#); Andy didn't sing a capella or punch a wall; even Michael and Holly's "Let's Get Ethical" intro was a schtick we've seen before. So even in an episode with Dwight peeing into a soda bottle, the usual absurdities of the Office family felt somehow muzzled or restrained. **CREED DID SAY AT LEAST ONE REALLY FUNNY THING – SEE BELOW.***

But enough with the criticisms. Let's get to the kudos. I thought the "personal time" subplot was the highlight of the show, and led to the episode's two best scenes:

1) Battlestar Galactica.

This scene was so pitch-perfect, especially for a sci-fi nerd like me, that the only way to do it justice was to transcribe

it:

Jim: Hey Andy

Andy: Yo

Jim: By any chance did you see Battlestar Galactica last night?

Andy: No I did not. Is that any good?

Jim: Actually not, it's really so-so.

Jim: I don't like all the crazy monsters and stuff, like Klingons and Wookies and all that.

Jim (looking at Dwight): Sorry, is there something you wanted to add Dwight?

Andy: Is that like the original Battlestar Galactica?

Jim: You know what's weird, it's practically a shot-for-shot remake

(Dwight crumbles paper in frustration)

Jim: The story is kinda bland, it's about this guy called "Dumbledore Calrissian" who needs to return the ring to back to Mordor

Andy: That doesn't sound right ...

2) 19:48

It's easy for Jim to push Dwight's buttons, and it's easy for us to laugh at it. Jim's pranks on Dwight have been the stuff of legend, but this was the first time that Dwight had it over on Jim – and Jim didn't even know it.

*The smugness on Jim's face when he got Dwight to admit that he took "personal time" paled in comparison to the sidelong glance Dwight gave the camera when he admitted that "Yes, maybe I'm not" ethical. The camera panned over to Angela buttoning up her shirt, and we understood how Dwight spent that 19:48. I loved that the writers gave Dwight this moment over Jim – unexpectedly turning the tables and making Jim's prank just seem irrelevant. **THAT WAS A NICE MOMENT.***

And finally, here are my favorite one-off lines:

“The tall guy got engaged” – Creed **CLASSIC CREED, HILARIOUS!**

“I’ve listened to Cookie Monster Sings Chocolate Rain 5,000 times” – Michael. (By the way, I tried like heck to find this video on You Tube, but no luck. [But here’s the consolation prize](#))

“You’ve been cuckolded by a stronger, smarter male” – Dwight

So, what did you guys think? **LOVED IT.** *Am I right that this episode – while good – did not live up to the season premiere’s lofty heights?* **I THINK YOU’RE WRONG. IT WASN’T AS GOOD AS THE PREMIERE, BUT PROBABLY ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS ONLY HALF AS LONG AND FOR THE PREMIERE EPISODE, WE WERE SO HAPPY TO HAVE THIS AWESOME SHOW BACK AFTER SUMMER HIATUS!**

BEST Reality Show EVER!!!

My favorite shows are on tv Thursday nights, and last week’s episodes of both shows were really good. The Lost episode and the Office were up to par for sure, if not even a little better than usual. And some great news we got while watching ABC – it seems we won’t be entirely without tv this summer since they’re bringing back our favorite reality show, the best one ever in my opinion, The Mole! This show revolves around 12 contestants who perform various tasks. In past seasons the tasks have involved navigating around strange countries and scavenger hunt-type things. The contestants work together to try to add money to the “pot”; except for the twist: one of the players is a saboteur, the Mole, who tries to work against the other players, trying NOT to get money added to the pot. Obviously the Mole cannot be obvious about

his or her identity because if he or she is the last one left, then the Mole wins the game. Each week, the contestants take a quiz about the Mole, and the person with the fewest correct answers gets eliminated. There has been 4 seasons of the Mole, the first 2 being hosted by Anderson Cooper, the CNN anchor, and the next 2 being celebrity editions hosted by Ahmad Rashad. The show has not aired since 2004, and I have missed it! It is very entertaining, and I am VERY excited it's coming back to tv, especially since I will be going into Lost and especially Office withdrawal this summer!

Especially compounding the tv withdrawal this summer is that the episodes of my favorite shows were extra good last Thursday! Lost actually answered more questions than it asked, they actually continued some of the hanging plot lines instead of giving us new ones to ponder, and no new characters were introduced! Part 2 of the season finale airs in 2 weeks, and last night's episode really whet my appetite for this season's cliffhanger!

The Office was back to being utterly hilarious this week. The plot line with Toby's replacement being under the impression that Kevin is "special" was my favorite. I was also glad to see the return of Jan, though part of me was disappointed to discover it wasn't Michael's baby (according to Jan anyway – maybe a twist to look for next season?). Michael's new "love" for Holly was sweet and intense, but he actually might not be too far off this time – she seems like she might be a good match for him. I loved the part where he breaks into a Yoda impression after she says yoga, she just stares at him like he's bizarre, but then she breaks into a Yoda impression of her own. This might be a match made in heaven! But then again, Michael had to be an idiot and gloss over Holly's invitation to get dessert... typical Michael Scott behavior! I can't believe we're back to waiting months for the show to come back on again! At least The Mole will keep me busy with tv – I highly recommend it!

The Office is BACK... And Now GONE Again!

I don't know about anyone else, but I thought this season of "The Office" on NBC started out as great as all the others. Then, enter the writer's strike... Many precious weeks of laughs lost.

After the writer's strike I could see some rusty red-brown.

Not that it wasn't funny. Hey, I would take the worst episode of "The Office" over the best episode of "Home Improvement" or "According to Jim" any day. It was just not AS funny.

But last night's season finale was PERFECT. Vintage "The Office"... Jim & Pam, Dwight & Angela, Andrew Bernard... AND MICHAEL!

The magic and chemistry (of the cast) that makes this show was back big time in the finale!

Watching Jim work so hard to keep Michael from moving too fast with the new Toby replacement – you know, the one Michael claims he loves!

Seeing the new Toby replacement (boy, I need to lookup her name – it's HOLLY) interact with Kevin all the time thinking he is "special".

Learning that Jan is pregnant, but not with Michael's baby – she got some of the good stuff from the sperm bank because "maybe if I were younger, I'd let Michael be the father of one of my children, but not now, not when it counts." (she's getting older).

Then seeing poor Michael miss out on an opportunity too go out with a clearly interested Holly when she hints she would like to go out and get some desert. She ends up going with Kevin. You know, the "special" one.

Ahh, "The Office". This season reminds me of many a football season as a Chicago Bears fan. They start strong then take a big loaf in the middle of the season... Then, they start picking up momentum again only to end the season with a big win! But, no playoffs. Hey, that was the Bears LAST season!

Anyway, I will miss you Dwight, Michael, Jim, Pam, Inmate Ryan, Kevin, and others. See you next season!