

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!**