

The Office – Season Premiere!

WARNING – SPOILERS AHEAD! THIS POST DETAILS THE HAPPENINGS DURING THE OFFICE PREMIERE – YOU’VE BEEN WARNED!

I can’t believe I didn’t get around to writing about the Office season premiere until now! For goodness sakes, it aired almost two weeks ago! It all began when our kids were acting up so much that we didn’t catch the premiere episode when it aired on tv the Thursday night before last Thursday night. Still with me? Doesn’t really matter... just skip to the part of the post you like. Thinking we had set our computer to tape The Office premiere or that we could find it online, we didn’t fret too much until it was time for bed and we still hadn’t found it. Finally got ahold of it late Friday night after some corn maze fun, stayed up way too late to watch it, followed by a busy weekend, a chaotic week, and another bustling weekend before I got a chance to write about it! So anyway, here is my take on The Office’s premiere episode. I always like what tvguide.com has to say in their tv show blogs, so I copied and pasted their tv show blog synopsis of the premiere and that’s in italics. I will interject my own comments throughout the article, and those are in **BOLD CAPS**. A brief break for the Vice Presidential debate last Thursday, and then some more funny new Office episodes begin this Thursday!!!

Last season ended with cliff-hangers galore: Andy proposed to Angela, Jim was thwarted from proposing to Pam, Michael committed to playing babydaddy to Jan’s mystery spawn, and – this really killed me because my DVR cut off early and I only found out about this the next day – the cameras, those ubiquitous Office cameras, caught Dwight and Angela boinking minutes after she accepted Andy’s proposal. The writers developed great storylines last season, and this premiere episode did a great job picking up those threads and setting

up some great arcs for this season. (AGREED! AT THE RISK OF ALIENATING POTENTIAL VIEWERS, I WILL SAY THAT THIS SHOW IS A COMEDY WITH SOAPY CHARACTERISTICS GIVEN ITS CONTINUING STORYLINES AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT. BUT IF YOU'VE NEVER WATCHED THE OFFICE, DON'T LET THIS OBSERVATION DISCOURAGE YOU! MOST TV SIT-COMS HAVE CONTINUING STORYLINES – YOU JUST DON'T ALWAYS REALIZE IT!)

*****SPOILER ALERT*****

Thursday's premiere was chock-full of big shockers: Jim's proposal to Pam at a rest stop, Ryan's return as a receptionist bent on revenge (IT'S GREAT FUN TO SEE RYAN AT THE BOTTOM ONCE AGAIN – EVEN MORE FUN TO SEE HIM AT THE BOTTOM NOW AFTER HIS SMARMY ATTITUDE ALIENATING HIS CO-WORKERS), and Dwight and Angela's secret affair – consummated in an out-of-the way warehouse closet. Lots to talk about, so let's get started.

The episode begins with the announcement of a corporate weight-loss contest, a still-unengaged Pam leaving for Pratt Design in New York (“what up, 2-1-2?”) and Angela beeping Dwight for some Office lovin', right after Andy serenades her with a personalized version of Rihanna's “Umbrella” (“Angela-ela-ela”). Honestly, I would page Dwight for a booty call if somebody did that to me, so I'm definitely not going to moralize.

Meanwhile, Michael is in the “friend zone” with Holly, and, according to Jim, “killing it” because “she's kind of a dork.” Cut to the “wicka-wicka-wicka” bebop (I think that's what the kids call it), and you appreciate that there's a special chemistry there. (I also loved the “Acting!” and Yoda impersonations in last season's finale.) Clearly, Jan and the baby are going to complicate matters, but since Michael may have found in Holly the only woman with whom he could possibly have a healthy relationship, I'm rooting for them. The writers, though, seem hell-bent on making his journey with Jan

and the baby as difficult as possible. I'm looking forward to the ride. (I SO WANT MICHAEL AND HOLLY TO END UP TOGETHER – THEY'RE PERFECT FOR EACH OTHER AND SHE SEEMS TO ACTUALLY LIKE HIM. HE KEEPS BEING SO CLUELESS ABOUT IT THOUGH, ITS FRUSTRATINGLY FUN TO WATCH!)

As for Jim and Pam: The writers really have it in for them, don't they? First, unrequited love. Then, Jim leaves and returns with a girlfriend. When he comes back, Jim is almost killed by Roy – thank God for Deputy Dwight and his can of mace! – and now, a long-distance relationship? Really? The Office has been great at avoiding clichés, and I hope it continues to do so by not sucking Pam into a complicating “friendship” with some college dude. (I WAS NOT HAPPY TO SEE THE FRIENDSHIP WITH THE COLLEGE DUDE. PAM HAD BETTER NOT PULL A “ROSS” (REMEMBER THE TV SHOW FRIENDS?) AND CHEAT ON HER SOULMATE – SHE AND JIM ARE MADE FOR EACH OTHER, AND I THINK THE SHOW WOULD BE JUST AS ENTERTAINING IF THEY GO AHEAD AND LET THESE TWO GET MARRIED. IF THEY WANT TO FOLLOW IN CHEESY SITCOM FOOTSTEPS, THEN ADD A BABY OR TWO DOWN THE ROAD, BUT DON'T BREAK THEM UP!)

And now on to my favorite scenes:

The return of Ryan

I found myself clapping out loud, it was that awesome that a humbled, court-ordered-community-service-oriented Ryan returns as Pam's temp fill-in. Ryan's out for some weird revenge angle, as evidenced by his menacing goatee, his black attire and his anti-Earl list, which includes Jim and – strangely enough – Kevin. I'm sure Michael will figure out a way to keep him around longer, but I wonder if the once-humble intern truly has turned irrevocably to the dark side. (I THINK SO – RYAN WAS NEVER A NICE PERSON. SURE, THEY MADE YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HIM WHEN HE WAS A TEMP THE FIRST TIME, BUT HE WAS STILL A JERK.)

“So you think it's a choice?”

The patented Office awkwardness of Oscar and Holly having the "I'm a lesbian... No, I'm actually not" exchange was fantastic. It certainly didn't reach the cringeworthy heights of last year's classic dinner-party episode, but it still managed to make me laugh and squirm like no other show on TV does. For some reason, that appeals to me. (THIS SCENE WAS HILARIOUS AND ONE OF MY FAVORITES – NUFF SAID!)

"That wasn't a tapeworm."

I would like to proclaim, in this, my initial Office blog, that Creed is my hero. He may be my favorite sitcom character of all time. Kelly says she swallowed a tapeworm to lose weight... that Creed sold her. Cut to Creed: "That wasn't a tapeworm." The only question that remains, and I'm afraid of the answer: What was it? (I AM A BIG FAN OF CREED ALSO – HE IS AN AWESOME CHARACTER, SOOO FUNNY. MY FAVORITE CREED LINE IS WHEN HE SAYS "YEP, IT'S CRAZY. IT'S CRAZY." IN THE EPISODE WHERE DWIGHT WANTS TO COOK A GOOSE IN THE OFFICE. IT DOESN'T LOOK NEARLY AS FUNNY IN TYPE; YOU HAVE TO SEE THE EPISODE. AND THEN THERE'S THE EPISODE WHERE CREED DYES HIS HAIR AND STARTS USING SLANG TO APPEAR YOUNGER – CLASSIC!)

"I've replaced Angela as head of the party-planning committee."

Phyllis reveals her Machiavellian side with this power play. As she caught Angela and Dwight doing their illicit dirty deed, her little upward smile indicated at the very moment she caught them that the party-planning committee chairmanship was all hers. You go, girl!

The big shocker: Jim and Pam get engaged!

On exit 17 off of what I can only assume is the New Jersey Turnpike, Jim drops on one knee and pops the question. I'm really glad they didn't drag it out and save the engagement for some sweeps or finale ploy. The unexpectedness of the proposal, and how unassuming it was, really kept true to the nature of their relationship. For me, this is one the main reasons why this show is so great: The writers don't betray

their characters. (AGREED!)

So, what did you guys think? Was the Season 5 premiere worth the wait? (IT WAS GREAT, BUT NEVER WORTH THE WAIT CUZ THAT MEANS THAT WE HAVE TO GO WITHOUT THE SHOW!) *What did you think of the engagement?* (VERY HAPPY ABOUT IT – CALMS MY FEARS ABOUT THAT RANDOM COLLEGE DUDE A LITTLE BIT – I WAS FEELING JEALOUS FOR JIM!) *Did you see it coming or were you, like me, totally shocked?* (I WAS SHOCKED, DIDN'T SEE IT COMING AT ALL, BUT IT WAS SOMETHING I WAS REALLY HAPPY ABOUT. I'M GLAD THEY DIDN'T SHOW IT TO US IN A PREVIEW!) *Finally, what were your favorite scenes?* (THE OSCAR / HOLLY EXCHANGE AND THE CREED / KELLY TAPEWORM INCIDENT WERE MY FAVORITES – KELLY LOOKING SO SICK AND PASSING OUT WERE PRICELESS! OVERALL, AS SO OFTEN HAPPENS WITH TV SHOWS, THE SEASON PREMIERE DID NOT DISAPPOINT IN THE SLIGHTEST! CAN'T WAIT UNTIL THURSDAY!!!!!!)