

= Krusty Gets Busted =

" Krusty Gets Busted " is the twelfth episode of The Simpsons ' first season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on April 29 , 1990 . The episode was written by Jay Kogen and Wallace Wolodarsky , and directed by Brad Bird . In the episode , Krusty the Clown is convicted of armed robbery of the Kwik @-@ E @-@ Mart . Convinced that Krusty has been framed , Bart and Lisa investigate the incident and discover that Krusty 's sidekick , Sideshow Bob , was the culprit .

This episode marks the first full @-@ fledged appearance of Kent Brockman , and Kelsey Grammer makes his first guest appearance on the show as the voice of Sideshow Bob . The episode was well received by critics , and it was the highest rated show on the Fox Network the week it aired .

= = Plot = =

Homer stops by the Kwik @-@ E @-@ Mart on the way home from work , and witnesses a robbery committed by a masked clown resembling Krusty . He identifies the clown as Krusty to the police , and Krusty is arrested , upsetting Bart , who considers him to be his idol . During his trial the next day , Krusty is revealed to be illiterate . After being called out to the stand , Homer points out Krusty as the robber , and he is convicted and sentenced to jail . The community then gathers up in a public burning as they burn up all of Krusty 's merchandise . Krusty 's sidekick Sideshow Bob becomes the new host of his show and making it a more educational program , while retaining the popular Itchy & Scratchy cartoons . Still refusing to accept that his hero could have committed the crime , Bart enlists the help of a reluctant Lisa and they set out to prove Krusty 's innocence .

At the scene of the crime , Lisa deduces Krusty could not have been the robber because the robber used the microwave not suitable for those with a pacemaker (which Krusty was revealed earlier to have) , and reading a magazine at the magazine rack . She accepts Bart 's theory that he may have been framed . She asks Bart if there was anyone who had motives to see Krusty gone and he suggests they ask Sideshow Bob because he may identify any known enemies . Bart and Lisa go to Sideshow Bob for his help in finding out if Krusty had any known enemies who wanted him gone , but are given tickets to his show . At the live broadcast , Bart is invited up on stage with Bob , where he points out the facts regarding the microwave and magazine , which Bob dismisses . When Bob says he has " some mighty big shoes to fill " , Bart remembers how Homer stepped on the robber 's shoes that made him scream in pain . When he watched Krusty head to trial , he was wearing normal shoes much too small to hold feet as large as the robber 's . Bart knew that despite wearing clown shoes all the time , Krusty never would have felt Homer stepping on them due to his small feet . It was then he realized that Sideshow Bob is the real robber , since he had the most to gain in Krusty 's downfall and has large feet . Bart proves his evidence by hitting Bob 's feet with a comedy mallet on live television . The police , having watched the show , realized they wrongfully put Krusty in jail for a crime he did not commit and head down the studio to arrest Sideshow Bob .

Arrested and exposed , Bob confesses that the reason he framed Krusty was out of frustration for constantly being on the receiving end of the clown 's humiliating gags . He gives a grudging kudos to the Simpson kids before being carted off to jail . Bob warns criminals not to underestimate children in spite of their innocent looks , because they were smart enough to foil him and can do the same to them . The charges against Krusty are dropped and he regains the trust of the community . Homer then apologizes to Krusty for fingering him in court , and Krusty thanks Bart for standing up for the truth and sticking to his convictions , and a picture is taken of the two shaking hands (which Bart later hangs in his bedroom , refilled with Krusty decor) .

= = Production = =

Director Brad Bird wanted to open the episode with a close up of Krusty 's face . The staff liked the idea and he then suggested that all three acts of the episode , defined by the placement of the commercial breaks , should begin with a close up shot . Act one begins with Krusty 's face introducing the audience at his show , act two begins with Krusty 's face being locked up behind

bars , and act three begins with Sideshow Bob 's face on a big poster . Krusty 's character is based on a television clown from Portland , Oregon , called Rusty Nails , whom The Simpsons creator Matt Groening watched while growing up in Portland . The original teleplay , written by Jay Kogen and Wallace Wolodarsky , was 78 pages long and many scenes had to be cut . One scene that had to be cut down was the scene where Patty and Selma show the slideshow of their vacation ; it originally contained images of them being detained for bringing heroin into America .

Sideshow Bob 's first major appearance on The Simpsons was in this episode , but he first appeared in the season one episode " The Telltale Head " . In that appearance , his design was more simple and his hair was round in shape . However near the end of the episode he appears with his more familiar hairstyle . Bob 's design was updated for " Krusty Gets Busted " , and the animators tried to redo his scenes in " The Telltale Head " with the re @-@ design , but did not have enough time . The script for " Krusty Gets Busted " called for James Earl Jones to voice Bob , but the producers instead went with Kelsey Grammer , a cast member on Cheers at the time . Kent Brockman and Scott Christian make their first appearances on The Simpsons in this episode .

= = Cultural references = =

Chief Wiggum 's order during the suspect line @-@ up to " send in the clowns " is an allusion to the Stephen Sondheim song " Send in the Clowns " from the 1973 musical A Little Night Music . The Sondheim musical took its name from Mozart 's Serenade No. 13 for strings in G major , Eine kleine Nachtmusik , which is the theme tune to Sideshow Bob 's show . The close up shot of Krusty 's face behind bars in the beginning of act two is a reference of the closing credit motif of the British television series The Prisoner from the 1960s . The background music in that scene resembles the theme of the television series Mission : Impossible at one point . The line " The Day the Laughter Died " , shown during the newscast , is a reference to the Andrew Dice Clay album released the previous month . Sideshow Bob is reading The Man in the Iron Mask by Alexander Dumas to the studio audience . The song " Ev 'ry Time We Say Goodbye " by Cole Porter is featured in the episode . Following Sideshow Bob 's arrest , he mutters : " I would 've gotten away with it too , if it weren 't for these meddling kids . " , which is a reference to a catchphrase from Hanna @-@ Barbera 's animated television show Scooby @-@ Doo .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " Krusty Gets Busted " finished thirteenth place in the ratings for the week of May 23 ? 29 , 1990 , with a Nielsen rating of 16 @.@ 4 . It was the highest rated show on the Fox network that week . The episode received generally positive reviews from critics . Series creator Matt Groening listed it as his ninth favorite episode of The Simpsons and added " I have a peculiar love of TV clownery " . Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , the authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide , praised the episode : " The invention of the Simpsons ' arch enemy as a lugubrious yet psychotic Englishman in dreadlocks succeeds wonderfully in this super @-@ fast , super @-@ funny episode that works by constantly reversing the audience 's expectations . " In a DVD review of the first season , David B. Grelck gave the episode a rating of 3 / 5 . Colin Jacobson at DVD Movie Guide said in a review that " throughout the episode we found great material ; it really seemed clear that the show was starting to turn into the piece we now know and love . It ? s hard for me to relate any deficiencies " and added that " almost every Bob episode offers a lot of fun , and this episode started that trend in fine style . "