

= The Fight (The Office) =

" The Fight " is the sixth episode of the second season of the television series The Office , and the show 's twelfth episode overall . It was written by Gene Stupnitsky and Lee Eisenberg and directed by Ken Kwapis . It originally aired on November 1 , 2005 on NBC . " The Fight " guest starred Lance Krall , who played the part of Dwight 's sensei , Ira .

The series depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In this episode , Michael Scott (Steve Carell) , after being embarrassed by Dwight Schrute 's (Rainn Wilson) superior fighting skills , engages in a karate match with Dwight during lunch . Meanwhile , Jim Halpert 's (John Krasinski) flirting with Pam Beesly (Jenna Fischer) goes too far .

" The Fight " was known as " Karate " and " The Dojo " by members of the cast and crew due to many of the scenes featuring the titular fight . Several of the cast members of the show , recurring and starring , had martial arts experience . The episode contained several cultural references , with many referring to popular fighting @-@ related movies and television shows . " The Fight " received largely positive reviews from critics . The episode earned a Nielsen rating of 3 @.@ 9 in the 18 ? 49 demographic and was viewed by 7 @.@ 9 million viewers .

= = Synopsis = =

Michael Scott (Steve Carell) has one task : sign routine documents . Unfortunately , it 's a month where three separate sets of paperwork are due at the same time , so Michael mulishly ignores his workload . To procrastinate , Michael makes Ryan Howard (B.J. Novak) update emergency contact information of the staff . When Michael gets Ryan 's cell phone number , he constantly prank calls Ryan with crude impersonations of Michael Jackson , Mike Tyson , and Saddam Hussein .

Talk of Dwight Schrute 's (Rainn Wilson) karate experience gets Michael 's competitive juices flowing , leading to a lunchtime match between the two at Dwight 's dojo . Jim Halpert (John Krasinski) accidentally goes too far when horsing around with Pam Beesly (Jenna Fischer) , and she abruptly shuts him down when their co @-@ workers take notice .

After a pathetic showing by both combatants , Michael emerges victorious over Dwight , which leads to Dwight changing his emergency contact from " Michael Scott " to " The Hospital " . At the end of the day , Michael promotes Dwight from his lowly " Assistant to the Regional Manager " position to his dream position : " Assistant Regional Manager " (although the " promotion " is little more than a title change only) . However , this was done most likely to ensure that Dwight will still idolize him despite the hard feelings over their lunchtime battle . The rest of the staff , fed up with Michael 's inability to accomplish even the simplest task , are forced to forge his signature on all the documents and get home .

On the way out , Jim gives Pam the bag of chips he owed her from earlier . Pam quietly takes them and stares in a forgiving manner after Jim leaves .

= = Production = =

" The Fight " was written by Gene Stupnitsky and Lee Eisenberg , while Ken Kwapis served as the episode 's director . The episode was the first entry of the series to be written by Stupnitsky and Eisenberg ; it was also Kwapis ' fifth episode directed . The episode guest starred comedian and actor Lance Krall , who portrayed Dwight 's sensei , Ira . B.J. Novak , who portrays Ryan Howard in the series , noted that when the episode was being filmed , the majority of the cast and crew called it " ' Karate ' , or ' The Dojo ' , since the most memorable scenes involve a karate fight . " Novak explained that the episode centered on the effects of procrastination " carried to the nth degree " . However , he noted that it was more memorable as " the episode in which Steve Carell and Rainn Wilson jump @-@ kick each other in public to try to prove a point . "

Several of the cast members had experience in martial arts prior to the filming of the episode . Rainn Wilson used to study karate and is a certified yellow belt . Krall is a black belt in Taekwondo

and was nationally ranked . One of the girls who played one of Dwight 's classmates was actually a black belt , but was forced to wear a white belt ; ultimately , she was unhappy about having to hide her ability . Eventually , she vented her frustration by " practically knock [ing] Rainn over when she kicked the pad he was holding " , which was included in the episode . During the filming of the episode , the protective piece of headgear that Wilson wore actually cut him .

During the filming of many scenes in the episode , the cast and crew member kept breaking character and laughing . Jenna Fischer recalls that she had to film the scene where Ryan reveals that he is working on emergency contacts " about 20 times " . In addition , Fischer noted that her and John Krasinski kept laughing " about a million times " during the kitchen confrontation between Michael and Dwight . During the dojo scenes , cinematographer Randall Einhorn and Krall " lost it " when Michael pinned down Dwight and began to spit on him . In fact , shots of Krall (and several of the cast) laughing made it into the closing scene of the episode .

The Season Two DVD contains a number of deleted scenes from this episode . Notable cut scenes include brief shots of Dwight at the dojo and Michael and Dwight preparing to fight , Jim asking Dwight whom he could take on in a fight , Dwight discusses the result of the fight , Stanley confronting Michael about signing the forms , Michael saying that " no one ever lost their job for missing deadlines " , and Michael delivering Pam the emergency contact information .

= = Cultural references = =

During the game of " phone tag " , Michael impersonates Michael Jackson , Tito Jackson , Mike Tyson , and Saddam Hussein . In addition , several songs are alluded to . Michael sings " I don 't want to work / I just want to bang on this mug all day " to the tune of Bang the Drum All Day by Todd Rundgren . Jim alludes to the Jets , one of the rival street gangs in the musical West Side Story , by quoting the noted lyrics " When you 're a Jet , you 're a Jet all the way " , as well as snapping his fingers in the same way as the gang members . Several popular quotes are misused in the episode : Michael consistently misuses the phrase " Catch @-@ 22 " , and Dwight mistakes the phrase " tit for tat " as " tit for tit " .

Several noted films are referenced in the episode . After grabbing Dwight in a sleeper hold , Michael nonsensically shouts out Bedtime for Bonzo , a 1951 movie starring Ronald Reagan . Michael notes that Dwight cried at the end of Armageddon , a 1998 science fiction action movie starring Bruce Willis . Michael 's line " You talkin ' to me ? " is a line performed by Robert De Niro in the movie Taxi Driver . Michael mis @-@ attributes it to Al Pacino in Raging Bull . The Karate Kid franchise is referenced two separate times . Michael notes that Dwight is the " Hilary Swank version " , a reference to The Next Karate Kid , the fourth movie in the Karate Kid series , starring Swank as the first female student of sensei Miyagi . Kevin later tells Dwight to " sweep the leg " , a quote from the original movie . The episode also contains several television references . Jim mocks Pam by doubting her status as an Ultimate Fighter ; The Ultimate Fighter is a reality television series in the form of a martial arts competition . Michael turns the insult " queer " into a reference to Queer Eye for the Straight Guy , a make @-@ over reality television program featuring five openly gay men dispensing fashion and style advice .

= = Reception = =

" The Fight " originally aired on NBC in the United States on November 1 , 2005 . The episode was viewed by 7 @. @ 9 million viewers and received a 3 @. @ 9 rating / 9 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 3 @. @ 9 % of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds , and 9 % of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . An encore presentation of the episode , on April 25 , 2006 , received 3 @. @ 0 rating / 8 % share and retained 91 % of its lead in " My Name is Earl " viewership . The encore presentation was viewed by over 6 @. @ 1 million viewers .

Erik Adams of The A.V. Club awarded the episode a " B " , and wrote that he enjoyed the way the important elements of the episode go " unspoken : Jim composes an apology email but doesn 't

send it ; the way the spectators are blocked during the main event at the dojo , there ? s practically an entire office standing between Krasinski and Jenna Fischer . " Adams also enjoyed the way the episode wrote Pam 's reaction , noting " is she generally uncomfortable , is she afraid of what Meredith might assume , or is she afraid of her own feelings ? "

Critical reception to the episode was largely positive . " Miss Alli " from Television Without Pity gave the episode a positive review and rated it an A ? . Francis Rizzo III from DVD Talk called the episode " classic " , and praised the performance of Rainn Wilson as Dwight . He noted that the episode , along with several others , " wouldn 't be nearly as entertaining " without his character . TV Fanatic reviewed several quotes from " The Fight " , and rated Michael 's " Would I rather be feared or loved ? " soliloquy and Michael 's confession that Dwight cried at the end of Armageddon 5 out of 5 . In 2006 , Jenna Fischer said that the episode 's cold opening , featuring Jim moving Dwight 's desk into the bathroom , was her favorite prank on the show .