

= Hell Is Other Robots =

" Hell Is Other Robots " is the ninth episode of Futurama . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on May 18 , 1999 , as the season finale of the first season . The episode was written by Eric Kaplan and directed by Rich Moore . Guest stars in this episode include the Beastie Boys as themselves and Dan Castellaneta voicing the Robot Devil . The episode is one of the first to focus heavily on Bender . In the episode , he develops an addiction to electricity . When this addiction becomes problematic , Bender joins the Temple of Robotology , but after Fry and Leela tempt Bender with alcohol and prostitutes , he quits the Temple of Robotology and is visited by the Robot Devil for sinning , and Bender is sent to Robot Hell . Finally Fry and Leela come to rescue him , and the three escape .

The episode introduces the Robot Devil , Reverend Lionel Preacherbot and the religion of the Temple of Robotology , a spoof on the Church of Scientology . The episode received positive reviews , and was one of four featured on the DVD boxed set of Matt Groening 's favorite episodes : " Monster Robot Maniac Fun Collection " .

= = Plot = =

After a Beastie Boys concert , Bender attends a party with his old friend , Fender , a giant guitar amp . At the party Bender and the other robots abuse electricity by " jacking on , " and Bender develops an addiction . After receiving a near @-@ lethal dose from an electrical storm , Bender realizes he has a problem and searches for help . He joins the Temple of Robotology , accepting the doctrine of eternal damnation in Robot Hell should he sin . After baptizing him in oil , the Reverend Lionel Preacherbot welds the symbol of Robotology to Bender 's case . As Bender begins to annoy his co @-@ workers with his new religion , Fry and Leela decide they want the " old Bender " back . They fake a delivery to Atlantic City , New Jersey and tempt Bender with alcohol , prostitutes and easy targets for theft .

He eventually succumbs , rips off the Robotology symbol and throws it away , causing it to beep ominously . While seducing three female robots , Bender is interrupted by a knock at his hotel room door . He opens the door and is knocked unconscious . He awakens to see the Robot Devil and finds himself in Robot Hell . The Robot Devil reminds Bender that he agreed to be punished for sinning when he joined Robotology . After discovering Bender is missing , Fry and Leela track him down using Nibbler 's sense of smell . They eventually find the entrance to Robot Hell in an abandoned amusement park that Fry remembers from the 20th @-@ century ( he claims the place shut down after a bunch of people got salmonella from the flume ride ) . A musical number starts as the Robot Devil begins detailing Bender 's punishment . As the song ends , Fry and Leela arrive and try to reason with the Robot Devil on Bender 's behalf .

The Robot Devil tells them that the only way to win back Bender 's soul is to beat him in a fiddle @-@ playing contest , as required under the " Fairness in Hell Act of 2275 " . He begins the contest by playing a bit of Antonio Bazzini 's " La Ronde des Lutins " . Leela responds , having experience in playing the drums , but after a few notes it is clear Leela 's fiddle playing is pathetic , so she assaults the Robot Devil with the fiddle instead . As Fry , Leela , and Bender flee the Robot Devil 's clutches , Bender steals the wings off a flying torture robot , attaches them to his back , and airlifts Fry and Leela to safety . Leela drops the heavy golden fiddle onto the Robot Devil 's head , making them light enough to escape . Bender promises to never be too good or too evil but to remain as he was before joining the Temple of Robotology .

= = Production = =

David X. Cohen and Ken Keeler traveled to New York to work with the Beastie Boys for their role . They waited three days for the Beastie Boys to call and say they were willing to record but eventually gave up and returned to the studios in Los Angeles . The audio tracks were recorded later . Adam " MCA " Yauch was unavailable at the time of the recording so only Adam " King

Adrock " Horovitz and Michael " Mike D " Diamond voice themselves in the episode , with Horovitz also voicing Yauch . The Beastie Boys perform their 1998 hit single " Intergalactic " and " Super Disco Breakin " , the first track from their album , Hello Nasty . It was initially requested that they perform " Fight for Your Right " but they declined . The episode also contains Futurama 's first original musical number . The lyrics to " Robot Hell " were written by Eric Kaplan and Ken Keeler and the music was written by Keeler and Christopher Tyng . When praised for his performance in the audio commentary , John DiMaggio , the voice of Bender , noted that the most difficult part of the performance was singing in a lower octave rather than keeping up with the song 's fast pace .

The episode lampoons drug addiction and religious conversion . In the DVD commentary for the episode , David X. Cohen , Matt Groening and Eric Kaplan all agreed that they felt comfortable enough with each of the Futurama characters to begin to take them in new and strange directions . Cohen noted that Bender 's addiction is a perfect example of something they could do with a robot character which they could not get away with had it been a human character . One person at the studio refused to work on this episode because they did not agree with the portrayal of some of the religious content . Cohen also noted that the writing team had begun to loosen up during this episode , which gave it a feel similar to the series ' later episodes . Kaplan claimed that before editing , there was enough material to make a three @-@ part episode .

= = Themes = =

This episode is one of very few that focuses on the religious aspects of the Futurama universe . In most episodes , it is indicated that the Planet Express crew , along with most beings in the year 3000 , are " remarkably unreligious " . It introduces two of the religious figures of Futurama , The Robot Devil and Reverend Lionel Preacherbot , both of whom make appearances in later episodes . Preacherbot , who speaks in a manner typical of inner @-@ city African @-@ American pastor stereotypes , converts Bender to the religion Robotology . This leads to a series of events that are similar in many ways to the experiences of real world religious converts . Mark Pinsky states that the episode has a " double @-@ edged portrayal of religion " as it portrays both an improvement in Bender 's character but also some of the " less pleasant characteristics of the newly pious " . The Robot Devil is introduced after Bender 's fall back into sin . Pinsky writes in The Gospel According to The Simpsons , that while explaining to Bender his claim on his soul , the Robot Devil uses logic similar to that used by many Southern Baptists : " Bender tried to plead his case , without success . ' You agreed to this when you joined our religion , ' the devil replies , in logic any Southern Baptist would recognize . ' You sin , you go to robot hell ? for all eternity . " By the end of the episode , Bender has returned to his old ways and states that he will no longer try to be either too good or too bad , a parody and contradiction of the Book of Revelation statement that one should not be lukewarm in his faith .

= = Cultural references = =

This episode contains a large amount of religious parody , with references to many religiously themed works of fiction . The episode 's title is itself a parody of the famous line " Hell is other people " from Jean @-@ Paul Sartre 's one act play No Exit , though the episode has no other resemblance to the play . The punishments in Robot Hell are similar to the levels and rationale which are portrayed in Dante 's The Divine Comedy , specifically the Inferno . The " Fairness in Hell Act " , where the damned may engage in a fiddle battle to save his soul and win a solid gold fiddle , is taken directly from The Charlie Daniels Band song " The Devil Went Down to Georgia " . Jokes poking fun at New Jersey are included because writer David X. Cohen and actor John DiMaggio both grew up there .

The Temple of Robotology is a spoof of the Church of Scientology , and according to series creator Matt Groening he received a call from the Church of Scientology concerned about the use of a similar name . Groening 's The Simpsons had previously parodied elements of Scientology in the Season 9 episode " The Joy of Sect " . In a review of the episode , TV Squad later posed the

question : " Is the Temple of Robotology a poke at the Church of Scientology ? " When TV Squad asked actor Billy West about this , he jokingly sidestepped the issue .

= = Reception = =

" Hell Is Other Robots " is one of four episodes featured in the DVD boxed set *Monster Robot Maniac Fun Collection* , Matt Groening 's favorite episodes from the first four seasons . The DVD includes audio commentary from Groening and John DiMaggio , the voice of Bender , as well as a full @-@ length animatic of the episode . In an article on the DVD release , Winston @-@ Salem Journal described " Hell Is Other Robots " as one of *Futurama* 's best episodes . Dan Castellaneta 's performance as the Robot Devil in this episode and " The Devil 's Hands are Idle Playthings " was described as a " bravura appearance " . In a review of *Futurama* 's first @-@ season DVD release , the South Wales Echo highlighted the episode along with " Fear of a Bot Planet " as " crazy episodes " of the series . Brian Cortis of *The Age* gave the episode a rating of three stars out of four .

Writing in *The Observer* after *Futurama* 's debut in the United States but before it aired in the United Kingdom , Andrew Collins wrote favorably of the series and highlighted " Hell Is Other Robots " and " Love 's Labors Lost in Space " . He noted that the jokes " come thick and fast " . John G. Nettles of *PopMatters* wrote : " ' Hell is Other Robots ' is a terrific introduction to Bender and *Futurama* 's irreverent humor , sly social satire , and damn catchy musical numbers . " TV Squad wrote that the series ' funnier material appears in " Robot Hell ? after Bender is ' born again ' in the Temple of Robotology . " David Johnson of *DVD Verdict* described " Hell Is Other Robots " as " Not one of my favorites " , criticizing the episode for focusing a large amount on the character of Bender . Johnson concluded his review by rating the episode a " B " . The episode led to a Dark Horse Comics book , *Futurama Pop @-@ Out People : Hell Is Other Robots* .