

= Flu Shot (30 Rock) =

" Flu Shot " is the eighth episode of the third season of the American television comedy series 30 Rock . It was written by Jon Pollack , and directed by series producer Don Scardino . The episode originally aired on the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) in the United States on January 15 , 2009 . Guest stars in this episode include George Bartenieff , Scott Bryce , Salma Hayek , and Chris Parnell .

In the episode , Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) campaigns for her staff 's right to get flu shots from Dr. Leo Spaceman (Parnell) , but Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) will not allow it due to a limited supply . Meanwhile , Jack tries to think of creative ways to spend time with his girlfriend , Elisa (Hayek) , as she works seven days a week . At the same time , Jenna Maroney (Jane Krakowski) and Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) try to do something nice for the crew .

" Flu Shot " received a mixed response from television critics , with Robert Canning of IGN concluding that the episode fell below 30 Rock standards . According to the Nielsen ratings system , it was watched by 6 @. @ 6 million households during its original broadcast , and received a 3 @. @ 2 rating / 8 share among viewers in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

= = Plot = =

Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) is excited about her vacation week , until she gets a text message from her assistant , Cerie Xerox (Katrina Bowden) , that the hotel she had planned to stay at was overbooked . Liz goes to see Dr. Leo Spaceman (Chris Parnell) who is giving out flu shots at the 30 Rock studios . She learns that the shots are given to select few employees . Her boss , Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) , asks her to let him know about the most important individuals in her staff that should receive flu shots . Liz does not agree with Jack that he should ration out health care , which results in Liz not getting a shot . Jack considers giving the show 's page , Kenneth Parcell (Jack McBrayer) , one of the remaining shots , as he is very ill with the flu , though Kenneth refuses . Later , Jack continuously asks Liz , but still refuses . This time , she displays her solidarity in front of the The Girlie Show with Tracy Jordan (TGS) crew who show her their appreciation . However , as she sees the crew getting sicker , as days go by , she panics and gets the shot .

Meanwhile , Jack wants to spend time with his girlfriend , Elisa (Salma Hayek) , but her job as a nurse does not allow it . While taking care of an elderly man named Mr. Templeton (George Bartenieff) , who suffers from dementia , Jack persuades her to spend time with him , to which Elisa gives in to , and results in the two bringing Mr. Templeton along on their dates . One day , as they prepare to go out again , Jack and Elisa are shocked when Mr. Templeton 's son , Michael (Scott Bryce) , visits unexpectedly . The elderly man tells his son about the late night escapades , though Elisa tells the son that his story is not true . As Elisa distracts the son , Jack tries to leave the apartment , until Mr. Templeton sees him . Jack explains his situation with Elisa to Mr. Templeton , which he understands , and promises Jack he will not tell his son anything more of the late nights .

At the 30 Rock studios , Jenna Maroney (Jane Krakowski) and Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) , the stars of TGS , decide they want to help the sick crew . They think about getting the crew soup but are too lazy to do it ; instead they decide that laughter is the best medicine . Jenna and Tracy , dressed as clowns , put on a very unsuccessful show at the TGS stage where they end up throwing a pie on Liz 's face . The crew stands up for Liz until they see the red dot where she received the shot . She confesses that she chose the vacation over the crew , as she later was told by Cerie that the hotel had rooms available , which results in the crew hating her for it .

= = Production = =

" Flu Shot " was written by Jon Pollack and directed by Don Scardino . This was Pollack 's second writing credit , having written season two episode " Greenzo " . This was Scardino 's seventeenth directed episode . " Flu Shot " originally aired on NBC as the eighth episode of the show 's third season in the United States on January 15 , 2009 .

This episode was actress Salma Hayek 's second appearance on 30 Rock as the character Elisa . She first appeared in the episode " Señor Macho Solo " as a nurse for Jack Donaghy 's mother and love interest for Jack . In this episode , composer Jeff Richmond wrote a theme for the Elisa character . Actor Chris Parnell , who played Dr. Leo Spaceman in " Flu Shot " , has appeared in the main cast of Saturday Night Live (SNL) , a weekly sketch comedy series which airs on NBC in the United States . Series creator , executive producer and lead actress Tina Fey was the head writer on SNL from 1999 until 2006 . Fey and Tracy Morgan have both been part of the main cast of SNL . Alec Baldwin , who plays Jack , has also hosted SNL fifteen times . This was Parnell 's eighth appearance on the show . Actor Scott Bryce guest @-@ starred as Michael Templeton , the son of Mr. Templeton (George Bartenieff) , though Bryce would make an appearance on the show 's fourth season episode " Don Geiss , America and Hope " as Dave Hess , a former colleague of Jack 's .

According to Fey , in the DVD commentary for this episode , the show was not allowed to " say or imply " that the United States government had truly run out of flu shots , as many jokes in the original script were cut out . In addition , there were " a lot of meetings " in regards to where the red dot on Liz Lemon 's arm would be . In the commentary , Fey revealed that the show had to ask Disney permission to " imply " that Jack and Elisa , while on their date , were in attendance at The Lion King musical , which was granted . The romantic scenes between Jack and Elisa , which showed them at a park at night , were filmed in front of a green screen . The show 's producers initially wanted to go to different locations around New York , but believed it would be too hard to shoot . In addition , Liz 's scenes at the beach were also shot in front of a green screen .

Canadian singer @-@ songwriter Michael Bublé performed the song " Mr. Templeton " that was featured in this episode . In a January 2009 interview , the singer said he was notified by his manager that both Alec Baldwin and Salma Hayek ? fans of the singer ? hoped he could write a " funny little tune " to the " Flu Shot " episode , to which he agreed . Bublé was referenced in the previous episode , " Señor Macho Solo " , as Hayek 's character teases Baldwin 's Jack over his many album collections of the singer . Bublé , a fan of 30 Rock , in an interview with Entertainment Weekly , said he was asked by the show to perform the song , and as a result , Bublé went to Canadian singer Bryan Adams ' studio in Vancouver and recorded " Mr. Templeton " there .

= = Reception = =

According to the Nielsen ratings system , " Flu Shot " was watched by 6 @.@ 6 million households in its original American broadcast . It earned a 3 @.@ 2 rating / 8 share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . This means that it was seen by 3 @.@ 2 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 8 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This was an increase from the previous episode , " Señor Macho Solo " , which was watched by 5 @.@ 4 million American viewers .

Since airing , the episode has received a mixed response from television critics . IGN contributor Robert Canning said " Flu Shot " had a number of aspects that he enjoyed , but " as a whole " the episode was not completely satisfying , and reasoned that this episode fell below 30 Rock standards . He said that he personally did not buy the idea of Liz taking a tropical vacation , " [t] hat 's just not the Liz I know . But even ignoring this , the bits involved , especially the flashes to Liz on the beach , weren 't all that inspired . " Canning also was critical of Jack and Elisa 's story as he felt it was weak . Overall , he rated the episode a 7 @.@ 6 out of 10 . Bob Sassone of AOL 's TV Squad wrote , " Is it just me or was this one of the more lacking episodes of 30 Rock ? It 's not that it was terrible ... but this one just seemed to meander . It wasn 't as funny as other episodes ... and that whole crew @-@ as @-@ zombies @-@ with @-@ the @-@ flu stuff was a little bit too surreal , even for this show . " Further in his review , Sassone wrote that the Tracy and Jenna subplot started funny , but ended " in a lame , predictable manner . " Television columnist Alan Sepinwall for The Star @-@ Ledger , also disliked " Flu Shot " , opining that it was a disappointment . Sepinwall further added that the Jack and Elisa story " felt like something out of a bad ' 80s sitcom ? and not even the 30 Rock take on a bad ' 80s sitcom episode . " Sepinwall , however , wrote that the episode did have a good moment

with Kenneth suggesting to Tracy that he and Jenna get soup for the sick crew themselves , and with Tracy replying " With what ? My arms ? " .

Not all reviews were negative . Claire Zulkey for The A.V. Club wrote , " For me , there are two types of episodes of 30 Rock : the really really good ones , where all the parts come together to make a wonderful whole , and the pretty good ones , where there memorable jokes and lines are all there , but put all together create a kind of uneven episode . That struck me as tonight 's type of episode . " Though , Zulkey felt that the zombies scene " didn 't really work " except for when Liz smashed a picture frame over Pete Hornberger 's (Scott Adsit) head . She said that the " funniest part " from " Flu Shot " was the look on Jack and Elisa 's faces " as the animals from The Lion King walked through the audience . " The Palm Beach Post 's Kevin D. Thompson , in his review of " Flu Shot " , said it featured many funny lines .