

= Gump Roast =

" Gump Roast " is the seventeenth episode of The Simpsons ? thirteenth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on April 21 , 2002 . In the episode , Homer Simpson is honored by the townspeople at a Friars ' Club Roast , until it is interrupted by Kang and Kodos .

The episode was directed by Mark Kirkland and was written by Dan Castellaneta and his wife Deb Lacusta . The plot idea for the episode came about when The Simpsons cast members were on hiatus following a payment dispute . This is the fifth and , so far , the last clip show The Simpsons has produced . Instead , the series implements one " trilogy episode " each season . When it was first broadcast , " Gump Roast " received a 5 @.@ 7 rating and was watched by 12 @.@ 2 million viewers , making it the 16th most watched television show of the night . However , following its release on DVD and Blu @-@ ray , the episode received negative reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

Homer Simpson sits on a park bench holding a box of chocolates , when Chief Wiggum appears to arrest him for impersonating a movie character . Homer tells Wiggum a story that he is not interested in at first , but becomes more intrigued when Homer uses flashbacks to help him tell the story . The Simpson family then arrives to take Homer to the Friars ? Club , where he is roasted by Krusty the Clown and other prominent citizens of Springfield . Among those roasting him are his son Bart , his daughter Lisa , and his boss Mr. Burns who tries to warn the people of Springfield of Homer 's incompetence which , much to his dismay , they think is a joke . The roasters utilize more clips from previous episodes .

Soon , Kang and Kodos arrive at the roast and declare that humans are stupid , as demonstrated by more clips . However , when they probe Homer 's baby daughter Maggie 's brain and see her memories through a monitor , the emotional impact is too much for them that they cry with joy , but angrily attempt to hide it by saying that they were vomiting from their eyes . However , Maggie 's mind also reveals more clips , this time consisting of various celebrities . Kang and Kodos and the citizens make a deal , they agree to spare the Earth if everyone agrees to give them a place in the People 's Choice Awards . They do , and Kang and Kodos enjoy the award ceremony . The episode ends with the song " They ? ll Never Stop the Simpsons " , which recounts additional past plots , possible future plots , and an apology for airing this clip show .

= = Production = =

" Gump Roast " was co @-@ written by Dan Castellaneta and his wife Deb Lacusta , while Mark Kirkland served as director . It was first broadcast on the Fox network in the United States on April 21 , 2002 . The idea for the episode came about when Castellaneta and the other main Simpsons cast members were on hiatus while renegotiating their salaries . During the hiatus , Lacusta and Castellaneta were discussing the film Forrest Gump and questioned whether the stories Gump told actually happened , or if he made them up . They then compared the character to Homer , since they are both dimwitted and have " fumbled into " many different situations . Writing ensued , and when the cast members had settled the payment issue , Castellaneta and Lacusta presented the script to show runner Al Jean , who put the script into production .

The clip in which Homer skis down a mountain is one of the most used clips during events , according to Jean . One of the plot turns in the episode sees Kang and Kodos interrupting the roast . These characters normally only appear in Halloween episodes , however since " Gump Roast " is a clip show and therefore not in The Simpsons canon , Kang and Kodos were included in the episode . Since " Gump Roast " , there has not been any more clip shows of The Simpsons . Jean stated in the DVD commentary for the episode , that since the show now produces " trilogy episodes " (episodes that have three separate stories for each act) each season after season 13 , making a clip show would be unnecessary .

The song " They 'll Never Stop The Simpsons " playing at the end of the episode was written by

Simpsons writer Matt Selman and sung by Castellaneta . It is a parody on the song ? We Didn 't Start the Fire ? by Billy Joel , and was originally the same length as the song it was based on . However , because the episode was too long , the song had to be cut to its current length . In 2011 , the song was re @-@ recorded with alternative lyrics as a promotional video after The Simpsons was renewed for an additional 24th and 25th season . Castellaneta came in and recorded eight new takes , which was mixed together with some of the original vocals .

= = Referenced clips = =

= = Cultural references = =

The opening scene , which shows Homer sitting on a bench holding a box of chocolates , is a reference to the movie Forrest Gump . At one point Homer drunkenly quotes the film Secrets & Lies . The act that Ned Flanders and Reverend Lovejoy are performing at the roast is an homage to the Smothers Brothers , who would later appear on The Simpsons in the episode ? O Brother , Where Bart Thou ? ? . Moe dresses as Austin Powers from the comedy film series . Dr. Hibbert wears a costume of the character Darth Vader from the Star Wars series , and Mr. Burns approaches the podium to the sound of " The Imperial March " , aka " Darth Vader 's Theme " . The song " They 'll Never Stop The Simpsons " is a parody of Billy Joel 's song " We Didn 't Start The Fire " . Agnes Skinner wears a green dress similar to the dress worn by Jennifer Lopez at the 42nd Grammy Awards in 2000 .

= = Release = =

In its original American broadcast on April 21 , 2002 , " Gump Roast " was watched by 12 @.@ 2 million viewers , according to Nielsen Media Research , making it the 16th most watched television show of the night , as well as the highest @-@ ranked show on the Fox network . It received , along with a new episode of Malcolm in the Middle , a 5 @.@ 7 rating among adult viewers between ages 18 and 49 , meaning it was seen by 5 @.@ 7 % of the population in said demographic .

Following the home video release of the thirteenth season of The Simpsons , " Gump Roast " received overwhelmingly negative reviews from critics . Both Ron Martin of 411Mania and Adam Rayner of Obsessed with Film wrote that the episode 's premise is " lazy " , and Rayner added that he felt " cheated " . Andre Dellamorte of Collider was negative as well , writing that the episode ? does a very poor job at justifying its existence " . The episode 's plot was criticized by reviewers ; Jennifer Malkowski of DVD Verdict called the plot " lackluster " and added that it " doesn 't really make sense ? and I mean that last part in a bad way ! " Nate Boss of Project @-@ Blu held a similar view , stated that the plot " made no sense " and that the episode as a whole was " complete lameness . " James Greene of Nerve.com put the clip show third on his list Ten Times The Simpsons Jumped the Shark , stating that " You 'd think by 2002 The Simpsons would 've generated enough cash for FOX that they were no longer beholden to archaic penny @-@ saving concepts like the clip show . " Some reviewers considered the episode to be the worst of the season . However , Colin Jacobson of DVD Movie Guide stated that , even though he thought the episode was " a cheap excuse for a new episode " , he found that it " provokes more laughs than many of the other season 13 episodes since it quotes better programs from the past . " Furthermore , the song at the end of the episode was well received by Malkowski , who described it as the best moment of the episode .