

= Road to ... (Family Guy) =

The " Road to ... " episodes , also known as the Family Guy Road shows , are a series of episodes in the animated series Family Guy . They are a parody of the seven Road to ... comedy films , starring Bing Crosby , Bob Hope , and Dorothy Lamour .

These episodes revolve around baby , Stewie Griffin and anthropomorphic dog , Brian on a road trip in a foreign , supernatural or science fiction setting not familiar to the show 's normal location in Quahog , Rhode Island . The first , titled " Road to Rhode Island " , aired on May 30 , 2000 , as a part of the second season . The episodes are known for featuring elaborate musical numbers , similar to the original films . As of 2016 , there are eight Road to episodes .

The Road to episodes contain several signature elements , including a special version of the opening sequence , custom musical cues and musical numbers , and parodies of science fiction and fantasy films . Many of the episodes are popular among television critics , and have been nominated for several awards . In 2000 , " Road to Rhode Island " was nominated for the Primetime Emmy Award in the " Outstanding Animated Program (for Programming Less Than One Hour) " category . In 2009 , " Road to Germany , " along with two other episodes from the seventh season , were nominated for the Primetime Emmy Award in the " Outstanding Comedy Series " category , the first time in 48 years multiple episodes of one animated series were nominated for the same award .

= = Episodes = =

= = Segments = =

Road to episodes typically consist of three parts following a series of theatrical or cultural @-@ themed credits , and beginning with a segment at the Griffin family home in Quahog , Rhode Island . This segment usually establishes a conflict that Stewie and Brian must overcome by leaving Quahog and the rest of the Griffin family . For the second segment , Stewie and Brian obtain the established goal , which differs in each episode , and have included Brian reuniting with his mother in " Road to Rhode Island " , Stewie finding his lost teddy bear in " Road to Rupert " , and rescuing Mort Goldman , the town 's pharmacist , in " Road to Germany " . In " Road to the Multiverse " various different animation styles and techniques are showcased , such as Disney and Robot Chicken . The final segment involves the two 's struggle to return to their home in Quahog .

= = Production and development = =

The Road to episodes are a parody of the seven Road to ... comedy films released between 1940 and 1962 , which starred actors Bing Crosby , Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour . Family Guy creator and executive producer Seth MacFarlane came up with the idea to create the episodes , being a fan of the original film series .

The first Road to episode , titled " Road to Rhode Island " , aired in 2000 as a part of the second season of Family Guy , and featured Brian and Stewie attempting to find Brian 's mother . The episode was the first Family Guy contribution by director Dan Povenmire , and it was written by Gary Janetti , who had previously written for the show during its first and second seasons . MacFarlane granted Povenmire substantial creative freedom . Povenmire recalled that MacFarlane would tell him , " We 've got two minutes to fill . Give me some visual gags . Do whatever you want . I trust you . " Povenmire praised MacFarlane 's management style for letting him " have [...] fun " .

After the episode 's success , including its nomination for a Primetime Emmy Award , a second episode in the Road to series was produced for the third season , titled " Road to Europe . " The episode was inspired by the 1941 film Road to Morocco , including its musical number " (We 're off on the) Road to Morocco " , which was previously parodied by the two characters , with new lyrics , in " Rhode Island " . Povenmire returned to direct the episode but this time it was written by Daniel Palladino , who was a guest @-@ writer .

The third episode in the series was not produced in the fourth season , but instead it was produced in the fifth season , titled " Road to Rupert " , which followed Stewie in his attempt to relocate his teddy bear , Rupert , who was taken to Aspen , Colorado , was the last episode of the Road shows to be directed by Dan Povenmire . Povenmire left Family Guy soon after , following the conclusion of the fifth season , to create his own series , titled Phineas and Ferb , which has since been nominated for five Primetime Emmy Awards with two Emmy wins . It was written by Patrick Meighan who had written the fourth season episode " 8 Simple Rules for Buying My Teenage Daughter " .

As a result , series regular Greg Colton , who had worked on " Brian Goes Back to College " , " No Meals on Wheels " , and also " 8 Simple Rules for Buying My Teenage Daughter " , took over Povenmire 's role as director of the Road to episodes . The next installment was titled " Road to Germany " , which follows Brian and Stewie going back in time to rescue their neighbor Mort Goldman from the Nazi invasion of Poland . The episode was produced for the seventh season , it aired on October 19 , 2008 . Meighan returned to write the episode . After reading the script aloud , Jewish executive producer David A. Goodman said , " I 'm going to get kicked out of my temple . "

The next Road to episode was announced at the 2008 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International in San Diego , California , on July 25 , 2008 @.@ it was titled " Road to the Multiverse " and it was produced in the seventh eighth season . Though it was not originally intended to be a Road to episode , Greg Colton convinced series creator and executive producer Seth MacFarlane and " Spies Reminiscent of Us " director Cyndi Tang to change the episode 's title from " Sliders " , parodying the science fiction television series Sliders . Colton 's suggestion of the new title " Road to the Multiverse " was accepted , as was altering the premise of " Spies Reminiscent of Us " , the season 's original Road to episode . The episode was not written by Meighan , instead it was written by Wellesley Wild who wrote " PTV " .

The sixth episode was announced at the 2010 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International , and follows Brian and Stewie on an adventure to the North Pole . It aired during the show 's ninth season , and is titled " Road to the North Pole " . The episode was the first Road show to be produced and broadcast in high @-@ definition , the first to be a full hour in length , and was directed by Colton .

The tenth season episode " Back to the Pilot " , originally titled " Road to the Pilot " , was at first intended to be the seventh installment in the Road series , however it was changed before airing .

The seventh episode was announced at the 2012 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International . The episode involves Brian and Stewie teleporting to Las Vegas . Except something goes wrong with the machine and Brian and Stewie get cloned . One pair has the best possible time in Las Vegas , the other two have the worst possible time . The episode , titled " Roads to Vegas , " aired as the show 's eleventh season finale in May 2013 .

= = Reception = =

The Road to episodes are often among the most critically acclaimed episodes of the series . In a 2009 review of " Road to Rhode Island " , Ahsan Haque of IGN gave the episode a perfect score of ten out of ten , praising the episode for its " great writing , hilarious jokes , a catchy musical , and a story that 's both hilarious and touching at the same time . " In a subsequent review by IGN of " Road to Germany " , Haque again gave the episode high marks for its " exciting storyline , and some hilariously offensive humor . " Similarly , " Road to the Multiverse " was received very positively by television critics , who called the episode " the best of the early episodes we 've seen on the series . " In addition , " Road to the Multiverse " was the highest rated episode of the eighth season , in terms of total viewership .

The episodes are generally praised by critics for the connection between Brian and Stewie . IGN stated that when Stewie and Brian are paired together for adventures in the series it becomes hilarious , also mentioning that it was great that they could learn more deeply Brian and see Stewie 's transformation of character . TV Squad critic Brett Love has stated that he enjoys the episodes , especially the parts that show Stewie and Brian relationship , in his review of " Road to Rupert " he commented that Stewie and Brian 's story made the episode for him . Both IGN and TV Squad have praised " Road to Germany " , " Road to Rupert " and " Road to Rhode Island " for having that type

of connection in their respective reviews .

Though the series receives praise there are some critics that give the episodes a negative review . Alex Rocha of TV Guide was critical in her review of " Road to Germany " stating , " it seemed that the show has taken a slight fall back . After having great episodes the past few weeks to get this current season started on a roll , we have witnessed another average , even sub @-@ par episode . Although Brett Love of TV Squad praised " Road to Rupert " , he did state that he did not like the B @-@ story of the episode .

Although the Parents Television Council , a frequent Family Guy critic , did not name " Road to the Multiverse " its " Worst TV Show of the Week " , it did refer to this episode in its negative review of the following episode , " Family Goy " , due to both episodes depicting violence against a recurring Jewish character , Mort Goldman . The PTC did name a later Road to episode , " Road to the North Pole " , as its " Worst TV Show of the Week " for sexually explicit humor at the episode 's beginning , and graphic violence (wherein Stewie beats a homeowner to death after discovering him and Brian in the house and concluding them to be burglars) .

= = = Awards = = =

In 2000 , " Road to Rhode Island " was nominated for the Primetime Emmy Award in the " Outstanding Animated Program (for Programming Less Than One Hour) " category , but ultimately lost to The Simpsons episode " Behind the Laughter " . In 2009 , " Road to Germany " , along with two other episodes from the seventh season , were nominated for the Primetime Emmy Award in the " Outstanding Comedy Series " category , the first time in 48 years an animated series was nominated for the same award . The show lost to the NBC series 30 Rock , who had won the award in both 2007 and 2008 . In 2011 , " Road to the North Pole " won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Sound Mixing for a Comedy or Drama Series (Half @-@ Hour) and Animation .

In IGN 's top ten list of Stewie and Brian 's Greatest Adventures , the Road to episodes gains each spot on the top five with " Road to Europe " in spot number five , " Road to Germany " in number four , " Road to Rupert " in number three , " Road to the Multiverse " in number two , and the first episode , " Road to Rhode Island " , in the number @-@ one spot in the list . Other episodes in the list included " Saving Private Brian " , " Stuck Together , Torn Apart " and " Movin ' Out (Brian 's Song) " .