

= Michael 's Last Dundies =

" Michael 's Last Dundies " is the twenty @-@ first episode of the seventh season of the American comedy television series The Office and the show 's 147th episode overall . It originally aired on NBC on April 21 , 2011 . The episode was written and directed by co @-@ executive producer Mindy Kaling . " Michael 's Last Dundies " guest stars Will Ferrell as Deangelo Vickers and Jack Coleman as State Senator Robert Lipton .

The series depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In the episode , Michael Scott (Steve Carell) trains his office replacement , Deangelo Vickers (Ferrell) on how to properly host the branch 's annual Dundie Awards . Michael soon learns that Deangelo has a terrible problem with speaking in front of others . Meanwhile , Erin Hannon (Ellie Kemper) deals with her dislike of her boyfriend , Gabe Lewis (Zach Woods) .

The episode ? which was originally going to be called " Goodbye , Michael Part 1 " ? was the first installment in the series to be both written and directed by Kaling , who also portrays Kelly Kapoor on the series . The episode also marks the second appearance of Ferrell as Deangelo Vickers ; Ferrell had originally signed onto the series to make Carell 's exit transition easier . The episode received mostly positive reviews from television critics . " Michael 's Last Dundies " was viewed by 6 @.@ 849 million viewers and received a 3 @.@ 3 rating among adults between the age of 18 and 49 . The episode was the highest @-@ rated NBC series of the week that it aired , as well as the sixth @-@ most watched episode in the 18 ? 49 demographic for the week it aired .

= = Plot = =

At the office , Michael Scott (Steve Carell) announces to the employees that Deangelo Vickers (Will Ferrell) will be his co @-@ host at the Dundies . The Dundies are an annual award program created by Michael to motivate his employees . The idea of performance is worrisome to Deangelo , but Michael insists he take the job . Michael brings some of the staff together in the conference room to help Deangelo get prepared for the show , but he struggles to be humorous . Andy Bernard (Ed Helms) tries to help him , saying he should just think of performing like conducting a meeting , but Michael objects , wanting Deangelo to mimic his style . Michael tries a number of different things to help Deangelo , such as sitting on his stomach and making him listen to a Walkman at full volume so he cannot hear himself think , but none are effective .

Meanwhile , Jim (John Krasinski) and Pam Halpert (Jenna Fischer) see Erin Hannon (Ellie Kemper) sitting in her car eating a sandwich . She explains that she has begun eating lunch in her car to get some time away from Gabe Lewis (Zach Woods) , whom she is starting to despise . Pam advises Erin to tell Gabe her real feelings as soon as possible . This amuses Jim , given Pam 's history with Roy Anderson , and he leaves in order to avoid the temptation to comment on the irony .

After work , the employees arrive at an Italian restaurant named Louie Volpe 's to celebrate the Dundies . Moments after being introduced , Deangelo disappears into the bathroom to vomit . Eventually , Michael is able to psych him up , and the show begins . The show continues to go poorly , with most of Michael 's jokes offending more than amusing the employees . Dwight wins the " Promising Assistant Manager " Dundie , but as he is still mad at Michael , he tosses his award in the trash . Erin wins the " Cutest Redhead " award and gives a speech in which she breaks up with Gabe , who takes the stage to protest , then leaves in humiliation . Michael awards Deangelo with the " Best Dundies Host " award . The staff urges him to make a speech , but as he nervously tries to yell over his Walkman , the ceremony is kicked out of the restaurant . Michael is upset that his last Dundies Award show was a disappointment , but the staff convinces him to continue the event at the office .

After Dwight , still angry with Michael , insults the Dundies and leaves , Michael and Deangelo continue the event in the conference room . After the last award , Andy leads the employees in serenading the soon @-@ to @-@ depart Michael with an altered version of the song " Seasons of

Love " ; Michael is touched .

= = Production = =

" Michael 's Last Dundies " was written and directed by co @-@ executive producer Mindy Kaling , the first time that she has both directed and written an episode of the series . Kaling was also the writer of the second season episode " The Dundies " , which inspired the plot of " Michael 's Last Dundies " . In the episode , a cue card features Dwight 's last name spelled incorrectly as " Shrute " . Kaling later admitted on Twitter than she had spelled the name that way " in every script I 've written since ' Hot Girl ' . " The episode is the second of Will Ferrell 's four @-@ episode guest stint on the series . Ferrell signed on to appear in Carell 's final three episodes , and the first episode without Carell , " The Inner Circle " , to make Carell 's transition easier . Ferrell initially called the producers and offered to appear in a few episodes in Carell 's last season , because he is " a fan and wanted to commemorate Carell 's swan song " . He had previously starred alongside Carell , in the 2004 film , Anchorman : The Legend of Ron Burgundy . The episode serves as a sequel to the second season premiere , " The Dundies " . The episode was originally titled " Goodbye , Michael Part 1 " before NBC announced that " Goodbye , Michael " would be an extended 50 @-@ minute episode and this episode was retitled " Michael 's Last Dundies " .

The Season Seven DVD contains a number of deleted scenes from this episode . Notable cut scenes include Michael talking about his last Dundies using comedians as metaphors , Dwight booing Deangelo in order to adequately prepare him for his actual speech , various clips from the actual Dundies awards and of people accepting their awards , a cut scene featuring a video of Michael interviewing Danny Cordray (Timothy Olyphant) at his house , and Andy talking to Erin about loading the printer so that she can take her mind off of Gabe .

= = Cultural references = =

In this episode , Michael Scott describes the Dundies as " like the Golden Globes but less mean " referring to Ricky Gervais ' hosting of the 2011 Golden Globe Awards ; which left critics questioning if he had gone " too far " . As executive producer of the American series and creator of the original British series , Gervais stated on his blog that the line was inserted as a metajoke was intended as " a little in @-@ joke " . Near the beginning of the episode , Deangelo compares Meredith Palmer 's (Kate Flannery) house to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina . Michael notes that " When Larry King died , they didn 't just cancel his show " , showing that Michael is unaware that Larry King is not deceased . Later , he notes that " they got Piers Morgan to come in and do his show " instead . The final song that the office sings to Michael is a parody of " Seasons of Love " from the Broadway musical Rent . Dwight later reveals in a talking head that he is always the padawan learner , and never a Jedi knight , a reference to the 1977 film Star Wars and its franchise . Michael notes that he wanted his last Dundies celebration to be like the 1990 film The Godfather Part III , rather than the " confusing " 1972 film The Godfather I , which he notes had " three big laughs " . Additionally , the episode contains several references to the film The King 's Speech , notably during the scene in which Deangelo gives his speech at the Dundies while listening to his Walkman played at a high volume .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " Michael 's Last Dundies " was viewed by an estimated 6 @.@ 849 million households and received a 3 @.@ 3 rating / 10 % share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . This means that it was seen by 3 @.@ 3 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 9 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This marked a significant drop in the ratings from the previous episode , " Training Day " . Despite this , the episode became the highest @-@ rated NBC program for the original week it aired and also became the sixth @-@ most @-@ watched show for the week of broadcast among adults aged 18 ? 49 .

The episode received a moderately positive review from Cindy White of IGN . She said " the laughs were scarce this episode " but the lack of humor was compensated by the " emotional highlights " . However , she praised the performances of many of the supporting cast . She ultimately gave the episode a 7 out of 10 , denoting a " good " episode . Alan Sepinwall of HitFix felt that the episode was " very up @-@ and @-@ down " , largely due to inconsistent writing . He did , however , feel that the ending song was " beautiful " and " enough to justify " the episode . Dan Forcella of TV Fanatic awarded the episode four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five and called it " funny and sweet " and " a perfect penultimate episode for Steve Carell " .

Myles McNutt of The A.V. Club awarded the episode a " B ? " . He felt that it was appropriate that Steve Carell 's time on the series was bookended largely by the Dundies ; he noted that the episode in which the awards were introduced ? the eponymous second season entry ? served as " a second pilot of sorts " for the series , and the idea to bring the Dundies back made sense at the time in order to see how the characters had grown . However , he felt that the episode at large did not live up to its source material , and that it was " occasionally funny but unfortunately meaningless " . The ending song , however , in McNutt 's opinion , was a highlight of the episode .

Will Ferrell 's character received criticism in the episode . White criticized Deangelo Vickers , noting that she did not have a handle on the character and that he was too " downright normal " and " practically boring " . McNutt argued that , while Ferrell " is not really the problem with the role " of Deangelo Vickers , the actions between Ferrell and Carell felt more like " hanging out to commemorate the former ? s departure from a television show " rather than the two playing believable characters . He also felt that Deangelo " feels disruptive to the show ? s narrative " because his character gets in the way of the plot . Sepinwall felt that parts of the episode fell flat because it spent " so much time giving Will Ferrell stuff to do " . He further noted that " nobody has come up with a good reason for him being here other than that he 's Will Ferrell . "