

= The Baby Show =

" The Baby Show " is the ninth episode of the first season of the American television comedy series 30 Rock . It was written by co @-@ executive producer Jack Burditt and directed by Michael Engler . The episode originally aired on the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) in the United States on January 4 , 2007 . Guest stars in this episode include Katrina Bowden , Rachel Dratch , John Lutz , Bridget Moloney , Maulik Pancholy , Chris Parnell , Keith Powell , and Lonny Ross .

In the episode , Cerie Xerox (Bowden) gets engaged so that she can be a " young hot mom " , causing Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) to think about marriage and having a family . Meanwhile , Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) has trouble dealing with his own domineering mother , who wants to move in with him , and at the same time , Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) becomes upset by Josh Girard 's (Ross) impression of him .

" The Baby Show " received mixed reviews from television critics . According to the Nielsen ratings system , the episode was watched by 5 @. @ 9 million households during its original broadcast , and received a 3 @. @ 0 rating / 7 share among viewers in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

= = Plot = =

Cerie Xerox (Katrina Bowden) announces her engagement during a gathering for Jenna Maroney 's (Jane Krakowski) birthday , and says that she wants to be a " young hot mom " . Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) confronts her own marital and maternal status . She speaks with Jenna about this , and Jenna proceeds to tell all of the men in the office ? Frank Rossitano (Judah Friedlander) , James " Toofer " Spurlock (Keith Powell) , and J. D. Lutz (John Lutz) ? that Liz is looking for someone to get her pregnant . Later that day , Liz sees Cerie in the makeup department getting herself made up . Anna (Bridget Moloney) , the makeup artist has her baby at work with her . She asks Liz to hold the baby for a while , so Liz takes the baby for a stroll around the 30 Rock building . Suddenly she realizes that she is no longer in the building , but is now in her apartment . She hurries back to the office with the baby , and Pete Hornberger (Scott Adsit) fixes the situation .

Meanwhile , Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) is being harassed by his mother over the phone . She calls him repeatedly , with the intention of moving in with him . The situation causes him to exhibit some stress @-@ eating tendencies . At the same time , Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) and Josh Girard (Lonny Ross) begin to hang out , but Tracy gets annoyed of Josh 's impression of him . He demands that Liz fire Josh , but she refuses , so instead she tries to fix the situation , but Tracy threatens to go to Jack if she does not . Josh tries to avoid getting in trouble by calling Tracy and impersonating Jack , and then calling Jack and impersonating Tracy . It is not long before he is caught and Jack and Tracy have their revenge on him . As part of his punishment , Jack forces Josh talk to his mother " Every day , for the rest of your or her life . "

= = Production = =

" The Baby Show " was written by co @-@ executive producer Jack Burditt and directed by Michael Engler . This was Burditt 's second writing credit , having written the episode " Jack Meets Dennis " , and was Engler 's first directed episode . " The Baby Show " originally aired on January 4 , 2007 on NBC as the ninth episode of the show 's first season and overall of the series . This was the first of several episodes to make reference to Liz 's desire to become a mother . This plot came to a head in the third season episode " Do @-@ Over " in which Liz attempts to adopt a child .

Rachel Dratch , longtime comedy partner and fellow Saturday Night Live (SNL) alumna of series ' creator , executive producer and lead actress Tina Fey , the latter who was the show 's head writer from 1999 until 2006 , was originally cast to portray Jenna Maroney . Dratch played the role in the show 's original pilot , but in August 2006 , actress Jane Krakowski was announced as Dratch 's replacement . Executive producer Lorne Michaels announced that while Dratch would not be playing a series regular , she would appear in various episodes in a different role . In the pilot and in this episode , Dratch played Greta Johansen , the The Girlie Show 's cat wrangler . In this episode ,

Greta tells Liz Lemon that she would be interested in carrying her baby , after hearing that Liz was looking for someone to get her pregnant . Actor Chris Parnell appeared as Dr. Leo Spaceman in " The Baby Show " , in which Liz calls him for fertility purposes . Various other cast members of SNL have appeared on 30 Rock . These cast members include : Fred Armisen , Kristen Wiig , Will Forte , Jason Sudeikis , Molly Shannon , Horatio Sanz , and Jan Hooks . Fey and Tracy Morgan have both been part of the main cast of SNL .

= = Reception = =

According to the Nielsen ratings system , " The Baby Show " was watched by 5 @. @ 9 million households , the same as the previous week 's episode " The Break @- @ Up " , in its original American broadcast . It received a 3 @. @ 0 rating / 7 share among viewers in the 18 ? 49 demographic . This means that it was seen by 3 @. @ 0 percent of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds , and 7 percent of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast .

IGN contributor Robert Canning said the episode " had plenty of standout bits " but that it " represented a major flaw " and " perhaps in the program as a whole " , citing that " [t] here seems to be more of an emphasis on comedic ' bits ' rather than comedic ' situations , ' which doesn 't bode well for a situation comedy . " He explained that " The Baby Show " in particular " felt very disjointed , bouncing between jokes more than storylines . It even opened with a Jenna surprise @- @ birthday segment that was funny for what it was , but had absolutely nothing to do with the rest of the show . " Canning gave the episode a 7 @. @ 0 out 10 rating . TV Guide 's Matt Mitovich liked that Josh had a story in this episode , and said that his impression of Tracy was " pretty good " . He remarked that " The Baby Show " was " a solid episode , if a bit too theme @- @ y for my broad @- @ sitcom liking . "