

= Lotto ( The Office ) =

" Lotto " is the third episode of the eighth season of the American comedy television series The Office . It was written by Charlie Grandy and directed by cast member John Krasinski . The episode originally aired on NBC in the United States on October 6 , 2011 . The episode guest stars Mark Proksch as Nate and Hugh Dane as Hank the security guard .

The series ? presented as if it were a real documentary ? depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania , branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In the episode , the entire warehouse staff quits after winning the lottery , leaving Andy Bernard ( Ed Helms ) and Darryl Philbin ( Craig Robinson ) to scramble for replacements while Jim Halpert ( John Krasinski ) , Erin Hannon ( Ellie Kemper ) , Dwight Schrute ( Rainn Wilson ) , and Kevin Malone ( Brian Baumgartner ) temporarily get a taste of the warehouse life .

" Lotto " received mixed reviews from television critics , with many enjoying Andy and Darryl 's interaction . According to Nielsen Media Research , the episode was viewed by 5 @. @ 82 million viewers and received a 3 @. @ 2 rating / 8 percent share among adult between the ages of 18 and 49 , marking a slight drop in the ratings from the previous episode , " The Incentive " .

= = Plot = =

The six warehouse workers win \$ 950 @, @ 000 in a lottery pool , and quit in a celebratory fashion of running through the office , making a mess and mooning the staff . Darryl Philbin ( Craig Robinson ) was originally part of the pool but stopped when he was promoted , and falls into a depression , unable to find any motivation to work and further dismayed when his ex @- @ wife 's response to him not winning is to ask for the phone number of his pool @- @ winner friend Glenn . Everyone else speculates how they would spend a hypothetical lottery score , with Jim and Pam ultimately deciding to fuse their two main ideas into one for a lovely brownstone located in the great outdoors .

Andy orders Darryl to hire replacements for the warehouse staff , but Darryl is wallowing in his depression and neglects to even look at the applications . With an order due out for one of Phyllis Lapin @- @ Vance 's ( Phyllis Smith ) most important clients , Andy asks for volunteers to step in for the day and make sure that the order is shipped out . Jim Halpert ( John Krasinski ) , Erin Hannon ( Ellie Kemper ) , Dwight Schrute ( Rainn Wilson ) , and Kevin Malone ( Brian Baumgartner ) take over the process , but do not know how to use the heavy @- @ lifting equipment and balk at the notion of carrying all the heavy boxes by hand . Upon Kevin 's suggestion , they create an oil luge to slide the boxes across the floor resulting in a lot of damaged inventory . They retool Kevin 's idea throughout the day , resulting in still more damaged inventory , and Phyllis ultimately loses the client .

A melancholic Darryl finally assembles a conference room meeting with several potential new hires , but utters several discouraging remarks about the job and exits , leaving Andy alone to take charge of the process . Andy does not know what he 's doing and all of the applicants walk out . Darryl blames himself for the failure and demands that Andy fire him , leaving Andy baffled and with no choice but to handle the hiring of new warehouse staff himself .

Andy assembles three applicants : a bodybuilder from Oscar Martinez 's ( Oscar Nunez ) gym , Dwight 's building handyman Nate , and a PhD candidate who can only work two days a week . Darryl demands anew to be fired , then switches gears : he tells Andy to give him the manager job , saying he deserves it and wants that or a pink slip . Andy then steps up and bluntly tells Darryl he not only is not going to do that , but Darryl was not even the runner @- @ up to Andy in the selection process . As he brings up Darryl 's short temper , his hiring of the unqualified Glenn , and his loss of interest in taking business education courses , Darryl finally snaps out of his funk and listens to him . Andy tells Darryl that Jo Bennett loved him and saw something in him , and he simply stopped striving after that . He convinces Darryl to stay on board , and Darryl says he will assemble a new warehouse staff using a combination of his picks and one or two of Andy 's applicants .

= = Production = =

" Lotto " was written by co @-@ executive producer and series writer Charlie Grandy . The episode was directed by cast member John Krasinski , who portrays Jim Halpert . This was the second episode directed by Krasinski for the series , after sixth season episode " Sabre " . The episode guest stars Mark Proksch as Nate . Proksch initially appeared in " Sex Ed " , and was hired by Dwight to be a handyman around the office . This entry was rated TV @-@ PG in the United States during its original broadcast on television .

The Season Eight DVD contains a number of deleted scenes from this episode . Notable cut scenes include Jim and the others trying to get the truck into the warehouse door but getting the truck stuck instead , Dwight trying to use Kevin as a bumper on the oil track , and Phyllis , Toby , and Ryan revealing what they would do if they won the lottery .

= = Cultural references = =

Pam tells Jim that in his lottery fantasy " we 're Stephen King characters " , due to his desire to live in Maine . During one sequence , the scene begins in media res when Jim and Dwight are having a conversation about the films Message in a Bottle and The Postman , both of which involve Kevin Costner . Toby Flenderson ( Paul Lieberstein ) mentions that , if he won the lottery , he would spend most of his money on launching his true crime podcast , called The Flenderson Files . During one part , Andy is sad when no one in the office appears to be a fan of Bob Newhart .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original American broadcast on NBC , " Lotto " was viewed by 5 @. @ 82 million viewers and received a 3 @. @ 2 rating / 8 percent share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 3 @. @ 2 percent all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 8 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This marked an 11 percent drop from the previous episode , " The Incentive " which made it one of the lowest @-@ rated episodes of the series , slightly higher than the first season episode , " Health Care " .

= = = Reviews = = =

" Lotto " received mixed reviews from television critics . HitFix reviewer Alan Sepinwall wrote highly of the serious dialogue in the episode , noting that " if there 's been a consistent element to Paul Lieberstein 's work on this show [ ... ] it 's that he understands what makes the main characters tick , and is able to use that for real emotional resonance [ ... ] When the show wants to give Jim , or Pam , or Dwight , or now Andy a quiet , emotional moment , it 's usually still able to do so very well , and that includes most of Andy and Darryl 's interaction here in " Lotto " . He was , however , more critical of the episode 's humor , noting that many of gags had been done before . The A.V. Club reviewer Myles McNutt called the episode superior to the previous episode commenting that " While perhaps not monumentally better than last week 's outing and damaged by a weak B @-@ story , ' Lotto ' had a greater sense of purpose that holds greater value to the season as it moves forward " . He also complimented the writers for not focusing too much on Andy . He ultimately gave the episode a " B " .

Cindy White of IGN awarded the episode a seven out of ten , denoting a " good " episode . She wrote that the entry " felt like a mid @-@ season episode , passably amusing , but nothing all that special or memorable " . White did , however , call Pam and Jim 's discussion about their lottery fantasy " the weakest part of the episode " . Dan Forcella of TV Fanatic awarded the episode three out of five stars . He called the premise " an interesting buddy story " with " a tremendously inspiring speech from Andy to Darryl " . Despite the lackluster rating , Forcella wrote that the episode had its

fair share " of hilarious moments " . Screenrave reviewer Jeffrey Hyatt awarded the episode a six out of ten and wrote that the episode was not an " a @-@ plus episode [ but ] the show still delivered some kick @-@ ass dialogue that had me laughing out loud . "

Critical reception to the Jim , Dwight , Kevin , and Erin in the warehouse was more mixed . Sepinwall criticized the warehouse subplot for " selling them [ the characters ] out for the sake of a joke " . Forcella , who gave the majority of the episode a positive review , was more critical of the installments subplot . Andrew Daglas of ChicagoNow , on the other hand , was more positive towards the subplot , calling it " generally amusing " . He called " Ellie Kemper with a smudge of dirt " on her face " totes [ sic ] adorbs . "