

= Leslie 's House =

" Leslie 's House " is the 14th episode of the second season of the American comedy television series Parks and Recreation , and the twentieth overall episode of the series . It originally aired on NBC in the United States on January 21 , 2010 . In the episode , Leslie holds a dinner party to impress her boyfriend Justin , but ends up recruiting town employees and potentially abusing her government power .

The episode was written by Daniel J. Goor and directed by Alex Hardcastle . The episode also continued a story arc involving Justin Theroux as Leslie 's boyfriend , which began in the previous episode . According to Nielsen Media Research , " Leslie 's House " was seen by 4 @. @ 35 million viewers , a slight drop from the previous episode , " The Set Up " . The episode received generally positive reviews .

= = Plot = =

A remorseful Leslie ( Amy Poehler ) tells a group of Recreation Center teachers the Pawnee budget has been cut by \$ 1 @, @ 000 , and five of their classes will have to be cut , but exactly which classes has not yet been determined . Later , Leslie and Justin Anderson ( Justin Theroux ) , who have been dating for weeks , have another excellent date in Indianapolis . At the end of the night , they decide their next date will be in Pawnee , and Leslie feels pressure to make their date equally exciting . While talking later with Ann ( Rashida Jones ) , Leslie decides to host a dinner party at her home with all her interesting friends . She invites Mark ( Paul Schneider ) , Tom ( Aziz Ansari ) and Ron ( Nick Offerman ) , specifically excludes Jerry ( Jim O 'Heir ) , and asks Andy ( Chris Pratt ) to work as the waiter . Andy agrees , even though he hates Justin , Ann 's former crush , and Mark , her current boyfriend .

Ann comes to Leslie 's house , and finds it full of stacks of boxes , papers and garbage . When they find themselves unable to clean it , Leslie calls Maria Portlesman ( Bonita Friedericy ) , who teaches cleaning courses at the recreation center . She declines payment and hints she would prefer preferential treatment when Leslie cuts the classes , despite Leslie 's assurance this will not happen . When Leslie realizes she has not prepared any food for the party , she calls a culinary teacher from the recreation center . Later , at the party , Andy complains about Justin to April ( Aubrey Plaza ) , who makes Andy happy when she proposes putting chewed up gum in Justin 's pockets . Eventually , Tom 's ex @- @ wife Wendy ( Jama Williamson ) arrives . Tom expresses anger that Leslie invited her , especially because Ron is romantically interested in her . When Ron impresses Wendy by eating a hot red pepper , Tom attempts to eat a bigger one , but has to run to the bathroom in pain immediately . When Justin starts yawning , a worried Leslie calls in other recreation center teachers to make the party more interesting , including a belly @- @ dancer , a fencer , a cartoonist and an origami teacher .

Eventually , an accounting teacher arrives , believing demonstrations are being held to determine which class will be cut , much to the anger of Ron . He gives a very boring accounting lecture , which puts Justin to sleep . The next day , Leslie is before the Pawnee Disciplinary Committee on charges of abuse of power . Leslie calls Justin as a witness and questions him as to whether he enjoyed the party , to which he answers an emphatic yes . Afterward , the committee rules no further action will be taken , mainly because Leslie turned herself in and paid \$ 1 @, @ 000 restitution to the recreation center so no classes would be cut . When Ann asks why she did it , Leslie said it was to get an honest answer from Justin about the date , under penalty of perjury . The episode ends with Justin encouraging Tom to ask Wendy out .

= = Production = =

" Leslie 's House " was written by Daniel J. Goor and directed by Alex Hardcastle . It featured one of a string of slated guest appearances by Justin Theroux as Justin , a love interest for Leslie . The episode also featured Jama Williamson in her recurring role as Wendy , the soon @- @ to @- @ be

ex @-@ wife of Tom . " Leslie 's House " satirizes government officials abusing their positions of power for personal gain , marking a continuation throughout the second season to feature more topical storylines .

= = Cultural references = =

While discussing how behind the times Pawnee is , Tom said residents are now only starting to become interested in the rock band Nirvana . Tom said , " I don 't have the heart to tell them what 's going to happen to Kurt Cobain in 1994 " , a reference to the suicide of the band 's lead singer . Before Tom eats a hot pepper at the dinner party , he sings , " This is how you eat it " to the tune of the 1995 Montell Jordan song " This Is How We Do It " . Leslie said she was saving an old newspaper because it had the " first rumblings of Iran @-@ Contra " , a reference to the scandal in which U.S. figures facilitated the sale of arms to Iran . Tom visits Wikipedia , the free online encyclopedia , to learn more about India when quizzed by Justin .

= = Reception = =

In its original American NBC broadcast on January 21 , 2010 , " Leslie 's House " was seen by 4 @.@ 35 million viewers , according to Nielsen Media Research . It was a more than five percent drop in viewership from the previous week 's episode , " The Set Up " . " Leslie 's House " drew a 2 @.@ 0 rating / 5 share among viewers aged between 18 and 49 . The episode received generally positive reviews . Alan Sepinwall , television columnist with The Star @-@ Ledger , said the episode was very funny and farcical , but grounded in reality enough to keep it from being too unbelievable or over @-@ the @-@ top . Sepinwall said Mark was funnier than he is in most episodes , and said there was good development in the subplots between April and Andy , as well as the blossoming love triangle between Ron , Tom and Wendy .

Entertainment Weekly writer Sandra Gonzalez said she liked the pairing of Poehler and Theroux , but found " Leslie 's House " slower than previous episodes , and felt the comedic talents of Ansari and Offerman were underused . Matt Fowler of IGN praised the episode for its use of a wide range of characters to provide humor , saying " Everyone got a chance to shine in this episode . They all took turns giving us a laugh and ' Leslie 's House ' was a tremendous example of this series firing on all cylinders . " Steve Kandell of New York magazine praised the episode 's satirical bent about elected officials . Steve Heisler of The A.V. Club favorably compared " Leslie 's House " to " Dinner Party " , an episode of The Office , the other comedy series created by Parks co @-@ creator Greg Daniels . However , he said " Leslie 's House " was different in that her friends were willing to attend her party and help her out , whereas in the Office episode , the characters did not want to attend the dinner party held by protagonist Michael Scott . Heisler said the fact that the characters liked each other so much in Parks and Recreation differentiated itself from the other series in a positive way .

= = DVD release = =

" Leslie 's House " , along with the other 23 second season episodes of Parks and Recreation , was released on a four @-@ disc DVD set in the United States on November 30 , 2010 . The DVD included deleted scenes for each episode .