

= The Apartment ( Seinfeld ) =

" The Apartment " is the fifth episode of the second season of the NBC sitcom Seinfeld and the show 's tenth episode overall . In the episode , protagonist Jerry Seinfeld ( Jerry Seinfeld ) gets his ex @-@ girlfriend Elaine Benes ( Julia Louis @-@ Dreyfus ) an apartment above his , but regrets this after realizing it might be uncomfortable living so close together . Meanwhile , Jerry 's friend George Costanza ( Jason Alexander ) wears a wedding ring to a party to see what effect this will have on women .

The episode was written by Peter Mehlman and directed by Tom Cherones . Series co @-@ creators Seinfeld and Larry David asked Mehlman to write an episode for the show after they read a few articles he wrote for newspapers and magazines . Mehlman originally had the idea of Elaine moving away from Jerry , but David and Seinfeld felt it would be funnier if Elaine moved closer to Jerry instead . " The Apartment " was first broadcast in the United States on April 4 , 1991 on NBC , and was watched in 15 @.@ 7 million homes , making it the ninth most @-@ watched program of the week it was broadcast . The episode gained mostly positive responses from critics .

= = Plot = =

While Elaine is depressed about the low quality of her apartment , Jerry overhears Harold ( Glenn Shadix ) and Manny ( Tony Plana ) , the managers of his apartment building , discussing a death that makes an apartment available . Shocked by the low rent , Jerry immediately tells Elaine that he will be able to get her the apartment above his . She is extremely excited to hear this , as she will be able to live near Jerry . Though excited at first , Jerry later realizes how intrusive Elaine might become , and that living with her might get annoying . He discusses his problem with George , but the topic of their conversation changes and they eventually talk about wearing a wedding ring to a party , to see how women will react . George dislikes the idea at first , but eventually borrows one from Jerry 's neighbour Kramer ( Michael Richards ) to experiment .

Jerry still worries about Elaine , but Harold and Manny inform him that someone else has bid higher than Elaine and will get the apartment unless Elaine is able to pay \$ 5 @,@ 000 . Elaine is very disappointed when she hears the news . However , Kramer convinces Jerry to lend Elaine the money . When Elaine , Jerry and George go to a party of a friend of Elaine , Elaine asks Jerry if it would be uncomfortable for them to live so close to each other , but Jerry says he does not worry . George 's wedding ring plan backfires , as he discovers that wearing the ring is actually causing women who would otherwise date him to reject him . Jerry feels stupid for not telling Elaine the truth , but , the following day , Kramer informs him that he found somebody who is willing to pay \$ 10 @,@ 000 for the apartment . However , Kramer 's friend , a musician , plays loud music all day long , and Jerry regrets not letting Elaine rent the apartment .

= = Production = =

" The Apartment " was written by Peter Mehlman and directed by Tom Cherones . Seinfeld and co @-@ creator Larry David contacted Mehlman and asked him to write an episode for the show after reading a few articles Mehlman had written for The New York Times and Esquire . Mehlman noted that , prior to Seinfeld , he had " barely written any dialogue in [ his ] life " . He first conceived the idea of an episode in which Elaine would move away from Manhattan and Jerry had to confront his feelings about her . He discussed the idea with Seinfeld , David and staff writer Larry Charles , who felt that it would be funnier if Elaine would move closer to Jerry instead . After their meeting , Mehlman was told to write the episode , which surprised him , describing it as " unlike any other show , where they would have given beat for beat for beat . " As Mehlman was writing the script , he came up with the idea of George wearing a wedding ring to a party to see how women would react . Though the wedding ring idea was not included in the approved script , Seinfeld and David decided to keep it as it suited George well .

The first table read of the episode was held on January 9 , 1991 . The episode was filmed in front of

a live audience on January 15 , 1991 . Filming of the episode took place at the CBS Studio Center in Studio City , Los Angeles , California , where , starting with the season premiere " The Ex @-@ Girlfriend " , filming of all the show 's episodes took place . A few scenes were changed prior to the filming of the episode . The scene in which Jerry informs George he told Elaine about the apartment initially showed them standing in line for the movies , talking about sitting in the front of the theatre . George would tell Jerry that he once pretended to have a grotesque physical impairment while he was standing in line to get a ticket for The Exorcist ( 1973 ) , and people would let him go in front of them without saying anything . The location of this scene , however , was changed to Monk 's Cafe , a regular hangout for the show 's main characters , and George and Jerry 's dialogue was shortened . In the original script , Jerry , instead of George , proclaimed himself " lord of the idiots " , but this was changed during rehearsals .

" The Apartment " featured the only appearance of Harold and Manny , the two building superintendents . Veteran actors Glenn Shadix and Tony Plana portrayed Harold and Manny respectively . Their part in the episode was originally smaller , but they were written into the final scene of the episode . Harold was set to return in the season two episode " The Revenge " , in which he would tell the show 's central characters that Jerry 's suicidal neighbour Newman jumped from the building , but an awning broke his fall . However , the Newman sub plot in the episode was significantly reduced during production and Harold 's part was cut . Theresa Randle , Patricia Ayame Thomson and Leslie Neale guest starred as women George flirts with unsuccessfully when he is wearing his wedding ring . Louis @-@ Dreyfus ' half @-@ sister Lauren Bowles appeared as an extra at the party George , Jerry and Elaine attend . Bowles would continue to appear regularly throughout the series ' run , frequently as a waitress at Monk 's Cafe . Additionally , David Blackwood , who appeared as a guest at the party , would also continue to make small appearances on the show . Assistant director Joan Van Horn appeared as a woman feeding her baby at Monk 's Cafe .

The episode marks the first time Elaine does her trademark " Get Out ! " shove ; the catchphrase was not in the original script , but was added at Louis @-@ Dreyfus ' suggestion . It became one of the show 's popular catchphrases . " The Apartment " is the first episode in which Jerry 's apartment number is 5A ; it had been changed a few times prior to the broadcast of this episode , but would remain 5A until the end of the show . It is also contains one of the few references to Kramer 's father , who remained unseen throughout the show 's run .

= = Reception = =

The episode was first aired in the United States on NBC on April 4 , 1991 as part of a Thursday night line @-@ up that also included Cheers and L.A. Law . " The Apartment " gained a Nielsen rating of 16 @.@ 9 and an audience share of 28 , meaning that 16 @.@ 9 % of American households watched the episode , and that 28 % of all televisions in use at the time were tuned into it . Nielsen also estimated that 15 @.@ 7 million homes were tuned into the episode , making Seinfeld the ninth most @-@ watched show in the week the episode was broadcast , while 20 @.@ 5 million homes tuned into Cheers . Seinfeld 's ability to keep a large number of Cheers ' audience eventually helped the show get a third season order .

Ocala Star @-@ Banner critic Jon Burlingame praised the episode for its " smart humor " and stated the show could be a perfect fit between Cheers and L.A. Law . Mike Flaherty and Mary Kaye Schilling of Entertainment Weekly reacted very positively to the episode and praised Alexander 's performance in particular , stating " George 's profound self @-@ hatred is now in full bloom ( ' Please , a little respect , for I am Costanza , Lord of the Idiots ! ' ) . Kramer 's input , meanwhile , remains limited to off @-@ the @-@ wall , often annoying cameos . Which reminds us : Why in the world has Alexander been denied an Emmy , while Richards has scored two ? " Schilling and Flaherty graded the episode with a B + . However , The Kitchener @-@ Waterloo Record critic Bonnie Malleck gave the episode a particular negative review , comparing Seinfeld to It 's Garry Shandling 's Show , she stated " Seinfeld isn 't neurotic enough to be as funny as [ Garry Shandling ] . So , instead of being nervously funny , he 's just nervously dull " .

