

= The Head and the Hair =

" The Head and The Hair " is the eleventh episode of the first season of the American television comedy series 30 Rock . It was written by series creator Tina Fey and co @-@ executive producer John Riggi . The director of this episode was Gail Mancuso . It originally aired on the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) in the United States on January 18 , 2007 . Guest stars in this episode include Katrina Bowden , Craig Castaldo , Peter Hermann , Brian McCann , John McEnroe , Maulik Pancholy , Keith Powell , and Lonny Ross .

In the episode , two men , one a cerebral nerd (McCann) and the other a gorgeous hunk (Hermann) , capture the attention of Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) and Jenna Maroney (Jane Krakowski) . Meanwhile , Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) and Kenneth Parcell (Jack McBrayer) trade places for " Bottom 's Up Day " at the office and at the same time , Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) enlists Frank Rossitano (Judah Friedlander) and James " Toofer " Spurlock (Powell) to write his autobiography in one day .

" The Head and the Hair " received generally positive reception from television critics . According to the Nielsen ratings system , the episode was watched by 5 @.@ 0 million households during its original broadcast , and received a 2 @.@ 4 rating / 6 share among viewers in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

= = Plot = =

Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) and Jenna Maroney (Jane Krakowski) keep running into the same two men in the elevator at the 30 Rock building , and find themselves interested in them . Not knowing their names , Liz and Jenna refer to them as " The Head " (Brian McCann) and " The Hair " (Peter Hermann) . After talking with Jenna , Liz decides she is going to ask " The Head " out on a date . However , on her way to find him , she runs into " The Hair " , who asks her out , and discovers his name is Gray . She agrees to attend a restaurant opening with him . Feeling uncomfortable with Gray , as she believes that she does not date someone like Gray as it feels wrong , Liz tries to go home , but he convinces her to hang out for a while longer . The next day things end abruptly when Liz finds a picture of her great @-@ aunt in his apartment and they learn that they are related .

Meanwhile , Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) panics in the TGS with Tracy Jordan staff office , as his autobiography is due to a publisher the next day but he has not yet begun to write it . He begs Frank Rossitano (Judah Friedlander) and James " Toofer " Spurlock (Keith Powell) to help him get it done in time , and they agree . They run into a problem when Tracy cannot remember much about his own life , and turn to Wikipedia for the answers . They work non @-@ stop on the project , until Tracy remembers that there never was an actual publisher for the book , thus shutting the project down .

Finally , Vice President of East Coast Television and Microwave Oven Programming for General Electric Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) and NBC page Kenneth Parcell (Jack McBrayer) are participating in " Bottoms Up " day at the office . Jack must work in Kenneth 's job for a day , to help him be a better manager . During their time together , Kenneth tells Jack about an idea he has for a game show called Gold Case , in which contestants must correctly guess which briefcase being modeled contains gold bricks . Jack helps him sell the idea to NBC . The pilot episode of Gold Case is in production , with host John McEnroe . Due to the weight of the gold , contestants can quickly spot which model is straining with the weight of the case . Every contestant wins almost immediately which results in the show being shut down .

= = Production = =

" The Head and the Hair " was written by series ' creator , executive producer and lead actress Tina Fey and co @-@ executive producer John Riggi . The director of this episode was Don Scardino . This was Fey and Riggi 's first script collaboration , and they later co @-@ wrote the season three episode " The Natural Order " . " The Head and the Hair " originally aired on NBC in the United

States on January 18 , 2007 as the eleventh episode of the show 's first season and overall of the series .

This episode featured guest appearances from actors Brian McCann and Peter Hermann , in which McCann played " The Head " and Hermann " The Hair " . Former professional tennis player John McEnroe played himself in the episode , in which he hosts the game show Gold Case . McEnroe would later guest star as himself in the November 20 , 2008 , 30 Rock episode " Gavin Volure " . In one scene of this episode , Kenneth runs into a man named " Moonvest " , and tells him that he got an idea for a television game show , but Moonvest tells him " Give me your fingernails " . Moonvest was played by Craig Castaldo , or known as Radio Man .

One filmed scene from " The Head and the Hair " was cut out from the airing . Instead , the scene was featured on 30 Rock 's season 1 DVD as part of the deleted scenes in the Bonus feature . In the scene , Pete Hornberger (Scott Adsit) is visibly upset that someone added paper in the regular garbage and demands to know who did it , as NBC recycles . Jack and Kenneth show up . Jack apologizes for throwing the paper in the regular garbage , which results in Pete telling him to go through the garbage by hand and " fish out anything that 's recyclable " , as Jack is dressed as a page , in which he is participating on " Bottoms Up " day .

= = Cultural references = =

In one of the scenes of the episode , Kenneth is in news anchor Brian Williams 's dressing room . There , Kenneth is seeing cleaning out a half @-@ cleaned graffiti that reads " Kat Cou Suc " , a reference to fellow news host Katie Couric . Williams ' has been on the series , having appeared in the season three episode " The Ones " , in which Tracy has been giving out Williams 's phone number instead of his . He next appeared in the season four episode " Audition Day " , as he is auditioning to become a cast member on TGS . Williams appeared in " Future Husband " in which he tells the CNBC staff that his news program Nightly News " rules " .

There are frequent references to Star Wars in 30 Rock , beginning with the pilot episode in 2006 where Tracy is seen shouting that he is a Jedi . Liz admits to being a huge fan of Star Wars , saying that she had watched it many times with Pete Hornberger (Scott Adsit) , and dressed up as the Star Wars character Princess Leia during four recent Halloweens . There is also reference to Star Wars when Tracy takes on the identity of the character Chewbacca . In " The Head and the Hair " , Liz tells Jenna that " The Head " asked her out and says " I had to say yes . I mean he looked at me with those handsome guys eyes . It was like the Death Star tractor beam when the Falcon was ... " , until Jenna interrupts her and says " No Liz , do not talk about that stuff on your date . Guys like that do not like Star Trek " , to which Liz corrects " Wars ! " . Fey , a fan of Star Wars herself , said that the weekly Star Wars joke or reference " started happening organically " when the crew realized that they had a Star Wars reference " in almost every show " . Fey said that from then on " it became a thing where [they] tried to keep it going " , and that even though they could not include one in every episode , they still had a " pretty high batting average " . Fey attributed most of the references to executive producer and writer Robert Carlock , whom she described as " the resident expert " .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " The Head and the Hair " was watched by 5 @.@ 0 million households , according to the Nielsen ratings system . It earned a 2 @.@ 4 rating / 6 share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , meaning that 2 @.@ 4 percent of all people in that group , and 6 percent of all people from that group watching television at the time , watched the episode . This was a decrease from the previous episode , " The Rural Juror " , which was watched by 6 @.@ 1 million American viewers . Since airing , the episode has received generally good reception from television critics .

Television columnist Alan Sepinwall for The Star @-@ Ledger said that 30 Rock " feels like a show that 's already made The Leap midway through season one . " He reported that Tracy 's story was " largely a dud " , but said that the two other plots were " so funny " that it would not matter much . Sepinwall said " The Head and the Hair " was " splendid " . Julia Ward of AOL 's TV Squad was

complimentary towards Alec Baldwin 's Jack in this episode , citing that he knows " how to squeeze some serious funny out of a simple gesture and a pause . " She added that his " lingering stare " at both Jenna and Liz after taking their drink order " was the funniest moment in a very funny episode " . Ward also enjoyed that it " brought us maximum Kenneth , which is great . He 's turning out to be one of the show 's most endearing characters . " IGN contributor Robert Canning wrote that the pairing of Jack and Kenneth was a " great idea and gave Kenneth his best episode " since " Blind Date " . In regards to Liz 's story , he commented it was " her strongest episodes to date " , and said that it " felt good " to see her " have a little luck for a change " with " The Head " . In conclusion , Canning gave the episode an 8 @. @ 0 out of 10 rating . TV Guide 's Matt Mitovich disliked that NBC " utterly ruined " the outcome of Liz 's plot in the promos , though , said that it was a " very funny resolution to the relationship that was too good , and too well coiffed , to be true . " Mitovich said that it was " fun " to see Liz successfully date " while it lasted " .