

= Brian 's Got a Brand New Bag =

" Brian 's Got a Brand New Bag " is the fourth episode of the eighth season of the animated comedy series Family Guy . It premiered on Fox in the United States on November 8 , 2009 . The episode follows anthropomorphic dog Brian as he dates a middle @-@ aged woman named Rita , after he is stood up by her daughter . He eventually becomes reluctant to continue their relationship , however , after he discovers several health concerns that she endures and is continually harassed by his family . The episode premiered during an " all @-@ Seth MacFarlane " schedule , preceding the live @-@ action episode Seth and Alex 's Almost Live Comedy Show .

The episode was written by series regular Tom Devanney and directed by Pete Michels . It received very mixed reviews from critics for its storyline and many cultural references . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 7 @.@ 38 million homes in its original airing . The episode featured guest performances by Hart Bochner , James Burkholder , Aimee Garcia , Jack Samson , Stacey Scowley , Debra Skelton , Reginald VelJohnson , Nana Visitor , Tico Wells , Mae Whitman and Bruce Willis , along with several recurring guest voice actors for the series . " Brian 's Got a Brand New Bag " was released on DVD along with seven other episodes from the season on June 15 , 2010 . The episode is dedicated to Patrick Swayze .

= = Plot = =

During a visit to a closing video store during a DVD sale , Peter decides to buy Road House and , after watching it , decides to start roundhouse kicking everything in sight including his family . While driving with Brian using his feet , Peter crashes into a young woman 's car , leading Brian to assure she is okay . The woman apologizes to Brian , and he asks her out . She accepts , but when he comes to her house to pick her up , her mother Rita says she has just left with somebody else . Brian keeps talking to Rita and finds himself attracted to her . After dating for several weeks , they sneak into the Griffin home late one night , but the family finds out the next morning and ridicule Rita behind her back . Brian attempts to convince the family that Rita is a wonderful , charming woman despite the fact that she 's significantly older than he is , and invites her to dinner to prove his point . It doesn 't go well : they demand that she reveal her age , and she breaks down and admits that she 's 50 . Infuriated with the Griffins , Brian goes to console Rita , and proposes to her . Feeling guilty for how they treated him , the Griffins give Brian their blessings .

Rita breaks her hip while she and Brian are having sex . Peter warns Brian that their relationship will not last much longer now that he must run errands for her . Brian goes out to pick up medicine for bedridden Rita , but is distracted by the sight of a group of young women entering a bar . One of them offers to have sex with Brian in the bathroom , after which he returns with her medicine . Realizing that he still loves Rita , he admits his infidelity . However , Rita decides he is far too young for her and breaks off their engagement . A regretful Brian understands that it is for the best and leaves her .

= = Production and development = =

The episode was directed by former The Simpsons artist Pete Michels , and written by Tom Devanney , shortly after the conclusion of the seventh production season . Both are series regulars for the show , who joined in its third and fourth season , respectively . Prior to providing minor voice @-@ over roles for the series , actress Nana Visitor portrays the episode 's featured character , Rita . Series regulars Peter Shin and James Purdum served as supervising directors , with series creator and executive producer Seth MacFarlane and David Zuckerman serving as staff writers for the episode .

" Brian 's Got a Brand New Bag " , along with the seven other episodes from Family Guy 's eighth season , were released on a three @-@ disc DVD set in the United States on June 15 , 2010 . The sets included brief audio commentaries by Seth MacFarlane and various crew and cast members for several episodes , a collection of deleted scenes , a special mini @-@ feature which discussed the

process behind animating " Road to the Multiverse " , and mini @-@ feature entitled Family Guy Karaoke .

In addition to Visitor and the regular cast , actor Hart Bochner , James Burkholder , actress Aimee Garcia , Jack Samson , actress Stacey Scowley , Debra Skelton , Reginald VelJohnson , actor Tico Wells , actress Mae Whitman and actor Bruce Willis , guest starred in the episode in both voice and live @-@ action appearances . Recurring guest voice actors Alexandra Breckenridge , writer Steve Callaghan , voice actor Ralph Garman , writer Danny Smith , writer Alec Sulkin and writer John Viener also made minor appearances . Recurring guest cast members Adam West and Patrick Warburton also made appearances in the episode .

= = Reception = =

In a significant decline from the previous week 's show , and despite being heavily promoted as an " all @-@ Seth MacFarlane " night , the episode received a Nielsen Rating of 4 @.@ 3 / 7 in the 18 ? 49 demographic , and was viewed in 7 @.@ 38 million homes .

The episode received mostly mixed reviews from critics . Ahsan Haque of IGN gave it a 6 @.@ 5 / 10 , saying that the " episode felt very formulaic and a bit of a wasted opportunity " Todd VanDerWerff from The A.V. Club gave it a B , saying , " it 's weird to see a Family Guy episode that has something approaching an actual story [...] and even the cutaway gags were more muted than usual . " In a subsequent review of Family Guy 's eighth season , Ramsey Isler of IGN listed " Brian 's Got a Brand New Bag " as " remarkably unfunny , with lazy and unoriginal writing . "