

= Here Comes Treble =

" Here Comes Treble " is the fifth episode of the ninth season of the American comedy television series The Office . The episode originally aired on NBC on October 25 , 2012 . It guest stars Stephen Colbert as Andy 's college friend Broccoli Rob and Ben Silverman as an investor .

The series depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In the episode , Andy Bernard (Ed Helms) invites his old college a cappella group , Here Comes Treble , to perform for the office during Halloween . Andy , however , gets angry when he hears that his college friend Broccoli Rob (Colbert) is telling a different story about the group . Meanwhile , Dwight Schrute (Rainn Wilson) , with the help of Nellie Bertram (Catherine Tate) tries to track down a person who is using prescription anxiety pills . Jim (John Krasinski) and Pam Halpert (Jenna Fischer) fight over his new job .

The title is a reference to Andy 's college a cappella group , which had previously been alluded to in the series , but never actually shown . The episode also marked the final Halloween installment for the series . " Here Comes Treble " received mixed reviews from television critics , with many mainly criticizing Andy 's characterization . Others were more complimentary of the episode 's subplots . " Here Comes Treble " was viewed by 4 million viewers and received a 1 @. @ 9 / 5 percent rating among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 , ranking third in its timeslot . The episode , however , ranked as the highest @-@ rated NBC series of the night .

= = Plot = =

Andy Bernard (Ed Helms) invites the latest roster of his Cornell University a cappella group , Here Comes Treble (portrayed by the University of Virginia Hullabahoos) , to perform for the office during the Halloween party . He secretly hopes the group will ask him to lead them in a performance of George Michael 's " Faith " . He becomes increasingly frustrated when the group is not interested in talking about his glory days as part of the group , and upon learning that old band mate Broccoli Rob (Stephen Colbert) claimed Andy 's nickname of " Boner Champ " , Andy complains to both Rob , via video chat , and to Erin Hannon (Ellie Kemper) . Though Erin sees the situation as trivial , she nonetheless demands that the group sing " Faith " for Andy .

Meanwhile , for his new job , Jim Halpert (John Krasinski) meets with investors . Although the investing window had closed , Jim insists on taking part and offers \$ 10 @, @ 000 under pressure ? much more than he and Pam Halpert (Jenna Fischer) had agreed to . After Jim returns , he tells Pam during the Here Comes Treble 's performance , and they start arguing during the singing . When the group begins performing " Faith " , Andy is surprised that Rob appears via video to sing the lead . The group mistakenly thought the song was to be dedicated to Andy , and they contacted Rob to sing it with them . The " concert " ends and Andy continues to argue with Rob as Rob halfheartedly apologizes for stealing Andy 's song until Erin finally puts an end to the video chat . Andy entertains the idea of moving to Cornell to keep his legacy alive . Alarmed , Erin redirects him towards using his family 's money to create a scholarship for young a cappella singers . When he calls his mother to set it up , she informs him the family has lost all their money .

Meanwhile , Dwight finds an anti @-@ anxiety pill on the floor and begins a search for the office " madman " . Nellie Bertram (Catherine Tate) partners with him in the investigation in order to escape his suspicions , but ultimately confesses that the pill belongs to her .

= = Production = =

" Here Comes Treble " was written by supervising producer Owen Ellickson , marking his third writing credit for the series , after the eighth season episodes " Pool Party " and " Fundraiser " . The episode was directed by Claire Scanlon , who has served as an editor on the series for several seasons , this was her second directing credit after the eight season episode , " Angry Andy " .

The title is a reference to Andy 's a cappella group Here Comes Treble , which had previously been alluded to in the series , but never actually shown . " Here Comes Treble " guest stars Stephen

Colbert as Andy 's college friend Broccoli Rob . Former NBC Entertainment co @-@ chairman Ben Silverman also guest stars as one of the investors at Jim 's meeting . With the filming of " Here Comes Treble " , the cast began realizing that the show was truly approaching its end . Wilson said , " it 's getting real . It 's like there 's a clock ticking " . Helms said that the fact that the episode was the last Halloween installment for the series is " a sad thing " .

The official website of The Office included three cut scenes from " Here Comes Treble " within a week of the episode 's release . In the 146 @-@ second clip , Andy tells the office that the a cappella group is staying with Andy and Erin ? Andy gets the basses and B @-@ tones and Erin gets the tenors . In another scene , Andy throws a tantrum about his solo and his nickname . In the final shot , Andy gives the group nihilistic advice about the future before he sings " Faith " .

= = Cultural references = =

Due to the nature of the episode , many of the characters are dressed as cultural icons and characters from fiction . Meredith Palmer (Kate Flannery) is dressed as Scarlett Johansson 's version of the superhero Black Widow from the 2012 superhero film The Avengers . Kevin Malone (Brian Baumgartner) is dressed as Charlie Brown , the protagonist in the comic strip Peanuts by Charles M. Schulz . Angela is dressed as former First Lady Nancy Reagan , with her husband State Senator Robert Lipton wearing a Ronald Reagan mask . Oscar Martinez (Oscar Nunez) is dressed as a dinosaur , but states that he is " the Electoral College " . Andy is dressed as George Michael . For the episode , Wilson 's character is dressed up as a pig . Wilson noted that the " writers really just wanted to torture me by having me in a pig 's nose for an entire week of shooting " .

Due to the presence of the a cappella group , the episode features several songs . The group sings the Rose Royce 1976 single " Car Wash " , the 1983 Culture Club song " Karma Chameleon " , and Edwin McCain 's 1998 hit " I 'll Be " . The group also sings Cornell 's alma mater . Pam and Jim later get in an argument about the 1962 novelty song " The Monster Mash " . During their Skype @-@ argument Broccoli Rob mentions that he collaborated with Trey Anastasio , the frontman for the jam band Phish . During the seventh season episode " The Sting " , Andy mentioned that Broccoli Rob and Anastasio had collaborated on a song together .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Here Comes Treble " originally aired on NBC on October 25 , 2012 . The episode was viewed by 4 million viewers and received a 1 @. @ 9 rating / 5 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 1 @. @ 9 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 5 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This made " Here Comes Treble " , at the time of its airing , the lowest @-@ rated episode of The Office , beating the eighth season entry " Fundraiser " , which was viewed by 4 @. @ 17 million viewers . The Office finished third in its time slot , being beaten by an episode of the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) series Grey 's Anatomy which received a 3 @. @ 0 / 8 percent rating and an entry of the CBS drama Person of Interest , which received a 2 @. @ 9 / 8 percent rating Despite this , The Office was the highest @-@ rated NBC television program of the night .

= = = Reviews = = =

The episode received mixed reviews from critics . Erik Adams of The A.V. Club awarded the episode a " B ? " . He criticized the characterization of Andy and said that the character had " hit a plateau when his fist went through that wall in season three " and represented " a grinning puppet who can be imbued with some of Michael Scott 's leftover tics and remind people he went to Cornell " . However , Adams enjoyed the episode 's subplots and wrote that the episode really " gave me a

better picture of what makes Andy 's girlfriend tick . " Furthermore , he praised many of her lines and her acting ability . Damon Houx of ScreenCrush said that the episode was a " surprisingly strong Erin episode " and that " Dwight acting crazy was also well used " . Dan Forcella of TV Fanatic awarded the episode three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five and called it " a nice enough holiday episode " . He was critical of the episode 's Jim and Pam subplot , saying that it could have " been left on the cutting room floor . " IGN reviewer Cindy White awarded the episode a 7 @.@ 9 rating , denoting a " good " episode . She wrote that while the story had its limitations , " Little lines and bits [...] helped elevate ' Here Comes Treble ' " .

Michael Tedder of New York felt that the main story was weak and that the " plot line might have made more sense last year , with Andy trying to take his mind off troubles with Erin or Robert California by trying to regress to his college days without it working , but these days Andy is the boss and has the girl . " He did , however , compliment the appearance of Colbert , writing that " it was still nice to see the two Daily Show alums sparring again . " He was also complimentary towards the " little tidbits " , such as Dwight 's subplot . Bonnie Stiergnberg of Paste felt that the episode was too rushed and that the storylines did not have a chance to naturally play out . She wrote that , " Each thread provided some interesting character development or set up future storylines , but , crammed together in the same 21 minutes , they made for a slightly disjointed @-@ feeling episode . " WhatCulture ! reviewer Joseph Kratzer gave the episode two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five and called it the " first dud of the ninth season " . He criticized the story , saying that " the plot 's failure [is due to the fact that] the goal of the story was not met by the means the writers chose to employ ; there was no sense of grand scope or deep @-@ rooted history , just Andy being petty and refusing to let go of the past as he 's challenged by his old friend . " Kratzer called Dwight and Nellie 's subplot the " most successful story " in the episode .

The manner in which Stephen Colbert appeared received mixed reviews . Adams compared Colbert 's cameo to former lead actor Steve Carell 's appearance in the first series of the BBC Two sitcom Life 's Too Short , calling it " an unfortunate echo " . White wrote that his cameo was not " quite the sublime experience I was hoping for " largely due to the amount of anticipation that was put into his appearance . Kratzer called the underuse of Colbert " borderline criminal " .