

= Pilot (Sit Down , Shut Up) =

The pilot episode of the American animated television series Sit Down , Shut Up originally aired in the United States on April 19 , 2009 on the Fox network . The episode introduced the faculty and staff at Knob Haven High School in the fictional town of Knob Haven , Florida . In the episode , the school is facing a financial crisis and acting principal Sue Sezno has to either fire a teacher or make sure the school wins a football game . Meanwhile , assistant principal Stuart Proszakian becomes addicted to drugs that were found in a student 's locker .

The episode was written by series creator Mitchell Hurwitz and directed by Dwayne Carey @-@ Hill . The first draft was written by Hurwitz in 2000 , before he pitched Arrested Development . Hurwitz based Sit Down , Shut Up on the Australian sitcom of the same name . After he had rewritten the script several times , the series was picked up by Fox . The episode received generally mixed reviews from critics . According to the Nielsen ratings , it was watched by 5 @.@ 21 million households in its original airing .

= = Plot = =

Acting Principal of Knob Haven High School Sue Sezno finds a case of pills in a student 's locker . Believing them to be drugs , she hands them over to science teacher Miracle Grohe to study . Miracle , however , tells them the pills may be steroids ; Sue decides to test them on her new assistant Principal , Stuart Proszakian . With the assistance of P.E. teacher Larry Littlejunk , she manages to successfully trick Stuart into taking the pills , telling him that they are vitamins .

Meanwhile , Sue informs the staff that the school is in financial trouble , and the only way to raise money is to gain alumni donations from the upcoming football game or face firing a teacher . German teacher Willard Deutschebog informs English teacher Ennis Hoffard that a student may have caught him buying " filthies " (porn) at a newsstand that morning ; because of this , Willard fears that if Sue hears , he may be the one getting fired . At the same time , Larry attempts to ask Miracle out on a date , but finds he cannot stand Miracle 's " stupid " thoughts . As it turns out , she was the one responsible for his students ' poor training in gym : she repeatedly throws out food , in honor of those in third @-@ world countries .

At the game , bisexual drama teacher Andrew LeGustambos attempts to grab the attention of both Larry and Miracle , but the whole school stands in shock as Stuart arrives with two full and augmented breasts ; the pills he had taken were actually librarian Helen Klench 's female hormone replacements . Nonetheless , the school loses the game . Sue finally reveals she was not planning on actually firing any teacher on her watch . Helen arrives to inform them that they did not need to win the game after all ; she had found a rare time capsule with treasures . Upon opening the time capsule , it is revealed that it is full of Willard 's porn magazines that Ennis hid . Sue pitifully looks at Willard and tells him he is fired .

= = Production = =

The pilot episode of Sit Down , Shut Up was written by series creator Mitchell Hurwitz and directed by Dwayne Carey @-@ Hill . It was originally written by Hurwitz in 2000 , but he " kept it in a drawer for a long time " and brought it out when he needed money . The idea for the series was based on the Australian situation comedy of the same name . He pitched his adaption to different networks that were interested in the concept , but they turned it down , because the characters were " way too broad and way too self @-@ centered and oblivious , " and they told him that he had to rewrite it . The Fox network picked it up in April 2008 under the name Class Dismissed , later changed to Sit Down , Shut Up . Hurwitz 's adaption was originally planned to be live @-@ action like its counterpart , but he decided to make it an animated series to " avoid some work " . He chose to use real images as backgrounds after he saw Mo Willems ' Knuffle Bunny in a book store . He then contacted Willems to design the characters for Sit Down , Shut Up . The images for the school were taken at a school next door to the Rough Draft Studios , the series ' animation studio . Production of

the series halted in June 2008 , when the writers found out that they would be under the jurisdiction of the IATSE Animation Guild , instead of Writers Guild of America (WGA) . A month later , the writers and the production company , Sony Pictures , reached an agreement saying that the writers would still be covered by the IATSE , but their contract would be the same as the WGA 's in certain areas . This made Sit Down , Shut Up the only primetime animated series on Fox not to be covered by the WGA . During this process , head writer Bill Oakley left the series .

Cast members Jason Bateman , Will Arnett and Henry Winkler , who also starred on Hurwitz 's show Arrested Development , voice Larry Littlejunk , Ennis Hoffard and Willard Deutschebog , respectively . Will Forte voices Stuart Proszakian , who was also featured in the Australian series . Kristin Chenoweth stars as Miracle Grohe . The part was originally given to Maria Bamford , but she was later replaced with Chenoweth . The executives still allowed Bamford to do some " side voices " on the show , including in this episode . Cheri Oteri was picked as the voice of Helen Klench , a " totally unresourceful " librarian , and Nick Kroll was picked as the voice of Andrew LeGustambos , the drama teacher whose surname translates " he likes both " , referring to his bisexuality . Regina King was replaced with Kenan Thompson , who took over the role as Sue Sezno , the acting principal . Tom Kenny voices Muhannad Sabeeh " Happy " Fa 'ach Nuabar , the secretive custodian .

== Reception ==

Despite airing after The Simpsons and before Family Guy , the episode was watched by 5 @. @ 21 million viewers in its original airing in the United States on April 19 , 2009 . The episode acquired a 2 @. @ 3 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , finishing third in its timeslot after Amazing Race and a rerun of Extreme Makeover : Home Edition . It finished first in its timeslot in the 18 ? 34 demographic , where it acquired a 2 @. @ 7 rating .

The episode received generally mixed reviews from critics . Brian Lowry of Variety said : " Despite a pedigree that includes Arrested Development creator Mitch Hurwitz and many of that program 's stars , Sit Down seldom rises above sniggering double entendre . " Genevieve Koski of The A.V. Club graded the episode B , saying : " I 'm staying optimistic that the characters are going to get fleshed out in upcoming episodes , because this is obviously going to be a character @-@ based ensemble comedy . " Jonah Krakow of IGN was more positive about the episode , noting the " familiar aspects " of Arrested Development , such as the " deft wordplay , biting sarcasm and inappropriate humor " . He concluded , saying : " As long as the talented cast can continue to play to their strengths and the scripts can humorously tackle dicey subject matter , this should continue to be a very entertaining show . " Kona Gallagher of TV Squad watched the episode twice , and said that it " definitely grows on you . " She concluded , saying : " In all , I think the first time you watch Sit Down , Shut Up , it 's really easy to blow it off as another animated show that 's trying too hard . However , it 's actually worth sticking around and watching a couple of episodes . "