

= Boyz 4 Now =

" Boyz 4 Now " is the 21st episode of the third season of the American animated comedy series Bob 's Burgers . Written by Lizzie and Wendy Molyneux , the episode features guest appearances from actors Max Greenfield and Jack McBrayer and comedian Tig Notaro . Its main plot sees Louise Belcher (Kristen Schaal) becoming aghast to find herself developing a crush on a member of the boy band Boyz 4 Now (Greenfield) , after she reluctantly attends one of their concerts with her sister Tina (Dan Mintz) . In a subplot , Gene Belcher (Eugene Mirman) qualifies for a regional competition in tablescaping , an activity involving the setting of dining tables based on a selected theme .

The series ' production crew opted to make the group Boyz 4 Now a general parody of boy bands rather than base them on any specific artist , as they all had several different boy bands which " made them chuckle " while making the episode . Creator Loren Bouchard assigned several female staff members with the task of designing the physical appearances and wardrobes of Boyz 4 Now 's members . The episode originally aired on April 28 , 2013 on Fox , drawing an audience of 3 @.@ 50 million viewers , and was met with generally positive reviews from critics , who commended its main plot for exploring the more vulnerable , feminine side of Louise 's character and her sisterly relationship with Tina .

= = Plot = =

Tina and Louise 's aunt Gayle (Megan Mullally) has bought them tickets to an upcoming concert by the popular boy band Boyz 4 Now . Tina is excited , but Louise , who dislikes boy bands , only agrees to go at the insistence of her mother Linda (John Roberts) . Gene has qualified for a regional tablescaping competition , which Bob (H. Jon Benjamin) and Linda escort him to . Louise rejoices after a pet emergency leaves Gayle unable to bring the sisters to the concert , but reluctantly agrees to help find another ride after seeing Tina 's disappointment . They hitch a ride with Zeke (Bobby Tisdale) and his older cousin Leslie (Jack McBrayer) , who are going to the concert to sell bootleg T @-@ shirts and hot dogs . Bob and Linda later meet the arrogant father of a fellow competitor named Oscar Anthony , which drives them to push Gene to win .

At the concert venue , Louise scoffs at the band 's obsessed female fans , warns Tina that " a lot of puberty " awaits her at the concert , and plans to wait outside . However , she is forced to bring Tina inside to prevent her from fainting . Meanwhile , Gene impresses the judges with a magic @-@ themed table display and advances to the top four . Having not fully read the competition rule book , however , he is left unprepared to produce a second table display for the next round . The concert begins before Louise can exit , and she remains unimpressed until the band 's prepubescent youngest member , Boo Boo , comes onstage . Louise is left frozen in awe by his looks , and once the band 's first song starts she starts excitedly screaming out his name . Horrified at what she has done , she runs out in denial about liking Boo Boo , having never had a previous crush .

Louise runs back to the concert and starts asking Tina questions about Boo Boo , and Tina correctly deduces that she has a crush on him . Seeing Louise 's panicked reaction , Tina promises to help and gets her to reveal her desire to slap Boo Boo 's " hideous , beautiful face . " Having been denied access to the band 's backstage room , Louise and Tina sneak into their tour bus after the concert . Their cover is blown by Louise , who emerges from their hiding place desperately wanting to meet Boo Boo . The bus pulls over and the sisters debark , but not before Louise fulfills her desire to slap Boo Boo in the face . Gayle picks them up , and on the way home Louise thanks Tina for her support and says that she is over her crush . At the tablescaping competition , Gene 's improvised menstruation @-@ themed display is deemed offensive by the judges and causes him to end up in fourth place ; nonetheless , the Belchers are satisfied to see Oscar 's father crying over losing . That night , Louise secretly pulls out a poster of Boo Boo , slapping his face gently before going to sleep .

= = Production = =

" Boyz 4 Now " was written by Lizzie and Wendy Molyneux and directed by Anthony Chun . Upon hearing the writers ' pitch of the episode , series creator Loren Bouchard found its plot to be " such an immediately appealing story " and " a great way to have Louise peek over the other side of adolescence and look into the abyss " . In an interview with Rolling Stone , Bouchard cited " Boyz 4 Now " as one of his favorite episodes of the series and revealed his liking of " episodes where Louise is a little vulnerable ... you don 't want her to be as invulnerable as she pretends to be . If you try to keep the show grounded , then you periodically have to say , she 's a nine @-@ year @-@ old girl . " He added that while the character has " an adult sensibility about a lot of stuff " , he and the writing staff try to " look for ways to bring her back down to earth , " citing the episode 's depiction of Louise " fighting against growing up " , with Tina acting as " her strange ambassador into that world ... in some ways , you couldn 't ask for a better guide . "

The eponymous group which " Boyz 4 Now " centers around was written as a general parody of boy bands , and not with any particular group in mind . Bouchard explained that the choice of using a non @-@ specific type of parody was not brought about by fears that the episode would become dated , but rather because the staff all had different boy bands that " made them chuckle . " He did , however , specifically research the English @-@ Irish boy band One Direction for the episode because he " wanted to see what the state of the art was " and " hadn 't been that interested in Boyz II Men or Backstreet Boys or ' N Sync . " The staff had differing opinions on what Boyz 4 Now 's clothes and hair would look like , choices which Bouchard ultimately left to " some of the many talented women who work on the show who had much stronger feelings about boy bands " .

Actor Max Greenfield guest stars in the episode voicing Boo Boo , a member of Boyz 4 Now whom Louise develops a crush on . Series writers Steven Davis , Kelvin Yu , and Scott Jacobson composed and recorded the song " Will You Be Mine (Coal Mine) " for the episode and completed it before its table read , while Greenfield was later asked to record vocals . The Bob 's Burgers writing staff later named it their fourth favorite song from the series . Other guests include stand @-@ up comic Tig Notaro , who voices the band 's tour bus driver Jody , and actor Jack McBrayer , who reprises his voice role as Zeke 's older cousin Leslie .

= = Reception = =

" Boyz 4 Now " first aired in the United States on April 28 , 2013 on Fox , as a part of the Animation Domination programming block . The episode was watched by 3 @.@ 50 million viewers and received a 1 @.@ 7 / 5 Nielsen rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , becoming the fourth most @-@ watched program of the Animation Domination block for the night . Pilot Viruet of The A.V. Club graded the episode an A ? , writing that it was " full of funny moments throughout . " Viruet felt that " Boyz 4 Now " was most successful at building the relationship between Tina and Louise , noting that the latter 's " three @-@ hour crush throws her for such a loop that she emerges with a newfound respect for Tina who deals with this every day . " She also praised the tablescaping competition subplot , labelling it as " equally hilarious and absurd " as the main plot .

Matt Brassil of Heave Media ranked " Boyz 4 Now " as the seventh @-@ best television episode of 2013 , stating that the episode 's handling of Louise 's crush " cracks through that little girl surface into the inevitable woman [she] will become , and the writing starts to show how even the most maniacal girl with a bunny hat can be humanized . " Phillip Maciak , writing for the Los Angeles Review of Books , named Kristen Schaal 's voice acting as Louise on Bob 's Burgers as his favorite television performance of the year and cited her performance in the episode : " Schaal 's handling of the anger and betrayal Louise feels as she finds herself attracting to a boy for the first time is actually quite moving . But , more than that , it opens up a new register of this top @-@ register performance as Louise 's murderous rage turns to murderous romance . "