

= Argus (30 Rock) =

" Argus " is the nineteenth episode of the fourth season of the American television comedy series 30 Rock , and the 77th overall episode of the series . It was written by 30 Rock producers Dylan Morgan , Paula Pell , and Josh Siegal . The episode was directed by co @-@ executive producer and show composer Jeff Richmond . It originally aired on the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) network in the United States on April 29 , 2010 . Guest stars in this episode include Will Forte , Marceline Hugot , and Burke Moses .

In the episode , Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) receives a peculiar gift from the late Don Geiss (Rip Torn) . Meanwhile , Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) and Pete Hornberger (Scott Adsit) get suspicious of Jenna Maroney 's (Jane Krakowski) new boyfriend (Forte) . At the same time , Liz tries to sort out Grizz Griswold 's (Grizz Chapman) problem when both Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) and " Dot Com " Slattery (Kevin Brown) want to be Grizz 's best man .

" Argus " has received generally positive reception from television critics . According to the Nielsen Media Research , the episode was watched by 5 @.@ 93 million households during its original broadcast , and received a 2 @.@ 7 rating / 8 share among viewers in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

= = Plot = =

Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) announces to The Girlie Show with Tracy Jordan (TGS) staff that Grizz Griswold (Grizz Chapman) will be getting married at the end of the month . A problem immediately ensues after Grizz cannot decide between Tracy and " Dot Com " Slattery (Kevin Brown) to be his best man . Grizz then asks Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) to help him convince Tracy that Dot Com should be his best man . The two suggest another task Tracy can do at the wedding , but Tracy insists on being the best man . Later , Liz learns that Dot Com is in love with Grizz 's fiancée , Feyoncé , Grizz is not aware of this , and that the only reason Tracy wanted to be the best man was to protect Dot Com . Finally , after changing Grizz 's mind about Dot Com as his best man , Grizz appoints Liz as his woman of honor at his wedding instead .

Meanwhile , Liz and Pete Hornberger (Scott Adsit) are suspicious that Jenna Maroney 's (Jane Krakowski) new boyfriend Paul (Will Forte) is using her . Pete and Liz follow Paul to a bar and find out that he is a Jenna Maroney impersonator , performing as her in a drag show . The next day , Liz asks Jenna if she knows what Paul does , but Jenna is aware of his work , having met Paul at a Jenna Maroney impersonator contest in which he won and Jenna herself placed fourth . Liz does not approve of the relationship and confronts Paul , asking what his intentions are with Jenna . Paul tells her that he is not using Jenna to further his career , but that he is with her because she accepts him for who he is . Liz is convinced by their touching (although weird) display of care for each other , ultimately approving of their relationship .

At the same time , Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) is informed by Don Geiss 's (Rip Torn) estate lawyer Thomas (Burke Moses) that he is in Don Geiss 's will . Jack is excited at the idea of owning a piece of Geiss 's legacy as Jack considered Geiss his mentor . At the will reading , Jack inherits Geiss 's beloved pet peacock named Argus . When Argus begins acting peculiar , Jack enlists the help of NBC page Kenneth Parcell (Jack McBrayer) . Kenneth ? who knows all the peafowl calls ? tells Jack that Argus muttered senpai and k?hai ? master and pupil ? nicknames that Geiss and Jack had for each other (a ruse conceived by Liz , who knew of the nicknames) . Immediately , Jack is convinced that Geiss 's soul has inhabited Argus , prompting Jack to release his grief to Argus and finally accepting Geiss 's death .

= = Production = =

" Argus " was written by show producers Dylan Morgan , Paula Pell , and Josh Siegal . The director of this episode was co @-@ executive producer and show composer Jeff Richmond . Richmond is married to series creator Tina Fey . This was Morgan , Pell and Siegal 's second writing credit , after Morgan and Siegal penned " Sun Tea " , and Pell who developed the " Floyd " script . Richmond

made his directorial debut in the show with " Argus " . This episode of 30 Rock originally aired on NBC in the United States on April 29 , 2010 , as the nineteenth episode of the show 's fourth season and the 77th overall episode of the series . " Argus " was filmed on March 1 , 2010 .

Comedian actor Will Forte made a second appearance on the show , having guest starred as a different character in the February 1 , 2007 , episode " Black Tie " from the show 's first season . In this episode , Forte played Jenna Maroney 's boyfriend and Jenna impersonator . At the end of this episode , Paul , dressed as Jenna , and Jenna sing the song " All by Myself " . Forte has appeared in the main cast of Saturday Night Live (SNL) , a weekly sketch comedy series which airs on NBC in the United States . Tina Fey was the head writer on SNL from 1999 until 2006 . Forte would appear in the season finale episode " I Do Do " that aired on May 20 , 2010 . Actress Marceline Hugot guest starred as Kathy Geiss , the daughter of former General Electric CEO Don Geiss , played by Rip Torn , for the tenth time . During the reading of her father 's will here , Kathy receives a pocket watch with the instructions not to get it wet , though Kathy has already put the watch in her mouth . Actor Burke Moses guest starred as Don Geiss 's estate lawyer named Thomas .

During the episode Jack Donaghy inherits Argus , Don Geiss 's beloved pet peacock . Throughout the episode , Argus can be seen at Jack 's office in the 30 Rock building . An actual peacock was featured here . In one scene , Liz Lemon sees Argus and is frightened of him . While talking to Jack , Argus hits Liz across the face with his feathers , thus marking her as his mate . To accommodate this , puppeteers ? Peter Linz , Noel MacNeal , and Carmen Osbahr ? were brought in to hit Liz in the face with feathers instead of using the peacock itself .

Throughout the episode , Grizz Griswold alludes that he and Liz had a romantic relationship in the past . In order to choose between Tracy Jordan and Dot Com Slattery as his best man , Grizz turns to Liz for help . After agreeing to help him out , Grizz wonders whether or not it was awkward for Liz that Tracy brought up his wedding , but she asks " Why would it be awkward ? " , he responds " Because of our sexual past . " Afterwards , Grizz says that he and Liz were the " Sam and Diane of this place [TGS] " , a reference to the Sam and Diane characters from the television show Cheers . In " Greenzo " , that aired in the second season of the series , Liz sexually harasses Grizz at Kenneth Parcell 's out of control party , and Kenneth tells Liz off the next day , stating that before that party , he had " never seen Grizz or Dot Com cry . " In addition , the Dot Com storyline of him being in love with Grizz 's fiancée , Feyoncé , began in the season three episode " St. Valentine 's Day " .

== Reception ==

According to the Nielsen Media Research , " Argus " was watched by 5 @. @ 439 million households in its original American broadcast . It earned a 2 @. @ 7 rating / 8 share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , meaning that it was seen by 2 @. @ 7 percent of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds , and 8 percent of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This was an increase from the previous episode , " Khonani " , which was watched by 5 @. @ 182 million American viewers . " Argus " won its timeslot in the 18 ? 34 male demographic winning with a 3 @. @ 2 rating beating the competition by a 1 @. @ 3 rating .

The A.V. Club 's Nathan Rabin enjoyed " Argus " , noting that it was " entertaining , funny and had some killer one @- @ liners " and that it featured " all kinds of silly but in a very winning way . " Rabin enjoyed all the plots featured here , and praised Will Forte 's role as Jenna 's boyfriend and impersonator . Emily Exton from Entertainment Weekly wrote that the peacock storyline " felt too silly " , and that Forte " was too underused as Paul " , nonetheless said that despite not being the greatest 30 Rock episode of all time " there were still some hilarious lines . " IGN contributor Robert Canning liked Grizz 's dilemma plot , commenting that Grizz not trying to hurt Tracy 's feelings while Tracy tried to keep Dot Com away from Grizz 's bride @- @ to @- @ be " offered up some inspired lunacy . " His only complaint about " Argus " was Jack 's plot as he deemed it disappointing . A review in TV Guide by Adam Mersel said " ... Fey and the gang live up to the challenge , and produce [' Argus '] a hilarious , quite snotty episode that holds up to any comedy around . " Meredith Blake , writing for the Los Angeles Times , was positive towards the episode , reasoning

that the writing " is just so deliciously absurd that I can 't help but giggle the whole way through " , and that the plots featured here were " sublimely inconsequential . Not a whole lot happened , but it was all very funny . " Nick Catucci from New York magazine , who did not enjoy the two other stories , appreciated Jenna 's , explaining that by having the character date one of her own impersonator was " outrageous and funny without relying on any cheap insults to trannies . " Sean Gandert from Paste magazine reported that " Argus " was an episode that " [took] us back to the show 's roots " , explaining that recapturing the " old tone " also worked to " recapture the old joke @-@ writing expertise . It wasn 't 100 % consistent , but there were so many good one @-@ liners to counterbalance the misfires that it didn 't even matter . This is 30 Rock the way it should be . " The Houston Press ' Daniel Carlson wrote that Grizz 's wedding story was " pure filler , but everything on the show 's kind of filler for the wackiness , so it mostly worked . " Carlson wrote that the best part from " Argus " came with Forte 's Paul as Jenna 's boyfriend and impersonator .

Bob Sassone of AOL 's TV Squad did not respond well to the episode , observing that " Argus " would go down 30 Rock history as " one of the worst episodes of the series . " One of the problems he had was that the Jack character bonded with the peacock for the entire episode . " As I 've said before , I hate the episodes where Jack is out of control or acting goofy or involved in some lame pursuit , and this one of the more lame pursuits . "