

= Brother from Another Series =

" Brother from Another Series " is the sixteenth episode of The Simpsons ' eighth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on February 23 , 1997 . Sideshow Bob is released from prison into the care of his brother Cecil and claims to be a changed man . However , Bart does not believe him and tries to find out what Bob is up to . It was the first episode directed by Pete Michels and was written by Ken Keeler . The episode guest stars Kelsey Grammer in his sixth appearance as Sideshow Bob and David Hyde Pierce as Cecil . The title is not only a pun on the movie The Brother from Another Planet (used for a previous episode as well) , but also a reference to the fact that guest stars Kelsey Grammer (Frasier Crane) and David Hyde Pierce (Niles Crane) also played bickering brothers on the NBC sitcom Frasier .

= = Plot = =

Former criminal Sideshow Bob is declared a changed man by Reverend Lovejoy and released from prison on a work program , despite the protests of Bart. Bob is surprised to be taken into the care of his brother Cecil as the two had previously not spoken for ten years . A flashback reveals the cause of this rift : Cecil had auditioned to become the new sidekick for Krusty the Clown , a job he had long desired , but Bob , who had not originally intended to be the sidekick , was chosen instead . Cecil , who is Springfield 's chief hydrological and hydrodynamical engineer , employs Bob to supervise the construction of a hydroelectric dam in a river near Springfield , while Bart , believing that Bob is still evil , continuously follows him around . Bob begins to become intensely annoyed by Bart 's intrusions into his personal life and the dam 's incompetent laborers (Cletus and his family) , and he expresses a desire to see the dam burst and obliterate Springfield .

Meanwhile , Bart enlists Lisa to help find out what Sideshow Bob is up to , but only ends up being discovered rummaging in Bob 's trash and angrily escorted home by him . They finally decide to search in Bob 's trailer at the dam construction site , and discover a briefcase full of cash . On being interrupted by Bob , the children run and hide inside the dam 's turbine room , but are cornered . When confronted with the money , Bob denies knowing anything about it , stating that he 's putting up his finances to build the dam walls out of concrete , but is distraught to see the walls empty and poorly constructed . The kids then believe that Bob is cutting back on construction materials by embezzling the money for himself , but Cecil shows up with a gun and reveals that he is the one who embezzled the money ; now he plans on framing Bob and using him as a scapegoat when the poorly constructed dam collapses . He officially declares his greed of the money motivated him to enact his plan , though he privately admits to Bob that his true motivation was because of Bob being chosen as Krusty 's sidekick instead of Cecil . Without hesitation , Cecil locks Bob , Bart and Lisa in the dam and prepares to blow it up , taking the money with him .

Deciding to work together , Bart , Lisa , and Bob escape and try to save the dam . While Lisa and Bob set about defusing Cecil 's dynamite , Bart jumps at Cecil before he can press the plunger . Cecil attempts to swat him off with the briefcase of money , but the case bursts open and the money is lost . Cecil manages to throw Bart off the cliff , declaring he will kill Bart as Bob never could ; ironically , Bob grabs the cord of the dynamite and dives down in an effort to save him . As the two dangle down the side of the dam , Bob decides to cut the cord on the dynamite in an act of self @-@ sacrifice to prevent Cecil from destroying the town , but his and Bart 's perilous fall is broken by a conveniently placed pipe .

The police arrive and Cecil is immediately arrested . Bob gloats over his victory , having gained the respect from Bart and Lisa , who now believed that Bob has truly changed . Unfortunately , Chief Wiggum suddenly arrives and arrests Bob , believing him to be involved in the plot as well , despite Bart and Lisa 's protests . As they are taken away , Cecil tricks Bob into swearing revenge on Bart and incriminating himself . Upon realizing that he just made Bart his enemy again , Bob gets angry at Cecil for it . Just after the brothers are taken away , the dam crumbles and releases a torrent of water on Springfield , only to do apparently minimal damage . Wiggum muses on the evil the brothers could concoct while locked up together ; in reality , the brothers merely continue to bicker

childishly , as Bob is still angry at Cecil for making Bart his nemesis again .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Ken Keeler , who had been watching a lot of Frasier at the time and had been assigned to write a Sideshow Bob episode and he thought it would be a good idea to mix the two . Pierce was cast as Sideshow Bob 's brother , causing Pierce to joke , " Normally , I would not do something like this . But how often do you get a chance to work with an actor like Kelsey Grammer and , more importantly , play his brother ? " While Sideshow Bob is addressing the crowd , a man near the back raises his hand and says " probably " ; he is also voiced by David Hyde Pierce , who had wanted to be a man in a crowd .

An early draft of the episode originally featured an Opera house explosion , which was changed because the writers felt using a dam would be more exciting . An early rule of Sideshow Bob episodes was to recap what had gone on in previous Bob episodes , in case the viewer had forgotten who he was . The original script was run by the Frasier producers to make sure they were okay with it , and they only had one problem . There was a very brief scene in which Cecil talks to a visible character and refers to her as " Maris " , who in Frasier is an unseen character , and the producers of Frasier said the scene should go . The writers spent a long time trying to figure out a civilization that considered chief hydrological engineer a true calling and chose the Cappadocians , who were famous for underground cities although not specifically dams .

Cecil was drawn to resemble David Hyde Pierce , but still look similar to Bob . According to director Pete Michels , it was difficult to draw Bob and Cecil standing together because their feet are both so big . There was a scene featuring Hans Moleman and his house , which was cut , but his house can still briefly be seen in the scene where Cecil throws Bart off a cliff . The sequence was cut in order to make room for the explanation of why Bob was sent back to prison . Ken Keeler has said that it is his favorite deleted scene .

= = Cultural references = =

The " Krusty the Clown Prison Special " is based on Johnny Cash 's 1968 appearance at Folsom Prison . Krusty 's song is a parody of " Folsom Prison Blues " . The mention of Arthur Fiedler 's wake is an apparent reference and parody of Frasier Crane 's upper class Seattle lifestyle . The episode contains several references to Frasier , with the intention of making it obvious that The Simpsons was parodying the series . These include a title card just before the start of the second act which says " Frasier is a hit show on the NBC television network " in a similar typeface and style as Frasier 's intertitles , with jazz music playing over it as it does in the series . When Bart jumps on Cecil and says " guess who , " Cecil replies with " Maris ? " Cecil 's inability to see Bart also refers to the fact that Maris , Niles ' wife in Frasier , is never actually seen .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " Brother from Another Series " finished 39th in ratings for the week of February 17 ? 23 , 1997 , with a Nielsen rating of 9 @. @ 1 , equivalent to approximately 8 @. @ 8 million viewing households . It was the fourth highest @- @ rated show on the Fox network that week , following The X @- @ files , King of the Hill and Melrose Place . Beforehand , the media said the episode " looks promising , " and afterwards journalist Ben Rayner called it one of director Peter Michels ' " classics . " This episode was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for Sound Mixing for a Comedy Series or Special . In a 2008 article , Entertainment Weekly named Pierce 's role as Cecil as one of the sixteen best guest appearances on The Simpsons . Grammer and Pierce were ranked second on AOL 's list of their favorite 25 Simpsons guest stars .