

= Mind Over Murder =

" Mind Over Murder " is the fourth episode of the first season of the animated comedy series Family Guy . It originally aired on Fox in the United States on April 25 , 1999 . The episode features Peter after he is placed under house arrest , and decides to open his own bar in the family 's basement . The bar immediately becomes a success among Peter 's male friends when his wife , Lois , begins to sing and dance in front of them while wearing revealing clothing . Meanwhile , Stewie attempts to create a time travel device in order to escape the pain of teething .

The episode was written by Neil Goldman and Garrett Donovan and directed by Roy Allen Smith , all series firsts . Much of the episode 's humor is structured around cutaway sequences that parody popular culture , including those centered on The Chronicles of Narnia , Sesame Street , Homicide : Life on the Street , Mentos , and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln . The title " Mind Over Murder " was inspired by 1930s and 1940s radio programs , particularly the radio thriller anthology Suspense , which featured several elements pertaining to death and murder . The episode featured performances by guest stars Carlos Alazraqui , Butch Hartman , Alex Rocco , Leslie Uggams and Wally Wingert , along with several recurring voice actors for the series . It was rated TV @-@ 14 (D , L) in the United States and 12 in the United Kingdom .

The episode received praise from IGN television critic Ahsan Haque for its storyline and use of cultural references .

= = Plot = =

Stewie is in terrible pain from teething and cannot find comfort anywhere . When his mother Lois tells him that his pain will ultimately pass , it gives him the idea to build a machine that will move time forward to the point where his teething will have already stopped . Meanwhile , Lois tells Peter to drive their other son Chris to his soccer match , then come right back to look after Stewie . However , Peter 's friend Quagmire is there , and has brought beer , so Peter decides to ignore Lois and stay at the game . While there , another member of the crowd insults Chris . Angered , Peter punches this person in the face , only to discover that it is a pregnant woman who looks and sounds like a man .

Peter is put under house arrest for assault and soon begins to miss his friends . Peter has a vision of the Pawtucket Patriot , a fictional ale mascot , from his ale can label and on his advice opens a bar in his basement so that his friends can come to visit . The basement bar soon becomes a local hotspot . Lois is upset about this , until she gets a chance to sing on stage before an appreciative crowd . As she savors the spotlight over the next few days , Peter becomes increasingly uncomfortable with the attention she is getting , especially from the male patrons . Peter demands that she quit singing , but she refuses .

Peter is soon cornered by the neglected wives of his bar 's patrons , and invites them to drag their husbands out from his bar . Meanwhile , Stewie 's time machine plans are accidentally discovered by Lois , who shows them around to the bar 's patrons . Angered and upset that his plans have been discovered , Stewie runs upstairs . Soon after , the wives storm the bar and Lois tells them that she only wants to feel appreciated and special , something to which all the other women relate . Meanwhile , Quagmire accidentally starts a fire .

Upstairs , Stewie takes drastic measures to protect his plans , programming the machine to go back in time before he drew them up . In the bar , Peter and Lois have a heart @-@ to @-@ heart conversation , and they do not immediately notice that the bar is burning . When they try to escape , the stairs become blocked and they are trapped . Stewie reverses time just as Peter is having an epiphany about how poorly he treats Lois , and seconds before the basement bar goes up in flames . They all travel back in time , to when Lois asked Peter to take Chris to the game . While he is getting ready , Peter trips on Stewie 's time machine , destroying it and injuring his leg , thus preventing him from taking Chris to his soccer match , while Stewie is left to suffer with more teething pain .

= = Production = =

" Mind Over Murder " was written by Neil Goldman and Garrett Donovan and directed by Roy Allen Smith , all of whom made their series debut with this episode . Peter Shin , who has since supervised other episodes of the show , acted as supervising director . Writer Andrew Gormley and voice actor Mike Henry acted as staff writers in this episode , while Ricky Blitt and Chris Sheridan worked as the story editors . In addition to the regular cast , the episode featured the voices of actors Leslie Uggams , Wally Wingert , Alex Rocco and Carlos Alazraqui . Recurring guest voice actors included actress Lori Alan and writer and animator Butch Hartman .

The title " Mind Over Murder " , like the titles of the first three episodes of the season , was inspired by 1930s and 1940s radio programs , particularly the radio thriller anthology Suspense , which featured several elements pertaining to death and murder . This convention was dropped in the fifth episode of the season , " A Hero Sits Next Door " , partly to make the episodes easier to distinguish by their titles .

= = Cultural references = =

When Lois confronts Peter about the mess he is making in their house , he says he is terrible at housework . From this comes a cutaway which shows Peter doing the laundry . When he climbs into the machine in search of a missing sock , he falls into a wintry world where he encounters Mr. Tumnus from The Chronicles of Narnia .

While Peter is under house arrest he states that he is becoming bored of everything in the house including the television shows , which he feels have blended together . A cutaway features Bert and Ernie from the children 's television series Sesame Street , in a mix with the crime drama Homicide : Life on the Street .

When the Griffin family is watching television they see a commercial for Mentos @-@ brand mints , which features the American stage actor John Wilkes Booth as he attempts to assassinate Abraham Lincoln .

When Stewie starts to feel pain around the inside of his mouth , Lois notices and states that he is teething . Stewie quickly responds by asking her to kill him , or to shake him like a British nanny , a reference to the Louise Woodward case .

= = Reception = =

In his 2008 flashback review , Ahsan Haque of IGN praised the episode , rating it a 9 / 10 , praising the " integration between the random jokes and the storyline " , in comparison to later episodes . He criticized the " one @-@ dimensional " nature of Stewie 's character , but was impressed by the amount of story featured in this half @-@ hour episode . In another article , Haque named Stewie 's time machine plan from " Mind Over Murder " number five in his list of " Stewie 's Top 10 Most Diabolical Evil Plans " .

Robin Pierson of The TV Critic gave the episode a mixed review , giving it a 55 % . Pierson praised the episode 's plot , the handling of Peter and Stewie , and some of the cutaways . He criticized the relationship between Lois and Peter as unconvincing . At the end of his review he stated , " Family Guy doesn ' t seem to have found the right balance yet between silliness and seriousness . So far its plots have been either irrelevant or emotionally unappealing . This was also a bit short on good jokes . "