

## = Heavy Competition =

" Heavy Competition " is the 24th episode of the fifth season of the television series The Office , and the 96th overall episode of the series . It originally aired on NBC in the United States on April 16 , 2009 . In the episode , Michael enlists the help of Dwight in getting Michael 's new paper company off the ground , but the two eventually end up engaging in a war for each other 's clients . Meanwhile , Jim pretends to be afraid of his future with Pam to play a prank on Andy , who is still reeling over his recent break up with Angela .

The episode was written by Ryan Koh and directed by Ken Whittingham . It included a guest appearance by Idris Elba , who played new Dunder Mifflin vice president Charles Miner . The episode received generally positive reviews , and was voted the fourth best episode of the season in a poll at the fan site OfficeTally . According to Nielsen ratings , it was watched by 8 @. @ 24 million viewers , and was the most watched program among viewers aged between 18 and 49 .

## = = Plot = =

Michael ( Steve Carell ) and Dwight ( Rainn Wilson ) have been having secret meetings in the parking lot , where Dwight provides information about Dunder Mifflin so Michael can undercut the company . However , Dwight 's loyalty is put to the test as Charles Miner ( Idris Elba ) seems to show more respect for Dwight than Michael ever did . Dwight brings Charles to the parking lot during one of the secret meetings , where Charles orders Michael to stop pestering Dwight . This begins a rivalry between Michael and Dwight , and Michael begins to steal Dwight 's clients . Dwight asks for a truce and offers to take Michael and his employees out to lunch ; Dwight does not go to the restaurant and instead sneaks into the empty Michael Scott Paper Company office and steals everything on Michael 's desk , including his Rolodex contact list , and places a dead fish in the air conditioning vent .

Meanwhile , Jim ( John Krasinski ) and Pam ( Jenna Fischer ) are attempting to get bargain deals on wedding plans from Andy ( Ed Helms ) . When Pam turns down his ideas , Andy suspects that Pam might be acting controlling and cruelly to Jim , in the same way Angela ( Angela Kinsey ) treated Andy . Andy warns Jim , who tries to convince Andy that he and Pam are really happy . Andy remains convinced that Pam will betray him , so Jim asks Andy to provide for his emotional needs ( as a prank ) . After Jim feigns crying on Andy 's shoulder , Andy blames the office for Jim 's emotional troubles and asks them to apologize . Phyllis ( Phyllis Smith ) tells Andy that Jim is just messing with him . Andy does not believe her until he sees Jim grinning through the kitchen window . When Andy confronts Jim , Jim assures him that he and Pam are really happy and that Andy will find someone else one day .

Michael , Pam , and Ryan ( B.J. Novak ) return to their office and believe they have been robbed . Dwight calls and reveals his treachery . Michael calls Dwight on the phone and tells Dwight he is going to steal his biggest client while he listens . Dwight races to the HarperCollins office , where Michael and Dwight start fighting over the client , Daniel Scofield ( Bob Gebert ) . Mr. Scofield asks for both of their offers via email , and they agree to do so . Before leaving , Dwight then looks at Daniel 's personal information from Michael 's Rolodex card and asks him about his " gay son " , which seemingly perturbs Daniel . Michael reveals his unusual system where he color codes personal information about his contacts so he knows what not to talk about . Michael is seen laughing with Daniel in the parking lot as Dwight returns to his car alone .

## = = Production = =

" Heavy Competition " was written by Ryan Koh and directed by Ken Whittingham . It was the fifth of six episodes guest starring Idris Elba , best known as Stringer Bell from The Wire . Elba said he did not watch the episode after it aired because " I 'm hypercritical about my work , so I try not to torture myself . " Rainn Wilson said he liked the episode because it demonstrated growth for his character and the relationship between Michael and Dwight ; he said " I like the way they let characters grow

and change on the show , " and said of his character , " It 's not the same acolyte ass kissing as season 2 " . Wilson said the moment Dwight spun around the HarperCollins secretary saying " Spin move " , which was included in the script , was one of the most popular moments of the episode among the writers . Wilson said of filming the move , " We did like five spin moves and once I did a somersault . I thought I was being all nimble and quick , but no . I watch it and it looks like a manatee doing ballet at SeaWorld . "

Immediately after " Heavy Competition " first aired , NBC created a sub @-@ page on their official " Angela and Andy " wedding site with the full version of Andy 's " You Can Call Me Al " a cappella song , as well as an advertisement for their \$ 9 @,@ 000 wedding performances , both of which were featured in the episode itself . The official website for The Office included two cut scenes from " Heavy Competition " . In the first 45 @-@ second clip , Michael tries to justify his use of Dwight for leads and Ryan expresses anger when Dwight steals his uncle 's dry cleaning company as a client , leading Pam to mock the idea that Ryan cares about anyone but himself and Michael to intercede when Ryan in turn calls Pam a " hag " . In the second 50 @-@ second clip , Andy tries to sell Jim and Pam a Christian cross @-@ shaped cake from his failed wedding with Angela , and Jim tells Andy he believes the whole office is against him .

= = Cultural references = =

Michael , Pam and Ryan have lunch at Alfredo 's Pizza Café , a reference to the restaurant first referenced in the fourth season episode " Launch Party " . Andy presents a recording of his a cappella group singing Pachelbel 's Canon segueing into the Paul Simon song " You Can Call Me Al " . Dwight said under Michael 's leadership , the office was like the Roman Empire , the Wild West , war @-@ torn Poland , and Poland all at once . Andy vows to be Jim 's " traveling pants " , a reference to the young adult novel series The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants . Dwight describes Charles as " Will Smith @-@ esque " , a reference to the American film actor . Michael and Dwight both court HarperCollins , an American publishing company , as a prospective paper client .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast on April 16 , 2009 , " Heavy Competition " was watched by 8 @.@ 24 million viewers , according to Nielsen ratings . It captured a 5 @.@ 5 rating / 11 share among viewers aged between 18 and 49 , making it the most watched episode of the night among that age group . Additionally , the episode captured a 4 @.@ 5 rating / 14 share among viewers aged between 18 and 34 .

The episode received generally positive reviews . Margaret Lyons of Entertainment Weekly said she loved the chemistry between Michael and Dwight , and enjoyed the direction the Michael Scott Paper Company plot was going . She also liked the bond that was forming between Jim and Andy , and said Ed Helms was particularly good in " Heavy Competition " . Alan Sepinwall of The Star @-@ Ledger called the episode " just an awful lot of fun " , and wrote having Michael and Dwight at odds with each other " forced both characters to be just human enough for the story and the jokes to breathe " . Sepinwall did not enjoy the Jim and Andy subplot , except for the final moment when Jim comforted Andy . Will Leitch of New York magazine said , " This might have been the funniest Rainn Wilson has been in an episode all season , and that 's saying something . " Leitch also said B.J. Novak was particularly funny , and said he enjoyed being reminded that Michael is an excellent salesman .

Travis Fickett of IGN said the new paper company continued to serve as a good change for the series , and the Michael and Dwight rivalry was a " fun development , and it feels as though the writers are taking great advantage of the ( storyline ) " . Steve Mullen praised the episode not only for the Michael / Dwight war , but also for smaller moments like the cheese puff tosses and the messages Pam and Ryan wrote on a clipboard for Michael during his phone call ; Mullen said , " I 'm not sure any other 30 minute comedy currently on TV can even touch The Office . " Amy Stetts of The Express @-@ Times said the Michael Scott Paper Company plot " peaked " with this episode ,

and she genuinely could not predict how the storyline would end .

Not all reviews were positive . Although Nathan Rabin of The A.V. Club said the cheese puffs scene was " one of the most awesome cold opens in recent memory " , he also said " Heavy Competition " was " one of the weakest episodes of the Idris Elba cycle " . Rabin also said Jim 's treatment of Andy was mean @-@ spirited and unfunny : " Jim tried to spin it into a character @-@ building lesson for Andy but it left a bad taste all the same . "

In her list of the top ten moments from the fifth season of The Office , phillyBurbs.com writer Jen Wielgus ranked Michael 's formation of the Michael Scott Paper Company in the downstairs storage closet as number one , citing the " Dream Team " , " Michael Scott Paper Company " and " Heavy Competition " episodes in particular . She also said she specifically enjoyed the cheese puff tossing scene , and the moment when Dwight dropped his clothes to show he was not wearing a wire , both scenes from " Heavy Competition " . " Heavy Competition " was voted the fourth highest @-@ rated episode out of 26 from the fifth season , according to an episode poll at the fansite OfficeTally ; the episode was rated 8 @.@ 66 out of 10 .