

= Bob Fires the Kids =

" Bob Fires the Kids " is the third episode of the third season of the American animated comedy series Bob 's Burgers . Written by Lizzie and Wendy Molyneux , the episode sees Bob Belcher ( H. Jon Benjamin ) firing his children Tina ( Dan Mintz ) , Gene ( Eugene Mirman ) , and Louise ( Kristen Schaal ) from the family restaurant for the summer , not wanting to deprive them of normal childhood experiences as his own father did . However , when the children grow bored of summer activities , they seek employment at a local farm , which unbeknownst to them grows marijuana .

The episode also sees the return of the bank robber Mickey , voiced by guest actor Bill Hader , who is hired by Bob at the restaurant in his children 's absence . Other guest voice actors include Megan Mullally and Nick Offerman of the American comedy television series Parks and Recreation as the hippie farming couple Beverly and Cooper , Doug Benson as an undercover DEA agent , and Kevin Kline as recurring series character Calvin Fischoeder .

After its original scheduled air date was preempted by Fox for a National League Championship Series broadcast , the episode aired on the network on November 4 , 2012 . It was watched by 3 @. @ 92 million viewers and received positive reviews from critics , who praised its combination of subplots involving the Belcher parents and children and the incorporation of the character Mickey ; positive comparisons to The Simpsons were also drawn .

= = Plot = =

Bob receives a package containing his childhood toys , which consist of nothing more than a scouring pad , a rusted spatula , and a dog @-@ shaped soap bar . The toys make Bob recall memories of constantly working at his father 's restaurant , and he realizes that his job deprived him of a normal childhood . Worried that he is doing the same to his own children , he fires Tina , Gene and Louise and encourages them to enjoy their summer vacation . In their place , he hires newly released bank robber Mickey , whom the family had previously befriended , to do various jobs around the restaurant , in exchange for free meals and shelter in the basement .

Meanwhile , the children find outdoor summer activities unsatisfying and soon grow bored . They later wander into a blueberry farm and meet its elderly owners , the hippie couple Beverly and Cooper , who offer to hire Gene and Louise to " pick weeds " and Tina as a blueberry delivery girl . With the promise of a daily \$ 10 salary , the children accept and soon become unsuspecting accomplices in a marijuana delivery business . One night Bob discovers Mickey making a hole in the basement , and Mickey reveals his plan to dig his way into the same bank he previously robbed , believing that the double jeopardy defense will clear him of any crime . Bob explains to Mickey that he can , in fact , be jailed again , and promptly fires him .

Bob attempts to rehire his children the next day , explaining that he now realizes that he is a better parent than his distant , alcoholic father , only to discover that they have found other work . A customer of the farm delivery service later walks into the restaurant looking for Tina , leaving behind a box of blueberries . Bob and his wife Linda ( John Roberts ) discover marijuana hidden in the box and set off to find the children , with Mickey leading them to the farm 's location . As they arrive and take back the children , a SWAT team ? led by the aforementioned customer , who is actually an undercover DEA agent ? shows up and arrests the hippies . The scene cuts to Wagstaff School , where Louise has narrated the episode 's events to her class for her report on how she spent her summer vacation .

= = Production = =

" Bob Fires the Kids " was written by Lizzie and Wendy Molyneux , and directed by Boohwan and Kyounghee Lim . Despite airing as a part of the show 's third season , it was actually produced as the twelfth episode of its second season , hence bearing the production code 2ASA12 . The episode 's title was first revealed in a February 2012 post on the official Bob 's Burgers writers ' blog alongside its accompanying script cover , designed by series storyboard artist Tony Gennaro .

The episode guest stars actor and comedian Bill Hader , reprising his role as the bank robber Mickey from the second season episode " Bob Day Afternoon " . Megan Mullally , who voices the character Aunt Gayle in the series , also makes a guest appearance in the episode with her husband and Parks and Recreation co @-@ star Nick Offerman as the hippie couple Beverly and Cooper . Comedian Doug Benson voices an undercover DEA agent , while Kevin Kline voices recurring series character Calvin Fiscoeder in a brief appearance .

During the recording of the episode , Hader ad @-@ libbed calypso scat singing , which series creator Loren Bouchard cited as an " amazing [ example of ] when a person comes in and ad @-@ libs music . " Bouchard further stated : " There 's something so musical about it and he 's clearly so talented , but it 's also silly and in character . It 's nice to have your cake and eat it , too . " Hader 's singing is incorporated into a scene in the episode where Mickey sings while making a hole in Bob 's basement wall , and is later reprised in the episode 's end credits . The same scene sees Mickey attempting to cover up the hole with a Big film poster , which serves as a reference to the 1994 film The Shawshank Redemption .

= = Reception = =

" Bob Fires the Kids " first aired in the United States on November 4 , 2012 on Fox , as a part of the Animation Domination programming block . It had originally been scheduled to air on October 21 , but was preempted for Fox 's broadcast of game six of the 2012 National League Championship Series . The episode was watched by 3 @. @ 92 million viewers and received a 1 @. @ 8 / 4 Nielsen rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , becoming the fourth most @-@ watched program of the Animation Domination block for the night . It was surpassed in ratings by Sunday Night Football and The Amazing Race , which aired on NBC and CBS respectively in the same time slot .

Rowan Kaiser of The A.V. Club gave " Bob Fires the Kids " a B + rating , calling its premise and structure " reminiscent of classic Simpsons style " and writing that the episode " is effective because it doesn 't just divide the kids and the parents : it sets them against one another . " He added that while the main plot " loses some momentum at the conclusion , [ the episode ] keeps from sinking thanks to a steady stream of great lines going throughout . " Kowan concluded his review by stating that he was " perfectly happy to laugh throughout an episode as a fan , even though as a critic [ he ] might occasionally want just a little bit more . "

Ross Bonaime of Paste wrote : " As great as an episode of Bob 's Burgers can be when the kids and the adults are given their own separate stories ... there 's something much more rewarding about a storyline that combines the two groups in an almost Simpson @-@ ian manner . " He also praised the episode 's guest voice actors , citing in particular Bill Hader 's character Mickey as " very odd , but so much fun " ; Bonaime gave " Bob Fires the Kids " an overall grade of 8 @. @ 3 out of 10 . Jen Johnson , writing for Den of Geek , also cited Mickey as a highlight of the episode , stating : " I would say that I hope this is the end of Mickey and the chaos he brings to the Belcher family , but [ the episode ] was just too much fun . I hope he comes back . "