

= Dwight K. Schrute , (Acting) Manager =

" Dwight K. Schrute , (Acting) Manager " is the 24th episode of the seventh season of the American comedy television series *The Office* and the show's 150th episode overall . The episode was written by Justin Spitzer and directed by Troy Miller . It originally aired in the United States on May 12 , 2011 on NBC . The episode also features guest appearances from Kathy Bates , Cody Horn and Michael Schur .

The series depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In the episode , Dwight (Rainn Wilson) becomes the interim regional manager , instituting a typically heavy @-@ handed management style . Meanwhile , Gabe (Zach Woods) tries to win back Erin (Ellie Kemper) , but Andy (Ed Helms) gets in his way .

The episode received positive reviews from critics , with many commenting that it proved the series could survive without the lead actor , Steve Carell , and others calling it the best episode of the series in years . According to Nielsen Media Research , " Dwight K. Schrute , (Acting) Manager " drew an estimated 6 @.@ 45 million viewers and earned a 3 @.@ 3 rating / 8 % share among those aged 18 ? 49 , making it the second @-@ lowest @-@ rated episode of the season after " Todd Packer " .

= = Synopsis = =

When Deangelo Vickers ends up in a coma on life support , Jo Bennett (guest star Kathy Bates) makes Dwight (Rainn Wilson) the interim regional manager before they find a proper replacement , much to Jim 's chagrin , as the office had actually functioned very smoothly during the manager hiatus . As Jim (John Krasinski) notes , everyone showed up , worked for the day with reasonable breaks , and were highly productive . Once appointed , Dwight establishes a strict management style in stark contrast to their previously relaxed style , from making the employees say the Pledge of Allegiance to setting up firewalls and long passwords to use the office 's various machines and installing antique punch clocks . Jim , who had turned down the temporary manager position believing that they should not be assigned one at all , is especially unhappy with the changes , and begins pranking Dwight by suggesting that he is leading an uprising called " The Fist " . In order to impress Jo , Dwight buys a gun , though he is more excited when he receives a holster as a gift from a relative , and uses the gun to accessorize . Pam (Jenna Fischer) insists that he put it away , but Dwight accidentally fires the gun right by Andy (Ed Helms) , causing him temporary hearing loss . Dwight attempts to bribe the office workers into silence with various favors , and Jim insists that Dwight do outlandish things (such as saying " Shagedelic , baby ") at certain promptings .

Meanwhile , Gabe (Zach Woods) continues with his attempts to win back Erin (Ellie Kemper) . He invites Andy to go to the conference room to speak in private . Gabe breaks down , and Andy promises he won 't date Erin again . Gabe confronts Andy with the promise after he sees the two hanging out together , but Andy stands up for himself and embarrasses Gabe by describing Gabe 's crying fit to Erin . When asked whether he wants to date Erin , he refuses to give a straight answer .

When Jo comes to visit the branch , Dwight admits to the gun incident . He attempts to divert the blame to his employees , saying that blackmail is a bigger crime than firing a gun accidentally , but Jo takes the position away from him . Jo later puts Creed (Creed Bratton) , who has the most seniority in the office , in charge until a committee composed of Jim , Toby (Paul Lieberstein) , and Gabe find a replacement . While Jim tells Dwight that Jo did the right thing , he also compliments Dwight , noting that the office got every single company order out on time .

= = Production = =

" Dwight K. Schrute , (Acting) Manager " was the ninth episode of the series written by supervising producer Justin Spitzer , and the first directed by Troy Miller . The original working title for this episode was " Interim Manager " but was considered too bland by Office writer Mindy Kaling . While

writing the episode , Spitzer originally titled it " Dwight K. Schrute " , but decided the title was not descriptive enough , so he renamed it " Dwight K. Schrute , Interim Manager " , before realizing that Acting Manager fits Dwight 's role better and changed it to " Dwight K. Schrute , Acting Manager " . Spitzer then decided that Dwight would downplay the acting part of the position and renamed the episode to its current title " Dwight K. Schrute , (Acting) Manager " .

The episode features the return of Kathy Bates as Jo Bennett . This is her first on @-@ screen appearance since " Nepotism " . The long absence is due to her starring in the other NBC series , Harry 's Law . The episode also marks the second appearance of Cody Horn as Jordan Garfield , Deangelo 's executive assistant , and the first of three new roles since Carell 's departure . The role was originally said to be recurring at first with a chance of her becoming a series regular in the eighth season . She eventually did not return for the eighth season . The episode also features a voice guest appearance from former producer and writer for The Office Michael Schur as Mose Schrute , his first appearance on the show since " Counseling " due to his being the show runner for the other NBC sitcom , Parks and Recreation .

The official website for The Office included two cut scenes from " Dwight K. Schrute , (Acting) Manager " within a week of the episode 's release . In the first , 66 @-@ second clip , Dwight shows the documentary crew his new office apparel including his desk modeled after Uday Hussein 's desk . In the second , 77 @-@ second clip , Jim pranks Dwight by putting fake results from Jordan 's surveillance of the office . Later in her talking head , it is hinted that Jordan has a crush on Jim . In the third , 86 @-@ second clip , the staff realize they are stuck with Dwight as their boss as Phylis attempts to remember a movie . In the fourth , 49 @-@ second clip , Gabe attempts to get Erin back by using her love of Pixar films , but ultimately fails .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original American broadcast on May 13 , 2011 , " Dwight K. Schrute , (Acting) Manager " was viewed by an estimated 6 @.@ 45 million viewers and received a 3 @.@ 3 rating / 9 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 3 @.@ 3 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 9 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This marked a nine percent drop in the ratings from the previous episode making it the second @-@ lowest @-@ rated episode of the season in the 18 ? 49 demographic , after " Todd Packer " . " Dwight K Schrute , (Acting) Manager " was the sixth most @-@ watched scripted show for the week of broadcast among adults aged 18 ? 49 .

= = = Reviews = = =

" Dwight K. Schrute , (Acting) Manager " received positive reviews from critics . IGN reviewer Cindy White commented : " This episode proved that the show can be funny without him (Steve Carell) " . She also praised Rainn Wilson and John Krasinski 's performance in the episode calling it " one of my favorite dynamics on the show " . However , she criticized the Andy @-@ Gabe @-@ Erin love triangle storyline , commenting : " It 's only been made worse by the way they 've turned Gabe from meek , bumbling bureaucrat [sic] into unhinged stalker guy . " She ultimately gave the episode an 8 @.@ 0 / 10 . Alan Sepinwall of HitFix called the episode " fun " and a " drastic improvement from ' The Inner Circle ' " . He mainly praised the return of " The Dwight / Jim dynamic " , writing that he " briefly rethought the idea of Dwight as long @-@ term boss " , and went on to praise the writers for featuring Dwight as manager for only one episode . He ultimately concluded that " the first real impression of the show after Michael was a strong one . " TV Squad writer Joel Keller was very positive towards the episode commenting that " The story also gave me faith that Lieberstein and company might actually do a credible job of exploring the other folks in the office now that the show 's dominant force , Michael , is gone " .

The A.V. Club 's Myles McNutt stated that " ' Dwight K. Schrute , (Acting) Manager ' demonstrated that the show is perfectly capable of being funny without Carell " , but criticized the episode for not featuring more " subtle " humor . He ultimately gave the episode a B. Sam Morgan of Hollywood.com called the episode " fairly decent episode " commenting that the concept of the episode was similar to the 10th episode of the seventh season , " China " . He also positively commented on Ellie Kemper 's performance , writing that " She came into this series as a sketch actor but for the first time I think she finally started being an ' actor . ' " Several commentators praised the scene featuring Dwight massaging Kevin 's back . " Dwight K. Schrute , (Acting) Manager " was voted the fourth highest @-@ rated episode out of 24 from the seventh season , according to an episode poll at the fansite OfficeTally ; the episode was rated 8 @.@ 81 out of 10 . In another poll , the episode was voted the second @-@ highest @-@ rated out of 24 from the seventh season , according to an " Survivor " episode poll at the fansite OfficeTally .