

= Valentine 's Day (The Office) =

" Valentine 's Day " is the sixteenth episode of the second season of the American comedy television series The Office , and the show 's twenty @-@ second episode overall . Written by Michael Schur and directed by Greg Daniels , the episode first aired in the United States on February 9 , 2006 on NBC . The episode guest stars Craig Anton , Andy Buckley , Charles Esten , and Conan O 'Brien as himself .

The series depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In this episode , Michael Scott (Steve Carell) travels to New York City to give a presentation , but accidentally tells everyone that he " hooked up " with Jan Levinson (Melora Hardin) . Meanwhile , the rest of the office is jealous when Phyllis Lapin 's (Phyllis Smith) boyfriend Bob Vance gives her several gifts . Also , Angela Martin (Angela Kinsey) gives Dwight Schrute (Rainn Wilson) a bobblehead model of himself .

The episode was the first time that Pam Beesly (Fischer) had a different hairstyle . In addition , many of the scenes were improvised , including Dwight 's line about ham and Michael 's antics in New York . " Valentine 's Day " received mostly positive reviews from television critics and was watched by 8 @.@ 95 million viewers .

= = Plot = =

Before a Valentine 's Day meeting at the corporate offices in New York City with Jan Levinson and the new CFO David Wallace , Michael Scott accidentally lets slip to the other branch managers that he and Jan " hooked up " . At the meeting , instead of simply providing the financial status of his branch as asked , Michael shows a heartwarming video called " The Faces of Scranton " before reluctantly providing the information requested . Craig , from the Albany branch , is completely unprepared for the meeting and attempts to cover for it by suggesting that " maybe I should 've slept with [Jan] , too . " In a private conversation with Michael , Jan is convinced that her career is over , but Michael defuses the situation by explaining to the CFO that it was a bad joke and accepts responsibility for the situation . As Michael leaves , Jan kisses him in the elevator , but then groans when she realizes they were caught on camera .

Meanwhile , back in the office , Angela Martin gives Dwight Schrute a " Dwight " bobblehead doll , and he gives her a key to his home . Phyllis Lapin is inundated with gifts from her boyfriend Bob Vance , while Pam Beesly is irritated with Roy Anderson when the only thing he gives her for Valentine 's Day is the promise of the " best sex of [her] life " . Jim Halpert is forced to listen to , and witness Ryan Howard turn Kelly Kapoor down for a date . At the end of the day , Jim tells Pam " Happy Valentine 's Day " and she watches him longingly as he leaves .

= = Production = =

This episode was the fourth episode of the series directed by series creator Greg Daniels . Daniels had previously directed the first season episode " Basketball " , along with the second season episodes " The Dundies " and " The Client " . " Valentine 's Day " was written by Michael Schur , who plays Dwight 's Amish cousin Mose . In the DVD commentary for this episode , Greg Daniels described how some of Michael 's actions in this episode , such as having the requested branch info , unlike Craig , and saving Jan 's job by deflecting Craig 's comments when talking to David Wallace , were scripted to show how he plausibly remains employed .

For the first time ever on The Office , Pam Beesly 's (Jenna Fischer) hair is in a different style . Several hairstyles were shown to Greg Daniels before the one used in the episode was selected . Dwight 's line about a ham being a romantic gift was written during filming on the set . The writers did not have a punchline in the scene , so they came up with several alternatives , including ham , as well as " a boombox " . Most of the street scenes in New York City were improvised . They had to be kept short because crowds quickly formed around Steve Carell when he was recognized . Conan O 'Brien appeared in a cameo in the episode . He previously worked with Daniels on the writing

staffs for Not Necessarily the News , Saturday Night Live and The Simpsons and the two also went to Harvard University together .

The Season Two DVD contains a number of deleted scenes from this episode . Notable cut scenes include Michael handing out plastic roses , Michael choosing the most attractive part of a woman , Creed calling everybody " Ace " , Michael meeting Devon in New York , the Vance Refrigeration employees getting into a fistfight , Michael wondering why his meeting is on Valentine 's Day , Jim learning that Dwight has a girlfriend , and Kevin learning that his fiancée has returned to town .

= = Cultural references = =

Michael notes that New York is the " city so nice they named it twice " . He then proceeds to explain that the other name is Manhattan , failing to realize the limerick refers to the city of New York , which also lies in the state of New York . Later , he eats pizza at a Sbarro restaurant , a chain restaurant , but calls it his " favorite New York pizza joint " . At Rockefeller Center , Michael thinks he sees Tina Fey , but it turns out to be a random person . Unbeknownst to Michael , Conan O 'Brien walks past him . Near the end of the episode , Michael is posing in front of a Broadway sign for Fiddler on the Roof , and he says " Oy , vey ! Schmear ! " in a Yiddish accent . Michael 's " Faces of Scranton " video plays over " With or Without You " by the Irish rock band U2 . Michael later quotes a line from the 1980 comedy film Airplane ! when he talks to Jan : " Don 't call me Shirley " .

= = Reception = =

" Valentine 's Day " originally aired on NBC in the United States on February 9 , 2006 . The episode was viewed by 8 @. @ 95 million viewers . This marked a dramatic improvement from the previous episode " Boys and Girls " , which was viewed by only 5 @. @ 42 million viewers .

" Valentine 's Day " received mostly positive reviews . Michael Sciannamea of TV Squad wrote that " The Office continues to deliver outstanding episodes week after week . " Sciannamea went on to say that the episode was " one of their best " and that it left him " wanting more " . " M. Giant " of Television Without Pity graded the episode with a " A " . Brendan Babish of DVD Verdict was pleased with the entry and awarded it an " A ? " . He named the highlight of the episode " Michael 's overwrought ' The Faces of Scranton ' presentation played over U2 's ' With or Without You . ' " Betsy Bozdech of DVD Journal called the episode " memorable " and noted that it illustrated Pam and Jim 's relationship ebb and flow . Francis Rizzolli of DVD Talk declared that Ryan 's statement about beginning to date Kelly before Valentine 's Day was " one of the funniest lines in the entire season . "

After the episode , fans wanted their own bobblehead dolls of Dwight . A petition was started to get NBC to sell them at their online store . NBC responded by creating an initial run of 4 @, @ 000 bobblehead dolls , which sold out almost immediately . The network decided to make more , and since then , the bobblehead has become the best @- @ selling merchandise on the NBC website , and has sold over 150 @, @ 000 units .