

= The Red Throne =

" The Red Throne " is the forty @-@ seventh episode from the fifth season of Adventure Time , an animated television series . In the episode , Flame Princess (Jessica DiCicco) , with the help of Cinnamon Bun (Dee Bradley Baker) and Finn (Jeremy Shada) , tries to escape from an arranged marriage between her and Don John the Flame Lord (Roddy Piper) , as set up by her father the Flame King (Keith David) . Seo Kim and Somvilay Xayaphone wrote the episode from a synopsis devised by several other writers , including show creator Pendleton Ward .

Piper and David , stars of They Live (1987) , a John Carpenter film , lent their voices for two of the aforementioned characters . The episode contains a parody from a popular combat sequence in the film , in which the actors box for close to six minutes . Meanwhile , background art was accomplished by Derek Ballard , whose experience growing up in Utah inspired one of his pieces for the episode . Originally aired on 10 February 2014 , " The Red Throne " was seen by roughly two million viewers . Writers of entertainment- and education @-@ related websites praised the episode for its writing and themes , as well as the performances by Piper and David . Despite this praise , the Adventure Time crew perceived its online response from fans as negative .

= = Plot = =

In the Fire Kingdom , Don John the Flame Lord shows up to tell Flame Princess she is not brutish enough to rule over the Flame subjects . Her father , the Flame King , appears as his daughter is deprived of her body temperature and crown . He tells Flame Princess he has arranged her marriage with Don John . When she tries to escape their palace , its inhabitants ? put under a mind @-@ control spell by Don John ? try to seize her . Cinnamon Bun riding his wolf punctures the palace walls . He rescues Flame Princess , and the two escape . They enlist the aid of Finn , the ex of Flame Princess .

Still uneasy over their split , Finn tries to show off to Flame Princess , though she informs him that they should only remain friends . They return to the kingdom , its entrance now guarded by the inhabitants . Finn goes directly for the guards , but he and Flame Princess get captured after she advises him too late that the people are impenetrable through their spell . Don John visits the imprisoned duo , where Flame Princess vows never to marry him . Don John complains to the Flame King that he is failing to deliver on his promise . The lord and king box , with the latter authority knocking out Don John , which frees the Flame people from his spell . Cinnamon Bun delivers a speech to the palace convincing the people to detain the Flame King and Don John while earning the affections of Flame Princess .

= = Production = =

" The Red Throne " was written by Seo Kim and Somvilay Xayaphone . A separate group of writers ? Kent Osborne , Pendleton Ward , Jack Pendarvis , and Adam Muto ? came up with the idea for the episode , which Kim and Xayaphone adapted to a storyboard . The creator of Adventure Time , Ward resigned from his occupation as its runner during production of the season . Employing other crew members , background artist Derek Ballard depicted a derelict van , a wrecked truck , and ruined musical instruments in one piece for the episode . This was inspired by his growing up in the desert of Utah . Since he himself was in a band , he would often let other bands temporarily stay at his house during their tours , often taking them to auto shops due to their vans and campers breaking down .

The voice of Don John the Flame Lord was supplied by " Rowdy " Roddy Piper , in unison with Keith David , who provided the voice of the Flame King . A distinguished wrestler and actor , Piper had appeared in numerous films . One of his most famous roles is that of the unnamed man (dubbed Nada) in They Live , directed by John Carpenter and released in 1988 . A well @-@ known scene in the film ? lasting for nearly six minutes ? has the man fight with his friend (David) , whom Nada wants to share his glasses with . In similar fashion , the Adventure Time episode includes a

parody of that scene , in which Don John and the Flame King engage in combat . The scene in *They Live* was previously the subject of spoofs in *South Park* and *Saints Row IV* , though this parody was called exemplar for reuniting both Piper and David . WWE similarly found Don John 's line , " my gym is magic , and my protein shake is rage " , seemingly written for Piper 's wrestling persona .

= = Release and reception = =

Cartoon Network originally aired " *The Red Throne* " on 10 February 2014 . Approximately two million people saw the episode live on broadcast ; according to *TV by the Numbers* , 0 @. @ 4 percent of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ old residents of households with television sets watched the episode , as indicated by its Nielsen rating . The network released the episode on DVD , first in the year of that broadcast , as part of the *Finn the Human* box set , and later in 2015 , as part of a box set for the complete fifth season .

The *Adventure Time* crew was satisfied with the episode on its completion . In spite of that , Muto described the reaction from fans on the Internet as largely negative , much to their surprise . It earned an A ? grade from Oliver Sava of *The A.V. Club* , who compared Cinnamon Bun 's evolution from a simple @- @ minded character to one of complexity with the progression of the show itself . Sava opined that the theme of life following a broken romance benefits from this complexity . Sava saw the physical cooling of Flame Princess as a crafty metaphor for the personal changes an individual from a former relationship might experience , as well as the nostalgia felt over such a relationship . Separate from romance , Sava interpreted the battle between the Flame Lord and the Flame King as to demonstrate Flame Princess is a more sensible ruler .

The *Huffington Post* writer Cat Blake cited Cinnamon Bun gaining the affection of Flame Princess as a reason for secondary schoolers not to underestimate people . Staff writers of *TV.com* called this character progression for " seemingly one @- @ note characters " a strength of the show , as similarly applied to the Ice King . Writing in *DVD Talk* , Adam Tyner described the episode as showing Finn at his most embarrassing . In memoriam of Piper , who died in July 2015 , Brandon Stroud of *Uproxx* called Don Jon one of his best roles in pop culture . In the *The Official Tribute Commemorative Magazine* for Piper , editor Jeff Ashworth and staff supposed that fans of the series were likely foreign to the " grizzly tones " of Piper 's voice . The commemoration saw his guest role as showing his mastery of pop culture while calling Don Jon 's bizarre fate normal in the show 's universe .