

= The Bart Wants What It Wants =

" The Bart Wants What it Wants " is the eleventh episode of The Simpsons ' thirteenth season . It first aired on the Fox network in the United States on February 17 , 2002 . In the episode , Bart befriends Rainier Wolfcastle 's daughter , Greta . While Greta falls in love with him , Bart only accompanies her because she owns a lot of entertaining things .

" The Bart Wants What it Wants " was written by John Frink and Don Payne while Michael Polcino served as director . Although the episode 's first draft was written by Frink and Payne , the idea for the episode was pitched by staff writer Matt Selman . Because the Simpsons visit Toronto in the episode , the Fox network wanted to promote it by having the city of Toronto declare February 17 " The Simpsons day " , and award the Simpsons family a key to the city . Because the city does not allow for @-@ profit companies to receive a key , the request was turned down .

" The Bart Wants What it Wants " also features guest stars Reese Witherspoon as Greta and Wolfgang Puck as himself . It also features references to Scrabble , Seinfeld and Whassup ? , an advertisement campaign for Budweiser beer . In its original broadcast , the episode was seen by approximately 6 @.@ 4 million viewers , finishing in 27th place in the ratings the week it aired . Following its broadcast , the episode received mixed reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

At the beginning of the episode , the Simpsons are seen in their car being chased by Olympic administrators in a helicopter . It turns out that Homer has stolen the Olympic torch because the television broadcast of the Olympics preempts his favorite shows once again . When Marge finally gives the torch to the administrators , the sight of its flame causes them to crash ( The administrators survive the crash , but the Olympic flame is gone ) . On their way home , the family go to a private school @-@ held fair , where Bart meets Greta , Rainier Wolfcastle 's daughter . Greta develops a crush on the oblivious Bart , and the whole family begins enjoying the royal treatment her father , Rainier , provides them . However , Lisa discovers Bart not taking Greta seriously , after skipping her school dance to watch Principal Skinner bomb an open mic comedy night . Upon Lisa 's advice , Bart breaks up with Greta , who does not take it well .

After losing her , Bart discovers that he actually wanted to be with Greta and goes to her house to ask her to come back to him . To his surprise , Greta has already started a new relationship with Milhouse . Greta goes to Canada with Milhouse during her father 's movie shooting , and Bart follows her to Toronto with his family . At the movie set , Bart confronts Milhouse and they get into a fight , crashing into sets and ruining props . They end up in front of Greta , demanding her to choose between them , and Greta turns both boys down due to loss of interest in the two . The episode ends with the boys reconciling and joining Canada 's basketball team .

= = Production = =

" The Bart Wants What It Wants " was directed by Michael Polcino and written by John Frink and Don Payne . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on February 17 , 2002 . Although the episode was written by Frink and Payne , the idea for the episode was conceived by staff writer Matt Selman , who pitched an episode in which Bart likes a girl because she has " awesome things " , while the girl likes him for his personality . Because the Simpsons visit Toronto in the episode , the Fox network decided to promote it as the episode 's main focus , even though Canada is not mentioned before the third act . To help promote the episode , Fox requested that the city of Toronto declare February 17 , 2002 , the day the episode first aired , to be " The Simpsons Day " and award the Simpson family a key to the city . However , the request was turned down because the city does not allow for @-@ profit companies to receive a key . According to executive producer and current showrunner Al Jean , Fox 's request " upset " Canada , and a " sternly worded " editorial in The Toronto Star criticized the network 's ways of promoting the episode . The newspaper also credited Canadian The Simpsons staff writers Joel H. Cohen and Tim Long for

pitching the episode , but this was refuted in the episode 's DVD commentary . While " The Bart Wants What It Wants " features the Simpsons ' first travel to Canada , the family would return in two later episodes : season sixteen 's " Midnight Rx " , where Homer and Grampa visited Winnipeg so they could smuggle cheap medication ; and season 21 's " Boy Meets Curl " , where Marge and Homer travel to Vancouver , so they can participate in the 2010 Winter Olympics .

The beginning of the episode shows the Simpsons being chased by Olympic employees . The scene was included because the staff knew that the episode would air during the 2002 Winter Olympics . In order to avoid a lawsuit from the International Olympic Committee , the animators slightly altered the design of the Olympic rings , which can be seen on Olympic employees ' helicopters . At one point in the episode , the Simpsons visit the Springfield Preparatory School fair , where Lisa notices how much more developed the school is in comparison to Springfield Elementary School . Jealous , Springfield Elementary principal Skinner breaks in and steals some school equipment . Shocked , Lisa asks Skinner why he stole the equipment , to which he replies " welcome to Dick Cheney 's America " . Originally , he would say " welcome to George W. Bush 's America " , but because none of the series ' regular cast members could do an impression of him , and because the staff found it to be in bad taste , they decided to change it . When Lisa scolds Bart for being oblivious to Greta 's feelings , he replies " Hey , I didn 't lead her on . I always played it light and breezy . " The line was written by Frink and , according to Selman , it became very popular with the staff writers , having " stayed with [ them ] for years " . The song that plays while the Simpsons visit the Skydome in Toronto is " Take Off " by the fictional comedy duo Bob and Doug McKenzie , the chorus of which was sung by Geddy Lee , the lead vocalist and bassist of the Canadian rock band Rush . The episode features American actress Reese Witherspoon as Rainier Wolfcastle 's daughter , Greta . Jean stated that Witherspoon was " brilliant " , and noted that she was " very young @-@ looking " . The episode also features Austrian @-@ American celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck as himself .

= = Cultural references = =

When first meeting Greta , Milhouse greets her by saying Whassup ? . The scene is a reference to an advertisement campaign for the American Budweiser beer , in which several characters are seen calling each other and saying " Whassup ? " .

In Moe 's bar , Wolfcastle receives several questions from bar customers , prompting him to send in his " authorized look @-@ alike " to give answers . In the DVD commentary for the episode , Jean stated that the scene was written at a time when celebrity look @-@ alike were making " excellent livings " .

At one point in the episode , Bart and Greta are seen playing Scrabble , a word game manufactured by Hasbro . The music cue that plays before and after Skinner 's comedy routine is based on the intro music from the American television sitcom Seinfeld .

= = Release = =

In its original American broadcast , " The Bart Wants What It Wants " received a 6 @. @ 1 rating , according to Nielsen Media Research , translating to approximately 6 @. @ 4 million viewers . The episode finished in 27th place in the ratings for the week of February 11 @-@ 17 , 2002 , making it the third most watched program on the network . Later that year , the episode was nominated for a Writers Guild of America Award in the Animation category , but it ultimately lost to the Futurama episode " Godfellas " . On August 24 , 2010 , " The Bart Wants What It Wants " was released as part of The Simpsons : The Complete Thirteenth Season DVD and Blu @-@ ray set . Al Jean , Matt Selman , Tim Long , John Frink , Don Payne , Tom Gammill , Max Pross , Joel H. Cohen , Pamela Hayden , Michael Polcino , Steven Dean Moore and Bill Freiberger participated in the audio commentary of the episode .

Following its broadcast , " The Bart Wants What It Wants " received mixed reviews from critics . Giving the episode a positive review , Ben Rayner of the Toronto Star wrote , " Fortunately , the

episode is on par with this season 's best , boasting a reasonably unscattered plotline and , where the main romantic storyline is concerned , a touch of the childlike sweetness Simpsons writers have brought to previous ' crush ' episodes . " Casey Broadwater of Blu @-@ ray.com gave a positive review as well , describing it as a " strong character @-@ centric episode . " Although he enjoyed most episodes of the thirteenth season , Colin Jacobson of DVD Movie Guide wrote that " Half @-@ Decent Proposal " and " The Bart Wants What It Wants " " forces [ him ] to rethink that opinion . " He continued , " Like ' Proposal ' , ' Wants ' isn ' t a bad program , but it feels stale and rehashed . " He particularly disliked a joke about poor mileage , which he stated was " identical " to a gag from an earlier episode . He concluded his review by writing that the episode is " mediocre [ ... ] at best . "

Nate Boss of Project @-@ Blu wrote that , while it featured Rainier Wolfcastle , which he considered to be " one of the funniest characters in Simpsons lore , " the episode " doesn 't tread ground that hasn 't been tread a few times before . " He continued , " Throw in Canada , and a few Mountie jokes , and bam , you have an episode . " 411Mania 's Ron Martin also found it to be unoriginal , describing the episode as a " yearly episode just with different tempters each time . " Hannah Sung , also of the Toronto Star , felt the episode was disappointing , writing that it " wasn 't entirely bad , but the payoff didn 't match the hype " . She said that the third act in the city of Toronto was a disappointment and " really just a sloppy amalgamation of every Canadian joke we 've ever been told by Americans that lose their punch after the millionth time . "