

= Brother from the Same Planet =

" Brother from the Same Planet " is the fourteenth episode of The Simpsons ' fourth season . After Homer is late to pick up Bart from soccer practice , Bart turns to the program The Bigger Brothers , and is assigned a man named Tom . Homer gets himself a little brother named Pepi . Homer and Tom fight , and Homer reconciles with Bart , and Tom becomes Pepi 's bigger brother . Meanwhile , Lisa becomes addicted to the Corey hotline ? a phone service where television fans can listen to the voice of a fictional actor based on popular actors Corey Feldman and Corey Haim .

The episode originally aired in the United States on Fox on February 4 , 1993 and was written by Jon Vitti and directed by Jeffrey Lynch . The producers tried to cast Tom Cruise for the role of Tom , but Cruise refused , and they used Phil Hartman instead . " Brother from the Same Planet " received favorable reception in books and in the media , and was highlighted among the five best episodes of the series by the writers of the Fox program King of the Hill .

= = Plot = =

After soccer practice , Bart waits for Homer to pick him up , though his father has forgotten . When Homer finally remembers , he reasons to an angered Bart that they should just both admit they are wrong and try to put the issue behind them . Later , Bart views a commercial for a mentor program called The Bigger Brothers , which pairs up fatherless boys with positive male role models . Still angry at Homer , Bart goes to the agency pretending to be a young boy whose father was a drunken gambler who abandoned him . Bart's story is so sad that the receptionist pairs him up with their best Bigger Brother , a military test pilot named Tom . The two spend time together doing a variety of activities , though Bart begins to feel guilty over taking up Tom 's time despite not actually being fatherless . Eventually , Homer finds out about Bart 's Bigger Brother and confronts Bart for it . Homer then decides to go to the Bigger Brothers Agency to get revenge by being assigned with a replacement son ; a young poor boy named Pepi . Just like Tom and Bart , Homer and Pepi spend time together doing activities .

Later on , it is Bigger Brothers Day in Marine World , where the Bigger Brothers and their boys attend to celebrate (including Homer , Tom , Bart , and Pepi) . After running into Homer , Tom begins to brawl with him , in a fight which rages across Springfield . In the end , Homer winds up getting poked on the back by a fire hydrant , breaking his spine , much to Tom 's shock . As a result , Homer is sent to a hospital on a stretcher , and Bart holds himself responsible for this . Later on , Tom sadly talks about how much he will miss being a Bigger Brother , while Pepi is sad over losing his Bigger Brother . Fortunately , Bart suggests Tom become Pepi 's big brother , to which they happily agree , and both Tom and Pepi walk out into the sunset holding hands . At the same time , Homer (whose back is now fixed) and Bart reconcile , as Homer teaches Bart how to brawl due to his experience with Tom .

In the subplot , Marge finds an anomalously high phone bill for calls made by Lisa to the Corey hotline ? a premium rate phone service where television fans can listen to the voice of a fictional actor based on The Two Coreys . Lisa promises to stop increasing the family 's phone bill , but continues to make calls to the hotline from such places as Doctor Hibbert 's office and a telephone at Springfield Elementary . After Principal Skinner catches her , Marge suggests that Lisa try to go until midnight without calling the hotline ; if she can do so , she will have conquered her addiction . Although tempted throughout the rest of the day , Lisa beats her addiction .

= = Production = =

" Brother from the Same Planet " was written by Jon Vitti and directed by Jeffrey Lynch . It originally aired in the United States on February 4 , 1993 , on Fox . The writers wrote the role of Tom for actor Tom Cruise . However , when offered the part , Cruise repeatedly turned it down , so the producers used Phil Hartman instead . The writers based the Corey character on the actors Corey Feldman and Corey Haim , known as The Two Coreys . Pepi was based on the fictional character Dondi from

the daily comic strip of the same name .

In the episode , Bart and Tom watch The Ren & Stimpy Show . The producers contacted Nickelodeon to get authorization to use the two characters for that sequence . Nickelodeon was strict about what The Simpsons was allowed to do , and the producers were not allowed to have the savageness that they wanted . The Ren & Stimpy Show 's animators offered to do the layouts of Ren and Stimpy for the episode .

The television show Bart watches , Tuesday Night Live , is a parody of NBC 's Saturday Night Live . Krusty appears in a sketch called " The Big Ear Family " , and says that the sketch goes on for twelve more minutes , even though the joke 's punchline has already been established . That was Jon Vitti 's way of criticizing Saturday Night Live for having overlong sketches with thin joke premises . The sequence originally had a longer version of the Tuesday Night Live band playing into the commercial break , but it was cut because Vitti , who was a writer on Saturday Night Live during the 1985 ? 86 season along with fellow The Simpsons writers , George Meyer and John Swartzwelder , did not want to come off as being bitter .

The writing staff was looking for a way to end the episode and executive producer Sam Simon suggested that they watch the film The Quiet Man . The writers came in on a Saturday to watch the film together . They were inspired by the film 's fight scene between John Wayne and Victor McLaglen 's characters to do a fight scene between Homer and Tom in the episode . The scene was difficult for the producers to sound @-@ mix because they wanted it to be funny but not horrifying . They discovered that the more realistic the effects used sounded , the funnier the scene became . The producers tried all sorts of different sounds for when Homer cracks his back on the fire hydrant and chose the tiniest realistic sound , because they believed that it was the most painful and " hilarious " .

= = Cultural references = =

The scene in which Milhouse writes " Trab pu kcip ! " Trab pu kcip ! " on the wall is a reference to " red rum " from Stanley Kubrick 's 1980 film The Shining .

The woman Bart mistakes for Homer is singing the Helen Reddy song " I Am Woman " .

While Bart is stuck in the storm waiting for Homer , a nun is lifted up by the wind , a reference to the TV series The Flying Nun .

Bart and Tom watch The Ren & Stimpy Show .

Homer watches an NFL Films production about Bart Starr , the quarterback on the Green Bay Packers who led the team to victory in the first two Super Bowls .

The scene where Homer accuses Bart of seeing his big brother is a reference to the 1966 film Who 's Afraid of Virginia Woolf ? , where Richard Burton accuses Elizabeth Taylor of adultery .

In a made @-@ up story Homer tells Pepi , Bart tells Homer to shut up and shoves half a grapefruit in his face , a reference to the 1931 film The Public Enemy .

Bart watches Tuesday Night Live , a parody of NBC 's Saturday Night Live .

The background music used for the fight scene is a knockoff of the music used in the fight scene in The Quiet Man .

Skinner 's creepy monologue about his mother watching him is a parody of Norman Bates ' similar dialogue from the 1960 Hitchcock film Psycho .

The title of the episode is a reference to the 1984 film The Brother from Another Planet .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " Brother from the Same Planet " finished 18th in ratings for the week of February 1 ? 7 , 1993 , with a Nielsen rating of 14 @.@ 9 , equivalent to approximately 13 @.@ 9 million viewing households . It was the highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week , beating Martin .

In their section on the episode in the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide , Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood comment : " We love Homer sitting at

home trying to remember to pick up Bart ? he 's watching a TV show about a baseball star called Bart , with pictures of Bart on all sides , and even Maggie seems to be calling her brother 's name . " Writing in the compilation work The Psychology of The Simpsons , Robert M. Arkin and Philip J. Mazzocco reference a scene from the episode where Homer " argues with his own brain about a desired course of action " to illustrate self @-@ discrepancy theory , the idea that " humans will go to great lengths to attain and preserve self @-@ esteem " .

The writers of the FOX program King of the Hill put " Brother from the Same Planet " among the five best episodes of The Simpsons , including " Homer the Heretic " , " Lisa 's Wedding " , " Lisa 's Substitute " , and " Behind the Laughter " . Mikey Cahill of the Herald Sun highlighted the quote " PickupBart ? What the hell is PickupBart ? " by Homer in his list of " Fab Fives " related to The Simpsons . When asked to pick his favorite season out of The Simpsons seasons one through twenty , Paul Lane of the Niagara Gazette picked season four and highlighted " Brother from the Same Planet " and " Mr. Plow " which he called " excellent " , along with " the sweetly funny " " Lisa 's First Word " , and " Homer the Heretic " . In a review of The Simpsons season four , Lyndsey Shinoda of Video Store cited " Brother from the Same Planet " and " I Love Lisa " among her " personal favorites " from the season .