

= Petarded =

" Petarded " is the sixth episode of the fourth season of the American animated television series Family Guy . It originally aired on Fox in the United States on June 19 , 2005 . It was written by Alec Sulkin and Wellesley Wild and directed by Seth Kearsley . The episode sees Peter taking the MacArthur Fellows Program to see if he is a genius . However , he performs so poorly that he is declared technically mentally retarded . Attempting to take advantage of the situation , he accidentally hospitalizes Lois while attempting to steal from a restaurant and loses custody of Meg , Chris , and Stewie . The episode 's title is a portmanteau between " Peter " and " Retarded " ; this title practice would later be used on a couple more episodes , namely " Peterotica " and " Petergeist " .

" Timer " , a character from 1970s Saturday morning public service announcements , made an appearance in the episode . Series producers tried to get Lennie Weinrib , the actor who had voiced him in the original cartoon segments , to make a guest appearance in the episode . However , Weinrib declined reprising the role as he could not accurately recall the character . " Petarded " gained a Nielsen rating of 4 @. @ 4 , making it the week 's 42nd most @-@ watched program . Critics and news sources responded with high praise and many highly regard this episode as one of Family Guy 's best . Various scenes in the episode were removed by broadcast censors , including one musical number (" Peter is Slow ") . It features the guest performances of LeVar Burton , Gary Cole , Barclay DeVeau , Indigo , Phil LaMarr , Cloris Leachman , Len Maxwell , Natasha Melnick , Nicole Sullivan , and Lisa Wilhoit , as well as several recurring voice actors for the series .

= = Plot = =

The Griffins invite their neighbors over for game night . While playing Trivial Pursuit , Lois uses questions from the preschool edition for Peter in order to let him win . When Peter wins , he brags to everyone , believing himself to be smarter than everyone else . Irritated at Peter 's arrogance , Brian challenges Peter to take the MacArthur Fellows Program test to prove he is a genius . The results of the test show that Peter is not a genius ; in fact , the results show that , technically speaking , Peter is " mentally retarded " . Peter sinks into depression after being publicly labeled as retarded . While driving home with Lois , Peter accidentally knocks down Tom Tucker . Tucker , recognizing Peter as " the retarded fellow , " does not press charges , and Peter realizes his condition means he can get away with anything .

While testing the limits of what he can get away with , such as interrupting church attendants by having a Bible fight , kicking open the stall doors in a girls ' bathroom , and saying " testicles " through a microphone at a fast food restaurant , Peter goes behind the counter and sees a " Fryolator " and wants to take it home . However , he accidentally drenches Lois with boiling oil . While she is recovering , Child Protection Services take away Peter 's custody of Meg , Chris , and Stewie on the grounds that Peter is mentally unfit to look after them . The three are placed in the care of Cleveland . When Brian tells Peter that he just has to show that he is a good parent , Peter thinks that the best way to do that is to show what a bad parent Cleveland is , so he brings seven prostitutes into Cleveland 's house . This does not work as Agent Jessup sees through the plot and Cleveland orders Peter and five of the prostitutes out . In a last attempt , he appeals to the court for custody of the children , but he is denied and avoids imprisonment only because the judge forgets that prisons exist .

After returning home and accepting that the Griffins may never be together again , Lois walks in , revealing she has completely recovered and reobtained custody of the children . Peter is overjoyed that everything is back to normal , as well as the fact that Lois will smell like French fries for the next six months .

= = Production = =

" Petarded " was written by Alec Sulkin and Wellesley Wild and directed by former The Goode

Family director Seth Kearsley before the conclusion of the fourth production season . Despite Sulkin and Wild writing the episode , the idea for " Petarded " came from series creator and executive producer Seth MacFarlane . The episode featured an appearance by " Timer " , a character from 1970s Time for Timer Saturday morning cartoon public service announcements . Seth MacFarlane attempted to hire Lennie Weinrib , the actor who provided his voice for the character to appear in " Petarded " but , as MacFarlane describes in the DVD commentary , " he was a little old [...] and he didn 't remember doing it " . Weinrib died one year after the debut of " Petarded " .

In the original draft of the episode , Peter being asked easy questions during Trivial Pursuit was meant to be by chance , but executive producer David A. Goodman proposed the storyline of easy questions being given to Peter by Lois . Prior to the episode broadcast , several sequences were shown after Peter discovers he can get away with anything on the basis that he is mentally challenged including a " how loud can I yell " experiment , as well as tackling down an opponent going for a touchdown while attending a New England Patriots game , but they were not deemed funny enough and scrapped .

Various scenes in the episode were changed or removed because of broadcast censors . Originally , just after Peter hands Brian his test results from the MacArthur Program , Peter was to ask " Would a retarded person have peed in their pants ? " , then urinate in his trousers . However , because broadcasting standards prohibited this , it was changed to " Well , would a mentally retarded guy have hired a bulldozer with a drunk driver to level half of his house in celebration of his fantastic test results ? " . Brian stating to Peter " In your fucking face , Fuckwad " after Peter performs poorly on the test was censored from television broadcasting and on the censored track on the DVD , but can be heard uncensored on the uncensored audio track . This marks the first time that the word " fuck " has been heard uncensored in a Family Guy episode . The Family Guy orchestra sung and recorded a song for a sequence which showed several Quahog citizens learning and talking about Peter being declared as retarded . However , this was removed from the episode because broadcasting standards believed it used the word " retarded " too many times . After Peter loses custody of the kids , Chris was originally to stay with Mort Goldman , Stewie with Cleveland and Meg with Quagmire . During this original sequence , Mort was to tell Chris that he has two anuses , causing Quagmire to force Meg to lock him in a safe room as he could not trust himself around Meg 's friends , but the series was prohibited from broadcasting it by an unknown authority , presumably broadcasting standards .

In the episode 's DVD commentary , MacFarlane addressed what viewers perceived to be a rather abrupt ending to the episode . As Peter has lost all hope in getting custody of his kids back , Lois walks through the front door , returning from the hospital , and has brought the kids home with her . MacFarlane stated , " Some of the fans actually noticed , commented on the fact that this was a very abrupt resolution , but , to that I would say , you 're not watching CSI [...] wouldn 't you rather we throw in more jokes and fill up the time , and then hustle to the finish line at the last minute ? " .

In addition to the regular cast , actor LeVar Burton , voice actor Gary Cole , actress Barclay DeVeau , actress Indigo , voice actor Phil LaMarr , actress Cloris Leachman , actor Len Maxwell , actress Natasha Melnick , voice actress Nicole Sullivan , and actress Lisa Wilhoit guest starred in the episode . Recurring guest voice actors Johnny Brennan , Ralph Garman , writer Mike Henry , writer Danny Smith , writer Alec Sulkin , and writer John Viener made minor appearances . Recurring guest cast member Patrick Warburton reprised his role of Joe Swanson in the episode .

= = Cultural references = =

The episode is based on the 1985 movie Mask , a film about Roy L. Dennis who suffered from a rare bone disorder .

Lois is seen having developed a tumor due to constantly repressing negative thoughts about having married a mentally retarded man . The tumor sings an altered version of the 1985 Falco song " Rock Me Amadeus " .

Peter is shown taking the MacArthur Fellows Program (also known as the " MacArthur Genius Grant ") in his attempt to prove to Brian that he is a genius . When Peter takes the test , he uses a

See 'n' Say instead of a calculator .

The Time for Timer character shown singing and dancing is a reference to public service announcements broadcast in the 1970s on ABC on Saturday mornings (referencing in particular the well @-@ known " I Hanker for a Hunk of Cheese " episode) . When Peter thought what he would do with all his money from the MacArthur Genius Grant , he thought of legally buying Cloris Leachman , forcing her to juggle . Also on the Season 4 DVD commentary , Seth MacFarlane explained he wanted to hire Lennie Weinrib to reprise Timer for the gag , but Weinrib was suffering from failing health when " Petarded " was being produced and as MacFarlane explained , he " didn 't remember doing it . " Indeed , Lennie Weinrib died about a year after " Petarded " first aired .

A deleted scene showing Quahog residents singing about Peter being retarded was a reference to music from Bye Bye Birdie .

When Peter is talking about how it was more out of place than when Stewie was in an iPod commercial , the song performed is " The Warrior " by Scandal .

While stalling in answering a Trivial Pursuit question , Peter arbitrarily mumbles the name of the superhero group The Fantastic Four .

Peter watches an episode of Jake and the Fatman where " Fatman " McCabe 's fatness and laziness is exaggerated .

Vern , Peter 's state @-@ appointed inspiration counselor parodies a character of the same name in the movie Rain Man . His reference to Peter as his " main man " mirrors the movie in which Vern refers to Dustin Hoffman 's autistic character in the same way .

When Quagmire complains after being shot by Peter , Peter replies " Relax , you 're doing better than Peter Weller in the opening scene from RoboCop " . This a reference to a scene in the film RoboCop where Peter Weller is on his knees , wearing a police uniform , and is shot repeatedly .

When Cleveland sees the seven prostitutes in his house , Peter says , " Seven . Seven prostitutes " , referencing The Count from Sesame Street .

= = Reception = =

On June 19 , 2005 , the episode was first broadcast on Fox . It gained a Nielsen rating of 4 @.@ 4 , making it the 42nd most @-@ watched show of the week of June 13 to June 19 .

" Petarded " was met with widespread critical acclaim and is widely regarded as one of the best episodes in the series . In 2014 , to celebrate the show 's 15th year anniversary , IGN published a list of the 15 best Family Guy episodes , with this episode ranked the best , saying : " The show is at its comedic best with this episode , with musical numbers and family drama to back up the offensive humour . " In his review of Family Guy , volume 3 , Francis Rizzo III of DVD Talk wrote " [...] I will say there are some very good episodes in this set , starting with ' Petarded ' , which sees Peter declared mentally retarded . The ways he takes advantage of this status is classic Family Guy material , while the musical montage here , involving phone calls all over town , is actually quite funny . Plus , the appearance of the Naked , Greased @-@ Up Deaf Guy gave hope that the creators still had that sense of the bizarre in them . " John Nigro of The Pitt News considered " Petarded " one of volume 3 's best episodes along with " Breaking Out is Hard to Do " and " Perfect Castaway " . The Sydney Morning Herald critic Marc McEvoy commented " Petarded " to be " a real thigh @-@ slapper . " Kim Voynar of TV Squad gave the episode a mixed review , saying " [...] it just seemed to wrap up a little too quickly for me , like they ran out of time and were like , ' Oops , let 's wrap this up now ' . Other than that quibble , though , it was a fairly funny episode . "