

= The Statue (Seinfeld) =

" The Statue " is the sixth episode of the second season of the NBC sitcom Seinfeld , and the show 's 11th episode overall . In the episode , protagonist Jerry Seinfeld (Jerry Seinfeld) inherits some old possessions of his grandfather . One of these is a statue , resembling one that his friend George Costanza (Jason Alexander) broke when he was ten years old . When Jerry sees the statue in the house of Ray (Michael D. Conway) , the man who cleaned his apartment , he believes Ray stole the statue . Jerry struggles to get back at Ray , as his friend Elaine Benes (Julia Louis @-@ Dreyfus) is editing a book written by Ray 's girlfriend .

The episode was written by Larry Charles and directed by Tom Cherones . The character of Jerry 's neighbor Kramer (Michael Richards) is developed in this episode , as he goes undercover as a cop to retrieve the statue . Charles was interested in the development of Kramer , as he felt George and Jerry had their counterparts in co @-@ creators Larry David and Seinfeld . Richards enjoyed how his character acted in the episode and encouraged Charles to continue exploiting the Kramer character . " The Statue " first aired on NBC on April 11 , 1991 in the United States and was watched by over 23 million American homes . It received mixed responses from critics .

= = Plot = =

Jerry inherits some old possessions of his grandfather Irving . Among them is a statue that looks just like one George 's family had , until George broke it . Jerry promises that George can have it , but leaves it in his apartment for a few days . Kramer takes a few of Irving 's old clothes , including a hat which he believes makes him look like Joe Friday of Dragnet . Elaine persuades Jerry to have his apartment cleaned by her client Rava 's (Nurit Koppel) boyfriend Ray (Michael D. Conway) . Jerry is very impressed by the quality of the cleaning ; but when he and Elaine visit Rava , Jerry notices a statue with a vivid similarity to the one he inherited , and believes Ray stole it . He calls Kramer to check his apartment , and when Kramer cannot find the statue there , Jerry 's suspicion is confirmed .

Jerry , Elaine , George and Kramer discuss the situation and Kramer urges Jerry to do something about it , but Elaine argues that Rava will no longer let her edit her book if Jerry does this . Jerry calls Ray and has lunch with him , while George sits in the next booth and eavesdrops on their conversation . Jerry and George asks him about the statue , but Ray gets offended and leaves when he hears their opinion . Elaine and Rava get into an argument about Jerry 's accusation , and Elaine is no longer allowed to edit Rava 's book . Without notifying anybody , Kramer dresses up in Irving 's old clothes and goes to Ray 's apartment , pretending to be a cop , and recovers the statue , despite Ray 's protests . Kramer returns the statue to a grateful George . But while George is holding the statue , Kramer gives him a friendly pat on the back , causing George to drop the statue , which breaks when it hits the floor . The episode ends without ever revealing whether or not Ray had in fact stolen the statue from Jerry 's apartment .

= = Cultural references = =

The episode contained a number of references to pop culture . George explains that he broke the original statue when he was using it as a microphone , singing the song " MacArthur Park " , by Jimmy Webb ; in early drafts of the script , George broke it while singing Eddie Cochran 's " Summertime Blues " . The episode also contained numerous references to the 1960s television crime drama Dragnet , . This was because Larry Charles , who wrote the episode , watched a lot of reruns of the show when he was writing for Seinfeld . The cop Kramer pretends to be when he retrieves the statue was inspired by Joe Friday , the central character of Dragnet . Finland is also mentioned multiple times , as Rava is from there . At the end of the episode Kramer states " Well , lets put it this way , I didn 't take them to The People 's Court " , a reference to the judicial television show .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Larry Charles and directed by Tom Cherones , who directed all of the episodes in Season 2 . " The Statue " was the second episode Charles wrote for the show , though it was the first to be aired . Charles was mostly interested in the development of the Kramer character , as he felt " Jerry and George were so well @-@ defined through Larry [David] and Jerry , that there was less room for me to , sort of , expand on those personas . But Kramer was very unformed at the beginning of the show and it gave me an area of creativity to , sort of , expand upon . So I spent a lot of time with Kramer because he was a character that I could have an impact on in the future of the show " . Richards enjoyed how his character evolved and , after the filming of the episode , went to Seinfeld , Charles and David and said " we should keep going that way . " He cites this episode , as well as " The Revenge " (in which Kramer puts concrete in a washing machine) , as episodes that really defined the character .

The first read @-@ through of the episode was held on January 23 , 1991 , the same night the second season premiered . " The Statue " was filmed in front of a live audience six days later . A few scenes were changed prior to filming ; in an early draft of the script Elaine sat next to George eavesdropping on Jerry and Ray 's conversation . She would wear a floppy hat to look inconspicuous and would complain about it , stating that she looks like one of the Cowsills , a singing group that was active between the 1960s and 1970s . The same scene initially featured George admitting that he spied on Ray a day earlier , showing Ray pictures of him in a bar . Ray would reply that it was his day off and asks why George is not at work , to which George replies that he should be getting back and leaves . In the original script , Elaine and Rava would argue over who is a better person : Jerry or Ray .

Writer 's assistant Karen Wilkie can be seen in the audience during Seinfeld 's stand @-@ up comedy act . Nurit Koppel portrayed Rava , at the time she was known for her appearance in the CBS television movie Sweet Bird of Youth (1989) as well as a guest appearance on the NBC crime drama Hunter . Jane Leeves , who would later appear as Marla the Virgin in season four and season nine also auditioned for the part , she also went on to star in the popular NBC sitcom Frasier (1993 ? 2004) . In the script , Ray Thomas ' description was , " although he carries cleaning equipment , he also carries the air of a pretentious mannerly , affected actor " . Various actors auditioned for the part , among which were Hank Azaria , Michael D. Conway and Tony Shalhoub , who had also auditioned for the part of Kramer . Conway was eventually cast for the part . Norman Brenner , who worked as Richards ' stand @-@ in on the show for all its nine seasons , appears as an extra ; he appears in the background when Jerry and Ray talk at Monk 's Cafe .

= = Reception = =

First broadcast in the United States on NBC on April 11 , 1991 , " The Statue " gained a Nielsen rating of 16 @.@ 1 and an audience share of 26 . This means that 16 @.@ 1 % of American households watched the episode , and that 26 % of all televisions in use at the time were tuned into it . Nielsen estimated that over 23 million people watched the episode 's initial broadcast , making it the tenth most @-@ watched program of the week it was broadcast in .

The episode received mixed reactions from critics . Writing for Entertainment Weekly , critics Mary Kaye Schilling and Mike Flaherty stated " Even Seinfeld 's bit players must have some grounding in reality ? you need to love to hate them . Ultimately , there 's no redeeming comic payoff to Rava 's and Ray 's weirdness " . Flaherty and Schilling graded the episode with a C- . Colin Jacobson of the DVD Movie Guide called the episode 's storyline " fairly pedestrian " , but felt the performances of Conway and Koppel saved the episode .