

= Secrets and Lies (30 Rock) =

" Secrets and Lies " is the eighth episode of the second season of 30 Rock , and the twenty @-@ ninth overall . It was written by Ron Weiner and directed by Michael Engler . The episode first aired on December 6 , 2007 on the NBC network in the United States . Guest stars in this episode include Reathel Bean , James Carville , Paul Eichel , Edie Falco , Melissa Gallagher , Jabari Gray , Blaine Horton , John Lutz , Erich McCall , Andrew Polk , Reshma Shetty , Tom Treadwell and Darlene Violette .

In this episode , Celeste " C.C. " Cunningham (played by Edie Falco) wishes to go public with her relationship with Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) . Jenna Maroney (Jane Krakowski) gets angry when she thinks Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) lets Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) do anything he likes . Frank Rossitano (Judah Friedlander) and James " Toofer " Spurlock (Keith Powell) feud over Toofer 's status as a Harvard University alumnus .

= = Plot = =

Jack is worried when his girlfriend C.C. , the Democratic congresswoman for the state of Vermont , tells him that she wants to go public with their relationship . The pair had been avoiding this because C.C. is suing the Sheinhardt Wig Company , the fictional parent company of NBC . During their secret relationship , Jack and C.C. had been sneaking to each other 's house in disguises , including C.C. as a plumber named Mr. Spoonatelli . C.C. confides in Liz (after she finds out about their relationship) , and Jack confides in political consultant James Carville , who gives Jack advice on how two important people from opposite political positions can make their relationship work " Cajun style , " without regard for how others perceive them . Eventually , Jack takes C.C. to dinner in the GE executive dining room where he reveals his relationship to the other executives , leading to the other executives making some bizarre revelations of their own .

When Jenna wins an award for her work on Mystic Pizza : The Musical : The Movie , in the category of " Best Actress in a Movie Based on a Musical Based on a Movie " , Tracy is annoyed that he never wins any awards of his own and storms off the set . To get him back to work , Liz tells him that he has won a Pacific Rim Emmy Award for his work on TGS . Pete Hornberger (Scott Adsit) helps Liz stage a fake acceptance speech for Tracy , which is also attended by Tracy 's co @-@ stars , Jenna and Josh Girard (Lonny Ross) , despite it taking place in the middle of the night . During his acceptance speech Tracy thanks everybody who works on the show , except for Jenna , and then pulls Jenna 's dress down in a Japanese practice he claims is called " Sharking . " An enraged Jenna claims Liz is willing to jump through hoops for Tracy , but not her . As a result , she becomes disobedient and uncooperative and starts her own entourage , much like Tracy . Liz becomes fed @-@ up with Jenna 's new behavior , reveals to her that she in fact " coddle [s] the crap " out of her as well as Tracy . Liz then reveals that Jenna did not win an award for Mystic Pizza : The Musical : The Movie and that the " award " statue was actually a cookie . This is enough for Jenna to happily return to work .

After a night of performing stand up at Harvard University , Frank comes into work wearing a Harvard sweatshirt , even though he did not attend the university . Outraged by this , Harvard alumnus Toofer tells him to take it off . When Frank refuses , and then comes into work the next day in full Harvard regalia , Toofer retaliates by dressing up as Frank . Unable to back down for fear of their coworkers mocking them , their argument is eventually mediated " Cajun style " by James Carville , who then proceeds to also demonstrate how to steal candy from a vending machine ... " Cajun style . "

= = Production = =

This episode was performed live on stage at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre . The performance , which was titled 30 Rock ? On Strike ! , was to display support for the 2007 ? 2008 Writers Guild of America strike , which began on November 5 , 2007 . The performance took place

on November 19 , 2007 . All the main cast members of the series were in attendance , although due to other commitments , guest star Edie Falco was unable to appear in her role as Celeste " C.C. " Cunningham . In her place was the Saturday Night Live head writer , Paula Pell . As guest star James Carville was also unable to attend , an unnamed 30 Rock writer filled in for him . Other 30 Rock writers , including Donald Glover , also played the smaller , " bit " parts . During the " commercial breaks " , cast member Jack McBrayer and recurring cast member John Lutz improvised fake comedic advertisements for various products . Sheinhardt Wig Company t @-@ shirts , which were signed by the cast of 30 Rock , were also raffled off during the performance .

= = Reception = =

" Secrets and Lies " brought in an average of 5 @.@ 8 million viewers . The episode also achieved a 2 @.@ 7 / 7 in the key 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ old demographic . The 2 @.@ 7 refers to 2 @.@ 7 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds in the U.S. , and the 7 refers to 7 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast in the U.S .. This episode ranked first in the male 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ old demographic , growing 4 % from its lead @-@ in of the My Name Is Earl episode " Early Release . "

Robert Canning of IGN wrote that the episode " came close to fulfilling [its] potential , but was unable to keep the rapid @-@ fire comedic pace going for the entire episode . " He added that the second half of the show was not " a complete loss , but , man , that first act just steamrolled viewers with hilarious bit after hilarious bit . " Matt Webb Mitovich of TV Guide thought that the " unexpected treat this week was guest star James Carville , who 's [sic] presence as confidant to Jack not only made sense , but Carville also had a lot of fun lampooning himself ' Cajun style ' and all . And look at how well his advice for Frank and Twofer [sic] worked ! "