

= Dancin ' Homer =

" Dancin ' Homer " is the fifth episode of The Simpsons ' second season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on November 8 , 1990 . In the episode , Homer fires up the crowd at a Springfield Isotopes baseball game and is chosen to be the team 's new mascot . He immediately becomes a popular attraction and the Isotopes start a winning streak . As a result , Homer is promoted to a team in Capital City , the Capital City Capitals . The Simpson family moves there , but Homer fails to enthrall the crowd , and the family returns home .

The episode was written by Ken Levine and David Isaacs and directed by Mark Kirkland . It was Kirkland 's first directing role , and he has since directed many episodes . Singer Tony Bennett guest starred as himself and actor Tom Poston guest starred as the Capital City Capitals 's mascot , the Capital City Goofball . Homer 's chants are a reference to American baseball fan Wild Bill Hagy , who received fame for his chants at Baltimore 's Memorial Stadium . Since airing , the episode has received mostly positive reviews from television critics . It acquired a Nielsen rating of 14 @. @ 9 , and was the highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network the week it aired .

= = Plot = =

One night while drinking beer at Moe 's Tavern , Homer tells the story of how he got his big break . He begins with the family attending " Nuclear Plant Employee , Spouses and No More Than Three Children Night " at the Springfield Isotopes baseball game at the Springfield minor league baseball stadium . At the game , Homer 's hopes of letting loose at the ballpark are ruined when his boss Mr. Burns sits next to him . To Homer 's surprise , Mr. Burns buys him several rounds of beer to show good company relations , and the two begin taunting the Isotopes together . The team is expected to lose their twenty @-@ seventh consecutive game , reportedly the longest losing streak in professional baseball . However , when a drunk Homer fires up the crowd with an impromptu dance to the tune of " Baby Elephant Walk " , the Isotopes win the game .

Homer is offered the job as team mascot of the Springfield Isotopes by the team 's owner . He accepts , and because of his enthusiasm at the games , the Isotopes go on a winning streak . Homer is soon informed that he is going to be promoted to the " big leagues " in Capital City , where he will fill in for the Capital City Goofball as the mascot of the Capital City Capitals . The Simpson family pack up their things , say goodbye to their friends , and move to the big city . Homer 's first performance becomes a disaster as his small @-@ town routine flops before the big @-@ city crowd , and he is booed off the field and promptly fired . Homer sadly finishes his story , only to find that Moe 's regulars are very impressed with his tale .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Ken Levine and David Isaacs , and directed by Mark Kirkland . It was the first episode of The Simpsons Kirkland directed . He has since directed over 50 episodes . Executive producer James L. Brooks came up with the idea of the Moe 's Tavern wraparounds at the beginning and the end of the episode . It was added because the writers did not know how to end the episode . Levine had worked as a minor league baseball announcer before the episode was produced so he was able to give directions to the animators on the characters ' looks and ambiance of the episode .

Many of the new characters introduced in the episode were named after Levine 's friends from his announcer career . The minor league announcer in the episode , that Levine voiced , was named Dan Hoard after his broadcasting partner in Syracuse , New York . The major league announcer was named Dave Glass after Levine 's partner in Norfolk , Virginia , and the Capital City Capitals owner who fires Homer was named Dave Rosenfield after the general manager of the Tidewater Tides . The episode features a guest appearance by singer Tony Bennett , who was the first guest star to appear as himself on The Simpsons . Bennett appears in a scene in which the Simpson family meets him while taking a tour of Capital City . He also sings a song called " Capital City " over

the closing credits . The lyrics and music of the song were written by Simpsons writer Jeff Martin . Tom Poston guest starred in the episode as the Capital City Goofball . The mascot has appeared in many episodes later on in the show , but he has only spoken once since " Dancin ' Homer " and has been reduced to making minor background appearances . Ron Taylor was meant to reprise his role of Bleeding Gums Murphy , who he had played in the first season episode " Moaning Lisa " , but was unable to record the part ; Daryl L. Coley filled in for him .

" Dancin ' Homer " was , together with " Old Money " , selected for release in a video collection titled The Best of The Simpsons that was released May 3 , 1994 . In 2000 , it was included on video collection of selected sports @-@ themed episodes , titled : The Simpsons : On Your Marks , Get Set , D 'oh ! . Other episodes included in the collection set were " Faith Off " , " The Homer They Fall " , and " Lisa on Ice " . The episode was again included in the 2004 DVD release of the On Your Marks , Get Set , D 'oh ! set . The episode was also included on The Simpsons season two DVD set , which was released on August 6 , 2002 . Levine , Isaacs , Kirkland , Mike Reiss , and Matt Groening participated in the DVD 's audio commentary .

= = Cultural references = =

Homer 's chants and his nickname " Dancin ' Homer " is a reference to American baseball fan Wild Bill Hagy , who earned the nickname " The Roar from Thirty @-@ Four " for his chants during the 1970s in section thirty @-@ four at Baltimore 's Memorial Stadium . Homer spells out Springfield just like Hagy spelled O @-@ R @-@ I @-@ O @-@ L @-@ E @-@ S with his arms .

A drunk Homer performs his first dance to the 1961 tune " Baby Elephant Walk " written by Henry Mancini .

Bleeding Gums Murphy makes a 26 @-@ minute long performance of the " Star @-@ Spangled Banner " at the game where Homer performs his first dance .

Homer 's line , " Today , as I leave for Capital City , I consider myself the luckiest mascot on the face of the earth " that he says in his farewell speech to the Springfield fans , is a reference to Lou Gehrig 's farewell speech in the 1942 baseball film The Pride of the Yankees .

The song " Capital City " that Bennett sings over the closing credits is a parody of the 1980 song " New York , New York " .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " Dancin ' Homer " finished twenty @-@ fifth in the ratings for the week of November 5 ? 11 , 1990 , with a Nielsen rating of 14 @.@ 9 , equivalent to approximately fourteen million viewing households . It was the highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week .

Since airing , the episode has received mostly positive reviews from television critics . DVD Movie Guide 's Colin Jacobson said it was " probably the best episode " of the season , and commented that " Dancin ' Homer " offered a " consistently satisfying show . Like the better episodes , it packed a lot of action into its twenty @-@ three minutes , as Homer 's saga took on a near epic feeling . It also contained more wonderfully bizarre asides than usual at this point in the series ' run . From the Rastafarians who appear in the crowd when Homer performs ' Baby Elephant Walk ' , to the existence of the Players ' Ex @-@ Wives section at the ballpark , the episode provided a fun and rich program . " In a review of the second season , Bryce Wilson of Cinema Blend said " Dancin ' Homer " felt " a bit flat " , but " even in [ its ] lowest points , humor is easy to find . " Dawn Taylor of The DVD Journal thought the best line of the episode was Homer 's " Marge , this ticket doesn 't just give me a seat . It also gives me the right ? no , the duty ? to make a complete ass of myself . " Jeremy Kleinman of DVD Talk said lines from the episode such as " A Simpson on a T @-@ shirt , I never thought I 'd see the day " show a " humorous self @-@ awareness of the emergence of The Simpsons as cultural phenomenon " .

The episode was by Jerry Greene of the Orlando Sentinel named the third best episode of the show with a sports theme . The Pittsburgh Post @-@ Gazette named it second best sports moment in the history of the show . Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , the authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's

a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide , wrote : " Understanding baseball isn 't really a requirement for this episode , as the humor doesn 't come from the games so much as the personalities . Tony Bennett 's cameo is great , and Homer 's dance has rightly become legendary . "