

= Tallahassee (The Office) =

" Tallahassee " is the fifteenth episode of the eighth season of the American comedy television series The Office and the show 's 167th episode overall . The episode aired on NBC in the United States on February 16 , 2012 . " Tallahassee " was written by co @-@ executive producer Daniel Chun and directed by series cinematographer Matt Sohn . The episode guest stars David Koechner and Wally Amos .

The series ? presented as if it were a real documentary ? depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania , branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In this episode , Dwight returns to Tallahassee to meet with the president of Sabre 's special projects , Nellie Bertram (Catherine Tate) . Meanwhile , in Scranton , Andy fills in for reception and thoroughly enjoys himself .

" Tallahassee " saw the reappearance of Catherine Tate as Nellie Bertram . Tate had previously appeared in the seventh season finale , " Search Committee " . The episode received mostly positive reviews from critics , with many reviewers noting that the " special projects " storyline helped to give the series a focus . The cold opening , in particular , received significant attention from critics , with many calling it the best of the show 's eighth season . According to Nielsen Media Research , " Tallahassee " drew 4 @.@ 38 million viewers and received a 2 @.@ 3 rating / 6 % share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , marking a 12 % drop in ratings from the previous episode , " Special Project " , and becoming the lowest @-@ rated episode of the series to air , beating the previous record holder , " Hot Girl . " Despite this , it was the highest @-@ rated NBC series of the night .

= = Plot = =

Dwight (Rainn Wilson) , Jim (John Krasinski) , Stanley (Leslie David Baker) , Cathy (Lindsey Broad) , Ryan (B.J. Novak) and Erin (Ellie Kemper) travel to Tallahassee as part of a team picked for Sabre 's new project . On the day of orientation , Dwight wakes everyone up at 5 o 'clock . Jim , used to waking up at four AM to take care of his children , uses the extra time to stage a murder scene in his room , in order to prank Dwight .

At the orientation meeting , Dwight and Jim find that Todd Packer (David Koechner) is still working at the company after the two of them attempted to get him fired . The president of Sabre 's special projects , Nellie Bertram (Catherine Tate) begins to talk about the project , which encompasses creating a store to rival Apple 's chain of stores , and Dwight and Packer start to compete to see who will become her vice president . However , Dwight begins having stomach pains , which Ryan suspects to be appendicitis . Dwight collapses during a presentation , the paramedics confirm appendicitis , and Dwight is rushed into surgery . However , three hours later , after getting his appendix removed , he returns in order to impress his new boss . After nearly butchering a slide @-@ show presentation , he finally impresses Bertram by telling the audience that the only element of marketing that matters is " desire . " Bertram subsequently invites Packer and Dwight to have breakfast with her the following day .

Meanwhile , Jim discovers another side of Stanley , who demonstrates uncharacteristic energy and zeal for life . Stanley explains this is because he is on vacation .

Meanwhile in Scranton , the office is left without a receptionist . Not wanting to get roped into being receptionist again , Pam (Jenna Fischer) defies Andy 's (Ed Helms) orders to answer the phone . With the rest of the staff similarly declining to answer the phone , Andy is left with no choice but to take on the receptionist 's role himself , and performs the job with unexpected gusto . He orders new magazines for the waiting area , cooks mini @-@ pizzas as reception snacks , color @-@ coordinates the desk , and brings in a mail cart to deliver mail . Pam and Darryl (Craig Robinson) attempt to talk him out of his newfound enjoyment , believing it to be linked to his lingering feelings for Erin , to no success .

= = Production = =

" Tallahassee " was written by co @-@ executive producer Daniel Chun , his sixth writing credit for the series after joining the writing staff in the fifth season . It was directed by series cinematographer Matt Sohn , his fourth directing credit for the series . " Tallahassee " marked the return appearance of Catherine Tate , who previously appeared in the seventh season finale , " Search Committee " as a candidate to replace Michael as office manager . Tate was initially the top choice to join the cast as the manager , but due to a commitment to the West End production of the Shakespeare play , Much Ado About Nothing she was unable to join the series at the start of the season . Her character , Nellie is introduced as the head of a special project for Sabre . She appeared in a six episode arc , during which , her character also got romantically involved with Robert . The episode also marked the return appearance of David Koechner , who portrays Todd Packer in the series . He recently made a deal with NBC to do more episodes for the series and also possibly join the cast of series developer Greg Daniels 's next series , Friday Night Dinner , an adaption of the British series of the same name .

The episode also marks the ninth appearance of Lindsey Broad , who portrays Cathy , Pam 's replacement during her maternity leave . She appeared in a recurring role for the season , after she initially appeared in " Pam 's Replacement " .

= = Cultural references = =

Sabre 's Pyramid tablet makes a reappearance , after making its debut in the episode " The Incentive " . The device serves as a parody of several tablet computers , specifically the Apple iPad . B. J. Novak described the device as " really the worst piece of technology that you 've ever seen . " " Florida Stanley " tells Jim to play Kenny Loggins on his iPod in the car , but Jim confuses his request for Loggins and Messina . After Andy buys the office new magazines , Creed is shown zealously reading Dwell . Dwight compares his team to the " enemies of Seabiscuit . " At the very end of the episode Wally " Famous " Amos makes an appearance and attempts to talk about success before he is cut off by Nellie , who demands that he serve his famous cookies . The brief exterior shot of the hospital where Dwight had his appendix removed , is the same building that was used in the opening credits of General Hospital beginning in 1975 . The Los Angeles County USC Medical Center , was also in a number of other movies and television shows over the years .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Tallahassee " originally aired on NBC in the United States on February 16 , 2012 . The episode was viewed by an estimated 4 @.@ 38 million viewers and received a 2 @.@ 3 rating / 6 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 2 @.@ 3 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 6 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This marked a twelve percent drop in the ratings from the previous episode , " Special Project . " In addition , the episode was , at the time , the lowest @-@ rated episode of the series to air , beating the first season finale , " Hot Girl " , which gathered 4 @.@ 8 million viewers . The episode finished third in its time slot , being beaten by Grey 's Anatomy which received a 3 @.@ 2 rating / 8 % share and the CBS drama Person of Interest which received a 2 @.@ 8 rating / 7 % share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . The episode beat The CW drama series The Secret Circle . Despite this , " Tallahassee " was the highest @-@ rated NBC television episode of the night . After DVR usage was taken into account , the episode increased its viewership by 61 @.@ 1 % , being viewed by a total of 7 @.@ 053 million viewers .

= = = Reviews = = =

" Tallahassee " received largely positive reviews from critics , with many noting that the Florida story

@-@ line gave the series a focus . TV Equals noted that the episode was " one of the best episodes of The Office this the season and [possibly] one of the better episodes from the last couple of seasons . " Brian Marder from Hollywood.com wrote a largely positive review , noting that " Overall , tonight represented a significant step back in the right direction -- and hope that maybe the series still has hope . [...] More promisingly , the humor was top @-@ notch , funnily similar to the effortless comedy of early seasons and refreshingly dissimilar to the forced , uncharacteristic stuff that has pervaded season 8 . " Bret Davinger from the California Literary Review noted that " A couple of weeks ago , I complained about The Office spending too much time away from the office . How was I to know that taking a trip to Tallahassee would produce probably the best episode of the season and maybe one of the best episodes of the past couple of seasons ? " Davinger went on to note that the change in scenery from the office set to Tallahassee was working for the series . In addition , he noted that episode did not feature any hints of Erin 's desire to stay in Florida or Cathy 's attempt to seduce Jim , a move he hoped would be permanent . Jeffrey Hyatt from Screencrave awarded the episode an 8 out of 10 and wrote that " between ' Special Project ' and ' Tallahassee ' it ? s fair to say that The Office is on a nice little run . Everything good and funny about last week ? s episode spilled over to ' Tallahassee ' . " TV Fanatic reviewer Dan Forcella awarded the episode four out of five stars . Despite praising the episode for coming " together as one of the best Office episodes of the season , " he criticized Dwight 's main plot , calling it " not funny . " The Filtered Lens reviewer Matt Dougherty called the episode " solid " and noted " While ' Tallahassee ' was not quite as good as last week , it still is a step in the right direction for this struggling show . " He ultimately awarded the episode a 7 out of 10 . Many reviews praised the episode 's cold opening , with many critics calling it one of the funniest openings of the eighth season . What Culture ! reviewer Jeffrey Kratzer , despite awarding the episode three out of five stars , wrote , ? ' Tallahassee ' was so enjoyable (for the most part) that [the] next few episodes look to be the excitement and focused momentum we ? ve been waiting for all season . " Conversely , The A.V. Club reviewer Myles McNutt gave the episode a C- rating and criticized the episode 's lack of complexity . He wrote that , " I would argue , though , that [undeveloped characters are] part of the show ? s problem right now " and noted that Tate 's performance was expanded " little [...] beyond her initial appearance last season . " In a review for the subsequent episode , " After Hours " , however , McNutt acknowledged that , " If I ? m being honest with [sic] , last week ? s probably should have been above a ' C- , ' but I went with my gut and have to stand by that decision . "