

= Todd Packer (The Office) =

" Todd Packer " is the eighteenth episode of the seventh season of the American comedy television series The Office , and the show 's 144th episode overall . It originally aired on NBC on February 24 , 2011 . The episode was written by Amelie Gillette and directed by Randall Einhorn .

The series depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In this episode , traveling salesman Todd Packer (David Koechner) comes to Dunder Mifflin looking for a desk job in the office . However , the office is unsure if they want him to work there due to his previous behavior . Jim Halpert (John Krasinski) and Dwight Schrute (Rainn Wilson) eventually team up and develop a scheme that rids the office of Packer . Meanwhile , after dealing with computer problems , Andy Bernard (Ed Helms) confronts Pam Halpert (Jenna Fischer) about getting a new computer .

The episode was the first entry in the series to be written by Gillette , who had written for the online entertainment newspaper and website The A.V. Club . The episode received mixed reviews from critics ; while many did not enjoy the character of Todd Packer , others praised the temporary alliance between Jim and Dwight . " Todd Packer " was viewed by 6 @. @ 121 million viewers and received a 3 @. @ 2 rating among adults between the age of 18 and 49 , making it the season 's lowest @- @ rated episode . Despite this , the episode was the highest @- @ rated NBC series of the week that it aired .

= = Plot = =

Traveling salesman Todd Packer (David Koechner) comes to Dunder Mifflin looking for a desk job in the office . However , most of the office don 't want him to work there due to his previous behavior , and Jim Halpert (John Krasinski) in particular is horrified at the idea . Holly Flax (Amy Ryan) gives him a job as a salesman , forcing Dwight Schrute (Rainn Wilson) to leave his desk and move to the annex . Todd repeatedly offends everybody with his jokes , especially Kevin Malone (Brian Baumgartner) , although Kevin pretends to play along . Only Michael Scott (Steve Carell) , Packer 's longtime friend , is not offended by Todd . Holly , who was at first excited to have Todd in the office per Michael 's recommendations , discovers how insensitive Todd is and asks Michael to get him under control . Michael and Todd have coffee in the lobby , where Todd says he wants to be a better person . Michael gets Todd to apologize , but everyone can tell that the apologies are insincere . Dwight and Jim scheme to get rid of Todd . They call him , pretending to be corporate offering him a job in Tallahassee , Florida , a job which Todd readily accepts . Michael overhears the call and goes to tell Todd that Dwight and Jim have tricked him . Before he has a chance , however , Todd insults Holly , and Michael decides to keep Dwight and Jim 's scheme a secret and allow Todd to take the " job " in Florida . As Michael and Holly witness Todd drive away from the view in his office , Michael admits that Packer is " an ass " before they embrace .

Meanwhile , when office administrator Pam Halpert (Jenna Fischer) gets a new computer for the receptionist 's desk to replace the older model , Andy Bernard (Ed Helms) wants a new computer , too . Pam points out that if she were to get a new computer for one sales rep , she would have to get one for every sales rep . Unwilling to let it go , Andy pressures Erin Hannon (Ellie Kemper) into trading computers with him . Pam is angry when she finds out , and forces him to switch the computers back . When Andy continues to harass Pam about getting him a new computer , she tells him that the only way he can get a new computer is if his breaks . To accomplish this , he accepts all cookies , intentionally opens pop @- @ up ads , and places food in the disc drive . Pam then buys Andy a new computer , but they scratch it up to make it not look brand new . When they pretend to argue about it in front of the office , Pam claims that she found it in the warehouse . Darryl Philbin (Craig Robinson) confronts Pam later regarding finding the computer in the warehouse . As he knows everything that is in the warehouse and where it is stored , he leverages Pam into giving him more sick days . Pam gleefully tells the interviewers that she is now " full @- @ on corrupt " .

= = Production = =

This episode was written by Amelie Gillette , her first writing credit of the series . She was a writer for The A.V. Club before being hired for The Office . The episode was directed by longtime series director Randall Einhorn , and was his second credit for the season after " The Sting " . The cold open , which featured Jim and Dwight arguing about canned foods , was actually filmed for the previous season and is featured in the blooper reel on the sixth season DVD and Blu @-@ ray sets .

The Season Seven DVD contains a number of deleted scenes from this episode . The cut scenes include a sequence of Erin being excited after receiving her new computer , Michael expressing his desire for Holly and Packer to become friends , Packer telling Holly that Scranton is his hometown , Kevin hinting that he would like some of Dwight 's leftover pizza , Andy telling Pam about his high school " back seat " adventures , Michael and Holly arguing about Packer , and Jim trying to not let Dwight move back into his old desk .

= = Cultural references = =

Packer pretends to mistake Holly for actress Jennifer Aniston . Dwight angrily throws out Holly 's miniature zen gardens and remarks , " What do you grow in this , bullcrap ? " Packer calls Kevin , Holly , and Dwight , the " three muske @-@ queers " , a homophobic slur referencing the 1844 novel The Three Musketeers . Dwight notes that , had Kevin grown up in Sumo culture , he would be considered a " promising up @-@ and @-@ comer " . Holly makes a list of humorous individuals , ranging from most humorous to less : " Bill Cosby , Steve Martin , ' Charlie Bit My Finger , ' Michael Scott [?] Todd Packer " . When asked if he would like chocolate milk , Packer notes that the only chocolate he likes is Vivica A. Fox . Jim mentions Justin Bieber , and Dwight says " Who is Justice Beaver ? " This leads Jim to say sardonically , " A crime @-@ fighting beaver " . Following the episode 's air date , the term " Justice Beaver " became popular a trend on Twitter , and led to a website in honor of the quote . When prank @-@ calling Packer , Dwight continuously makes references to the The Wizarding World of Harry Potter in Orlando , Florida .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " Todd Packer " was viewed by an estimated 6 @.@ 121 million viewers and received a 3 @.@ 2 rating / 9 % share . This means that it was seen by 3 @.@ 2 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 9 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This marked the lowest number of viewers for the series since the second season episode " Boys and Girls " , which was viewed by 5 @.@ 42 million viewers , as well as the lowest Nielsen rating for the series since the first season . Despite this , the episode became the highest @-@ rated NBC program for the original week it aired and also became the sixteenth most @-@ watched show for the week of broadcast among adults aged 18 ? 49 .

Myles McNutt of The A.V. Club , Gillette 's former employer , awarded the episode a " B ? " and noted that he did not like Todd Packer , nor the episode 's where his character is intentionally supposed to be vile . He did , however , enjoy the fact that Packer 's antics caused Jim and Dwight to unite in the face of a common enemy , a plot that McNutt said " had a scrappy feel to it " . McNutt also called Kevin being " slowly broken by Packer 's cruelty " an effective way to show how terrible Packer was to the morale of the office . He was , however , more critical about the fact that Holly seemed unaware that " Michael may not be the best judge of whether or not someone is funny " . At the end of his review , McNutt reminded readers that The A.V. Club specifically selected him as their new reviewer for the show because he did not know Gillette , thus avoiding a conflict of interest .

IGN writer Cindy White enjoyed the episode , but criticized the ending for being too similar to a scene in the series finale of the original version of The Office in which David Brent , after a successful blind date , tries to jump into a conversation with traveling salesman Chris Finch at a Christmas party . Finch makes a rude comment about his date which makes David stand up to him and tell him to " fuck off " . Despite this , she spoke highly of Jim and Dwight 's storyline , writing that

" I wish their final ruse had been a bit more original , but it served the purpose of getting rid of Packer " . She ultimately gave the episode a 7 @. @ 5 out of 10 rating , denoting a " good " episode .

Matt Richenthal of TV Fanatic awarded the episode four out of five stars and praised it for its temporary teaming up of Jim and Dwight . Alan Sepinwall was critical of the episode ; although he enjoyed the continued exploration of Michael 's maturation , but felt that , because Packer was so infrequently seen on the show , he was stuck as " the American version of Finchy " from the original British series , and as such , did not fit into the show 's dynamics . Sepinwall was further critical of the main story , calling it " flat and uncomfortable " . However , he enjoyed the later part of Pam and Andy 's storyline , as well as Jim and Dwight teaming up to beat Packer .