

= The Deposition ( The Office ) =

" The Deposition " is the twelfth episode of the fourth season of the American comedy television series The Office , and the show 's sixty @-@ fifth episode overall . Written by consulting producer Lester Lewis and directed by Julian Farino , the episode originally aired in the United States on November 15 , 2007 on NBC . " The Deposition " was the last original episode of the show to air before the show went on hiatus due to the 2007 Writers Guild of America strike .

Jan and Michael travel to New York City for the deposition of Jan 's lawsuit against the company . While Michael originally intends to be a witness against the company , he ends up defending the company . Meanwhile , Kelly talks smack to Pam after Darryl beats Jim in a game of ping pong , prompting Jim to spend the entire day practicing in the conference room .

= = Plot = =

After his girlfriend Jan Levenson ( Melora Hardin ) sues her former employer Dunder Mifflin for wrongful termination , Michael Scott ( Steve Carell ) finds himself forced by Jan to be a witness against his employer . Ryan Howard ( B. J. Novak ) wants to make sure Michael won 't say anything against Dunder Mifflin because Jan 's his girlfriend . Toby Flenderson ( Paul Lieberstein ) comes along as the HR representative , against Michael 's protests . The deposition goes well for Jan at first , as she claims that she was terminated due to discrimination over her breast augmentation . To counter evidence that she had a romantic relationship with Michael before they disclosed it to corporate , Jan submits Michael 's personal diary , which she brought to the deposition without his knowledge or permission . Michael is further incensed against Jan when he learns that she gave him a scathing performance review after they had begun dating . Michael learns he was never a contender when interviewing for Jan 's former position at the corporate office , with the CFO insisting repeatedly that he is a nice guy , but ultimately unsuited for the position . Michael defends the company anyway , and later states that " you expect to get screwed by your company , but you never expect to get screwed by your girlfriend . " Jan and Michael drive home , clearly angry at each other over the events of the day .

Back at the Scranton , Pennsylvania branch of Dunder Mifflin , Jim Halpert ( John Krasinski ) repeatedly loses to warehouse foreman Darryl Philbin ( Craig Robinson ) at ping pong , prompting Darryl 's girlfriend Kelly Kapoor ( Mindy Kaling ) to gloat to Jim 's girlfriend Pam Beesly ( Jenna Fischer ) over her boyfriend 's superior skills . Unable to tolerate Kelly 's trash @-@ talk , Pam builds a makeshift ping pong table in the conference room for Jim to practice against other office employees . Throughout the day , Jim practices against his coworkers , eventually discovering Dwight Schrute 's ( Rainn Wilson ) prowess at the game . When Jim and Darryl have a rematch , Jim again loses to Darryl . Fed up with Kelly 's continued taunting , Pam challenges her to a game of ping pong , but the two are pathetically incompetent players . Jim and Darryl quickly bore of watching them and decide to play ping pong in the conference room . The episode concludes with Dwight playing a high @-@ intensity game of ping pong against his cousin Mose Schrute ( Michael Schur ) , with the two at an apparent stalemate .

= = Production = =

" The Deposition " was the first episode of The Office to be written by Lester Lewis . Lewis also works for the show as a consulting producer . The episode was the second of the show to be directed by Julian Farino . Farino also directed the third season episode " Back from Vacation " . " The Deposition " was the last original episode of The Office to air in 2007 due to the effects of the 2007 ? 2008 Writers Guild of America strike . The Writers Guild of America ( WGA ) went on strike at 12 : 01AM Eastern Standard Time on November 5 , 2007 . Filming of The Office immediately halted on that date , as Steve Carell , who is a member of the WGA , refused to cross WGA picket lines . Members of Writers Guild of America , East and Writers Guild of America , West voted to end the 100 @-@ day strike on February 12 , 2008 . Writers were allowed to return to work on the same

day . The WGA allowed for show runners to return to work on February 11 , in preparation for the conclusion of the strike . The show runner for The Office , Executive Producer Greg Daniels , returned on the February 11 , while the show 's writers returned to work on February 13 . The Office finally returned with original episodes on April 10 , 2008 , with the episode " Dinner Party " .

Executive producer and show runner Greg Daniels stated that one of the main purposes of " The Deposition " was to add on to the tension building between Michael and Jan. This tension would finally end its build @-@ up with the splitting of Michael and Jan in the episode " Dinner Party " . The scene where Michael pushes Toby 's lunch tray off the table was not scripted . The crew was doing one last take of the scene and actor Paul Lieberstein suggested that Steve Carell push his food off the table . The ping pong game between Dwight and Mose was made using Computer @-@ generated imagery . Rainn Wilson and Michael Schur mimed the actions of a ping pong game , and during the stages of editing and post @-@ production the ping pong ball was added in as an effect .

= = Cultural references = =

Dwight names Zoran Primorac , Jan @-@ Ove Waldner , Wang Tao , Jorg Roskopf , Ashraf Helmy , Hugo Hoyama , and Andrzej Grubba as his personal heroes ; all of whom are professional table tennis players .

= = Reception = =

" The Deposition " received a 5 @.@ 1 Nielsen rating and an 8 % Share . The episode was watched by 8 @.@ 86 million viewers and achieved a 4 @.@ 8 / 11 in the key adults 18 to 49 demographic , meaning that 4 @.@ 8 percent of all people 18 to 49 watched the episode , and 11 percent of all people 18 to 49 watching television at the time watched the episode .

Rick Porter of Zap2It.com praised the writing of the episode , as well as the acting of Mindy Kaling and Jenna Fischer . Porter also praised the final scene of the episode , when Jan and Michael drive home after the day . Porter stated " I don 't know whether to laugh or turn away in shame from that final scene , though , as they bicker about what to eat while they 're driving home . It was like watching two friends fight -- fascinating and incredibly uncomfortable at the same time . " Christine Fenno , of Entertainment Weekly , stated " ' The Deposition ' was a simmering slow cooker of corporate intrigue , flavored by Michael Scott 's ridiculousness , with spicy smack talk on the side . " Fenno , like Porter , also praised the acting of Jenna Fischer , saying that she " stole the low @-@ key opening scenes " . Travis Fickett , of IGN , stated that " this happens to be the best episode of the season and one of the best episodes of the series . It 's almost as if the writers planned it this way - to emphasize their importance and remind us how much we 'll miss them when they 're gone . " Fickett went on to praise the acting between Steve Carell ( Michael ) and Paul Lieberstein ( Toby ) . BuddyTV Senior Writer Oscar Dahl stated that the episode was an oddity among the series , saying " The Deposition " was an atypical episode of The Office , one that basically put the character of Michael Scott on trial and humiliated him over and over again . "