

= Stewie Goes for a Drive =

" Stewie Goes for a Drive " is the fourth episode of the tenth season of the animated comedy series Family Guy . It originally aired on November 6 , 2011 in the United States on Fox . The plot depicts actor Ryan Reynolds moving into the house across the street , and Peter Griffin befriending him . Ryan flirts with Peter , making Peter uncomfortable , and their friendship ends . Meanwhile , Stewie takes Brian 's car for a joy ride , and crashes it into a lamp post . Fearing the consequences , Stewie runs away from home , but then needs Brian 's help when he ends up in a bad part of town .

First announced at the 2011 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International , the episode was written by Gary Janetti and directed by Julius Wu . It received mixed reviews from critics . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 5 @.@ 73 million homes in its original airing . In addition to Reynolds , who voiced himself , the episode featured guest performances by Adam Alexi @-@ Malle , Ralph Garman , Joe Lomonaco , Rachael MacFarlane and Tara Strong , along with several recurring guest voice actors .

= = Plot = =

Peter and Lois are leaving a doctor 's office when actor Ryan Reynolds asks them for directions . He seems very appreciative of Peter . The next morning Peter notices that Ryan has moved in across the street , taking Cleveland Brown 's former residence . Ryan says he 's filming for a movie nearby . Peter attends Ryan 's housewarming party that night , at which Ryan tickles him and requests that he return the favor . Later that week , they go out to dinner , but Peter immediately exits the restaurant when Ryan tries to kiss him . The next day , Peter tells Lois he believes Ryan is gay but Lois rejects the idea . Peter confronts Ryan , who replies that he is only attracted to Peter 's spirit in the way that a man is attracted to a woman . Angered by Peter 's accusation , Ryan orders him to leave and that they can never talk again ? but hands him a cell phone so they can " always talk " .

Brian picks up Stewie from day care . On the drive home , Stewie listens to " Before He Cheats " by Carrie Underwood on the radio . He decides to stay in the car by himself to continue listening after they reach home and accidentally hits the gear shift , causing the car to move forward . Thinking he can drive , Stewie takes the car for a ride and is thrilled by the experience . He hears on the car radio a contest to win Justin Bieber concert tickets . Stewie calls the radio station on his cell phone but loses control of the car and crashes into a lamppost . (Herbert is heard on the radio winning the tickets .) Stewie takes the car home with the front of the vehicle completely destroyed . Brian discovers the damage and immediately blames Stewie , who tries to deny his involvement , but Brian points out that Stewie left Rupert in the car . Brian says he 'll tell Peter and Lois , and Stewie cries . Afraid of being punished , Stewie runs away . He leaves a CD @-@ ROM for Brian that details his plans . Stewie takes the bus to the airport , but disembarks in the wrong neighborhood . Consuela , the Griffin family 's former maid , finds him and takes him home . Brian finds Stewie , and tells him that he did not tell anyone about the accident . They attempt to leave Consuela 's home , but she insists on keeping Stewie as her own baby . Stewie steals a gun and shoots her in the foot , but says that he didn 't want to hurt her because she had shown kindness to him in the past . Brian and Stewie return home .

= = Production and development = =

First announced at the 2011 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International by series showrunners Steve Callaghan and Mark Hentemann , the episode was written by Gary Janetti . Janetti joined the series in its first season , writing " Brian : Portrait of a Dog " , as well as the series 's landmark 150th episode " Brian & Stewie " . It was directed by Julius Wu , who joined the show in its fifth season , directing " The Tan Aquatic with Steve Zissou " . Series regulars Peter Shin and James Purdum served as supervising director , with Andrew Goldberg , Alex Carter , Spencer Porter , Anthony Blasucci , Mike Desilets and Deepak Sethi serving as staff writers for the episode . Composer Ron

Jones , who has worked on the series since its inception , returned to compose the music for " Stewie Goes for a Drive " . An announcement of Reynolds ' appearance in the episode was made at the Television Critics Association 's summer press tour , along with several other guest voice actors for the season .

In addition to the regular cast , actor and musician Adam Alexi Malle , actor Ralph Garman , voice actor Joe Lomonaco , voice actress Rachael MacFarlane , actor Ryan Reynolds , and voice actress Tara Strong guest starred in the episode . Recurring guest voice actors Alec Sulkin , writer John Viener and writer Wellesley Wild made minor appearances throughout the episode .

= = Cultural references = =

In the opening scene of the episode when Peter and Lois first meet actor Ryan Reynolds , Reynolds lists various movies he has appeared in , including the 2009 film *The Proposal* and the 2011 film *The Change Up* . Impressed by Ryan 's demeanor towards him , Peter then recalls meeting actress Shelley Duvall , which he did not enjoy , even though Duvall is shown being friendly . Reynolds also reveals that he will be portraying Nazi leader Adolf Hitler in a film entitled *Hotler* , which is being filmed in Quahog rather than nearby Newport , Rhode Island .

Later , as Brian and Stewie drive home from his day care , they listen to the 2006 single " Before He Cheats " on the car 's radio , sung by American Idol winner Carrie Underwood . Stewie stays in the car after arriving home to listen to the rest of the song , and sings along . Pleased with himself , he decides he should appear on the Fox television series *Glee* . Later Stewie learns of a contest to win tickets to a local Justin Bieber concert , but ultimately he loses the contest to his neighbor , Herbert . After returning home , Stewie begins watching a film parodying various 1970s science fiction movies (including music parodying the 1976 Michael York film *Logan 's Run*) before being accused by Brian of crashing his car . When Stewie tries to reject blame for the incident , Brian tells him that he must accept his punishment , and compares it to the television game show *The Price Is Right* , in which a woman is shown accepting a poor showcase , involving a weeklong trip to her parent 's house in Wilmington , Delaware . Stewie then runs away from home , leaving a video message for Brian asking Brian to rescue him in a TV movie clichéd way at the airport , and to bring appropriate soundtrack music , suggesting " With or Without You " by U2 , " *Solsbury Hill* " by Peter Dinklage , " *Unwritten* " by Natasha Bedingfield , " *Live Like We 're Dying* " by Kris Allen , " *Thank You* " by Dido and " *Somebody* " by Depeche Mode .

In minutes 12 to 13 , Ryan takes Peter out to eat Moroccan food . Peter hesitates for fear of gas he gets from Mexican food , and a cutaway shows Peter farting out a Mexican bandit spirit who utters , " Con cuidado ! Es El STINKO ! " (Watch out ! It 's the STINKER !) " and then fires shots from pistols in each hand whereupon the Griffins all flee . After Ryan convinces Peter to try his lamb tajine , Peter has to excuse himself to the bathroom , and on the way he farts out a Moroccan swordsman spirit who waves his sword and yells out something in Arabic , and the nearby couple has to flee .

= = Reception = =

" Stewie Goes for a Drive " was broadcast on November 6 , 2011 , as a part of an animated television night on Fox , and was preceded by *The Simpsons* and Allen Gregory , and followed by *Family Guy* creator and executive producer Seth MacFarlane 's second show , *American Dad !* . It was watched by 5 .73 million viewers , according to Nielsen ratings , despite airing simultaneously with *Desperate Housewives* on ABC , *The Good Wife* on CBS and *Sunday Night Football* on NBC . The episode also acquired a 3 .0 / 7 rating in the 18 - 49 demographic , beating *Allen Gregory* and *American Dad* , in addition to significantly edging out both shows in total viewership . The episode 's ratings decreased somewhat from the previous week 's episode , " *Screams of Silence : The Story of Brenda Q* " .

Reviews of the episode were mostly mixed , calling the storyline a " much less extreme reversal " of the season two episode " *The Story on Page One* " , in which Peter attempts to seduce actor Luke

Perry . Kevin McFarland of The A.V. Club wrote of the episode , " It was disappointing to see Family Guy bury a guest star like Kaitlin Olson in the background for much of her episode as Quagmire 's sister last week , but it was even worse to see the show waste Ryan Reynolds . " He continued , " He may not fit an empirical definition of a movie star , but I think he 's worth more as a guest than a tired trope like playing himself as a sexual predator towards Peter . " McFarland also criticized the episode 's two storylines , noting , " Both plots paint themselves into a corner with no time to get out . In the third act , Stewie is trapped at Consuela 's house and Peter hadn 't succumbed to Reynolds ' repetitive and slowly escalating advances or done anything about them , so the show snaps its fingers and ends each one prematurely . " He graded the episode as a C- . In a much more positive review , Terron R. Moore of Ology criticized the episode for not featuring Griffin family siblings Chris and Meg , but praised the series for adopting a Stewie @-@ centric storyline . Moore noted of the storyline involving Reynolds , " All pretty funny stuff , but Ryan Reynolds ' entire guest slot is based on the fact that you like Ryan Reynolds and his occasionally homoerotic humor , which I can definitely appreciate . " He concluded his review by writing , " Not the best Family Guy , but a definite improvement on the week before , using some of the elements it knows best . " Andy Neuenschwander of Yidio also gave mixed reaction to the episode , writing , " Something happens whenever a celebrity shows up on " Family Guy " and plays themselves . I can 't quite put my finger on it , but everything just feels a bit off . This episode , which featured Ryan Reynolds as Ryan Reynolds , only confirmed that feeling . " He also compared it to The Simpsons , noting , " Maybe it 's the way the celebrity is treated as a character : in shows like The Simpsons , celebrities who play themselves appear as a relatively normal version of themselves [...] But on Family Guy , celebrities tend to appear as some bizarro version of themselves . "