

= Señor Macho Solo =

" Señor Macho Solo " is the seventh episode of the third season of the American television comedy series 30 Rock , and the 43rd overall episode of the series . It was written by co @-@ executive producer Ron Weiner and directed by Beth McCarthy . The episode originally aired on the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) in the United States on January 8 , 2009 . Peter Dinklage , Salma Hayek , and Sherri Shepherd guest star in " Señor Macho Solo " , and there are cameo appearances by Billy Bush and Nancy O 'Dell .

In the episode , Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) becomes attracted to a new man , Stewart LaGrange (Dinklage) . Meanwhile , Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) tries to help Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) and his wife , Angie (Shepherd) , arrange a post @-@ nuptial agreement and Jenna Maroney (Jane Krakowski) auditions for a Janis Joplin biographical film . At the same time , Jack finds a new love in the form of Elisa (Hayek) , his mother 's nurse .

" Señor Macho Solo " has received generally positive reception from television critics . According to the Nielsen Media Research , the episode was watched by 5 @.@ 4 million households during its original broadcast , and received a 2 @.@ 3 rating / 5 share among viewers in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

= = Plot = =

Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) desires to have a baby , but her adoption process is taking a long time . She begins to act " baby @-@ crazy " when she is around little children . While outside of 30 Rock , Liz pats a boy in front of her on the head , only to discover that it is not a child but a dwarf man , Stewart LaGrange (Peter Dinklage) . To cover up , Liz lies to Stewart , telling him that the reason she pat his head was to get his attention , which he accepts and the two go on a date . During their date , Liz tries to pick Stewart up to stop him from touching fire . Stewart asks Liz if she first thought he was a child when they first met , and she admits this is true , displeasing him . The next day , she calls him to apologize and asks that he give her a second chance and meet her at the Brooklyn Bridge . At the bridge , however , Liz mistakenly thinks a boy is Stewart , which prompts him to realize this will never work between them .

In another storyline , Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) hires a new nurse , Elisa Pedrera (Salma Hayek) , to take care of his mother , Colleen (Elaine Stritch) . Meanwhile , Jack helps Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) manage his money because his spending has gotten out of control . Jack recommends a " post @-@ nup " agreement for Tracy and his wife , Angie (Sherri Shepherd) , as Tracy fears that Angie might leave him if she ever were to have enough money to live on . Angie agrees to sign the agreement but promises Tracy that she will never leave his side , which moves Tracy and he stops her from signing the agreement . Later , Jack feels a lump in one of his testicles , and believing he has testicular cancer , he begins to look at life differently . He admits to Liz that he has fallen in love with Elisa after they spent some time together . When he gets his tests results , which come back negative , he has second thoughts about Elisa . In the end , however , Jack comes home to Elisa , and the two share a kiss .

Finally , Jenna Maroney (Jane Krakowski) learns that Sheinhardt Universal ? the fictional owner of General Electric ? is producing a biographical film on singer Janis Joplin , and she decides to audition for it . As a way to get the role , she goes into Jack 's office in character . The plan works after Jack is easily convinced . Much to her dismay , Jenna learns that actress Julia Roberts and director Martin Scorsese are also making a Janis Joplin movie and that Sheinhardt Universal has yet to secure the song and image rights of Joplin . In order for the company to avoid legal problems , Jenna is introduced as " Janet Jopler " on TGS ? the show she stars in ? and sings the song " Piece of My Heart " but with reworded lyrics .

= = Production = =

" Señor Macho Solo " was written by co @-@ executive producer Ron Weiner and directed by Beth

McCarthy . This episode was Weiner 's second writing credit , having written season two episode " Secrets and Lies " , and was McCarthy 's fifth directed episode . It originally aired in the United States on January 8 , 2009 , on NBC as the seventh episode of the show 's third season and the 43rd overall episode of the series .

Actress Salma Hayek made her 30 Rock debut as the character Elisa Pedrera , a nurse for Jack Donaghy 's mother and love interest for him in this episode . She next guest starred in the episodes " Flu Shot " , " Generalissimo " , " St. Valentine 's Day " , and " Larry King " . Hayek made her final appearance on the show in the April 23 , 2009 , episode " The Ones " .

Comedian actress Sherri Shepherd made her fourth appearance on the series as Angie Jordan , the wife of Tracy Jordan , played by Tracy Morgan . Shepherd appeared in the episodes " Up All Night " , " Jack Gets in the Game " , and " The Collection " . Actor Peter Dinklage played Stewart LaGrange in the episode . Nancy O 'Dell and Billy Bush , hosts of the entertainment news program Access Hollywood appeared as themselves in " Señor Macho Solo " , as they report on the entertainment program that actress Julia Roberts and director Martin Scorsese are also developing a Janis Joplin feature . O 'Dell played herself in the March 12 , 2009 , episode " The Funcooker " . Tina Fey and Dinklage shot one of their first scenes from the episode on October 6 , 2008 .

= = Cultural references = =

Signs of Tracy 's money spending problems included his purchase of three hours of prime @-@ time as a salute to Benny Hill . When Elisa informs Jack that he has a lump on one of his testicles , Jack responds , " Thank you for telling me what I already know . You should work for the Huffington Post " , the latter being a liberal news and aggregated blog website that Alec Baldwin has been a contributor to since 2005 . Elisa tells Jack that " Señor Macho Solo " is " what we call a McRib sandwich " , a sandwich sold at McDonald 's . NBC page Kenneth Parcell (Jack McBrayer) does the " Top That " rap from the fantasy @-@ comedy film Teen Witch (1989) . Jenna sings the song " Piece of My Heart " , from Janis Joplin , though , the lyrics had been reworded by Jack so that Sheinhardt Universal avoid legal problems . In addition , Jenna sings the song and carries a bottle of Jack Daniel 's in hand , a real life trait of the late singer .

Star Wars is frequently referenced in 30 Rock , beginning with the pilot episode in 2006 where Tracy is seen shouting that he is a Jedi . Liz admits to being a huge fan of Star Wars , saying that she had watched it many times with Pete Hornberger (Scott Adsit) , and dressed up as the Star Wars character Princess Leia during four recent Halloweens , and while trying to get out of jury duty in Chicago . Star Wars is also referenced when Tracy takes on the identity of the character Chewbacca . In this episode , Liz tells Stewart that there are many languages and costumes in the conference room of the United Nations , saying , " it must be like working in the Galactic Senate in Star Wars " . Stewart responds , " They are similar . We 're also concerned about the growing influence of the Sith Lord . "

= = Reception = =

According to the Nielsen Media Research , " Señor Macho Solo " was watched by 5 @.@ 4 million households in its original American broadcast . It earned a 2 @.@ 3 rating / 5 share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . This means that it was seen by 2 @.@ 3 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 5 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This was a decrease from the previous episode , " Christmas Special " , which was watched by 8 @.@ 9 million American viewers . Since airing , the episode has received generally positive reviews .

IGN contributor Robert Canning praised 30 Rock for putting it all together " so seamlessly " and " so brilliantly balanced " in " Señor Macho Solo " . Canning enjoyed Tracy 's story , observing that it was a " fantastic Tracy Jordan moment . " He complimented Sherri Shepherd 's guest spot , writing that it was a great way to bring her back " into the mix " . He also liked that this episode " delivered some great work " from Alec Baldwin . In conclusion , Canning gave the episode a 9 @.@ 3 out of 10

rating . Television columnist Alan Sepinwall for The Star @-@ Ledger appreciated Jenna 's subplot as it was " the first really work @-@ centric one in a while . " He complimented Peter Dinklage 's appearance , but was less enthusiastic about Salma Hayek being a love interest for Baldwin 's Jack , citing that he did not buy her in the Elisa role . Kona Gallagher of AOL 's TV Squad said that Dinklage , Hayek , and Shepherd " fit into the episode , instead of feeling like the episode was written around them . " Gallagher noted that Dinklage was " pretty awesome " as Tina Fey 's love interest , " and I would have loved to see more of them together . I really think they could have done more with this storyline . " According to Gallagher , the only part of " Señor Macho Solo " that she was not " crazy about " was Jenna playing Janis Joplin .

TV Guide 's Matt Mitovich observed that " Señor Macho Solo " was the " best episode of the season " as it " kept all of the comedy rooted in the actual storylines " . He wrote that the Tracy story was " packed [with] plenty of amusement " , and that the character 's spending problem was " funny for the sight gags alone " . Mitovich commented that Hayek 's character was " one of Jack 's best matches yet " . Jeremy Median of Paste opined that " Señor Macho Solo " featured one of the " funniest sight gags in 30 Rock history " , referring to Tracy wearing a coat made out of money , shoes made of gold , and " a Mad Hatter @-@ like hat made out of money , as only Tracy could pull off . " He also wrote that it was nice to be reminded of Liz 's " baby @-@ cravings , a story that 's been bubbling on the surface for a while now but reemerged here . " Nathan Rabin for The A.V. Club noted that this episode " juggled its various lovestruck plots with aplomb " , and gave this episode an A ? . Rabin liked all the plots , but most enjoyed Jenna 's story of her trying to play Janis Joplin .