

= Treehouse of Horror V =

" Treehouse of Horror V " is the sixth episode of The Simpsons ' sixth season and the fifth episode in the Treehouse of Horror series . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on October 30 , 1994 , and features three short stories titled The Shinning , Time and Punishment , and Nightmare Cafeteria . The episode was directed by Jim Reardon and written by Greg Daniels , Dan McGrath , David Cohen and Bob Kushell .

In The Shinning the Simpsons are hired as caretakers at Mr. Burns ' mansion . Deprived of television and beer , Homer becomes insane and attempts to murder the family ; after finding a portable TV set , he returns to normal . In Time and Punishment , Homer repeatedly travels back in time and alters the future ; upon failing to restore the future , he eventually settles for a reality close to his own . In Nightmare Cafeteria , Principal Skinner begins using students in detention as cafeteria food ; just as Bart and Lisa are about to be slaughtered , Bart discovers it is only a dream ( but is then attacked by fog which turns people inside out ) .

David Mirkin deliberately placed more graphic violence in the episode due to complaints about excessive violence in the show . The episode features James Earl Jones as the voice of an alternate timeline Maggie ( his second appearance in a Simpsons Halloween episode ) , and a recurring joke where Groundskeeper Willie is struck in the back with an axe in every tale when trying to help someone .

= = Plot = =

= = = Opening = = =

Marge warns that the episode is frightening and should not be viewed by children . During the warning , she is informed that it is so scary that Congress will not let them view the episode . However , Bart interrupts the warning with a radio transmission and the episode begins .

= = = The Shinning = = =

In a parody of The Shining , The Simpsons are employed as caretakers at Mr. Burns ' mansion . Burns cuts the cable television wire and steals the beer , thinking this will ensure hard work from the family . While there , Groundskeeper Willie discovers that Bart has the power to read his thoughts and that if Homer goes insane , he should use this to call him . The deprivation of his two favorite things causes Homer to go insane and a ghostly Moe informs Homer he must kill his family in order to get a beer . Marge discovers that Homer has covered the walls with the repetitive phrasing " No TV and no beer make Homer go crazy " , and confronts Homer with a baseball bat , but Homer , after seeing his reflection in a mirror , trips and falls unconscious . Marge locks him in the pantry until he has calmed down and makes some chili for dinner . Later on , Homer has calmed down and happily eats , but Moe reminds him of their deal through the pantry door . When he refuses to comply , Moe shows up with his gang of ghouls and carries Homer out much to his dismay . While Marge and the children are enjoying dinner , Homer begins pursuing the family with an axe and Bart uses his powers to call Willie , who immediately runs to the family 's rescue , abandoning his portable television in the snow in the process . Homer kills him by striking him in the back with the axe . Homer pursues his family outside but as he is about to kill them , Lisa discovers Willie 's abandoned television . Homer 's insanity gradually decreases and the family freezes in the snow as they are watching . With the family unable to change the channel when the Tony Awards begin , Homer 's insanity resurfaces .

= = = Time and Punishment = = =

In a parody of A Sound of Thunder , while attempting to fix a broken toaster , Homer accidentally

turns it into a time machine . It transports him to prehistoric times where he realizes he must be careful because if he affects anything in the past , it could change the future . After swatting a mosquito , he returns to the present to find a dystopia where Ned Flanders is a dictator of the world . Homer travels back in time again attempting to set things right ; however , he accidentally kills a walking fish , and after returning to the present he finds Bart and Lisa are giants , narrowly avoiding being crushed by them . He then sneezes and infects the dinosaurs with a cold virus while defending himself from a Tyrannosaurus Rex , which proceeds to cause their extinction . He is initially pleased with the results in the present ; amongst other perks , the family is now extremely wealthy and Patty and Selma have died , but is horrified upon discovering that donuts do not exist in this timeline and flees , only seconds before donuts begin raining from the sky . In another world , Willie attempts to help Homer , but is again struck in the back with an axe , this time by a James Earl Jones @-@ voiced Maggie . When Homer returns to the prehistoric times again , he furiously smashes everything in sight with a baseball bat . After several more trips back and forth in time , Homer eventually arrives in a reality that appears normal ; he finds humans eating with lizard @-@ like tongues , but finally decides that it is " close enough " .

= = = Nightmare Cafeteria = = =

In a parody of Soylent Green , Principal Skinner is concerned that the detention hall is becoming overcrowded and as a result of the latest budget cut , Lunchlady Doris has been reduced to serving " Grade F " meat in the cafeteria . Skinner discovers a common solution : eating misbehaving children . Jimbo Jones is the first student to be killed , who is served as " Sloppy Jimbo " , followed by Üter , who is then served as " Üterbraten " . Bart and Lisa finally discover what Principal Skinner and Lunchlady Doris are doing , but one by one , the kids are " sent to detention " where they are caged and butchered . The kids turn to Marge , who tells them that they must stand up for themselves . Eventually Bart , Lisa , and Milhouse are among the only students remaining and attempt to escape . Skinner and Doris corner them on a ledge above a giant blender . Willie attempts to help the students escape , but is once again struck in the back with an axe , this time by Skinner . Milhouse , Bart , and Lisa fall to their demise .

Bart wakes up from the nightmare to find his family beside his bed . Marge assures him he has nothing to be afraid of , but a green fog seeps in through the window and the Simpsons are turned inside out . They , along with Willie , perform a musical number over the end credits , but Bart is dragged away by Santa 's Little Helper .

= = Production = =

David Mirkin attempted to put " as much blood and guts " into the episode as he could . This was because Mirkin was disappointed by complaints from Congress regarding the amount of violence in the show and their attempts for it to be censored . He later called it " the most [ ... ] disturbing Halloween show ever " . The opening sequence , in which Marge states the episode could not be shown and plays some live action stock footage , was also in reaction to this . Mirkin said he thinks Halloween shows can be " scary as well as fun " .

This episode marked the end of the tradition of featuring humorous tombstones in the title sequence of Halloween episodes . The title sequence of this episode featured a tombstone reading " Amusing Tombstones " , which was a sign that the writers could no longer devise ideas to use as humorous tombstone messages . Similar sequences were featured as introductions in all four preceding Treehouse of Horror episodes , but have not been featured since this episode .

The staff also decided against the traditional continuation of featuring wrap @-@ around segments that were featured before each story in the preceding Treehouse of Horror episodes , to allow more time for the main stories .

The first segment , The Shinning , was inspired by the film The Shining , and is basically a parody of that film . The film 's director , Stanley Kubrick , had been a big influence on Mirkin , and was " one of the main reason [ he ] wanted to be a director " . Coincidentally , series creator Matt Groening

admitted that he had not seen *The Shining* and most of the references to the film were entirely lost on him .

Matt Groening originally pitched the idea that Homer would travel through time in *Time and Punishment* . His original idea was that the time @-@ travel would be the result of Homer simply jamming his hand in the toaster , but it was rejected by the other writers . Scenes where Homer is in the past were written so that he is there for the time it takes to toast a slice of bread . Mirkin gave Peabody and Sherman cameo appearance in this segment , which was due to the show *Rocky and His Friends* being a major influence on *The Simpsons* .

The first time Homer travels back in time , he was originally supposed to state " I 'm the first non @-@ fictional character to travel backwards through time " . The line was later changed from " non @-@ fictional " to " non @-@ Brazilian " . Groening was confused as to the reason for the change , since he liked the original so much . In fact , he did not even understand what the new line implied .

In the scene where the Simpsons ' house transforms into numerous objects , one of the original designs included the house made entirely of squirrels . The layout artist who designed it worked on the drawings for more than two days , but ultimately it was cut . To ensure their work did not go to waste , some staff members have used the drawings on Christmas cards and other studio @-@ related notices .

In another deleted scene involving an alternate Simpsons future , the Simpsons had a teenage son named Roy . Groening said that " somebody from outside the show " originally suggested the idea . The joke was later used as a sub @-@ plot for the episode " *The Itchy & Scratchy & Poochie Show* " , although Roy was a lodger in that episode , rather than a son .

Nightmare Cafeteria was the first Simpsons story to be written by David X. Cohen . He wrote the final scene where a nightmarish fog turns the family " inside out " . This was inspired by a thriller featured on the radio show *Lights Out* called " *The Dark* " , which frightened Cohen as a child . A dance number was added immediately afterwards in order to end the show on a lighter note . He also cut two scenes from this segment featuring Sherri and Terri being cooked as " *Teriyaki* " steak with a " *Sherry* " sauce and Homer regaling Lisa about his dream of eating Milhouse . Regardless , a book from this scene was featured in this segment . As a result of this scene being cut , Homer does not appear in the third segment , something Cohen thought never happened before . The " *grade F meat* " joke was written by Mirkin , inspired by his cousin once seeing a box of hot dogs labeled " *grade C* , approved for human consumption " .

= = Cultural references = =

The voice over in the pre @-@ title sequence is a reference to *The Outer Limits* . The first segment *The Shinning* is a parody of the Stephen King novel *The Shining* and the Stanley Kubrick film of the same name . The basic plot of the segment is the same as the novel and there are also many references to specific moments from the film , such as the blood coming out of the elevator and Homer breaking through a door with an axe and yelling " *Here 's Johnny* " .

The title of the second segment *Time and Punishment* is a reference to the Fyodor Dostoyevsky novel *Crime and Punishment* and the plot , where Homer causes major changes in the future by killing animals in the past , is a parody of the Ray Bradbury short story " *A Sound of Thunder* " . Peabody and Sherman from the animated series *The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show* , make an appearance during Homer 's time traveling sequence and when , as a side effect of Homer 's antics in the past , Kang and Kodos ' heads are unexpectedly replaced with those of Peabody and Sherman . The dinosaur scenes are reminiscent of *Jurassic Park* , and the floor morphing into a television screen is a reference to similar scenes in both *Terminator 2 : Judgment Day* and *Time Bandits* . The title of the third segment *Nightmare Cafeteria* , is a reference to the television series *Nightmare Cafe* . The song sung over the end credits is based on the song " *One* " from the musical *A Chorus Line* , while the concept of the family being turned inside out by a mysterious fog comes from an episode of the radio show *Lights Out* called " *The Dark* " . The performance of the final dance number is stylized after the song 's performance on *The Brady Bunch Hour* .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " Treehouse of Horror V " finished 27th in ratings for the week of October 24 ? 30 , 1994 , with a Nielsen rating of 12 @. @ 2 , equivalent to approximately 11 @. @ 6 million viewing households . It was the second highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week , following Beverly Hills 90210 .

The episode is often considered one of the best Simpsons Halloween episodes ever . It finished ninth on a list by the magazine Entertainment Weekly of its top 25 Simpsons episodes . In it , The Shinning segment was described as " a parody [ ... ] with such detail [ and ] comic timing " and that it " ranks with the great [ ... ] spoofs of all time " , and the Time and Punishment segment as " one of the most beautifully random moments in [ The ] Simpsons history " , but also said that the Nightmare Cafeteria segment " doesn 't shine as brilliantly " . It ranked fifth on AskMen.com 's " Top 10 : Simpsons Episodes " list . The list stated that the episode " offers three completely different tales , [ ... ] boasting a potent combination of wit and humor " that , " the laughs never end " and that it " does a great job of incorporating Halloween @-@ themed stories with the standard Simpsons charm " . IGN called the episode " the funniest Treehouse of Horror to date " . In 2006 , they also named it the best episode of the sixth season . Adam Finley of the weblog TV Squad called it " possibly one of the best Halloween episodes ever " . Michael Passman said the episode " is largely regarded as the best , but a weak final third holds it back " .

The Shinning is particularly the highest @-@ praised segment . As well as Entertainment Weekly 's praise , IGN voted it first on their list of the best segments in the Treehouse of Horror series , with Time and Punishment coming fourth . It came ninth on the blog Noise to Signal 's , list of " The Ten Best Treehouse of Horror Vignettes " . Adam Finley of TV Squad contemplating that it " could [ ... ] be the best Treehouse of Horror segment ever " as well as praising the opening of Time and Punishment . When putting together the perfect Treehouse of Horror episode , Michael Passman of Michigan Daily included The Shinning as " a shoo @-@ in " . Empire named " No TV And No Beer Make Homer Go Crazy " the sixth best film parody in the show 's history .

Alf Clausen 's musical score for this episode received an Emmy Award nomination for " Outstanding Dramatic Underscore - Series " in 1995 . The authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide , Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood called it " Another fine entry to the Treehouse canon " .

James Earl Jones ' guest appearance in this episode , as well as in " Treehouse of Horror " and " Das Bus " , was listed seventh on IGN 's " Top 25 Simpsons Guest Appearances " list . Jones ranked 25th on AOL 's list of their favorite 25 Simpsons guest stars . Matt Groening said that this line is among his favorite lines in the show . David Mirkin said that Homer 's line " Oh I wish , I wish I hadn 't killed that fish " is one of his favorites in the show , and that the alternate future in which the family are rich " breaks [ his ] heart every time " . Homer 's line " close enough " from " Time and Punishment " was later used in the Stargate SG @-@ 1 episode " Moebius " .

= = Legacy = =

Time and Punishment was later referenced in DC Comic 's Booster Gold comic series , where Booster Gold explains the butterfly effect by asking if anyone had seen the episode where Homer stepped on a butterfly and it began raining donuts , only to wish it were raining donuts where he was .