

= New Guys =

" New Guys " is the first episode of the ninth season of the American comedy television series The Office , and the show 's 177th episode overall . It originally aired on NBC on September 20 , 2012 . The episode was written and directed by series creator Greg Daniels ; this is his first writing credit for the series since the seventh season episode " Goodbye , Michael " , and his first directing credit since " PDA " .

The series depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In this episode , two new employees ( Clark Duke and Jake Lacy ) are hired by the Scranton branch and cause trouble for Dwight Schrute ( Rainn Wilson ) and Jim Halpert ( John Krasinski ) . Andy Bernard ( Ed Helms ) returns from manager training , hoping for revenge on Nellie Bertram ( Catherine Tate ) . Oscar Martinez ( Oscar Nunez ) considers adopting Angela Lipton 's ( Angela Kinsey ) cat . Kevin Malone ( Brian Baumgartner ) tries to save a turtle .

" New Guys " was the inception of several story arcs and saw the departure of Mindy Kaling as Kelly Kapoor , due to her involvement in her own sitcom The Mindy Project . " New Guys " received largely positive pre @-@ release reviews from television critics . Post @-@ release reviews were moderately positive ; while many felt that the episode was a distinct step in the right direction for the show , others took issues with some of the comedic aspects of the episode . " New Guys " was viewed by 4 @.@ 28 million viewers and received a 2 @.@ 1 rating among adults between the age of 18 and 49 , making it the show 's lowest @-@ rated season premiere . The episode ranked second in its timeslot and was also the highest @-@ rated NBC series of the night .

= = Plot = =

Over the summer , Kevin ( Brian Baumgartner ) tried to save a turtle that he ran over , but only ended up killing it . Kelly Kapoor ( Mindy Kaling ) moved to Ohio with her fiancé Ravi and Ryan Howard ( B. J. Novak ) also moved to Ohio for " unrelated reasons . " Dwight ( Rainn Wilson ) learned that he is not the biological father of Angela 's ( Angela Kinsey ) baby .

While talking to the camera , Jim ( John Krasinski ) and Pam ( Jenna Fischer ) reveal that Jim was offered an entrepreneurial sports job by an old college friend based on an idea the two had in college . Jim tells the camera that he turned it down , because it would not be good for his family . Pam and Jim begin to take off their microphones and Pam makes a remark , noting that , after nine years , the cameramen should have enough footage for a documentary . One of the cameramen then addresses the two , saying that they are more interested in the developments of the office workers themselves , especially Jim and Pam , rather than the office now . Jim looks pensive when Pam tells the cameramen that , with work and kids , nothing interesting will happen to the Halperts in a long time .

Two new employees , Clark ( Clark Duke ) and Pete ( Jake Lacy ) , who are quickly dubbed " Dwight , Jr . " and " The New Jim , " are hired by the Scranton branch and cause trouble for Jim and Dwight . At first , Dwight is happy to have a protege , acting as a fatherly figure to Clark due to the office noting their visual similarity , but soon begins to fear that Clark is after his job . Jim , on the other hand , does not feel that Pete is anything like him . However , after hearing Pete discuss his future plans , Jim realizes that he used to have Pete 's ambition but has become stuck at the same job for over nine years . Meanwhile , Angela puts one of her cats , Comstock , up for adoption as her baby is allergic to it . Oscar ( Oscar Nunez ) initially refuses to adopt Comstock despite Angela 's pleas , but agrees to adopt it after learning that it is her husband Robert 's ( Jack Coleman ) favorite cat . It is implied that Robert and Oscar are having an affair , as Robert told Angela he was having a business dinner on the night he actually had plans with Oscar .

Andy Bernard ( Ed Helms ) returns from Outward Bound manager training ? where he became more " decisive and confident " ? hoping for revenge on Nellie ( Catherine Tate ) for commandeering his job during the previous spring . To do this , Andy sets up a slackline in the parking lot and makes the employees walk across it , humiliating Nellie as she insists on walking in her heels and fails to

keep her balance . After Clark proves that he is talented at balancing , Dwight attempts to one @-@ up him , but ends up failing repeatedly and hurting himself . Eventually , Dwight tries to prove his superiority by riding a bicycle across a tight @-@ rope suspended between the roof and a telephone pole , but the photocopier he is using as a counterweight is not heavy enough and he ends up losing his balance and hanging from the bicycle above the parking lot . Much to his embarrassment , he has to be rescued by a team of firefighters , while Creed ( Creed Bratton ) mistakenly believes the incident to be a circus act . While everyone is outside crowding around Dwight , Jim calls up his old college friend and tells him that he wants to be involved in the new business deal , even though he did not have Pam 's approval .

= = Production = =

On May 11 , 2012 , NBC renewed The Office for a ninth season and it was later announced that Greg Daniels , who had been the series showrunner from season one through five , would be returning . " New Guys " was written and directed by Daniels . This is his first writing credit for the series since the seventh season entry , " Goodbye , Michael " , and his first directing credited since season seven 's " PDA " . This also marks the third time he has both written and directed an episode , after the first season episode " Basketball " and the fourth season opener , " Fun Run " . Daniels later revealed that " New Guys " would be the inception of big season arcs . He went on the record saying " I 'll tell you that the last couple of years , I don 't think we did any big arc @-@ type things in the way that we used to in the beginning , I think the thing we 're going to do is bring back a lot of arcs " . Jenna Fischer later stated that part of the Jim and Pam arc would be dependent on " things that happened in seasons past that didn 't seem very relevant at the time and [ that ] they 're going to become important this season . "

" New Guys " featured one of the final few performances of Mindy Kaling as Kelly Kapoor , who left the series to star in her own comedy television series The Mindy Project , which was created for the Fox Broadcasting Company . Both Novak and Kaling appeared in two episodes of the season ? " New Guys " and " Finale " . The episode features both Clark Duke and Jake Lacy as two new Dunder Mifflin employees who have been hired to " go through the back log of over 4 @,@ 000 unanswered customer complaints that " Kelly has ignored the past few years . Duke noted that filming the slack lining scene " was not that fun ; it was really hard " . He did , however , state that Helms was able to do it well " with no practice " . The voice of the documentarian that responds to Jim is that of series director David Rogers . Rogers also voiced the same character in the penultimate episode opener " A.A.R.M. " . Originally , Daniels had re @-@ recorded the line in " New Guys " , but ended up liking Roger 's voice better . He asked him to reprise the role in " A.A.R.M. " to preserve continuity .

The official website of The Office included several cut scenes from " New Guys " within a week of the episode 's release . In the first 40 @-@ second clip , Dwight tries to bond with Clark by discussing an article he read in Time magazine about dub @-@ step . Clark teases Dwight for reading the magazine , something he considers for older audiences , but Dwight is oblivious . In the second 75 @-@ second clip , Toby calls a workplace bullying meeting and the office discussing how Andy has been harassing various people . Kevin tries to maintain that Angela bullies him , and states that she will not give him her cat because he killed his turtle " a few times " . In the third and final 30 @-@ second clip , Jim tries to convince Dwight that the relationship Dwight shares with Clark is similar to that of Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker , characters from the popular science fiction movie franchise Star Wars .

= = Cultural references = =

Much like the sixth season starter " Gossip " ? which featured parkour in the cold opening ? the seventh season opener " Nepotism " ? which started with a lip dub ? and the eighth season premiere " The List " ? which opened with a bit about planking ? " New Guys " also contains a plot involving a popular Internet meme , in this case slacklining , which is a practice in balance that

typically uses nylon webbing tensioned between two anchor points . When Ryan is leaving , he claims he is going to Ohio because " they call it the Silicone Prairie , " a reference to Silicon Valley , a part of the San Francisco Bay Area in Northern California in the United States that is home to many of the world 's largest technology corporations . Andy returns from Outward Bound , an organization that aims to foster the personal growth and social skills of participants by using challenging expeditions in the outdoors . Dwight tries to talk to Clark about the heavy metal band Slayer , noting that he has tickets for a show in ten months . Jim asks Pete if he likes the Philadelphia Phillies , but Pete mistakes his reference to mean horses .

Erik Adams of The A.V. Club compared Dwight and Clark 's relationship to that of the mythical characters of King Laius and Oedipus , respectively . The story , which was later turned into a popular play Oedipus Rex by Greek writer Sophocles , tells of how Laius hears of a prophecy that his son will kill him . Fearing the prophecy , Laius abandons his son , Oedipus ' , who is raised in the city of Thebes . Oedipus later crosses paths with Laius and gets into a fight and , not knowing that Laius is his father , kills him . Adams , thus , states that the " break @-@ room conversation " Dwight and Clark share starts to make Dwight paranoid and fear that Clark is after his job .

Many reviewers noted that the episode made references to previous episodes of the series . The ending , featuring Dwight riding a bicycle on the roof , was positively compared to the third season episode " Safety Training " . Adams wrote that many of the scenes " take characters to corners of the office tied to memories of episode ? s [ sic ] past " , such as Oscar 's phone call , which takes place in the stairwell where Dwight pumped himself up for his work review in the second season episode " Performance Review " , and Pam climbing up the rooftop access ladder , which is reminiscent of Pam and Jim 's first " date " in the second season episode " The Client " .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" New Guys " originally aired on NBC on September 20 , 2012 . The episode was viewed by 4 @.@ 28 million viewers and received a 2 @.@ 1 / 6 percent share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . This means that it was seen by 2 @.@ 1 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 6 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This marked a 46 percent drop in viewership from the season eight premiere " The List " and made it the lowest premiere of the The Office to air . The Office finished second in its time slot , being beaten by an episode of the Fox series Glee , which received a 2 @.@ 9 / 8 percent rating . " New Guys " , however , finished ahead of repeats of the CBS show Two and a Half Men and the ABC series Grey 's Anatomy and a new episode of The CW show The Next . The Office was also the highest @-@ rated NBC television program of the night . " New Guys " was the twenty @-@ first most @-@ watched show for the week of broadcast among adults aged 18 ? 49 . This marked a slight improvement from the season eight premiere , " The List " , which ranked as the twenty @-@ second . When DVR numbers were included , the episode increased its ratings up 52 percent to a 3 @.@ 2 , meaning it was seen by , in total , 3 @.@ 2 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds .

= = = Reviews = = =

Several pre @-@ release reviews of the episode were generally positive . Bruce Miller of the Sioux City Journal gave the episode a largely positive review and noted that " If you can erase last season from your mind , you 'll see this [ ... ] is exactly how The Office should have carried on after Steve Carell left . " Furthermore , he praised the addition of Duke and Lacy , calling their performances " so good you could see them become the centerpiece of a new series . " Verne Gay of Newsweek awarded the episode an " A ? " and called the installment " very ( very ) funny . " He was especially happy about the addition of Lacy and Duke , calling them " flashbacks to a younger Jim and Dwight . " Furthermore , he noted that " the ninth and final season actually may offer completion " of a show

that has just "merely offered variations on [ the characters ' ] tics " for the past eight seasons . Bob Owen of the Pittsburgh Post @-@ Gazette called the episode " generally funnier than [ the show ] was last season " and wrote that the episode would be a good opportunity " for viewers who quit the [ series ] last year [ ... ] to come back to the show . " Particularly , he was excited to " see the seeds of the show 's end planted . "

Entertainment Weekly writer Ken Tucker concluded that " New Guys " has " a lot more snap and vigor than most of last season 's episodes . " He was extremely complimentary towards the Pam and Jim story arc that was hinted at , noting that , after settling into a comfortable marriage , the show was finally trying to make them interesting again . David Silverberg of DigitalJournal.com called the entry " one of the show 's best [ premieres ] in recent years " and concluded that the addition of Duke and Lacy " work as a better foil than Nellie and the creepy boss played by James Spader . " Adams awarded the episode a " B + " and called it " a fresh start " for the series after the eighth season . Adams also complimented the show for " stop [ ing ] every so often to acknowledge the fans that have stuck with the series [ and ] also mak [ ing ] subtler callbacks to the show 's glory days . " He was also complimentary towards the fact that Duke and Lacy have not been thrown into stories of their own , rather , they " serve as parallels and stimulants to Dwight and Jim . "

Nick Campbell of TV.com called the episode " a decent " and " moderately sharp " season premiere . He concluded that , " While the episode still wasn 't on par with those of the show 's earliest seasons , [ ... ] The episode wasn 't lazy ? and for The Office , that 's a win . " Other reviews were slightly more mixed . TV Fanatic reviewer Dan Forcella awarded the episode a three out of five , but was appreciative of the additions to the cast , as well as many of the actors story lines . Jeffrey Hyatt of Screenrave noted that the episode was similar in tone to the season eight finale , " Free Family Portrait Studio " , but that " the addition of Lacy and Duke pay quick dividends as the opener provides flashes of comedy moxie , while helping wash away painful memories of last season . " David Hinckley of the New York Daily News awarded the episode three stars out of five and wrote that " The deadpan goofiness remains fresh enough to keep fans interested " and that " the fact that this whole drama doesn 't feel new and shiny anymore isn 't anyone 's fault . [ ... ] All The Office needs to do now is march out proudly random , zany and off @-@ center . " HitFix 's Alan Sepinwall , however , was critical of the episode 's humor , noting that it " didn 't give me a lot of hope for a last @-@ minute resurgence " . Matt Roush of TV Guide wrote that the " one interesting storyline " may make him watch the remainder of Pam and Jim 's story , but not " the rest of this sadly played @-@ out workplace comedy . "

Many reviews were complimentary towards the interaction Pam and Jim had with the cameramen . Silverberg called it " a nice surprise " . Tucker called the sequence one of the " biggest reveals " in the episode . Sepinwall , despite being critical of the episode 's humor , found the sub @-@ plot " interesting " . He called it " a character arc I 've been waiting for the show to remember to do for years now , and the scenes here were promising ( if not incredibly funny ) " .