

= Day of the Jackanapes =

" Day of the Jackanapes " is the thirteenth episode of The Simpsons ' twelfth season . It first aired on the Fox network in the United States on February 18 , 2001 . In the episode , Krusty announces his retirement due to interference from network executives and the growing popularity of the game show Me Wantee . But when Krusty reveals to Sideshow Bob that all of the episodes featuring him have been erased , Sideshow Bob uses Bart to try and murder Krusty during his farewell show .

" Day of the Jackanapes " was written by Al Jean and directed by Michael Marcantel and features recurring guest star Kelsey Grammer as Sideshow Bob , as well as Gary Coleman as himself . It features references to Johnny Carson , Bookends and Terminator 2 : Judgment Day , among other things .

It would also feature a parody of the song " Zip @-@ a @-@ Dee @-@ Doo @-@ Dah " , but because the series ' staff were not able to clear the rights for the song in time for the episode 's broadcast , the song remained unreleased until 2007 . The episode is the first appearance of Sideshow Bob since " Brother from Another Series " ( 1997 ) .

In its original broadcast , the episode was seen by approximately 9 million viewers , finishing in 34th place in the ratings the week it aired . Following its broadcast , the episode received positive reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

When the popular game show Me Wantee ! steals ratings from The Krusty the Clown Show , Krusty , annoyed with his interfering network executives , announces that he will quit showbusiness for good . During an interview with Kent Brockman , he says he is tired of doing his show , and admits to taping Judge Judy over all his old shows featuring Sideshow Bob .

Upon hearing this on TV , Bob vows revenge and plots to kill Krusty . Bob is released from prison and applies for a job at Springfield Elementary as an assistant janitor . However , Principal Skinner decides to make him the morning announcer . Over the announcements , he asks Bart to meet him in the abandoned tool shed . Sideshow Bob binds Bart , then hypnotizes and programs him to smash a statue of Krusty at a local Krusty Burger .

The next night on Krusty 's farewell special , Krusty describes the history of his career . Bob straps Bart with explosives and tells him to hug Krusty at the end of his performance , thus killing both of them . However , as Krusty reaches the end of his performance , he talks to the audience about how he regrets mistreating Sideshow Bob , holding himself responsible for turning Bob into a ruthless criminal ( from Season 1 's " Krusty Gets Busted " ) .

Krusty even goes as far as singing a song on behalf of Bob , stating how very remorseful he is of mistreating him . Upon witnessing this , Bob is touched and develops a change of heart , but does not have time to stop his original plan from being carried out . Luckily , Krusty 's trained chimp Mr. Teeny sees the life @-@ threatening explosives and throws them into the network executives ' office , killing them all , though they later reanimate themselves like the T @-@ 1000 from Terminator 2 .

Bart comes out of his hypnotic state and he and his family serve dinner with Krusty , Bob and Sideshow Mel in a restaurant . Although Krusty and Bob reconcile , the police decide to execute Bob by guillotine for his plot of attempted murder , which is immediately revoked when he argues with Chief Wiggum that he should have a trial for it at least .

= = Production = =

The first draft of " Day of the Jackanapes " was written by current showrunner Al Jean . In the DVD commentary for the episode , Jean said that he had always wanted to write an episode about Sideshow Bob , and that " Day of the Jackanapes " would be a good way to have the character return . He also said that the writers wanted to work with Kelsey Grammer , who portrays Sideshow Bob , again . " Of all the guest stars we 've had who 've been great , he 's right up there as the very best " , he said .

Still , the writers had trouble with coming up with a story for Sideshow Bob since they had already explored several aspects of the character before . " It 's just that we 've done so many angles of whether he 's , he 's good , he 's reformed and then his brother came to town ... " executive producer and former showrunner Mike Scully said about the difficulty of writing episodes about Sideshow Bob .

At the beginning of the episode , Krusty is shown being pestered by network executives who comment on every choice he makes . He announces his departure from the Krusty the Clown Show after the executives give him notes during filming of a sketch . At the end of the episode , Mr Teeny is uncertain of where he should throw the plastic explosives that Bart wore . When he sees the two executives discussing in a room , he throws it onto them . Instead of dying of the explosion however , the pieces of the executives reconstitute into what Jean describes as a " super @-@ executive " .

These sequences were inspired by Jean 's dissatisfaction with some network executives , who he felt took control over a television series he was working on before he returned to The Simpsons in 1999 . " I had just worked on a show on another network [ ... ] we had a show where there were a lot of notes from executives " , Jean said of the inspiration for the scenes . The episode would originally have a different ending , but it was changed to its current iteration after the writers did not find the original ending humorous enough . When recording the DVD commentary however , Jean said that he was a bit dissatisfied with the new ending . " I think we did leave it a little hanging " , he said .

During one of the recording sessions for the episode , The Simpsons ' staff recorded " Hullaba Lula " , a version of the 1946 song " Zip @-@ a @-@ Dee @-@ Doo @-@ Dah " with Grammer as Sideshow Bob on vocals . The song would originally be used in the episode , but the staff were not able to clear the rights for the song in time . It was therefore removed from the episode altogether , and remained unreleased until September 17 , 2007 , when it was included as a bonus track on the soundtrack album The Simpsons : Testify . Aside from Grammer , the episode also features American actor Gary Coleman as himself .

= = Cultural references = =

This episode 's title , " Day of the Jackanapes , " is derived from the thriller novel " The Day of the Jackal " and the movie by the same name .

The plot of " Day of the Jackanapes " is based on the 1959 political thriller novel The Manchurian Candidate . Before filming an episode of his show , Krusty is stopped by the two network executives , who attempt to explain to him why the sitcom Seinfeld worked as a series . After Krusty has announced the cancellation of his show , a group of crying children are seen at the Krustylu Studios , where the show is filmed .

The name of the studio is based on Desilu Studios , a television company based in Los Angeles . In an interview with Kent Brockman , Krusty says that he taped over all episodes of his show that Sideshow Bob was in with episodes of the reality court show Judge Judy . This is a reference to how NBC reused tapes of early episodes of The Tonight Show to film new programs .

At one point in his last show , Krusty performs while sitting on a stool , a reference to television host Johnny Carson 's last appearance on The Tonight Show . While watching Krusty 's final show , Sideshow Bob holds a bag of Kettle Chips and says " Kettle Chips , the perfect side dish for revenge . " Because of this scene , the writing staff received several bags of Kettle Chips from Kettle Foods , according to Jean . When asking for Sideshow Bob 's forgiveness , Krusty sings a song to the tune of " Mandy " by Barry Manilow . The picture behind him is based on the cover of Bookends by Simon & Garfunkel . After having exploded , the two network executives reform into a " super @-@ executive " . The scene is a reference to the 1991 science fiction action film Terminator 2 : Judgment Day . At the end of the episode , Krusty and Sideshow Bob reconcile in a restaurant . On the wall behind them are several pictures of guest stars that had previously appeared on The Simpsons , including Mark McGwire , Ringo Starr , Sting , Tom Jones , Brooke Shields and Elizabeth Taylor .

= = Release = =

In its original American broadcast on February 18 , 2001 , " Day of the Jackanapes " received an 8 @. @ 8 rating , according to Nielsen Media Research , translating to approximately 9 million viewers . The episode finished in 34th place in the ratings for the week of February 12 ? 18 , 2001 , tying with an episode of Malcolm in the Middle . On August 18 , 2009 , the episode was released as part of a DVD set called The Simpsons : The Complete Twelfth Season . Mike Scully , Al Jean , Ian Maxtone @-@ Graham , Yeardley Smith , Tim Long , Matt Selmán and Michael Marcantel participated in the audio commentary for the episode .

Following its home video release , " Day of the Jackanapes " received positive reviews from critics . In his review of The Simpsons : The Complete Twelfth Season , Mac McEntire of DVD Verdict described the episode as a " winner " . He especially enjoyed the scene in which Bart hits a statue of Krusty in the groin with a baseball bat . DVD Talk 's Jason Bailey wrote that this episode and " Insane Clown Poppy " both " really shine " , and Will Harris of Bull @-@ Eye.com wrote that the episode was " a crowd @-@ pleaser across the board . "

Colin Jacobson , of DVD Movie Guide wrote that , although it does not compare with the best Sideshow Bob episodes , it still " looks good " compared to the rest of the season . He enjoyed the lampooning of network executives , and though he did not consider the episode to be a " classic " , he maintained that it " fares pretty well . " IGN 's Robert Canning also wrote that , although the episode is overall " solid " , it is " lacking that extra something " that the best Sideshow Bob episodes have . Nevertheless , it reached number eight on the website 's list of ten best Sideshow Bob episodes of the series .