

= Saturday Night Live parodies of Sarah Palin =

The sketch comedy television show Saturday Night Live aired several critically acclaimed sketches parodying then Alaskan Governor and vice @-@ presidential nominee Sarah Palin in the lead @-@ up to the 2008 United States presidential election . The sketches featured former cast member Tina Fey , who returned as a guest star to portray Palin . Fey won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series for her impersonation of Palin .

= = Background = =

Soon after the 2008 John McCain presidential campaign 's August 29 , 2008 announcement that Alaska governor Sarah Palin would be McCain 's vice presidential nominee , people noted a physical resemblance between comedian Tina Fey and Palin . Fey had decided she would play Palin after her daughter saw a picture of the Alaskan governor and mistook her mother for Palin .

Viewers began to speculate who would play Palin on SNL during the run up to the November 4 presidential election . Days before the broadcast of the sketch , SNL executive producer Lorne Michaels said " there are [ongoing] discussions " about Fey playing Palin . On September 13 , 2008 , NBC announced that Fey would appear in the thirty @-@ fourth season premiere .

= = " A Nonpartisan Message from Governor Sarah Palin & Senator Hillary Clinton " = =

The first sketch , " A Nonpartisan Message from Governor Sarah Palin & Senator Hillary Clinton , " aired during the thirty @-@ fourth season premiere of SNL on September 13 , 2008 . The sketch starred Tina Fey and Amy Poehler as Palin and Clinton , respectively . Fey , the series ' former head writer and repertory player , made her third appearance on the series since officially leaving SNL in 2006 to work on 30 Rock , a series which she created . The sketch was written by Poehler , Fey , and head writer and Weekend Update anchor Seth Meyers .

Poehler and Fey are featured in a fictional speech playing New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and Alaskan Governor Sarah Palin , respectively . The pair discuss the presence of sexism in the 2008 United States presidential election , and the differences between Palin and Clinton . Governor Palin was the Republican Party vice @-@ presidential nominee and Senator Clinton was a contender for the Democratic Party presidential nomination . Through the course of the message , Palin tries to present herself as the candidate for the job , and Clinton gets progressively more and more disgusted at Palin 's sudden rise to fame as John McCain 's running mate , despite her background . It also features references to Clinton 's campaign .

= = = Reaction = = =

= = = = Critical reception = = = =

The sketch was well received by critics . Erin Fox of TV Guide wrote that Tina Fey " nails [Sarah] Palin 's mannerisms and accent . [Amy] Poehler is amazing as Hillary [Clinton] ; her timing is better than ever . My favorite line was Tina saying ' I can see Russia from my house ! ' " Fox added that " this was a much anticipated and hoped @-@ for pairing and we got it ! " Annie Wu of TV Squad thought that Fey 's " impression wasn 't perfect but it was more accurate than Amy Poehler 's Hillary Clinton , which [she] still find [s] incredibly off . " Wu added that " the mugging for the camera was absolutely hilarious . " James Poniewozik of Time Magazine wrote that " Fey 's Palin was perfectly good enough " and that " the skit itself did a good job of what SNL ? which has lately cultivated a strong set of female comics ? tried hard to do through Hillary 's campaign , which is try to address sexism without either simply going for the easy stereotypes or letting female candidates off the hook . " The Huffington Post 's reviewer wrote that " Fey bears a striking resemblance to Palin and nailed the candidate 's distinctive accent . "

= = = Palin 's response = = =

When asked how she felt about Fey 's portrayal , Sarah Palin replied , " I watched with the volume all the way down and I thought it was hilarious ... I didn 't hear a word she said , but the visual was spot on . " Palin " and the press corps watched the sketch in the back of her plane , laughing at Tina and Amy 's satirical take on the two politicians , " and Palin later claimed that she had once dressed up as Fey for Halloween . However , Carly Fiorina , a spokeswoman for the John McCain campaign argued that the sketch portrayed Hillary Clinton as " very substantive , " but Fiorina thought , in the case of Sarah Palin , that she was portrayed as " totally superficial . " Fiorina thought the sketch was " disrespectful in the extreme " and " sexist . "

In a series of interviews , Palin made some " flubs " leading her to joke that " [she] was just trying to give Tina Fey more material . " She also joked that it was to provide " job security for SNL characters . " Palin later remarked that she should appear on SNL to spoof a series of American Express commercials which featured Tina Fey .

= = Further Palin sketches = =

Due to the popularity of the sketch and Fey 's impression of Palin , Fey reprised her role during the September 27 , 2008 episode of Saturday Night Live . That sketch featured Palin being interviewed by Katie Couric who was played by Amy Poehler ; that sketch parodied an interview which took place between Palin and Couric which aired days before the sketch 's broadcast . In the sketch , Fey quoted near verbatim one of Palin 's answers from the actual interview and mimed Palin 's gestures . The following episode featured a skit parodying the debate between Palin and Joe Biden (played by Jason Sudeikis) . Queen Latifah also appeared in the skit as moderator Gwen Ifill .

Palin herself appeared on the October 18 , 2008 episode of SNL , along with Fey in the cold opening . Alec Baldwin and Mark Wahlberg also appeared in that sketch as themselves . On the October 23 episode of Saturday Night Live Weekend Update Thursday , Fey as Palin appeared alongside Darrell Hammond as John McCain and Will Ferrell as President George W. Bush .

On November 1 , 2008 , Fey once again portrayed Palin , this time in a sketch featuring the real John McCain , the last of numerous sketches featuring the Arizona Senator . In the sketch , McCain poked fun at himself and his campaign , as well as Barack Obama 's purchase of airtime on several major networks earlier in the week . In the sketch , McCain and Palin can only afford to buy airtime on QVC , a home @-@ shopping channel . McCain 's wife , Cindy , also made an appearance in the sketch as herself .

After Palin 's memoir , Going Rogue : An American Life , achieved best @-@ seller status through pre @-@ orders , Fey announced she would resume impersonating the former Governor despite having " retired " the act months previously . On April 10 , 2010 , Fey hosted SNL , and once again played Palin , who unveiled her own television network featuring shows such as Hey Journalist , I Gotcha , Todd ! starring her husband Todd Palin (Jason Sudeikis) and Are You Smarter than a Half @-@ Term Governor ? Fey hosted SNL in May 2011 while pregnant . A new sketch was made in which parodies of Mitt Romney (Jason Sudeikis) , Newt Gingrich (Bobby Moynihan) , Michele Bachmann (Kristen Wiig) , Palin (Fey) , Donald Trump (Darrell Hammond) , and Jimmy McMillan (Kenan Thompson) fought in a Republican Party debate between undeclared candidates , with Shepard Smith (Bill Hader) coordinating .

On March 11 , 2012 , on the episode hosted by Jonah Hill , Palin was impersonated by Andy Samberg in the Weekend Update segment . The dialogue leads the audience to think that it was supposed to be another appearance by Fey and that Seth Meyers wasn 't aware of the change , but Samberg convinces Meyers to finish his part .

Palin appeared on the Saturday Night Live 40th Anniversary Special , where Jerry Seinfeld jokingly mistook her for Tina Fey .

Fey and Poehler co @-@ hosted SNL in December 2015 , and performed as Palin and Clinton in yet another sketch .

In January 2016 , following Palin 's real @-@ life endorsement of Donald Trump , Fey returned to the role to parody the speech given by Palin in Iowa that endorsed Trump . This skit served as the show 's cold open .