

= The Dog and Pony Show =

" The Dog and Pony Show " is the eighth episode of the third season of the American sitcom The Drew Carey Show , and the 54th overall . The series focuses on the work and home life of a fictionalized version of actor and comedian Drew Carey . The episode first aired on November 12 , 1997 on ABC in the United States . The episode 's plot sees Mr. Wick (Craig Ferguson) pass off caring for his boss Mrs. Lauder 's (Nan Martin) Hungarian Puli to his employee Drew (Drew Carey) . When Drew has the prize @-@ winning dog shaved and neutered , he and his friends decide to perform a striptease at the local bar , The Warsaw Tavern , to earn quick cash to buy a replacement .

The episode was co @-@ written by producers Robert Borden and Deborah Oppenheimer , while Steve Zuckerman directed . It was inspired by the British comedy film The Full Monty and Carey invited four of the film 's cast members to appear in the episode . " The Dog and Pony Show " was shot on October 15 , 1997 at the Warner Bros. Television studios in Burbank , California . The set was closed to the usual taping audience while the cast performed their striptease routine . " The Dog and Pony Show " was seen by an estimated 12 @. @ 4 million viewing households , finishing in 15th place in the ratings for the week it aired . Critical response was mostly positive , with reporters praising the script and the striptease routine .

= = Plot = =

When Mr. Wick (Craig Ferguson) is asked to look after Mrs. Lauder 's (Nan Martin) prize @-@ winning Hungarian Puli , he decides to pass the task on to his employee Drew (Drew Carey) . Kate O 'Brien (Christa Miller) offers to take the dog , Lucky , to Drew 's house ; but she has to leave suddenly to pick up her boyfriend Oswald (Diedrich Bader) . Drew does not see Kate 's note and assumes Lucky is a stray . He takes it to the vet to get it shaved and neutered . When Kate sees the dog , she fears that she , Drew and Mr. Wick will be fired . She finds an advertisement for a pure bred Hungarian Puli , but it costs \$ 4 @, @ 500 . Since no one has that kind of money , Oswald suggests they sell their bodies for money . Inspired by The Full Monty , the guys decide to perform a striptease at The Warsaw Tavern to make the money they need . Lewis Kiniski (Ryan Stiles) backs out of the performance at the last minute , but Larry Almada (Ian Gomez) steps in as his replacement .

With the bar full , the guys begin their routine , but are soon stopped by the police , who explain that due to zoning regulations , stripping is illegal at The Warsaw . Drew and the guys go before the city council , but their request is denied . Drew questions how the council can deny something without seeing it and the guys , including Lewis , decide to demonstrate their striptease routine before the council members . Their request is then approved . After performing the striptease at the bar , Drew counts out the money and finds that they have \$ 4 @, @ 800 . Mr. Wick asks what they should do with the extra money and Drew replies that they should give it to the people that earned it . He then walks off stage and into the audience and starts handing out the extra cash , apologising for them having seen his naked buttocks .

= = Production = =

" The Dog and Pony Show " was co @-@ written by producers Robert Borden and Deborah Oppenheimer , and directed by Steve Zuckerman . The episode was inspired by the British comedy film The Full Monty . Following its release in the United States , Drew Carey saw the film three times and loved it so much he invited the cast to appear in the episode , while they were promoting the film . However , Andrew Essex from Entertainment Weekly reported that cast members Mark Addy , Paul Barber , Steve Huison and Hugo Speer were not allowed to perform on the show after being stopped by the American immigration department because they did not have work permits . The cast members were instead billed as " guests of honor " due to Actors Equity rules preventing them from being paid for their cameo .

The episode was filmed at the Warner Bros. Television studios in Burbank , California on October 15 , 1997 . The set was closed to the usual taping audience when Carey , Bader , Ferguson , Gomez and Stiles performed their striptease to The Edgar Winter Group 's " Free Ride " . The Full Monty cast members came to the set to offer advice and watch the taping . The remainder of the episode was filmed before an audience later that same night . Gomez quipped that having two guys paint his body in make @-@ up was " more embarrassing " than filming the routine , while Stiles joked that the episode was the first time he had been " totally naked " since he was cast in the show . Carey admitted that he was grateful that stripping during prime @-@ time had to be PG and apologized that viewers had to see his naked buttocks . He also clarified that the cast wore pouches to protect their modesty .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " The Dog and Pony Show " finished 15th in the ratings for the week of November 10 ? 16 , 1997 , with a Nielsen rating of 12 @.@ 8 , equivalent to approximately 12 @.@ 4 million viewing households . It was the fourth highest @-@ rated show on ABC that week , following episodes of Home Improvement , Monday Night Football and 20 / 20 .

The episode received mostly positive attention from television critics . A reporter for the Los Angeles Daily News gave the episode a positive review calling it " meatier " than usual . The reporter thought the take on The Full Monty was " sharply silly " and said " Carey 's striptease doesn 't come till the show 's end . The most we see is a full rear view ? raw indeed but strategically blocked by microphones . But the bun fun , half @-@ baked as it is , is exuberant and preceded by smarter writing than usual . " The reporter called the characters " unlikely Chippendales " and added that Carey had one of the best scripts he had in a while , which mixed " understated humor with unself @-@ conscious undress . "

Alan Pergament , writing for The Buffalo News , awarded the episode 3 and a half stars out of five and said the episode " offers a delicious take on the surprise theatrical movie hit from England . " Pergament thought there were too many penis jokes , especially for the show 's time slot , but called the dance scenes " hysterically funny . " The Spokesman @-@ Review 's John Martin stated that while he usually condemned the " cheap , tawdry use of nudity " to boost ratings , it was different with Carey and he thought the take on The Full Monty was " riotous " and " wild " . Martin finished by saying " Carey may be the only comic in prime time who could pull this off , so to speak . You gotta love the big guy . "

Lon Grahne from the Chicago Sun @-@ Times gave the episode three stars . The Chicago Tribune 's Steve Johnson said the show was " working at its usual level " and called the homage to The Full Monty " uninspired " . A reporter for The Age chose " The Dog and Pony Show " as one of the shows Melbourne would be talking about the week it aired in Australia . While The Sun @-@ Herald 's Rachel Browne awarded the episode four out of five stars and called it an " hilarious homage to The Full Monty " . Browne was thankful that the gang 's modesty was protected . James Joyce , writing for The Newcastle Herald , commented that the episode was " a crack @-@ up . " Joyce later branded the plot " contrived " , but thought the end of the episode was " risque " and " suitably cheeky . "