

= Gavin Volure =

" Gavin Volure " is the fourth episode of the third season of the American television comedy series 30 Rock , and the 40th overall episode of the series . It was written by co @-@ executive producer John Riggi and directed by Gail Mancuso . The episode originally aired on the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) in the United States on November 20 , 2008 . Guest stars in this episode include John McEnroe , Steve Martin , and Bobb 'e J. Thompson .

In the episode , Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) meets one of her boss 's , Jack Donaghy 's (Alec Baldwin) , friends , Gavin Volure (Martin) , when the pair attend a dinner party . Gavin , after offering Jack a secret business opportunity , becomes enamored of Liz . Jack encourages the relationship until he discovers Gavin is not as successful as he claimed . Also , NBC page Kenneth Parcell (Jack McBrayer) invests his money in Gavin 's business . Meanwhile , Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) fears that his sons are trying to kill him .

" Gavin Volure " received generally good reception from television critics . According to the Nielsen Media Research , it was watched by 7 @.@ 1 million households during its original broadcast . For his performance in this episode , Martin received a Primetime Emmy Award nomination in the category for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series .

= = Plot = =

Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) brings Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) along to a dinner party hosted by his friend Gavin Volure (Steve Martin) . Gavin becomes intrigued by Liz and invites her to spend the weekend with him , which she accepts . She wonders how the relationship between them will work , as he is agoraphobic . Gavin explains his daily routines to Liz , and also discloses that due to his phobias , he cannot be intimate with women . Liz starts to think that maybe a relationship with Gavin could work . As Liz gets ready to leave , Gavin admits to her that he is not agoraphobic , and that he is under house arrest for arson , fraud , embezzlement , and racketeering . This shocks Liz , and when she returns to New York , she tells Jack about it . Jack feels awful for investing NBC page Kenneth Parcell 's (Jack McBrayer) money with Gavin , after Gavin told him he was forming a new company and interested Jack to be part of it . Later , Gavin escapes from house arrest and shows up at the 30 Rock studios . There , he tells Liz that he was on his way to the Canadian border but came back to bring her with him . After Liz refuses to go with him , and not wanting to go to prison , Gavin climbs to the top of the TGS with Tracy Jordan set and threatens to jump . Jack tries to talk Gavin out of jumping , distracting him in the process , resulting in Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) tackling Gavin down .

Meanwhile , Tracy begins to question the reason why his sons want to spend so much time with him . One day , Tracy sees a special about Lyle and Erik Menendez ? the two brothers who became famous for killing their parents ? which leads him to believe that his sons are plotting to kill him . As a result , Tracy buys a life @-@ Japanese sex doll that looks like him to use as a decoy to fool them . Eventually , Tracy realizes that he overreacted with his sons but warns his son , Tracy Jr . (Bobb 'e J. Thompson) , that if he were to die , that he and his brother will face jail time .

= = Production = =

" Gavin Volure " was written by co @-@ executive producer John Riggi , making it his sixth writing credit after " Blind Date " , " The Head and the Hair " , " Corporate Crush " , " Cougars " , and " Succession " . The episode was directed by Gail Mancuso , making it her fifth for the series . " Gavin Volure " originally aired on November 20 , 2008 , on NBC in the United States as the fourth episode of the show 's third season and the 40th overall episode of the series .

In September 2008 , it was announced that comedian actor Steve Martin would guest star on 30 Rock . He played the titular character of this episode . Martin and series creator Tina Fey starred in the 2008 comedy movie Baby Mama . In the episode , stock footage of the Arkansas Governor 's Mansion was used for exterior shots of the home of Gavin Volure . This episode was actor Bobb 'e

J. Thompson 's first appearance as Tracy Jordan 's son , Tracy Jr . , on the show . He later guest starred in the episodes " The Bubble " and " Sun Tea " . Former professional tennis player John McEnroe played himself in this episode as he is a guest at Gavin 's dinner party , and represents art collecting and yelling . McEnroe first appeared in the January 18 , 2007 , 30 Rock episode " The Head and the Hair " as the host of a game show .

Two filmed scenes from " Gavin Volure " were cut out from the airing . Instead , the scenes were featured on 30 Rock 's season three DVD as part of the deleted scenes in the Bonus feature . In the first scene , Jack Donaghy , in a voice over , talks about the Edison Terrace ? located in the rooftop gardens of the General Electric Building . " It 's a private rooftop garden reserved for the CEOs of this company . The inner temple of American business . The only outsider ever admitted is a mute cleaning lady who has never laid with a man . " The scene features six men , including fictional CEO of General Electric on the show , Don Geiss (Rip Torn) . In the second scene , Jenna Maroney 's (Jane Krakowski) intern (Liz Holtan) is excited to work with her and tells her that she wants to be just like her . Jenna believes the intern wants to become an actress , prompting her to pull the intern 's earring off . The latter scene was included in the October 15 , 2009 , 30 Rock episode " Season 4 " .

= = Reception = =

According to the Nielsen Media Research , " Gavin Volure " was watched by 7 @. @ 1 million households in its original American broadcast . It earned a 3 @. @ 4 rating / 8 share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . This means that it was seen by 3 @. @ 4 percent of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds , and 8 percent of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This episode ranked number one among the broadcast networks in men aged 18 ? 34 , tied with Grey 's Anatomy 's " In the Midnight Hour " , and number two in adults 18 ? 34 . However , this was a decrease from the previous episode , " The One with the Cast of Night Court " , which was watched by 7 @. @ 5 million American viewers . Steve Martin received a Primetime Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series at the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards for his work in this episode , but lost it to singer @- @ songwriter Justin Timberlake for hosting Saturday Night Live .

Since airing , " Gavin Volure " has received good reception amongst television critics . TV Guide 's Matt Mitovich praised " Gavin Volure " , citing that it was a " funny episode " and said that Martin was a " pretty good fit on 30 Rock . He plays the zany and off @- @ kilter so well . " IGN contributor Robert Canning said the episode was " funny " and as with Mitovich , believed that Martin was a " perfect fit for Gavin , playing him both as the suave sophisticate we first meet and the screwy , on @- @ the @- @ run Gavin that ends the episode . " Canning enjoyed Tracy 's plot and gave this episode an 8 @. @ 9 out of 10 rating . Bob Sassone of AOL 's TV Squad was complimentary towards Martin 's appearance , writing that he and season two guest stars Jerry Seinfeld and Carrie Fisher " belong in the 30 Rock world , and Martin is quietly funny as the agoraphobic ... rich ... friend of Jack 's who likes Liz " . Entertainment Weekly 's Jeff Labrecque commented that Tracy 's story was the " weaker subplot " , but was favorable to Tina Fey and Martin , opining they " speak the same language " , and he would not mind seeing the Gavin character back . The A.V. Club 's Nathan Rabin enjoyed Kenneth in the episode , citing that he was " hilarious " , and in regards to the episode itself , Rabin said that it " wasn 't one of the all @- @ time greats but it brought the funny at a rapid clip " . In conclusion , Rabin gave the episode a B + .

Not all reviews were positive . Television columnist Alan Sepinwall for The Star @- @ Ledger noted that " Gavin Volure " was " one of the weakest 30 Rock episodes ever " . He explained that he was " flummoxed " that this episode featuring Alec Baldwin , Fey , and Martin " together only made me laugh once , and not at any of them . "