

= Roads to Vegas =

" Roads to Vegas " is the twenty @-@ first episode of the eleventh season and the 209th overall episode of Family Guy . It follows Brian and Stewie as they head off to Vegas using a teleporting machine , which malfunctions and creates clones of themselves . The episode , which is the seventh in the series of Road to ... episodes , originally aired on Fox in the United States on May 19 , 2013 , airing before the episode " No Country Club for Old Men " . Together , the two episodes were promoted as being the season finale .

First announced at the 2012 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International , the episode was written by Steve Callaghan and directed by Greg Colton . The episode received generally positive reviews from critics upon release . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 5 @. @ 28 million homes in its original airing . The episode featured guest performances from Alexandra Breckenridge , Ralph Garman , Gary Janetti , Joe Lomonaco , Patrick Meighan , Emily Osment , Danny Smith , Alec Sulkin , and John Viener .

= = Plot = =

At the Quahog Gay Pride Day festivities , in a raffle sponsored by Weenie and the Butt , Brian wins tickets to see Celine Dion in Las Vegas . As they prepare to travel , Stewie convinces Brian to use the new teleportation device he has been working on instead . Stewie 's device appears to have malfunctioned , and he believes it failed to work , when it instead created a duplicate set of Brian and Stewie which was teleported to Vegas . The real Brian and Stewie then travel by plane to Vegas . As the duplicated pair check into the Bellagio hotel , their luck makes itself present immediately with the duplicated Brian winning a large jackpot at the slot machines near the entrance . The real Brian and Stewie arrive to find their room has been already taken . As the duplicated pair have the time of their lives , the real pair find themselves in a third @-@ rate hotel . Trying their luck , they quickly lose all of the money they brought .

The real Brian is ready to go home but Stewie admits that he already gambled away their return tickets . Brian admits that he cannot call for help after taking money from Lois . Using money they got from a loan shark , they bet on a basketball game and lose yet again . Preparing to leave , the duplicated pair sitting nearby accidentally take the empty backpack from the unlucky pair , while the real Stewie takes the duplicated pair 's backpack , which is full of money .

As the pairs go their separate ways , an enforcer for the loan shark catches up with the duplicated pair to get the money back and they discover they have no cash . The enforcer orders Brian to decide whether he kills him or Stewie . Brian initially refuses to choose but when he panics , he tells the enforcer to shoot Stewie in the head , killing him . Meanwhile , the real pair worry about getting caught or endangering the family . Stewie suggests that perhaps they should kill themselves and Brian reluctantly agrees . They prepare to throw themselves off the top balcony of the hotel but Stewie chickens out at the last second , leaving Brian to fall to his death . A panic @-@ stricken Stewie trips over his backpack and finds the money the other pair had won .

Returning home the next day , the duplicated Brian and real Stewie bump into each other at the bus terminal . Stewie realizes that the device had made clones of themselves . After deceiving each other about how their respective friend 's deaths transpired , the lucky Brian and unlucky Stewie return home , while the dead Stewie and Brian greet each other coldly at the pearly gates of Heaven .

= = Production and development = =

" Roads to Vegas " is the seventh episode of the series ' Road to .. hallmark which air through various seasons of the show . The episode was directed by Greg Colton , who previously directed the Road to ... episodes " Road to Germany " , " Road to the Multiverse " , and " Road to the North Pole " . It was written by Family Guy veteran Steve Callaghan . " Roads to Vegas " is Callaghan 's first writing credit for a Road to ... episode .

In July 2012 , the Family Guy panel first announced the episode at the San Diego Comic @-@ Con International by giving a brief plot outline . The episode was revealed as the penultimate episode of the series ' eleventh season , airing before the premiere of " No Country Club for Old Men " . Together , the two episodes were promoted as the season finale . On a press release , the Fox Network then officially announced the episode and described it as :

Stewie and Brian use Stewie 's time machine to go to Las Vegas for a Bette Midler concert , but chaos ensues when the machine malfunctions and creates alt @-@ versions of the pair : a " lucky " version and an " unlucky " one .

Production of the episode began months in advance according to the episode 's writer Steve Callaghan . " We 're actually working over a year ahead of time , " Callaghan says in an interview with Hollywood.com. He added " We work so far ahead I can even tell you the finale [...] the finale is a really cool episode called ' Roads to Vegas . ' It 's like a road show and Stewie and Brian teleport themselves to Las Vegas , but in the process [they] unknowingly create a duplicate of one another . " In an interview with The Hollywood Reporter , Callaghan recalled the scene in the episode where Brian and Stewie consider joint suicide the most difficult scene for him to write in 2012 .

In addition to the regular cast , " Roads to Vegas " featured guest performances from actress Alexandra Breckenridge , actor Ralph Garman , voice actor Joe Lomonaco , and actress and singer Emily Osment . Recurring voice actors and series writers Gary Janetti , Danny Smith , Alec Sulkin , and John Viener also made minor appearances throughout " Roads to Vegas " .

= = Reception = =

During its original airing , the episode was viewed by a total of 5 @.@ 28 million viewers according to Nielsen ratings . This made it the most viewed episode to premiere that night on Fox 's Animation Domination , edging out two episodes of The Cleveland Show and two episodes of The Simpsons . The episode received a 2 @.@ 6 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

The episode received generally positive reviews . Kevin McFarland of The A.V. Club gave the episode a B + and said that it " isn 't typically as heavy on the usual stock jokes that weigh the show down , and the adventures of Brian and Stewie drive more interest than most other characters . " Carter Dotson of TV Fanatic gave the episode a 4 @.@ 4 rating and called the episode and its sister episode , " No Country Club for Old Men " , " a perfect representation of the wild extremes of this season . " He added " it wasn 't the funniest episode , but the way the parallel stories worked and intertwined was at least extremely interesting , lacking much of the lazy humor that at times plagued this season . Mark Trammell of TV Equals said " All in all , an okay episode that benefited from the combination approach , but MacFarlane might want to retire both the time travel stuff and the " road picture " -approach after this one , as the well is clearly running dry [...] To tell the truth , I didn 't laugh as much as I wanted to " .