

= Halloween ( The Office ) =

" Halloween " is the fifth episode of the second season of the American comedy television series The Office , and the show 's eleventh episode overall . It was written by executive producer and showrunner Greg Daniels and was directed by Paul Feig . The episode first aired on NBC in the United States on October 18 , 2005 . Guest stars in this episode included Devon Abner , Hugh Dane , George Gaus , Annabelle Kopack , Ava Nisbet and Alec Zbornak .

The series depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In this episode , the employees at Dunder Mifflin celebrate Halloween at the office . Michael Scott ( Steve Carell ) struggles with making the decision of whom to fire . Meanwhile , Jim Halpert ( John Krasinski ) and Pam Beesly ( Jenna Fischer ) post Dwight Schrute 's ( Rainn Wilson ) resume on the internet .

Due to the Halloween concept of the episode , the cast members of The Office were allowed to wear costumes rather than their " usual , realistically plain suits " . B.J. Novak , writer for the series as well as actor , called the experience " fun " . The episode features the last on @-@ screen appearance of the background character Devon until the series finale . The episode earned a Nielsen rating of 4 @.@ 1 in the 18 ? 49 demographic and was viewed by 8 million viewers .

= = Plot = =

Although informed early in October that he must fire somebody by the end of the month , Michael Scott ( Steve Carell ) waits until the last day of the month , Halloween , and still hasn 't fired anyone . Meanwhile , Jim Halpert ( John Krasinski ) and Pam Beesly ( Jenna Fischer ) post Dwight Schrute 's ( Rainn Wilson ) résumé on the internet , and when a prospective employer calls , Jim pretends to be Michael and gives Dwight a great reference . When the company , Cumberland Mills , calls Dwight to set up an interview , Dwight immediately ruins his chances by arguing with the caller over the importance and relevance of martial arts in his résumé . Later in the day , Pam suggests that Jim should apply for the Cumberland Mills position . Jim is quietly hurt by the suggestion that Pam would not miss him if he left .

After several failed attempted firings of other employees , Michael calls Creed Bratton ( played by Creed Bratton as a fictional version of himself ) into his office to fire him . Creed , in turn , convinces Michael to let Devon ( Devon Abner ) go . After Michael fires Devon , Devon angrily rebuffs Michael 's attempts to save their friendship , and invites everyone in the office ( except Michael , Creed , Dwight and Angela ) to join him at a local bar . As Jim leaves , Pam apologizes for pushing him into taking the Cumberland job and assures him that she would " blow her brains out " if he ever left . Jim admits to the camera that Pam is the only thing keeping him there . When the group leaves the office , Devon smashes a pumpkin over Michael 's car in revenge .

At the end of the episode , Michael is alone at his home in front of the television , upset over firing Devon . When trick @-@ or @-@ treaters come , Michael cheerfully gives them a generous amount of candy .

= = Production = =

" Halloween " is the third episode written by the series developer , executive producer , and show runner Greg Daniels . The episode was directed by Paul Feig , his second credit after " Office Olympics " . This episode is the only episode to date to have a quote to play over the Deedle @-@ Dee Productions title card in the closing credits . The quote features Dwight Schrute exclaiming " Quiet , you ! " The episode is rated TV @-@ PG on television in the United States .

During the pre @-@ production for the episode , the cast and crew realized that the Halloween conceit would allow the various cast members to wear costumes , rather than their " usual , realistically plain suits " . B.J. Novak called the dress @-@ up experience " fun " , noting that " seeing the most serious of our plotlines play out alongside such silly and bizarre visuals was , I think , one of the most inspired ideas of the episode 's writer , Greg Daniels . " The idea for Pam to be

dressed as a cat was inspired by several unused stories , created by Gene Stupnitsky , in which " Pam Beesley must disguise herself as a cat " . The plot lines were vetoed by the shows writers , but Stupnitsky successfully petitioned to allow Pam to wear a cat costume .

" Halloween " marks the last appearance of Devon in an episode until the series finale , seven seasons later . Although Devon was only a background character , he is mentioned during " The Dundies " , seen in the background of " The Fire " , and is seen in a deleted scene during " Diversity Day " . Devon is later seen in a deleted scene on " Valentine 's Day " , when Michael passes by a homeless Devon in New York . Devon then chases Michael , presumably still angry over the events of " Halloween " . Guest stars in this episode included Devon Abner , Hugh Dane , George Gaus , Annabelle Kopack , Ava Nisbet and Alec Zbornak .

= = Cultural references = =

Due to the presence of Halloween , many of the employees costumes reflect movie and literary characters . Kelly is dressed as Dorothy Gale , but Michael makes an insensitive remark about Bend It Like Beckham . Dwight is dressed as a Sith , one of the characters in the Star Wars universe capable of using the " dark side " of the Force . Phyllis , however , confuses him for " some sort of monk " . Kevin is dressed as a Dunder Mifflin super hero , with a costume design similar to Mr. Incredible . Creed is dressed like a vampire and Devon is dressed like a hobo . Pam , Phyllis , and Angela are all dressed up as cats . Oscar is dressed as a woman , and Michael asks him if he is " flying his true colors " , to which Oscar reacts defensively .

= = Reception = =

" Halloween " was originally broadcast on NBC in the United States on October 18 , 2005 . The episode was viewed by 8 million viewers and received a 4 @. @ 1 rating / 10 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 4 @. @ 1 % of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds , and 10 % of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . The episode was the number one ranked episode among adults , men , and women in the 18 ? 34 demographic , and achieved its highest 18 ? 49 rating since the season 's premiere . " Halloween " retained 73 percent of its lead @- @ in My Name Is Earl audience , its best lead @- @ in retention at the time .

Erik Adams of The A.V. Club awarded the episode a " B + " . He felt that the plot revolving around downsizing was " fitting " , because the episode takes place on " Halloween " , and that this plot returned Michael to the role of villain . Adams also felt that " director Paul Feig and credited writer Greg Daniels had a lot of fun dressing the show up for ? Halloween , ? framing Dwight like a shrouded Emperor Palpatine and making John Krasinski step into Steve Carell ? s shoes for a couple of great punchlines . "

The episode received mostly positive reviews from television critics . Michael Sciannamea of TV Squad gave the episode a relatively positive review and noted that he " could certainly relate to [ the ] episode . " Sciannamea also said that " great moment " in the episode was when " Michael tells Creed , who is dressed as a vampire , that he can spread his wings and fly to wherever he wants . " " Miss Alli " of Television Without Pity rated " Halloween " a B + . Entertainment Weekly named Michael Scott 's line , " I just hope that you and I can remain friends , " one of " TV 's funniest lines " for the week ending October 24 , 2005 .