

= The Stag Convergence =

" The Stag Convergence " is the twenty @-@ second episode of the fifth season of the American sitcom The Big Bang Theory . The episode premiered on April 26 , 2012 on CBS . In it , the main characters go to the bachelor party to celebrate Howard (Simon Helberg) and Bernadette 's (Melissa Rauch) upcoming marriage . At the party , a drunk Raj (Kunal Nayyar) reveals some information about Howard 's past sexual encounters . When Bernadette picks them up from the party , Howard and Rajesh find out that Bernadette learned about Howard 's sexual history from a video posted on the internet .

The story and concept of the episode was written by series co @-@ creator Bill Prady , and writers Steve Holland and Eric Kaplan . The teleplay was written by co @-@ creator Chuck Lorre , and writers Steven Molaro and Jim Reynolds . Peter Chakos served as director . Upon airing , " The Stag Convergence " garnered 12 @.@ 65 million viewers in the United States and 4 @.@ 1 Nielsen rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic . The episode received mixed reviews from television critics , noting that it was not as heavy on jokes compared to other episodes in the series .

= = Plot = =

Sheldon , Raj , Leonard and Howard discuss Howard 's bachelor party , with Howard reaffirming to Raj that strippers are banned from the party . Raj then suggests a wine tasting train trip through Napa Valley but , despite Sheldon 's approval , this idea is rejected as well . Meanwhile , Amy is filming Bernadette and Penny making wedding party gifts . She begins to ask a question about consummation but Penny tells her to ask something normal , such as what Bernadette 's married name will be .

The bachelor party proves to be a failure , with Sheldon 's jokes falling flat and Barry Kripke complaining about the lack of strippers . A drunk Raj then begins his speech by saying that he was lonely when he first moved to America until he met Howard . He then tells embarrassing stories about Howard 's sexual history , including how Howard lost his virginity to his second cousin , had a threesome with Raj and a Sailor Moon cosplayer at ComicCon and slept with a prostitute .

Later , Bernadette comes to drives Howard and Raj home and reveals that Wil Wheaton put a video of Raj 's speech on YouTube . Howard had previously claimed that he told her about every girl he had been with , but had not done so . Back at her apartment , she questions whether she can marry him . She is also upset at Penny , who originally set her up with Howard .

Howard shows up at Bernadette 's apartment and gives Penny a heartfelt and genuine apology to give to her , which reduces Penny to tears . Bernadette overhears this and forgives him . Amy is relieved that she is still a maid of honor and the four hug . Leonard later meets Penny in the laundry room and wants to have sex , but Penny declines .

= = Production = =

The story and concept for " The Stag Convergence " were written by series co @-@ creator Bill Prady , and writers Steve Holland and Eric Kaplan . The teleplay for the episode was written by series co @-@ creator Chuck Lorre and writers Steven Molaro and Jim Reynolds . It was directed by Peter Chakos and filmed on March 27 , 2012 . Guest stars included Kevin Sussman as Stuart Bloom , John Ross Bowie as Barry Kripke , and Wil Wheaton as himself . Ian Scott Rudolph returns as Captain Sweatpants along with actors Jesse Heiman and Zack Sonnenberg at the bachelor party as guests in non @-@ speaking roles .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

The episode was originally broadcast on April 26 , 2012 , followed by Rules of Engagement . Upon airing , " The Stag Convergence " garnered 12 @.@ 65 million viewers while airing simultaneously with American Idol on Fox , Community on NBC , Missing on ABC and The Vampire Diaries on The CW . With the exception of American Idol , which had 14 @.@ 87 million viewers , it beat all other programs in its timeslot . Under the Nielsen rating system , the episode received a 4 @.@ 1 rating and a 13 percent share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 .

In Canada , the episode aired on the same date on CTV Total and 3 @.@ 17 million households watched it ; the episode was the most watched TV show that week . In the United Kingdom , it aired on May 24 , 2012 and garnered 1 @.@ 444 million E4 viewers . On E4 + 1 , the show was watched by 0 @.@ 403 million viewers , giving the episode a total of 1 @.@ 847 million viewers on the night of its first broadcast and making it most watched that night on both channels . In Australia , it aired on Nine Network on May 22 , 2012 and 1 @.@ 27 million viewed the show ; the episode was ranked second on the network and second overall that night .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The episode received mixed critical reception . Oliver Sava of The A.V. Club graded it a C , claiming that Amy " gets some of the episode 's best lines " . Sava noted that it " has a lot of Jew humor , and Mayim Bialik and Simon Helberg are the perfect people to deliver it " , although disliked Barry and Wil and said that " their jokes wore thin fairly quickly " . R.L. Shaffer of IGN also gave the episode a mixed review , saying that The Big Bang Theory has become more " cynical and chauvinistic " towards female characters . Shaffer also noted he was more frustrated about " the revelation that Bernadette wouldn 't allow strippers at Wolowitz 's bachelor party " , as it is never explained why . Shaffer claimed that there were " only a few laughs here and there " and scored the episode 5 @.@ 5 out of 10 , classifying it as " mediocre " .

Carla Day of TV Fanatic gave a more positive review , rating the episode 4 @.@ 5 out of 5 , and praising Penny 's response to Howard 's apology and claiming that it " provided a nice chuckle . " Jill Mader of Inside Pulse also gave the episode a more positive review , praising " that the episode ended with a really sweet moment for Howard as , after all , he is a character who doesn 't often get to be sweet " and claimed that it was " definitely about people changing and moving forward , and The Big Bang Theory has done a great job of emotionally maturing many of their characters over the past couple seasons " . Despite this , she said that " the episode wasn 't as funny as [she had] hoped it would be " and " felt like there was more potential in Howard 's bachelor party than just revealing some unflattering secrets to Bernadette . " Robin Pierson of The TV Critic rated the episode as 56 out of 100 , describing Howard 's " little speech " as " very well written and performed " . However , he considered most of the comedy " generic " , especially in regards to the jokes about Jewish stereotypes and Penny 's dismissal of Leonard . Overall , Pierson said it " wasn 't the strongest episode of comedy " and " wasn 't a particularly interesting episode until the end " .