

= Woman of the Year ( Parks and Recreation ) =

" Woman of the Year " is the 17th episode of the second season of the American comedy television series Parks and Recreation , and the 23rd overall episode of the series . It originally aired on NBC in the United States on March 4 , 2010 . In the episode , Ron is presented with a woman of the year award , much to the frustration of Leslie . Meanwhile , Tom tries to seek investors in a nightclub ownership share , and April helps Andy look for an apartment .

The episode was written by Norm Hiscock and directed by Jason Woliner . The script included a theme about the political nature of local awards . " Woman of the Year " featured guest appearances by Ben Schwartz as Jean @-@ Ralphio and Ian Roberts as Ian Winston , both of whom have appeared in the series in past episodes . Rashida Jones , a regular Parks and Recreation cast member who plays Ann Perkins , did not appear in " Woman of the Year " because she was filming scenes for the David Fincher film The Social Network .

According to Nielsen Media Research , " Woman of the Year " was seen by 4 @. @ 6 million viewers , which marked a continued recent improvement in ratings for the series . It tied a record set by the previous two episodes , " Sweetums " and " Galentine 's Day " , for the season 's highest rating among viewers aged between 18 and 49 . The episode received generally positive reviews , particularly for the character moments between Leslie and Ron .

= = Plot = =

The parks and recreation department receives a letter from the Pawnee chapter of the Indiana Organization of Women , which Leslie ( Amy Poehler ) believes is her congratulatory letter as the recipient of the group 's Dorothy Everton Smythe Woman of the Year award . Much to her surprise and disappointment , however , the award has actually gone to Ron ( Nick Offerman ) in recognition of town projects Leslie primarily developed . Ron secretly acknowledges the award as a ridiculous mistake . However , he uses the mistake as an opportunity to tease Leslie before later recommending her as the award recipient . Ron constantly brags about the award , even commissioning a professional photographer to take his official portrait for the award ceremony . Eventually , Ron admits he is joking and attempts to recommend Leslie for the award . However , the IOW director ( Maribeth Monroe ) reveals that a man was strategically chosen for the first time for marketing purposes . Frustrated with the politics of the awards , Leslie and Ron plan for him to make a disparaging acceptance speech condemning the awards . However , at the ceremony itself , Ron instead publicly presents the award to Leslie , to the frustration of the IOW director and members . The next day 's newspaper proclaims Ron the winner , with Leslie and Ron later deciding that the award is meaningless , anyway . The plaque is thrown into a wastebasket , where Leslie later secretly retrieves it .

In a subplot , Tom ( Aziz Ansari ) drops off a temporary liquor license renewal at the Snakehole Lounge nightclub , where the owner Freddy ( Andy Milder ) tells him they are seeking investors who can buy a share for \$ 10 @, @ 000 . Although he does not have the money , Tom reveals part @-@ ownership in a nightclub is a longtime dream of his , so he seeks assistance from his fast @-@ talking friend , Jean @-@ Ralphio ( Ben Schwartz ) , who contributes \$ 5 @, @ 000 . Tom has \$ 4 @, @ 000 of his own but still needs \$ 1 @, @ 000 , so he seeks further help from his co @-@ workers . Donna ( Retta ) expresses an interest , but decides against it when she meets Jean @-@ Ralphio , of whom she immediately declares , " I hate that guy . " Meanwhile , when Andy 's ( Chris Pratt ) band @-@ mate Burlly ( Andrew Burlinson ) tells Andy he can no longer live with him , April ( Aubrey Plaza ) helps Andy look for an apartment . They find one near her house , prompting a smitten April to note that they can carpool to work together . But when Andy learns Tom needs \$ 1 @, @ 000 , he forgoes the apartment to give Tom the money as a gift . April is surprised by the choice and disappointed with the result . In the episode 's final scene , Tom is shown enjoying his nightclub part ownership , until he learns Donna has bought three shares herself .

= = Production = =

" Woman of the Year " was written by Norm Hiscock and directed by Jason Woliner . It featured a guest appearance by Ben Schwartz as Jean @-@ Ralphio , a fast @-@ talking playboy character introduced in " The Set Up " . The episode also featured an appearance by comedian Ian Roberts , who worked with Amy Poehler on the Upright Citizens Brigade sketch comedy troupe . Roberts guest starred as Ian Winston , the coach of a girls ' soccer coach who complains to Leslie about a lack of field space during the episode 's cold open . Roberts previously appeared as the same character in the show 's pilot episode . Rashida Jones , a regular Parks and Recreation cast member who plays Ann Perkins , did not appear in " Woman of the Year " because she was filming scenes for The Social Network , a David Fincher film about the founding of the social @-@ networking website Facebook .

The " Woman of the Year " script included a theme about the political nature of awards , arguing despite the value and prestige people like Leslie assign to them , they are ultimately meaningless . Some commentators speculated this subplot served as a commentary about the meaninglessness of award ceremonies in the entertainment industry . " Woman of the Year " originally aired three days before the 82nd Academy Awards , prompting Entertainment Weekly to suggest it was a commentary about the Oscars , whereas others suggested the episode was a joke about how Parks and Recreation itself has failed to win any awards at the Golden Globes , Screen Actors Guild Awards or the Emmys .

Shortly after the episode aired , a copy of the " Pawnee Journal " newspaper article announcing Ron Swanson 's Woman of the Year award win , which was featured within the episode , was posted in a downloadable form on the " Pawnee , Indiana " website set up by NBC .

= = Cultural references = =

Although the Woman of the Year award is formally named after the fictional feminist leader Dorothy Everton Smythe , Ron mistakenly calls it the " Dorothy Everytime Smurf Girl Trophy for Excellence in Female Stuff " , a reference to the cartoon , The Smurfs . During one scene , Ron said he is attracted to strong and powerful women , prompting Leslie to point out Ron indeed attends a shocking number of Women 's National Basketball Association games . When Jean Ralphio tried to make a pass at April , she replied , " Don 't you work at Lady Foot Locker ? " , a women 's footwear retailer . Ron mistakenly refers to Leslie 's Camp Athena as " Camp Xena " , a reference to the protagonist from the fantasy adventure television series Xena : Warrior Princess . In seeking nightclub investments from his co @-@ workers , Tom presents a computer presentation with photos of several celebrities , including reality television stars Jon Gosselin and Nicole " Snooki " Polizzi . In defending his financial gift to Tom , Andy calls it an investment and compares himself to businessman Warren Buffett , incorrectly pronouncing the nickname like a dinner buffet . Tom aspires to open his own club called " Tom 's Bistro " , a reference to Jack 's Bistro , the restaurant Jack Tripper opens in the 1970s and 1980s sitcom , Three 's Company .

= = Reception = =

In its original American NBC broadcast on March 4 , 2010 , " Woman of the Year " was seen by 4 @. @ 6 million viewers , according to Nielsen Media Research . It drew a 2 @. @ 3 rating / 7 share among viewers between ages 18 and 49 , matching a series @-@ high rating in that age group shared with the episode " Sweetums " and " Galentine 's Day " . In overall viewers , " Woman of the Year " received a 2 @. @ 9 rating / 5 share . This marked a continued recent improvement in ratings for the series , especially because " Woman of the Year " performed well despite direct competition from the popular reality television singing competition American Idol , which also aired during its time period .

" Woman of the Year " received generally positive reviews . Sandra Gonzalez of Entertainment Weekly called " Woman of the Year " one of the best episodes of the second season , particularly complimenting the one @-@ liner jokes and ensemble cast performances . Gonzalez said she

particularly liked the " big brother @-@ little sister vibe " between Leslie and Ron . The Star @-@ Ledger television columnist Alan Sepinwall said " Woman of the Year " was well @-@ executed because revealing to the viewers that Ron was going to tease Leslie made his pranks more humorous and less mean @-@ spirited . Sepinwall also said the episode had several good moments for the supporting characters , including Andy 's selfless act toward Tom and Donna 's purchase of shares with the nightclub . The A.V. Club writer Steve Heisler said he liked that Ron genuinely cares for Leslie . Heisler said : " If he resented Leslie as much as he hinted at during season one , it 'd become an ongoing thorn in the show 's foot that during every single episode . [ ... ] Getting along is underrated in comedy . "

Steve Kandell of New York magazine said the episode felt like " a bit of a place @-@ holder " compared to other episodes in the season , but that " Woman of the Year " included amusing scenes and introduced new ways to mock bureaucracy " without every feeling like the sly satire it secretly is " . Kandell also said he enjoyed the jokes at Leslie 's and Jerry 's expense . Kona Gallagher of TV Squad said every character was at their best , and that he particularly enjoyed Ron 's taunting of Leslie once it was made clear he was only joking . Gallagher said the " only thing about this episode I didn 't love " was the way the subplot involving Tom 's investment with the nightclub ended , because she felt it " started off strong , but kind of went nowhere . " Matt Fowler of IGN said the episode was not a stand @-@ out , but offered great character moments between Leslie and Ron . Fowler said Tom 's desire to live like a hip hop mogul was funny " but not always engaging " , and that he enjoyed the " little moments " between Andy and April .

= = DVD release = =

" Woman of the Year " , along with the other 23 second @-@ season episodes of Parks and Recreation , was released on a four @-@ disc DVD set in the United States on November 30 , 2010 . The DVD included deleted scenes for each episode . It also included a commentary track for " Woman of the Year " featuring Amy Poehler , Nick Offerman , Chris Pratt , Aubrey Plaza , Jim O 'Heir , Retta and series co @-@ creator Michael Schur .