

= The Boat ( The Office ) =

" The Boat " is the sixth episode of the ninth season of the American comedy television series The Office and the 182nd episode overall . The episode originally aired on NBC on November 8 , 2012 . It guest stars Josh Groban as Andy 's brother Walter .

The series depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In the episode , Andy Bernard ( Ed Helms ) must help his family when his dad loses all of their money , Dwight Schrute ( Rainn Wilson ) is pranked into thinking he is a guest on a radio show , and Kevin Malone ( Brian Baumgartner ) learns of Oscar Martinez 's ( Oscar Nunez ) affair with Angela Martin 's husband .

" The Boat " received positive reviews from television critics . The episode was also viewed by 4 @. @ 83 million viewers and received a 2 @. @ 4 / 6 percent rating among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 , ranking third in its timeslot , making it the highest rated episode of the season at the time of its airing . The episode ultimately ranked as the second @- @ highest rated NBC series of the night , after The Voice .

= = Plot = =

Andy Bernard ( Ed Helms ) learns that his father took all the family money and fled to Argentina with his mistress . Left to pick up the pieces , Andy sells off family heirlooms , and is upset that he has to sell the family boat for lack of any other means for his mother to support herself . Erin Hannon ( Ellie Kemper ) convinces him that before he sells the boat , they should take it out for one last sunset cruise , and they drive to Stamford , Connecticut , where the boat is docked . Andy starts to hoist the main sail , but is stopped by a broker who is to sail it to the Caribbean for the buyer . With Erin 's encouragement , Andy decides to take the boat to the Caribbean himself . He then finds his drunken brother Walter ( Josh Groban ) passed out in the liquor closet . Walter comes to and tells Andy he wanted to get the first relapse out of the way before checking into rehab . Andy invites him on the trip , saying they both need family time together and leaves , thanking Erin for her encouragement . Erin says to the camera that she would have loved to go with him if he asked . Back in the office that evening , Pete ( Jake Lacy ) asks Erin to join him for drinks , and she accepts .

A local radio show schedules an interview with Dwight Schrute ( Rainn Wilson ) to discuss Dunder Mifflin , but the interview is later canceled . Jim Halpert ( John Krasinski ) suggests they all use this to their advantage , and stage an interview for Dwight 's benefit . Dwight believes he is talking to the interviewer through the phone in the break room , but is actually talking to Nellie Bertram ( Catherine Tate ) who is using an American accent . They convince him that the information he is giving leads to a hostage situation with CEO David Wallace ( Andy Buckley ) cornered in his house . Dwight calls David and tries to talk him into surrendering to the police . David is confused but nonetheless responds in a way that leads Dwight to believe he was successful . He emerges from the break room and is greeted by a round of applause from his coworkers .

Kevin Malone ( Brian Baumgartner ) overhears Oscar Martinez ( Oscar Nunez ) confessing to the camera that he is having an affair with Angela 's ( Angela Kinsey ) husband Robert Lipton ( Jack Coleman ) . Oscar makes Kevin promise not to reveal anything . During the day , Angela constantly makes unconscious double entendres and foreshadowing , sorely tempting Kevin to let out what he knows . Afraid that Kevin cannot keep his secret , Oscar tries to frame Kevin so that Toby Flenderson ( Paul Lieberstein ) will have him fired , but later confesses to him that he lied . Later , Robert visits the office , and Oscar asks unnaturally nervous around him . Before Angela 's suspicions can be aroused , Kevin interrupts to cheer Robert on about his upcoming election . Oscar says to the camera that he is proud of how Kevin kept the secret , but Kevin then reveals that he momentarily forgot all about the secret , and begins to laugh uncontrollably .

= = Production = =

" The Boat " was written by executive producer Dan Sterling , his first credit for the series . He was

hired before production on the ninth season started as executive producer , to replace Mindy Kaling , who departed full @-@ time involvement on the series following the eighth season . The episode was also directed by series cast member John Krasinski , his third directing credit for the series after the sixth season episode " Sabre " and the eighth season episode , " Lotto " . The episode features the return of Andy 's brother , Walter Jr . , played by Josh Groban , who is now a drunk . He previously appeared in the eighth season episode , " Garden Party " . The episode also guest stars Andy Buckley in voice only . Buckley portrayed David Wallace , the CFO of Dunder Mifflin from seasons two to six . He was recently brought back on board near the end of season eight . Following this episode , Ed Helms will be written out of several episodes , in order to film The Hangover Part III .

The official website of The Office included several cut scenes from " The Boat " within a week of the episode 's release . In the first 57 @-@ second clip , Dwight gets mad when Jim is called a superior salesman and when Nellie claims beet farmers and Battlestar Galactica fans have low IQ levels , during the radio show prank . In the second 53 @-@ second clip , Erin goes through several attempts to cheer up Andy . In the third 37 @-@ second clip , more scenes from the false hostage situation are seen .

= = Cultural references = =

Dwight claims that the radio is using Gotcha journalism . In order to cover up for Oscar , Kevin starts chanting " U @-@ S @-@ A ! " , a popular Olympic chant . When Oscar admits that he lied to Toby , Toby goes on a tangential rant about the Scranton Strangler , a reference to a minor plot development that occurred during the show 's sixth and seventh seasons .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" The Boat " was originally scheduled to air on NBC on November 1 , 2012 but was replaced with a rerun of The Voice . NBC claimed it was for those affected by Hurricane Sandy , however the schedule change happened nationwide . It eventually aired a week later , on November 8 , 2012 . In its original broadcast , " The Boat " was viewed by an estimated 4 @. @ 83 million viewers and received a 2 @. @ 4 rating / 6 percent share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 2 @. @ 4 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 6 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This marked an increase in the ratings from the previous episode , " Here Comes Treble " , which had reached a series low in the ratings . The episode tied with the Fox series Glee for third in its timeslot , being beaten by an episode of the ABC series Grey 's Anatomy which received a 3 @. @ 3 / 8 percent rating and an entry of the CBS drama Person of Interest , which received a 2 @. @ 9 / 8 percent rating . The Office was also the second highest @-@ rated NBC television program of the night , after an episode of The Voice .

= = = Reviews = = =

" The Boat " received mostly positive reviews from television critics . The A.V. Club reviewer Erik Adams called it " another solid late @-@ period episode " , praising Rainn Wilson 's commitment to Dwight throughout the main plotline . He also complimented the Andy @-@ Erin subplot , and considered it superior to the previous episode for featuring more consistency in Andy 's characterization . He also complimented Dan Sterling and John Krasinski 's work on the episode , saying that the script made " good on previous hints that Andy and Erin ? s story won ? t end like Jim and Pam ? s " and that Krasinski 's direction added " just enough energy not to feel overwhelming " . He gave the episode a " B + " . IGN writer Cindy White called the episode a "

pleasant surprise " , for its use of the supporting characters and its development of the season 's plotlines . She complimented most of the subplots , and compared Pete and Erin 's romance to Jim and Pam 's from the early seasons of the series . Her only complaint was Andy 's characterization throughout the episode and the ninth season , as a whole , for being " mopey and self @-@ obsessed . " Despite this , she gave the episode an 8 @.@ 0 / 10 , calling it " Great " . WhatCulture ! reviewer Joseph Kratzer gave the episode four stars out of five , praising the episode for making the previously unsuccessful Oscar @-@ Senator storyline and the Andy 's bankrupt family storyline entertaining . He also complimented the fact that Jim and Pam 's bickering from the previous episode was not expanded upon , and praised their prank on Dwight , calling it a " great bit " and " an excellent comedic balance to the more serious story of Andy ? s inner demons . "

Michael Tedder of New York called the episode " the single funniest episode of the show since Steve Carell left " and praised Brian Baumgartner 's performance for hitting " notes of sweetness , frustration , and emotional confusion that normally get written for the toplineers " . He also praised the plotlines , writing that " what made this episode so great was that not only did every plot line work [ ... ] but every moment positively sang " . He gave the episode five stars , concluding that " The Office still has some surprises in it " .