

= Believe It or Not , Joe 's Walking on Air =

" Believe It or Not , Joe 's Walking on Air " is the third episode of the sixth season of the Fox animated comedy series Family Guy , an episode produced for season 5 . Joe Swanson ( Patrick Warburton ) gets the impression that his wife Bonnie ( voiced by Jennifer Tilly ) is tired of being married to a handicapped person , so he decides to get a leg transplant . Excited about his new ability to walk , Joe dives head first into extreme sports and begins to hang around more active friends . Meanwhile , Peter ( Seth MacFarlane ) and the guys are upset at how Joe is acting and decide to teach him a lesson . In doing so , he is re @-@ crippled , and he makes amends with his friends .

The episode was written by Andrew Goldberg and directed by Julius Wu . It received praise from critics for its storyline and many cultural references . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 8 @.@ 4 million homes in its original airing . The episode featured guest performances by Jeff Bergman , Jamie Farr , Phil LaMarr , Wendy Raquel Robinson and Nicole Sullivan , along with several recurring guest voice actors for the series . This is the first episode where Meg was not seen or mentioned .

= = Plot = =

Peter , Cleveland , Joe and Quagmire are at the Drunken Clam , when Lois , Bernice ( Cleveland 's first girlfriend since his divorce with Loretta ) and Bonnie show up at the bar , Peter and his friends get annoyed . Therefore , Peter suggests that they should build their own bar called " The Quahog Men 's Club " , which is designated for men only . It takes six weeks and \$ 8 @,@ 000 for them to build it . After building it , Lois wants Peter to get rid of it .

Many people start to show up at the Quahog 's Men 's Club and Lois and her friends start to get annoyed . In order to get back at them , they enter the club . Everyone dances , except for Bonnie , because her husband is handicapped . Joe feels self @-@ conscious about his disability , and decides to get surgery so that he will be able to walk again . When Joe comes out of the operation , he invites his friends to go do physical activities such as rock climbing , karate , and dance . Joe starts to not care about his friends and his wife , and finds three new jock friends that share his status . Lois and Peter are worried about Joe , and Lois suggests that Peter should find a new friend to replace him . Meanwhile , Joe realizes that he has outgrown Bonnie and leaves her . Desperate to get their friend back , Peter , Cleveland and Quagmire try to re @-@ cripple Joe , failing miserably until Bonnie comes along with Joe 's handgun and shoots ( and misses ) Joe 's spine . Sick of waiting in pain , Joe takes the gun and shoots himself in the spine , re @-@ crippling himself . They all then go to the Drunken Clam where Joe apologizes to Peter , Cleveland and Quagmire for how he acted and they all forgive him .

= = Production = =

" Believe It or Not , Joe 's Walking on Air " was written by Andrew Goldberg . This episode was his first time working for the show , and was a result of Goldberg being creator Seth MacFarlane 's assistant . He wrote the episode , and executive producer David A. Goodman thought he did a " fantastic job " . He would later go on to write the season seven episode " The Juice is Loose " . The episode was directed by former Mission Hill and The Oblongs director and series veteran Julius Wu , who had been a member of the show 's staff since the fifth season episode , " The Tan Aquatic with Steve Zissou " . Directors Peter Shin and James Purdun acted as supervising directors .

In addition to the regular cast , actor Jeff Bergman , voice actor Phil LaMarr , actor Jamie Farr , actress Wendy Raquel Robinson , and voice actress Nicole Sullivan guest starred in the episode as Fred Flintstone , Portland , Himself , Bernice , and Muriel Goldman respectively . Recurring guest voice actors Steve Callaghan , actor Ralph Garman , writer Danny Smith , writer Alec Sulkin , and writer John Viener made minor appearances . Recurring guest cast members Adam West , Jennifer Tilly , and Patrick Warburton also made appearances .

= = Cultural references = =

The episode makes several references to pop culture referencing films , music and media . Peter remembers a movie he watched with actor Jack Black in it ( The film being High Fidelity ) . When rock climbing Cleveland is saved from a fall by Spider @-@ Man . Joe makes Cleveland , Quagmire and Peter sing and dance " Good Morning " from the film Singin ' in the Rain . The title is a based off the theme song to The Greatest American Hero called " Believe it or Not , I 'm Walking on Air " sung by Joey Scarbury

The episode makes references to Family Guy itself . When Bonnie , Lois and Cleveland 's new girlfriend come to dance at The Drunken Clam , they state that they would like to make the bar their place to hang out , after Peter grabs Joe 's gun and kills himself . It turns out that this was only Peter 's imagination as he snaps out of it when Joe starts talking to him ; Peter answers that he was having a Scrubs fantasy moment . Quagmire responds to Peter 's moment by stating that Scrubs is the best show people are not watching . Cleveland replies that he hates shows that leave the story for a gag or joke , referring to the numerous cutaways Scrubs and Family Guy contain . While in the hospital Peter realizes that Mr. Pewterschmidt and Dr. Hartman have a similar voice , then Mr. Pewterschmidt comes in to the room and they both start talking about how their voices sound alike ; this is a reference to the show 's creator Seth MacFarlane as he voices both characters .

The episode also makes references to history . In the following cutaway Adolf Hitler is shown juggling three fish while riding a unicycle . After a while the same cutaway reappears , but this time Peter shows up and knocks Hitler off the unicycle and punches him in the face and breaks the fourth wall by saying " See . We had a plan for that all along " . It also makes references to Christianity . When Lois suggests that Peter finds a new friend , she tells him to find a kindred spirit like Judas found in Pontius Pilate .

= = Reception = =

This episode drew 8 @.@ 4 million viewers on its original broadcast . Also , a repeat of the episode on the Fox network December 16 , 2007 was number 29 of 94 programs listed by Nielsen Media Research , the audience measurement systems developed to determine the audience size and composition of television programming in the United States , for the week of December 10 to December 16 , 2007 .

The episode received mixed reviews from critics . Ahsan Haque of IGN gave the episode a positive review , writing that it " brings back memories how groundbreaking and fantastic this show once was , and how great the show can be when the writers put their minds to it " . He graded " Believe it Or Not , Joe 's Walking On Air " 9 @.@ 3 out of 10 . Brad Trechak of TV Squad also praised the episode , stating " Family Guy is starting to stick to what it does best " , though he called the ending " somewhat predictable " . Genevieve Koski of The A.V. Club wrote that the episode had " a fairly interesting storyline " , but she was distracted by the absence of Joe 's son , Kevin . She graded " Believe it Or Not , Joe 's Walking On Air " B.

In contrast , Robert Pierson from the TV Critic gave the episode a negative review criticizing the episode 's self @-@ referential humor and the fact that the characters would be so selfish that they would cripple their own friend , he stated that the scene where Peter and the others attack Joe made him " dislike the show because there is nothing funny , positive or entertaining about it " , he ended his review by saying that the episode 's humor is " evidence of a writing team which is too lazy and incompetent to write good humour " .