

= Treehouse of Horror VI =

" Treehouse of Horror VI " is the sixth episode of The Simpsons ' seventh season and the sixth episode in the Treehouse of Horror series . It first aired on the Fox network in the United States on October 29 , 1995 , and contains three self @-@ contained segments . In " Attack of the 50 Foot Eyesores " , an ionic storm brings Springfield 's oversized advertisements and billboards to life and they begin attacking the town . The second segment , " Nightmare on Evergreen Terrace " is a parody of the A Nightmare on Elm Street film series , in which Groundskeeper Willie ( resembling Freddy Krueger ) attacks schoolchildren in their sleep . In the third and final segment , " Homer3 " , Homer finds himself trapped in a three dimensional world . It was inspired by The Twilight Zone episode " Little Girl Lost . " The segments were written by John Swartzwelder , Steve Tompkins and David S. Cohen respectively .

The first version of the episode was very long , so it featured a very short opening sequence and did not include several trademarks established in previous Treehouse of Horror episodes . " Homer3 " , pitched by executive producer Bill Oakley , features three dimensional computer animation provided by Pacific Data Images ( PDI ) . In the final scene of the episode , Homer is sent to the real world in the first ever live @-@ action scene in The Simpsons . " Attack of the 50 @-@ Foot Eyesores " includes a cameo appearance from Paul Anka , who sings the song " Just Don 't Look " .

In its original broadcast , the episode was watched by 22 @.@ 9 million viewers , acquired a Nielsen rating of 12 @.@ 9 , finishing 21st in the weekly ratings , and was the highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network the week it aired . In 1996 , the " Homer <sup>3</sup> " segment was awarded the Ottawa International Animation Festival grand prize and the episode was nominated for the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Animated Program ( for Programming Less Than One Hour ) .

= = Plot = =

= = = Attack of the 50 Foot Eyesores = = =

In a parody of the 1958 film , Attack of the 50 Foot Woman , Homer goes to Lard Lad Donuts to get a " colossal doughnut . " Upon realizing that the colossal doughnut is the name of the doughnut that Lard Lad holds and colossal doughnuts that size do not exist , he denounces the store and vows to get a colossal ( sized ) doughnut . That night , he steals the giant doughnut from the Lard Lad statue in front of the store . In the midst of a freak storm , Lard Lad and other giant advertising statues come to life to terrorize Springfield . Homer eventually returns the donut to Lard Lad , but that does not stop Lard Lad and his friends from causing any more destruction . Lisa goes to the ad agency that created those advertising characters , and an executive suggests the citizens stop paying attention to the monsters as they are advertising gimmicks , and attention is what keeps them motivated . He suggests a jingle will help distract people from watching the monsters . Lisa and Paul Anka later perform a catchy song and the citizens of Springfield stop looking at the monsters , who lose their powers and become lifeless , except for Lard Lad , who manages to tempt Homer into looking into his donut , stating that it now has sprinkles . Homer falls for it , but Bart and Lisa pull him away from it , threatening to poke out Homer 's eyes if he does not comply , much to Homer 's anger . This causes Lard Lad to lose his power and become lifeless .

= = = Nightmare on Evergreen Terrace = = =

In a parody of A Nightmare on Elm Street , Bart has a nightmare that Groundskeeper Willie is out to kill him . He is slashed with a rake , and the scratches are still on his body after he wakes up . Many other students at Springfield Elementary School also confide they were terrorized by Willie in their nightmares . When the students take a test , Martin falls asleep and is strangled to death by Willie in

his dream , before waking up and dying in the real world . Bart and Lisa tell Marge , who explains Willie was burned to death ( on Homer 's part of turning up the heat and causing the furnace explosion that killed Willie , the school 's failure to upkeep essential maintenance such as replacing doorknobs and recharging fire extinguishers , and Homer 's misunderstanding ) while the parents of the students looked on and did nothing . Willie told the parents he would get his revenge by killing the children in their dreams , where the parents cannot protect them . Bart , Lisa and Maggie try not to fall asleep for several days , but eventually Bart decides that he is going to have to go to sleep and fight Willie in his dream . Lisa is supposed to stay awake and wake him up if he seems to be in trouble . Bart falls asleep and attempts to find Willie , who appears as a lawn mower / harvester . Bart , taunting Willie by calling him " Yard Boy " ( a parody of the lawn tractor company ) , manages to trick Willie into mowing over a sandbox containing quicksand , and Willie sinks . Willie recovers and turns into a giant bagpipe spider and is about to kill Bart when Lisa enters , trying to wake him up . Bart realizes that since she is in the dream , that means she has also fallen asleep . At that point , Willie grabs Lisa , intending to kill her too . They are about to lose the battle when Maggie appears and uses her pacifier to seal the vent on Willie 's spider body , resulting in Willie exploding . When they wake up , they find Willie is still alive and unsuccessfully attempts to both scare them and kill them .

= = = Homer3 ( Homer Cubed ) = = =

In a parody of the Twilight Zone episode , Little Girl Lost , Patty and Selma visit the Simpsons with two pillow cases full of seashells from their trip to " Sulphur Bay " from which they plan to pry hermit crabs . Homer tries to hide in a closet that Bart and Lisa have occupied , but they refuse to leave . After failing to find another hiding spot , Homer , desperate to avoid Patty and Selma , looks behind a bookcase and enters a mysterious new world in which everything is in 3D . Homer explores the peculiar area , being depicted as a 3D computer @-@ generated character . Bart and Lisa are found by Selma and are forced into the hermit crab work .

Through the wall , Homer calls Marge for help . Marge summons Ned Flanders , Reverend Lovejoy , Professor Frink , Chief Wiggum , and Dr. Hibbert to help Homer escape this alternate dimension , but they are of no help . Homer explains that the world he is in looks like something from Tron , but no one understands the reference to that computer @-@ generated film . Frink explains to the others that Homer is in a hypothetical " third dimension " .

Homer throws a cone into the floor and accidentally pierces the fabric of the space @-@ time continuum , causing it to collapse into a wormhole and threatening to pull Homer and the rest of the dimension into a black hole . Bart takes command and enters the third dimension to save Homer , after tying a safety rope around himself . Once there , Bart tells Homer to leap over the increasingly massive wormhole . Homer , declaring this to be a " piece of cake " , leaps and falls into the hole as the universe collapses on itself . Bart , however , is pulled back into the house . Lovejoy assures Marge that Homer has gone to a better place . Meanwhile , Homer lands in a dumpster in a live @-@ action West Hollywood . He is initially nervous and scared of his surroundings including the astonished passersby , but his troubles are soon put aside when he comes across an erotic cake shop and he goes inside .

Homer3 later became a segment in IMAX 's CyberWorld 3D .

= = Production = =

" Treehouse of Horror VI " was the first of two Treehouse of Horror episodes to be executive produced by Bill Oakley and Josh Weinstein . The episode was " so long " because , according to Oakley , " all three of these segments are very complex stories [ ... ] and it 's hard to fit three complete stories into 21 minutes . " Because of the length , the episode featured a very short opening sequence and did not include several trademarks established in previous Treehouse of Horror episodes , such as Marge 's warning or wraparounds . The first segment , " Attack of the 50 @-@ Foot Eyesores " was written by John Swartzwelder , who had previously worked at an

advertising agency . " Nightmare on Evergreen Terrace " was written by Steve Tompkins and has been described by David X. Cohen as " one of the scariest [ segments ] . " " Homer3 " was written by Cohen , although the idea was pitched by Oakley . The original idea was that Homer would visit several dimensions , including one where everything was made of paper cut @-@ outs , but they decided that it would be too complicated .

The episode includes a cameo appearance from Paul Anka , who sings the song " Just Don 't Look " . Anka was briefly mentioned by Marge in " Grampa vs. Sexual Inadequacy . " In response , he sent a letter to the producers in which he thanked them for the mention . After receiving the letter , they decided to ask him to guest star . According to David Mirkin , he tried to get Al Gore to host the episode , but the producers got no response to their request . " There was an eerie silence , " Mirkin said . He added that " if the VP decides now to pursue this showbiz offer , it 's just too late [ ... ] He missed his chance . "

In the final scene of the episode , Homer is sent to the real world in the first ever live @-@ action scene in The Simpsons . It was filmed on Ventura Boulevard in Studio City and directed by David Mirkin , who later said that Fox " couldn 't have been less supportive " because they thought it would be too expensive . The scene involves a crane shot which pulls back as the credits are shown . Fox " begrudgingly " allowed Mirkin to use a crane for the ending . The scene was filmed on a sidewalk with the crane on the street and Mirkin was not able to fully stop traffic for the shot . Because of this , when the camera swings around , a line of cars can be seen backed up on the street . The erotic cakes store as well as the filming was located in 13567 Ventura Boulevard .

= = = Animation = = =

A large portion of " Homer3 " was three dimensional and computer animated . Supervising director David Silverman was aiming for something better than the computer animation used in the music video for " Money for Nothing " by Dire Straits . The animation was provided by Pacific Data Images ( PDI ) and overseen by Tim Johnson . The animators at PDI worked closely with the normal animators on The Simpsons and worked hard not to " reinvent the character [ s ] " . The Simpsons animators storyboarded the segments and showed the PDI animators how they would have handled the scenes . While designing the 3D model of Bart , the animators did not know how they would show Bart 's hair . However , they realized that there were vinyl Bart dolls in production and purchased one to use as a model . One of the most difficult parts for the PDI animators was to make Homer and Bart move properly without making them look robotic .

One of the key shots in the segment was where Homer steps into the 3D world and his design transitions into 3D . Executive producer Bill Oakley considers the shot the " money shot " and had a difficult time communicating his idea to the animators .

= = = Background jokes = = =

Several background jokes were inserted into " Homer3 " . The PDI animators inserted a Utah teapot , which was the first object to be rendered in 3D , and the numbers 734 ( which on a phone pad correspond to PDI ) . Several math equations were also inserted in the background , one of the equations that appears is  $178212 + 184112 = 192212$  . Although a false statement , it appears to be true when evaluated on a typical calculator with 10 digits of precision . If it were true , it would disprove Fermat 's last theorem , which had just been proven when this episode first aired . Cohen generated this " Fermat near @-@ miss " with a computer program . Other equations that appear are Euler 's identity and  $P = NP$  which is a reference to the famous P vs NP problem , and similarly contradicts the general belief that in fact  $P \neq NP$  . The code 46 72 69 6E 6B 20 72 75 6C 65 73 21 is a string of hexadecimal numbers that , when interpreted as ASCII codes , decodes to " Frink rules ! " . There is a signpost with x , y and z , and many basic shapes littered across the screen .

= = Cultural references = =

The title of " Attack of the 50 @-@ Foot Eyesores " is a reference to the film Attack of the 50 Foot Woman . " Nightmare on Evergreen Terrace " is a parody of the film A Nightmare on Elm Street and its sequels , and Bart 's dream at the opening of the segment features many elements similar to the cartoons of Tex Avery . Willie changing shapes while sinking in the sand box is similar to the T @-@ 1000 's " death " in Terminator 2 : Judgment Day and Martin 's dream references The Pagemaster , while Willie being a shapeshifting monster whose final form is that of a giant spider is similar to Pennywise the Dancing Clown , the main antagonist of It . The segment " Homer3 " is a parody of The Twilight Zone episode " Little Girl Lost " , in which a girl travels through a portal to the 4th dimension . He even describes the series as " that twilighty show about that zone . " The film Tron is also mentioned by Homer as a means of describing his surroundings ( it is claimed that nobody in Springfield saw the film ) . The segment where Bart ties a rope around himself and enters the 3D world in an attempt to rescue Homer is a reference to the film Poltergeist . The building Homer encounters inside the third dimension is a recreation of the library from the PC game Myst accompanied with the library 's theme music briefly playing in the background . The three @-@ dimensional rotation shot of the dimensional vortex is a reference to the green glowing grid in the opening credits of the Disney film The Black Hole . In " Homer3 " , as he is about to fall in the black hole Homer says , " There 's so much I don 't know about astrophysics . I wish I 'd read that book by that wheelchair guy . " This is a reference to the bestseller A Brief History of Time by astrophysicist Stephen Hawking , who is quadraplegic . In " Attack of the 50 Foot Eyesores " , some of the mascots are parodies of real life mascots . For example , the giant walking unnamed peanut is a parody of Mr. Peanut . When the donut rolls by them on the highway Kang and Kodos use the word Shazbot from the television series Mork & Mindy .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " Treehouse of Horror VI " finished 21st in the ratings for the week of October 23 to October 29 , 1995 , with a Nielsen rating of 12 @.@ 9 . It was watched in approximately 12 @.@ 4 million households . The episode was the highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week . The " Homer3 " segment was later featured as part of the 2000 IMAX anthology film CyberWorld .

The authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide , Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , described it as " Complex , very assured and very clever , [ ... ] The computer graphics are outstanding , and the final scene ? as Homer enters our dimension ? is one of the highlights of the entire series . " Colin Jacobson of DVD Movie Guide said , " ' Attack of the 50 @-@ Ft . Eyesores ' stands as the strongest of the three segments . It doesn 't blast off the screen but it seems imaginative and fun . The Nightmare on Elm Street parody has its moments and comes across as generally entertaining . However , it lacks the bite the best pieces offer . Unfortunately , ' Homer3 ' gives us the weakest of the bunch . It tosses out a few funny bits , but it mostly feels like an excuse to feature some 3 @-@ D animation . " Ryan Budke of TV Squad listed " Homer3 " as the fourth best Treehouse of Horror segment and gave honorable mention to " Nightmare on Evergreen Terrace " . Will Pfeifer of the Rockford Register Star called the episode " the best of the annual Halloween episodes . "

In the July 26 , 2007 issue of Nature , the scientific journal 's editorial staff listed the " Homer3 " segment among " The Top Ten science moments in The Simpsons " , highlighting Cohen 's "  $178212 + 184112 = 192212$  " equation .

= = = Awards = = =

In 1996 , the " Homer <sup>3</sup> " segment was awarded the Ottawa International Animation Festival grand prize . The episode was also submitted for the Primetime Emmy Award in the " Outstanding Animated Program ( For Programming less than One Hour ) " category because it had a 3D animation sequence , which the staff felt would have given it the edge . The episode would eventually lose to Pinky and the Brain . Bill Oakley later expressed regret about not submitting an

episode with a more emotionally driven plot .