

= Replaceable You =

" Replaceable You " is the fourth episode of the twenty @-@ third season of the American animated sitcom The Simpsons . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on November 6 , 2011 . In the episode , Homer gets a new assistant named Roz who is secretly out to steal his job . Meanwhile , Bart teams up with Martin Prince for the upcoming Springfield Elementary science fair , constructing robot baby seals that become popular with the senior citizens at the Springfield Retirement Castle . The role of Roz was played by American actress Jane Lynch . " Replaceable You " was seen by approximately eight million viewers during its original broadcast , and it has received mixed reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

Homer is initially happy to get an organized , cheerful new assistant at the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant , a very tall woman named Roz Davis . However , when he and Barney head out to see a film during their work shift , Roz reveals this to Mr. Burns , who demotes Homer to Roz 's job and gives Roz Homer 's position . Roz proceeds to charm the regulars at Moe 's Tavern while finding dozens of ways to make Homer 's job miserable . After Ned Flanders sees Homer is depressed , Homer tells him about Roz , and is shocked to learn that Ned knew Roz back in Ohio ; they were part of the same Christian group , and when Ned gave her a congratulatory hug for winning a " no @-@ fun run " he learned that Roz cannot stand any physical contact . When Roz wins a " Worker of Millennium " award at the plant , Homer manipulates Burns into giving Roz a hug . She proceeds to beat Burns up , and is fired . Roz then compliments Homer for being much smarter than she expected , in terms Homer does not quite understand .

Elsewhere , Bart is not ready for the upcoming Springfield Elementary science fair . He ends up working with Martin Prince and after Bart comes up with a general idea ? cool robotics ? Martin does all the work and constructs an adorable robotic baby seal . However , it is revealed that when the wiring is tampered with , they become violent attackers . The seal wins first prize at the Fair , to Lisa 's disdain . When she goes to the Springfield Retirement Castle to whine about the injustice to Grampa , the seniors citizen see the seal visibly cheer up Jasper and the value of the invention becomes clear . All of the senior citizens then get their own seals , and they become happier and healthier , which angers a consortium of local businesses ( led by the local funeral home ) who want the oldsters to go back to being miserable and more rapidly dying . The group figures out the wiring secret and reworks the seals so their fury returns , even causing the death of Mrs. Glick . Chief Wiggum has all the robots impounded . Bart and Martin enlist the aid of Professor Frink who then gets a larger group of nerds to remotely hack into the robot software and make them nice again . They succeed and as a result , Chief Wiggum releases all the seals , who return to the nursing home .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Stephanie Gillis and directed by Mark Kirkland . American actress Jane Lynch guest starred in the episode as Roz . Showrunner Al Jean noted in an interview with Entertainment Weekly that it was easy to cast Lynch , since " she can do edge , sweetness , and a mix of both " . He further noted that the crew was happy when she agreed to take the role , and that he was " embarrassed [ the show ] didn ' t ask her before she was so successful because she ' s funny in everything she does . " Lynch recorded her scenes together with cast member Dan Castellaneta , who voices Homer . In an interview with the website Hollywood Outbreak , she commented that " It was pretty amazing to every once in a while look up at his face and go ' Oh my God , it 's that guy that does that voice . ' " Lynch added that she " had the best time . I would do it again and again . This is kind of very much a milestone in my career . I will point to this as a big deal . " In an interview with Fox All Access , Lynch revealed that she is a longtime fan : " Indeed I am a fan of The Simpsons . I started watching twenty years ago . I remember the first season . I

remember clearly moments from the episodes and I thought it was revolutionary , the comedy of it . I really loved it . "

As with most episodes of The Simpsons , the music was composed by Alf Clausen and edited by Chris Ledesma . In a blog written by Ledesma , it was revealed prior to the airing of the episode that it would contain the use of the waltz " Tales from the Vienna Woods " by Johann Strauss II as well as a musical cue similar to the style of the main theme from the film Catch Me If You Can . The episode features several other references to popular culture as well . For example , Homer skips work to go see a film called Paul Flart : Water Park Cop , a parody of the 2009 film Paul Blart : Mall Cop . In addition , there is a brief shot of the character Bender from the animated television series Futurama .

= = Release = =

" Replaceable You " originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on November 6 , 2011 . It was watched by approximately eight million people during this broadcast . In the demographic for adults aged 18 ? 49 , the episode received a 3 @. @ 7 Nielsen rating ( down eight percent from the previous episode ) and ten percent share . The Simpsons became the highest @-@ rated program in Fox 's Animation Domination lineup that night in terms of total viewers and in the 18 ? 49 demographic , finishing before new episodes of Family Guy , American Dad ! , and Allen Gregory . For the week of October 31 ? November 6 , " Replaceable You " finished fifteenth in the ratings among all network prime @-@ time broadcasts in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

= = = Critical reception = = =

" Replaceable You " has received mixed reviews from television critics . Josh Harrison of Ology wrote positively about the episode , giving it an eight out of ten rating . He commented : " This episode of The Simpsons swerved toward the wacky in the best possible . I approve of this bounce @-@ back from the decidedly meh Treehouse of Horrors [ the previous episode of the series ? ' Treehouse of Horror XXII ' ] and I 'm looking forward to what 's next . " Stephanie Krikorian of The Wall Street Journal 's Speakeasy publication named Lynch 's appearance one of the television highlights of the week November 6 ? 13 . She wrote that " Simply put , Jane Lynch is good TV . Even the cartoon version , non @-@ track @-@ suit @-@ wearing Jane Lynch was worth watching . Her role as a schemer on this week ? s Simpsons was no exception , making her performance voicing Roz one of the top moments in this week ? s Rewind . "

The A.V. Club critic Hayden Childs was more negative , giving the episode a C ? rating and criticizing the two plots and the lack of good jokes . He wrote that while there was " some comic potential " in the premise , the writers failed to deliver funny material . Commenting on the plot with Homer and Roz , Childs explained that " there ? s some comic possibility and resonance in having Homer stabbed in the back at work . Many people have been stabbed in the back by an ambitious colleague . Unfortunately , Homer may not be the best character to give this sort of storyline a heart . Homer is a bad employee who deserves to be ratted out by his subordinate . The fact that she is selfish and mean doesn ? t add to this story . Yes , that is the sort of person who would stab someone in the back for their own gain , but yes , Homer also had it coming . Where is the joke ? "