

= Lisa Goes Gaga =

" Lisa Goes Gaga " is the twenty @-@ second and final 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 May 20 , 2012 . In the episode , American singer @-@ songwriter Lady Gaga makes a visit to Springfield , where all of its residents are in a state of depression . Main character Lisa Simpson is arguably the most depressed person in the city , prompting Gaga to go out of her way to teach Lisa the meaning of happiness .

The episode was written by Tim Long and directed by Matthew Schofield . Gaga guest @-@ starred in the episode , portraying an animated version of herself . A fan of the show , she was brought on by showrunner Al Jean , who wrote a script after James L. Brooks saw an interview of her on 60 Minutes . The design team conceived eighteen outfits to complement Gaga 's eccentric persona , which satirized several of her outfits including her meat dress . Recording sessions for " Lisa Goes Gaga " took place in Los Angeles , California over four days in August 2011 .

Critical responses to the episode were mixed ; critics praised Lady Gaga 's performance , while they looked down upon the episode 's concept and general execution . The highly negative evaluation of the episode by some Internet users attracted media attention . According to the Nielsen ratings , the installment attained 4 @. @ 79 million American viewers upon its original airing .

= = Plot = =

Lady Gaga passes through Springfield via train while on her way to a concert . Seeing how low the city 's self @-@ esteem is , she takes it upon herself to cheer up the whole city . However , no one in town is more depressed than Lisa , who was voted as the most unpopular student by her peers . Lisa tries to reverse her status as one of the least popular girls in school by ghostwriting positive things about herself on the school blog under the heading " Truth Teller " .

When Bart finds out her secret and reveals it to the school , her social ranking plummets to a new low until a psychic force tells Lady Gaga that Lisa needs her help immediately . After much soul searching and yelling at Lady Gaga for trying to help , Lisa realizes that her outburst helped her because she is finally expressing her anger instead of bottling it up inside her , in effect making Lady Gaga 's mission successful . Lisa catches Lady Gaga just before she leaves town to apologize , and after being forgiven she and Lady Gaga perform a duet together . With Lady Gaga 's assistance , Lisa and the entire town of Springfield realize that being oneself is better than being like anyone else . Just as Lady Gaga 's train begins to leave again , Moe runs up to her and asks if she can help him as well , but Lady Gaga declines , stating that she 's not that good . As Moe turns and walks across the train track , a second train hits him .

During the credits , Homer is heard singing his rendition of " Poker Face . "

= = Production = =

In August 2011 , it first was revealed that Lady Gaga would make a guest appearance on the show as herself . Producer James L. Brooks viewed Gaga 's interview with Anderson Cooper on 60 Minutes , which prompted Al Jean to write a script and send her a letter of approval to appear on the show . " She was really excited about the whole thing , " Jean recalled . " After she signed on to do it , she came in to record dialogue twice , and we showed her a rough cut the second time . " Recording sessions for the episode took place in Los Angeles during a period of four days from August 22 ? 26 . Gaga was initially apprehensive while recording on set , which led her to review the satirical nature of the show to get a better understanding on how to perform . " Their characters are so awesomely convincing and sincere and wild and funny , I had to remind myself constantly of the sincerity of the humor , " she explained . " That 's what I was trying to focus on ? not putting on a character too much , and really being as sincere as I could with the lines . " Despite such emotions , Gaga professed that working with the staff of the show was " one of the coolest things that [she]

has ever done " .

Several employees of The Simpsons were impressed with Gaga 's performance , who cited that her vocal range and ad @-@ libbing skills were exceptional . Series creator Matt Groening stated : " Since the very beginning , I ? ve always wanted to have on the most iconic personalities of our time , and she 's it . " In an interview with E ! Online , Groening further commented on Gaga 's appearance ; " The great thing about having Lady Gaga is that she came in a number of times and always with a different getup . Like she 'd leave the room and come back in after a break in a completely new getup . It was unbelievable . The only time that she ever took off her hat was when it was banging into the microphone . " Cast member Yeardley Smith said that she was shocked that Gaga had the time to make an appearance on the series .

The design team for the series conceived eighteen outfits to compliment Gaga 's outré and eccentric reputation , although they did not collaborate with any of Gaga 's stylists or creative director Nicola Formichetti . Due to the outfits ' unconventional appearances , Jean was given more freedom to animate the large array of costumes , as these rapid changes " wouldn 't be possible in real life " . " There 's a moment in the episode , " Jean resumed , " when she starts out with her hair down . Then , there 's a curtain pulled in front of her , and in seconds , she has a completely different outfit on with a cone bra and her hair is all hairsprayed up and big and frizzy . In real life , that would probably take 8 hours . " Many of the costumes were inspired from previous outfits Gaga had worn , including her meat dress and her Kermit the Frog dress . " We did a lot of research , looking back at her old outfits , and she 's really been in a million different things , had a million different looks . "

= = Cultural references = =

Many aspects of Gaga 's career are referenced in the episode . " You 're All My Little Monsters " , a musical number specifically created for the episode , is a parody of Gaga 's relationship with her devout " Little Monsters " ? a phrase Gaga uses to refer to her fans . To Spin columnist Devon Maloney , the song was ultimately an overtly cartoonized version of her single " Born This Way " (2011) that embraces the " freakiness " of Springfield . Several of Gaga 's outfits and looks emulate several iconic costumes the singer had previously worn , such as the " Living Dress " and pyrotechnic leotard she wore during her endeavors on The Monster Ball Tour , as well as her wardrobe at the 53rd Grammy Awards . One in particular , a dress consisting of pork chops , is a parody of the singer 's meat dress , which she wore at the 2010 MTV Video Music Awards . During the credits of " Lisa Goes Gaga " , main character Homer Simpson performs a rendition of " Poker Face " (2009) . At the end of the episode , a title card promotes the Maggie @-@ starring short film The Longest Daycare , which showed before the animated film Ice Age : Continental Drift (2012) .

= = Reception = =

" Lisa Goes Gaga " was originally broadcast on May 20 , 2012 in the United States , as part of the " Animation Domination " television line @-@ up on Fox . Upon airing , it acquired 4 @.@ 79 million viewers and a 2 @.@ 1 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , indicating that 2 @.@ 1 percent of individuals between ages 18 and 49 who watched television viewed the episode . The ratings make it the fourth least watched Simpsons episode to date in Nielsen Rating Homes . " Lisa Goes Gaga " faced fierce competition , airing simultaneously with 60 Minutes on CBS , America 's Got Talent on NBC , and the 2012 Billboard Music Awards on ABC . Total viewership and ratings for the program evoked significant increases from the previous episode , " Ned ' n Edna 's Blend " , which attained 4 @.@ 07 million viewers and a 1 @.@ 9 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , and also is the lowest rated episode to date in Nielsen Rating Homes .

The episode produced varying responses from television commentators . " Lisa Goes Gaga " provoked The A.V. Club journalist Rowan Kaiser to conclude that the installment " wasn 't that painful to watch " ? albeit found the concept and general execution to be irritating . In his B ? review , Kaiser asserted that " Lisa Goes Gaga " used a straightforward interpretation of the singer , and felt

that Lady Gaga 's appearance was superior to previous guest appearances . " So many Simpsons celebrity voices , " he stated , " show up for a few minutes at most , with Extras @-@ style ' Wow , Chris Martin of Coldplay , what are you doing here ? ' Or they voice one @-@ off characters without enough flair to be memorable . Instead , Gaga was the focus of the entire episode , to the point where if you wanted to call it a half @-@ hour commercial for Lady Gaga , you probably wouldn't be wrong . Fortunately for ' Lisa Goes Gaga ' , the celebrity at its heart is entertaining enough that it being her commercial isn't a complete waste of time . " A writer for HLN avouched that The Simpsons managed to culminate its season " with a lot of style " ; David Greenwald of Billboard echoed similar sentiments . Gaga 's performance was frequently mentioned in the critiques . Idolator 's Becky Bain , Tracy Gilchrist of SheWired , and Caroline Westbrook of Metro issued favorable assessments of her acting : the latter affirmed that Gaga had many memorable moments throughout the episode .

" The series did make good use of their guest star instead of reducing her role to a small cameo , " opined TV Fanatic 's Teresa L. , who concluded : " The episode ended up turning into one long @-@ running gag about Gaga 's eccentricities and a rehashing of all her most ' shocking ' moments . " Jocelyn W. of TV Equals said , " Lady Gaga helped The Simpsons end its 23rd season on a memorable note . "

Some fans appeared to respond particularly unfavorably to the episode . A graph plotting every episode of the series according to each 's Internet Movie Database rating which revealed " Lisa Goes Gaga " to be the poorest received episode received media attention . The episode also received a highly negative response from the podcast Worst Episode Ever . As of July 2016 , " Lisa Goes Gaga " was the fifth lowest rated episode of the 82 reviewed for the show . The AV Club 's user @-@ determined Community Grade for the episode is C- .