

= Homer the Moe =

" Homer the Moe " is the third episode of The Simpsons ? thirteenth season . The episode first aired on the Fox Network on November 18 , 2001 . In the episode , Moe , following advice of his former bartending professor , decides to modernize his bar . The bar 's new image attracts several customers , but leaves Moe 's four regular customers , Homer , Lenny , Carl , and Barney , feeling alienated , which in turn prompts Homer to open his own private bar , disguising it as a hunting club to avoid liquor license restrictions .

The episode was directed by Jen Kamerman and was the first episode Dana Gould wrote for The Simpsons . Gould based the part about Homer 's bar on his own father , who opened a hunting club in order to sell alcohol without having to acquire a liquor license . The episode featured the musical group R.E.M. , who appeared as themselves . It received mixed reviews from critics following the thirteenth season 's release on DVD and Blu @-@ Ray .

= = Plot = =

After Homer tells a story about Bart digging a hole in the backyard for no apparent reason other than to make it deeper and bigger , Moe complains about the monotony at his tavern . Recalling his days at Swigmore University , he decides to return there for some inspiration , and leaves Homer in temporary charge of the bar . At the university , Moe finds his old professor , who is dying . After advising Moe to modernize his bar , the professor drowns himself in the campus lake . Soon , the tavern is renovated by Formico , the self proclaimed " Dean of Design " , into a swanky nightclub renamed " M " and with a post @-@ modern decor .

Homer and his bar @-@ buddies Lenny , Carl and Barney find that they do not fit in with the new , affluent crowd , and miss their old tavern experience . Homer decides to convert his garage into a new tavern for himself and his friends . Meanwhile , Moe realizes that he does not fit in with his new clientele either , and leaves to find Homer . Arriving at the Simpsons ? home , he finds that the new garage bar has quickly become quite popular , and even has the alternative rock band R.E.M. playing . When confronted by Moe with the fact that it is illegal to operate a bar in a private residence , Homer claims that it is in fact a hunting club , citing a law book that states that a hunting club may provide refreshing beverages . Moe consults the book and determines that the club must engage in the sport of hunting . Homer decides that he will hunt for a turkey for Thanksgiving dinner , and Lisa exclaims , " Hunting ? Dad , no ! " .

Homer sets out the next day to find a turkey ( though he exclaims " What the hell is that ? " upon seeing one ) but Lisa and Moe scare off his quarry , using a whistle that sounds like a cougar . However , Homer mistakes the whistle for an actual cougar , and shoots Moe in the leg ( and faints into a bear trap upon being informed of this by Lisa ) . After Homer apologizes , he , along with Moe , R.E.M. and the rest of the Simpson family return to Moe ? s tavern , reverted to its original decor , for a Thanksgiving meal of a turkey , made " entirely of tofu and gluten " and provided by Michael Stipe , who is an environmentalist .

= = Production = =

Jen Kamerman directed " Homer the Moe " , which was the first episode Dana Gould wrote for the show . It was first broadcast on Fox in the United States on November 18 , 2001 , four days before Thanksgiving .

In the DVD commentary for the episode , Gould says that , when the team were thinking of a way to start the show , George Meyer said , " I like how kids will just dig a hole " . Homer 's story ends with a Chinese satellite spying on Bart. This was an attempt by Gould to write a bizarre joke in the style of fellow Simpsons writer John Swartzwelder . Moe 's plot in the second act was also created by Meyer , who suggested that the bartending school that Moe attended would resemble the law school on the 1970s television series The Paper Chase , and that the school 's professor would be based on the professor from the earlier series .

Gould remembered how his father opened a hunting club and could sell alcohol without having to obtain a liquor @-@ license . This inspired the idea of Homer 's club . Also , the " crossed @-@ fishing @-@ pole @-@ and @-@ rifle " insignia that can be seen in Homer 's garage is the same insignia that Gould 's father uses for his hunting club . Homer 's bar was originally the center of the episode , but became the third act when the writers came up with the renovation of Moe 's bar and made it the main storyline .

Alternative rock band R.E.M. guest @-@ starred as themselves in the episode . " We had been told that R.E.M. were big fans of the show " , says executive producer and showrunner for the episode , Mike Scully , adding that their appearance in the episode was a " fairly last @-@ minute addition " . Unlike The Who , who made an appearance in the episode " A Tale of Two Springfields " , R.E.M. did not want their former drummer Bill Berry to be animated in the episode . The drummer seen in the episode was instead drawn to resemble one of their session drummers at the time . Moe 's professor at Swigmore University was voiced by the series ' regular voice actor Dan Castellaneta , the voice of Homer among many others . Formico , who renovated Moe 's tavern , was portrayed by Hank Azaria , who also voices Moe as well as several other characters in the show .

= = Cultural references = =

Swigmore University , which Moe attends in the episode , is a parody of Skidmore College . The professor working at Swigmore University is based on Professor Charles W. Kingsfield , Jr. from the television series The Paper Chase . Moe 's new bar M is a parody on the luxury boutique hotel W in New York that Gould had visited once . The monitors showing eyeballs are based on similar decorations found in the elevators in the St Martin 's Lane hotel , where the Simpsons ' staff hosted a Simpsons festival . The doorman in front of M was modeled after special effects creator and actor Greg Nicotero . The dance that Homer , Carl and Lenny perform in Moe 's bar is a takeoff on the dancing in the comedy / drama film Coyote Ugly , in which the dancers performed on the bar counter , much like Homer , Carl and Lenny do in the episode .

= = Release = =

In its original American broadcast on November 18 , 2001 , " Homer the Moe " was watched by 14 @.@ 5 million viewers , according to Nielsen Media Research , making it the most watched television show of its timeslot that night . The episode received a 7 @.@ 1 rating / 17 share among adult viewers between ages 18 and 49 , meaning it was seen by 7 @.@ 1 % of the population between ages 18 and 49 , and 17 % of people in this demographic watching television at the time of its broadcast . On September 14 , 2004 , " Homer the Moe " was released , along with the episodes " Homer 's Night Out " , " The Mansion Family " and " Sunday , Cruddy Sunday " on a DVD set entitled The Simpsons ? Gone Wild . The episode was later included in The Simpsons : The Thirteenth Season DVD and Blu @-@ Ray set , released August 24 , 2010 .

Giving the episode a rating of C ? , Jennifer Malkowski of DVD Verdict described the episode as a " tepid remix of previous Simpsons plots " . Ron Martin of 411Mania called the plot " unimaginative " and wrote " I suppose there ? s only enough episodes you can go through before Moe ? s has to modernize in the most hideous way " . IGN reviewer R.L. Shaffer wrote that " Homer the Moe " , " The Frying Game " , " The Old Man and the Key " , and " Sweets and Sour Marge " were some of the worst episodes of the whole series . However , Colin Jacobsson of DVD Movie Guide wrote that , even though the episode was too similar to the third season episode " Flaming Moe 's " , the episode " works reasonably well " . He gave the episode a favorable review overall , calling it " one of the year 's best episodes " . Adam Rayner of Obsessed With Film wrote that the story was " told very well and continued to show the strength of the character of ? Moe ? , who would go on to be one of the only genuinely funny characters in the following barren years for the show " . Casey Broadwater of Blu @-@ ray.com described the episode as one of the best of the season , and Aaron Peck of High @-@ Def Digest stated that the episode was one of his personal favorites .

In 2007 , Simon Crerar of The Times listed R.E.M 's performance as one of the thirty @-@ three

funniest cameos in the history of the show . Andrew Martin of Prefix Mag named R.E.M. his tenth favorite musical guests on The Simpsons out of a list of ten in 2011 .