

= Bad Timing (Adventure Time) =

" Bad Timing " is the forty @-@ ninth episode from the fifth season of Adventure Time , an animated television series . It was written by Pendleton Ward , who created the show , and Kent Osborne , its head of story . In the episode , Lumpy Space Princess falls in love with a former mate (Mark Proksch) from secondary school . When she suspects she has lost her date to Princess Bubblegum , she attempts to wield time travel to win back his affections .

Visually unique to this episode , it comprises two frames : a circular inner frame holds the main story , while the outer margins carry small creatures . The writers likened the story to revisiting a former high school peer who was , at the time , unnoticeable . Originally aired on 3 March 2014 , this broadcast was seen by more than one million viewers . Writers of entertainment @-@ related publications praised the episode for its depth of mood and visuals . The New Yorker critic Emily Nussbaum , in particular , saw it as establishing Lumpy 's intricacy as a character , and Eric Kohn in IndieWire called the episode the pièce de résistance of the show .

= = Background = =

Adventure Time follows the adventures of principal characters Finn the Human , aged 16 , and Jake the Dog . Recurring characters featured in " Bad Timing " include Princess Bubblegum and Lumpy Space Princess . As she governs her kingdom of candy people , Bubblegum works as a scientist on varying experiments . Meanwhile , Lumpy (Pendleton Ward) , portrayed as a valley girl , is the source of drama due to her arrogant personality and shallow relationships with others .

= = Plot = =

Princess Bubblegum demonstrates to company a device capable of time travel . Lumpy Space Princess comes in and demands Bubblegum transport Lumpy back to when she and her ex were still in love . Bubblegum explains that the machine is only capable of logging molecules of a given entity . Lumpy attacks her , and Bubblegum forces her to leave .

Lamenting at a bar , she meets Johnnie (Mark Proksch) , a former mate at their secondary school . Johnnie confesses his anxiety regarding a scheduled interview with Bubblegum for a business venture . Lumpy advises that he fix his posture as to appear more confident . Johnnie thanks Lumpy for her advice and invites her to his complex . There , the two fall in love and share good nights . When Lumpy finds Johnnie absent in the morning , she suspects that he , like her ex , has abandoned her . Much to her relief , she finds him cooking breakfast in his kitchen . When he returns from the interview , he reveals he has been invited to a separate meeting with Bubblegum at her castle . Lumpy asks that she appear with him , but Johnnie says the meeting is private . Supposing Bubblegum has stolen his heart , Lumpy leaves in a fit of rage .

Delivering a monologue on the passion necessary for love , Lumpy hurls a Molotov cocktail at the castle . Bubblegum considers its impact an attack on her kingdom and tells Johnnie to hide at the foot of their desk . When Lumpy finds Johnnie , she uses the device on him , attempting to revert him to when he loved her . Johnnie disappears ; when Bubblegum figures out what has happened , she informs Lumpy that by failing to log his molecules , he no longer exists as part of their universe . To avoid having to grieve , Lumpy asks Bubblegum to use the device , properly , on her . Erased of her memory past her attacking Bubblegum , Lumpy storms out . Bubblegum pours herself a drink .

= = Production = =

This episode is the forty @-@ ninth from the fifth season of Adventure Time . Visually , the episode is framed having the important events of the story occur in its center , bordered circularly . Small polygonal creatures appear in the margins of the outer frame . Film and television critic Eric Kohn , in IndieWire , dubbed the inner frame a time bubble , absorbing the creatures Bubblegum experiments on with the time travel device . Following Lumpy having her memory erased in the

episode , Johnnie appears in the outer frame .

" Bad Timing " was written by Pendleton Ward and Kent Osborne . They previously collaborated with Jack Pendarvis and Adam Muto to come up with the idea for the episode , with the former duo adapting that to a storyboard . The creator of Adventure Time , Ward resigned from his occupation as its runner during production of the season . Osborne is the head of story . Alluding to the episode , for Hulu , Muto and Osborne summarized it as Lumpy confounding the concept of time travel . The writers related the episode to " one of those situations where you run into someone from high school and you 're like , ' Woah , why didn 't I ever notice you before ? ' " Alluded to in this episode , the one it precedes involves time travel as well .

= = Release and reception = =

Cartoon Network originally aired " Bad Timing " on 3 March 2014 . Over a million and a half people saw the episode live on broadcast . Television critic Emily Nussbaum gave this episode praise in The New Yorker , comparing it to a fairy tale characterized by laughter and sorrow . Kohn called its mood happy yet miserable the same , evoking more emotions as a whole than even the preceding episode . The A.V. Club writer Oliver Sava gave it an A grade , finding it , like Kohn , emotionally intense . Kohn praised the episode for supplying Lumpy , a usually arrogant character , with a tragic circumstance . Sava saw the character as more explored that way . Nussbaum , who considered the episode proof of her intricacy as a character , wrote that Lumpy appropriately shows pathos .

Sava specifically lauded the monologue delivered by Lumpy for showing her consistent strength that makes her so admirable . He further praised how the episode was capable of condensing mature topics for children the show is aimed at in a humorous way . Kohn opined the episode helms the " waters of eroticism " responsibly . In the Adventure Time ? dedicated podcast Conversation Parade , hosted by John Moe and Open Mike Eagle , Moe found Johnnie written so " incredibly complicated , whimsy , and sad " that he performed ? with the direction of guest Osborne ? some of his lines on the podcast .

Kohn regarded its visuals as the pinnacle of the show . Sava wrote that the notion of time being a flat circle could have inspired the circular shape of the inner frame . He noted the use of color beyond the circle as a way to convey the many emotions evoked for the whole of the episode . Ignoring this device , Sava saw its use as humorous diversions while it contributed to the splendor . Nussbaum described the creatures appearing in the outer frame as annotative and a mute chorus , suggesting they live in a parallel universe of both connection and isolation . The episode was later released on DVD twice , first in the year of that broadcast , as part of the Princess Day box set , and later in 2015 , as part of a box set for the complete fifth season . Home video critic Justin Remer called " Bad Timing " " surprisingly devastating " in DVD Talk . Kohn summed up the episode 's climax as the pièce de résistance of Adventure Time .