

= Itchy & Scratchy : The Movie =

" Itchy & Scratchy : The Movie " is the sixth episode of The Simpsons ' fourth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on November 3 , 1992 . The plot follows Bart continually getting in trouble , and how Homer is unable to give him any suitable punishment . Marge gets Homer to agree to make a punishment stick , and he forbids Bart to see the new Itchy & Scratchy movie , a punishment that Homer takes very seriously . It was written by John Swartzwelder and was directed by Rich Moore .

= = Plot = =

Marge and Homer attend a parent @-@ teacher night at Springfield Elementary School . Although Ms. Hoover tells Homer that Lisa is doing well , Ms. Krabappel tells Marge that Bart is continually causing trouble . Urging Homer and Marge to enforce stronger discipline on Bart with the idea that he could grow up to become a Supreme Court Justice if he turns his life around , the two return home to find that Bart stole and broke Grampa 's false teeth . Therefore , Bart is sent up to his room without dinner as punishment , but Homer sneaks up and brings him some pizza , making Bart promise to behave . However , Bart continues to get in trouble and Homer 's attempts to discipline him fail . Eventually he promises Marge to make the next punishment stick .

It is announced that there will be an Itchy & Scratchy Movie and in anticipation , Bart buys himself a ticket . Later on , Bart is left to babysit Maggie and he neglects to watch her as he is distracted by the history of Itchy & Scratchy , leaving her to take Homer 's car for a joyride and crash into the wall of Springfield Prison , releasing the prisoners . Therefore , Homer angrily blames Bart and punishes him by banning him from ever seeing The Itchy & Scratchy Movie . He tears up Bart 's ticket to prove that he means business . Bart begs to be given another punishment , but Homer refuses . After the film 's release , Bart becomes angry and sad that he is the only kid in Springfield who has not seen it . Two months later , the film is still being shown in theaters as Marge and Lisa beg Homer to change his mind , with Marge claiming Bart has been punished enough . However , Homer still denies this and makes the punishment stick . Bart attempts to secretly watch the film by paying for a ticket , but finds out that Homer went to the theater and requested that the employees there not sell a ticket to him . Eventually , the film is removed from theaters and Bart tells Homer he won , to which Homer replies by saying they both won because by using his punishment Bart is in no doubt headed for a better life .

40 years later , Bart , now Chief Justice of the United States , and Homer , a senior citizen , walk down the street and discover the film is back in the local theater as a classic re @-@ release . Homer decides that Bart has learned his lesson and the two watch the movie happily together .

= = Production = =

This episode , like many other Itchy & Scratchy themed episodes , was written by John Swartzwelder , although the plot was originally pitched by Sam Simon . During the table read of the script , the first act received many laughs , but the second act got little positive reaction , leading Al Jean to believe that the script would require a huge rewrite , although the third act also received a positive reaction . For The Itchy & Scratchy Movie shown at the end of the episode , Mike Reiss felt that it should top all other Itchy & Scratchy cartoons in terms of violence , and John Swartzwelder wrote the " most disturbing , horrible sequence " , none of which was used .

This was the first episode that Rich Moore directed at Film Roman . The shot of the Korean animation studio angered the Korean animators at Rough Draft Korea ; Gregg Vanzo , the overseas director , felt insulted and nearly sent the scene back . While drawing the Steamboat Itchy sequence , the animators jokingly referred to it as " Steamboat Lawsuit " . David Silverman explained that he did not know " why [they] weren 't sued because there 's a shot right out of Steamboat Willie in [the episode] . "

The episode features the first appearance of Bumblebee Man , who is a caricature of " El Chapulín

Colorado " (" The Red Grasshopper ") , a character created and portrayed by Mexican television comedian Roberto Gómez Bolaños .

= = Cultural references = =

The opening Star Trek film is a parody of how old the crew of the original Star Trek cast looked in the later movies . The 1928 Itchy & Scratchy short " Steamboat Itchy " is a spoof of the 1928 Disney short , Steamboat Willie , featuring Mickey Mouse . Lisa 's line about Michael Jackson and Dustin Hoffman appearing pseudonymously in The Itchy & Scratchy Movie is a reference to the fact that both had made guest appearances on The Simpsons using fake names in " Stark Raving Dad " and " Lisa 's Substitute " respectively . Homer is seen listening to " Yummy Yummy Yummy " by The Ohio Express instead of watching the moon landing . In the flashforward sequence , a man is purchasing " soylent green " in the lobby of the movie theater , a reference to the 1973 science fiction film Soylent Green . A ship resembling a landspeeder from the Star Wars film series is also shown .

= = Reception = =

During the fourth season , The Simpsons usually aired on a Thursday , but " Itchy & Scratchy : The Movie " aired on a Tuesday because the executives at Fox had wanted to air an episode during the 1992 presidential election results because they felt it would mean increased ratings . Instead , the episode dropped from its normal audience . " Itchy & Scratchy : The Movie " finished 25th in ratings for the week of November 2 ? 8 , 1992 , with a Nielsen rating of 12 @. @ 5 , equivalent to approximately 11 @. @ 6 million viewing households . It was the third highest @- @ rated show on the Fox network that week , following The Simpsons episode " Marge Gets a Job " , which aired in the same week on the usual Thursday , and Beverly Hills , 90210 . In the Spring of 2002 , the episode was released in the United Kingdom on a DVD collection titled The Simpsons Film Festival , along with the season eleven episode " Beyond Blunderdome " , the season seven episode " 22 Short Films About Springfield " , and the season six episode " A Star Is Burns " .

Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , the authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide called it a " superb episode " , especially " [Homer] ' s suggestion for punishing Bart 's misbehaviour is to give him a present , and his trick for avoiding jury duty is ' to say you 're prejudiced against all races . ' " " Steamboat Itchy " is one of Matt Groening 's favorite moments in the history of the show . Nathan Ditum of Total Film ranked " Steamboat Itchy " as the show 's 46th best film parody . In 2014 , The Simpsons writers picked " Steamboat Itchy " from this episode as one of their nine favorite " Itchy & Stratchy " episodes of all time .