

= The Fight (Parks and Recreation) =

" The Fight " is the thirteenth episode of the third season of the American comedy television series Parks and Recreation , and the 43rd overall episode of the series . It originally aired on NBC in the United States on May 12 , 2011 . In the episode , the parks department employees become very drunk during a bar outing , where Leslie and Ann have their first major fight . Meanwhile , Chris tells Tom he must sell his share in the bar due to a conflict with his government job . According to Nielsen Media Research , " The Fight " was seen by an estimated 4 @. @ 55 million household viewers , a drop from the previous original episode , " Eagleton " .

= = Plot = =

Chris (Rob Lowe) has fired Denis Cooper , the former health department public relations director , who hung posters around city hall to publicly condemn his adulterous wife . Leslie (Amy Poehler) suggests Ann (Rashida Jones) replace him , mainly because they can spend more time together , since Ann has been so busy dating numerous men . Although reluctant to leave her job as a nurse , Ann agrees to attend the job interview , and Leslie provides her with an overwhelming amount of reading material to prepare for it . Meanwhile , Tom (Aziz Ansari) encourages the parks department to attend the Snakehole Lounge , a nightclub he partially owns with his friend Jean @-@ Ralphio Saperstein (Ben Schwartz) , for the unveiling of his new alcoholic beverage , Snake Juice . Tom also encourages them to spread the word about the drink through word of mouth guerilla marketing . April (Aubrey Plaza) shows little interest in attending , until Andy (Chris Pratt) suggests they make a game of it by role @-@ playing as different people at the bar . April pretends to be Janet Snakehole , an aristocratic widow with a dark secret , while Andy poses as his frequent alter @-@ ego , FBI agent Burt Macklin .

That night , at the Snakehole Lounge , Leslie is surprised and annoyed to find Ann partying on the dance floor instead of preparing for the job interview . Ann introduces Leslie to her latest boyfriend , local radio host " The Douche " (Nick Kroll) . As Leslie and Ann become increasingly drunk from Snake Juice , Leslie insults Ann 's current dating lifestyle . This prompts Ann to insult Leslie for moving too slow with Ben (Adam Scott) , whom Leslie is attracted to . The fight escalates throughout the night , and Leslie ultimately claims she always has to keep Ann motivated or she would not go anywhere . Both declare it best that Ann not work with Leslie after all and they storm off . Meanwhile , the Snake Juice proves delicious and popular with the rest of the parks department employees , all of whom become extremely drunk , with the exception of Donna (Retta) who is the only one not drinking , claiming it 's " basically rat poison " . Chris arrives to warn Tom that using government employees to promote his own personal ventures is a breach of ethics . He tells a disappointed Tom that he must sell his shares of the Snakehole Lounge if he wants to keep his job .

The next morning , everyone who drank Snake Juice is extremely hungover (except Ron (Nick Offerman)) , and Leslie deeply regrets how she treated Ann . Ben visits Ann at her home and asks her to forgive Leslie . Ann , who also regrets the fight , is touched by Ben 's gesture and reveals that Leslie likes him . Ann decides to attend the job interview , during which she and Leslie apologize to each other . After a second interview with Chris , Ann is given the job in a part @-@ time basis , which also would allow her to continue her work as a nurse . Tom reluctantly decides to sell his Snakehole Lounge shares . Tom sells his shares the next morning to Jean @-@ Ralphio , while Donna tries to comfort Tom , causing him to ask why Chris did not make her sell her shares , to which she replies that Chris does not know that she owns shares . She then tells Jean @-@ Ralphio that " [s] nitches get stiches . " Ron attempts to convince Chris to let him keep the shares , and defends Tom 's efforts to branch out by claiming the move was not unethical , but Chris is not persuaded . Instead , Ron comforts Tom by building him a special case to hold a bottle of Snake Juice . At the same time , April tries to reprise her role of Janet Snakehole and have Andy reprise Burt Macklin , but a hungover Andy says that " ... Burt Macklin died last night after the 10th shot of Snake Juice . " However , after seeing a sad April walk away , Andy creates himself a new role : Kip Hackman , Burt Macklin 's brother and chases after Janet , although he vomits as this happens .

= = Production = =

" The Fight " was directed by Randall Einhorn and written by Parks and Recreation star Amy Poehler , the second script she penned for the series after " Telethon " in the second season . Filmed in December 2010 , " The Fight " was originally broadcast on May 12 , 2011 , and ran back @-@ to @-@ back with the episode " Road Trip " , which aired immediately afterward . The two are stand @-@ alone episodes that were not originally designed to be shown together . However , because the third season premiered late as a mid @-@ season replacement in January , the two episodes aired together so the series ' season would conclude at the end of the television season . The filming of " The Fight " involved a particularly large amount of improvisation among the actors , a common technique among Parks and Recreation episodes . Each actor spent about two days on their own filming their Snakehole Lounge scenes , which included the shots used in a montage sequence that showed how drunk each character had become by the end of the night . Poehler described the filming as " the most fun I 've ever had " .

Although Ann Perkins was initially conceived as a character outside of city hall who became involved with Leslie and her political world , series co @-@ creator Michael Schur said he believed it made sense that she would take a city hall job because " we just decided that Leslie ' s pull would be strong enough to get her to make a move , career @-@ wise " . Schur also said it would make it easier for the character to become involved in stories with the others . " The Fight " featured several appearances by actors who had appeared in previous Parks and Recreation episodes , including Ben Schwartz as Tom 's friend Jean @-@ Ralphio , who helps him promote Snake Juice throughout the night . Andy Forrest appeared as Andy 's shoeshine customer Kyle , who is often insulted and mocked by Andy and the other characters during his shoeshines . Nick Kroll also appeared as " The Douche " , the host of the Pawnee morning zoo @-@ style radio show " Crazy Ira and The Douche " , which was previously featured in the episode " Media Blitz " .

During one scene , Ron says , " I won 't publicly endorse a product unless I use it exclusively and I really believe in it . My only official recommendations are US Army issued mustache trimmers , Morton 's Salt , and the C.R. Lawrence fine two inch style oscillating knife blade . " That line was written by Schur , and the scene used in the episode was Nick Offerman 's first take , with no mistakes made with the complicated dialogue . Immediately after " The Fight " first aired , a " Producer 's Cut " version was made available on the official NBC.com website . It included an additional four minutes of material , that include a previously @-@ unaired cold open in which Ron sternly demands to know which employee has broken the parks department 's coffee machine ; this prompts a fight as the staff make accusations against each other . Ron secretly reveals to the camera that he broke the machine himself , but questioned the other employees anyway to deliberately start the arguments .

= = Cultural references = =

Before the credits , Ron mockingly refers to a pig 's head on a stick , a reference to the novel Lord of the Flies .

While providing Ann with reading material to prepare for her job interview , Leslie also gives her a copy of the 2010 Jonathan Franzen novel Freedom , claiming she wants to discuss the protagonist Patty Berglund with her . While drunk at the Snakehole Lounge , Ben says the words " baba booeey " and starts laughing . The phrase is a nickname for Gary Dell 'Abate , a radio producer with The Howard Stern Show , and became a common catchphrase among Howard Stern fans .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original American broadcast , " The Fight " was seen by an estimated 4 @. @ 55 million household viewers , according to Nielsen Media Research , with a 2 @. @ 4 rating / 6 share among viewers between ages 18 and 49 . A rating point represents one percent of the total number of television sets in American households , and a share means the percentage of television sets in use tuned to the program . " Road Trip " , which aired immediately after " The Fight " , was seen by an estimated 3 @. @ 54 million households . Both ratings constituted a drop over the previous episode , " Eagleton " , which was seen by an estimated 5 @. @ 06 million household viewers . In its 9 : 30 p.m. timeslot , " The Fight " was outperformed by the CBS forensic crime series CSI : Crime Scene Investigation , which was seen by 11 @. @ 77 million households ; the Fox crime drama series Bones , which was seen by 10 @. @ 48 million household viewers ; and the ABC medical drama series Grey 's Anatomy , which was seen by 9 @. @ 63 million household viewers . Parks and Recreation outperformed an episode of the CW Television Network drama series Nikita , which was seen by 1 @. @ 94 million households .

= = = Reviews = = =

" The Fight " received generally positive reviews , and several commentators noted that Ann 's new part @- @ time job at city hall provides a good explanation for why she is always spending time around the parks department despite working at the hospital . The scenes at the Snakehole Lounge were also praised as particularly funny , especially a shot where Ron Swanson dances drunkenly while wearing April 's small woman 's hat . Alan Sepinwall of HitFix said the episode was a good character study of the relationship between Leslie and Ann , and that the bar scenes " gave the whole episode a chaotic yet welcoming feel , like it was the show 's drunken greatest hits " . Entertainment Weekly writer Hillary Busis said she loved the episode and called the Snakehole Lounge scenes a " tour @- @ de @- @ force " that highlighted the comedic skills of the entire cast . Eric Sundermann of Hollywood.com enjoyed the silliness of the episode , and claimed that the characters are so well @- @ developed and likable that watching the Snakehole Lounge scenes felt like hanging out with real @- @ life friends at a bar . Steve Heisler of The A.V. Club called it a " stellar " episode that was " loose , silly , rich with details and heart " . He praised the fast pace and comedic timing of the jokes , and wrote , " it felt like the director was having as much fun as possible in ' The Fight . ' " Scott Meslow of The Atlantic called " The Fight " a very funny episode which offers a " great solution " to why Ann Perkins spends so much time in city hall , which he called one of the show 's " last nagging questions " .

Joel Keller of TV Squad said the cast did a good job of playing drunk without being overly exaggerated . He also believed Ann 's part @- @ time job was a good way to integrate her into the case , as she had " seemed adrift this season " . Zap2it writer Rick Porter felt the episode was " a little light on plot " but included many funny scenes , particularly Andy and April 's role @- @ playing , and Ron 's chipper attitude the morning after the bar visit , while everyone else remained hungover . Porter also praised Rashida Jones 's performance during her hangover scenes . Matt Fowler of IGN said he enjoyed Tom 's efforts to " become a high @- @ roller this season " , and said Andy and April were fantastic during their role @- @ playing scenes . Fowler also described Ron 's defense of Tom 's actions as " heart @- @ warming " . He gave the episode a 9 out of 10 . Nick McHatton of TV Fanatic said he believed Ann 's new part @- @ time job would help better integrate her into the cast . McHatton said the sweet scenes between Leslie and Ben are " quickly becoming my favorite scenes in the series " , and said a shot of Ron dancing while drunk at the Snakehole Lounge was " easily one of the funniest things he ? s done yet " .