

= Sexual Healing (South Park) =

" Sexual Healing " is the fourteenth season premiere of the American animated television series South Park , and the 196th overall episode of the series . It originally aired on Comedy Central in the United States on March 17 , 2010 , and on Comedy Central UK on March 19 , 2010 . The title of the episode is derived from the song of the same name by soul singer Marvin Gaye . In the episode , the sex scandal of golf pro Tiger Woods has the media and public frantic to determine why rich and successful men would suddenly crave sex with multiple partners . Meanwhile , schools are screened for the condition and Kyle , Kenny and Butters are diagnosed with sexual addiction .

The episode was written and directed by series co @-@ creator Trey Parker , and was rated TV @-@ MA L in the United States . " Sexual Healing " parodies several elements of the Woods scandal , including alleged fights with his wife Elin Nordegren , which are portrayed as part of a new Tiger Woods PGA Tour video game played by Cartman , Stan , and Kenny . In addition to mocking Woods himself , the script parodied the large amount of media attention surrounding the scandal , and suggested because it is natural for men to crave sex , Woods 's actions can be understood , although not condoned .

Cartoon parodies of several celebrities who have experienced real @-@ life sexual scandals were featured in the episode , including Bill Clinton , David Letterman , Charlie Sheen , David Duchovny and Ben Roethlisberger . The treatment these celebrities received is portrayed as ineffective and ridiculous , suggesting celebrities should not have to undergo insincere acts of public apology for their sexual transgressions . " Sexual Healing " received generally mixed reviews from critics .

According to Nielsen Media Research , " Sexual Healing " was seen by 3 @.@ 7 million households , making it the most watched South Park premiere since " Rainforest Shmainforest " in 1999 , and helping make March 17 the most @-@ watched night of the year for Comedy Central to that point . Shortly after the episode aired , Internet rumors spread that EA Sports planned to sue South Park creators Parker and Matt Stone over their portrayal in the episode . EA Sports specifically denied the claims .

= = Plot = =

The new edition of the Tiger Woods PGA Tour series of video games incorporates elements of the alleged physical altercations Woods had with his wife regarding his extramarital affairs , and resembles a fighting game more than a golf simulation . Cartman , Stan , Kyle and Kenny become big fans of the game . Meanwhile , scientists at the Center for Disease Control determine that sex addiction is a disease reaching epidemic proportions . They decide to screen schoolchildren for the disease , and Kenny , Kyle , and Butters are diagnosed as sex addicts . Kenny is killed after attempting autoerotic asphyxiation while in a Batman suit , while Kyle and Butters are sent to attend a therapy session for sex addicts consisting of Michael Douglas , Michael Jordan , Ben Roethlisberger , David Duchovny , Charlie Sheen , David Letterman , Bill Clinton , Billy Bob Thornton , Kobe Bryant , Eliot Spitzer , and Tiger Woods .

When performing an experiment on chimpanzees , the CDC determines that money is somehow responsible for infecting males with sexual addiction . Because an image of Independence Hall appears on the back of a \$ 100 bill , they believe the origins of the disorder can somehow be traced there . They submit their findings to President Barack Obama , who believes that a virus for sex addiction had previously been brought to Earth by extraterrestrials . He accompanies a SWAT team on their raid on Independence Hall in search of the " wizard alien " that is responsible for the sex addiction epidemic . When one member of the team suggests that the mission is irrational and that sex addiction is simply an inherent part of the male ego , he is ordered by Obama to be hauled away .

Because Kyle also feels sex addiction is not a disease , but rather a natural male desire that can be kept under control with the proper discipline , others suggest he is somehow immune from the " spell " of the wizard alien . He is brought to Independence Hall along with Butters and both are given rifles by the SWAT team . The hauled @-@ off SWAT member , gagged and bound in an alien wizard

costume , stumbles into the room . On orders from the SWAT team , Kyle and Butters shoot the costumed officer dead and the " spell " is suddenly lifted . Woods announces he is cured of his sex addiction , and the next incarnation of his video game once again focuses on golf . Cartman and Stan reject the new game , with Stan proclaiming that " golf is stupid again . "

= = Production and themes = =

" Sexual Healing " , the South Park fourteenth season premiere , was written and directed by series co @-@ founder Trey Parker , and was rated TV @-@ MA L in the United States . It originally aired on Comedy Central in the United States on March 17 , 2010 , and in the United Kingdom on March 19 . A teaser clip of the episode called " All the Temptations " featuring a parody of Woods 's February 2010 televised public apology was featured on the official South Park website , South Park Studios , and drew 62 @, @ 000 viewers on the first day . Before the episode aired , several news outlets incorrectly reported the episode 's title was " All the Temptations " due to the clip .

The episode satirized the sex scandal surrounding golf pro Tiger Woods , who had admitted to cheating on his wife Elin Nordegren with multiple partners . The Woods scandal had been one of the biggest media stories in the months since South Park 's thirteenth season ended in November 2009 . Series co @-@ creator Matt Stone said the scandal provided so much material for satire that an entire season could have been dedicated to it , and the media storm surrounding Woods meant they had even less to worry about the delicacy of their parody . Stone said he was simultaneously fascinated and disgusted by Woods 's public apology , so the writers were sure to include it in the episode . The script to " Sexual Healing " was not finished until after March 12 , five days before the episode aired . This was in keeping with a continued practice from previous South Park seasons , in which Parker and Stone write and produce their episodes within the week before their broadcast dates in order to harness energy for the final product and keep the material fresh . In an early image of the episode released to the press , Woods is seen at his apology press conference , with Cartman standing beside him . During the production of the episode , the writers decided to incorporate the Tiger Woods scenes as part of the video game that the boys , including Cartman , are playing .

" Sexual Healing " parodied several real @-@ life elements of the scandal , including Nordegren 's discovery of Woods 's infidelity by reading text messages on his cellular phone , and Woods 's loss of commercial endorsements as a result of his infidelity . The episode also parodies the alleged fight that was reported between Woods and Nordegren on Thanksgiving in which Nordegren attacked Woods 's car with a golf club and caused him to crash into a fire hydrant . " Sexual Healing " also included a version of the public apology Woods delivered on February 2010 , which was closely covered and examined by the mainstream media . The episode aired only a few days after Woods publicly announced he would return to golf at the 2010 Masters Tournament in April .

The shock and confusion with which the male characters in " Sexual Healing " react to the Woods scandal , and the extreme measures they undertake to learn why rich and successful men crave sex , served as a parody to the wide media attention and analysis the scandal received . The episode puts forward a pragmatic explanation that it is natural for men to crave sex , so although Woods 's actions cannot be condoned , they can at least be understood for what they are . This point of view particularly conveyed in the speech of one SWAT team member near the end of the episode , who is ostracized , imprisoned and unknowingly shot to death by Kyle and Butters after expressing his common sense views . The episode suggests men of normal financial means would likely be tempted by infidelity and sexual affairs if they had enough fame and money to obtain them easily .

" Sexual Healing " suggests celebrities involved in sexual scandals should not be forced to undergo rehabilitation and public acts of contrition . The scene in which the celebrities start shaking and dancing , proclaiming " Look , the sex addiction is leaving my body ! " , demonstrates the insincerity and ridiculousness of these public steps . The episode also mocked the measures used to diagnose and treat sexual addiction in the United States . This is particularly prevalent when Kenny , Kyle and Butters are misdiagnosed with sexual addiction based on an inaccurate test of simply presenting an image of a naked woman to them and testing whether they could identify a handkerchief in the

woman 's hand and specify its color . The rehabilitation courses themselves are also mocked as ineffective and unnecessary , particularly because the most important lesson taught in them is how to avoid getting caught .

= = Current affairs references = =

Several celebrities who had experienced well publicized sexual scandals or affairs were featured in a sexual addiction rehabilitation class " Sexual Healing " . Among them were former U.S. President Bill Clinton , night talk show host David Letterman , NFL quarterback Ben Roethlisberger , former New York governor Eliot Spitzer , basketball players Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant , and actors Charlie Sheen , David Duchovny , Michael Douglas and Billy Bob Thornton . While discussing how to avoid getting caught , Roethlisberger says , " Don 't screw girls in the public bathrooms " , a reference to his March 2010 sex scandal in Milledgeville , Georgia . Clinton suggests not putting cigars into any woman 's vagina , a reference to his alleged sexual act with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky during the Lewinsky scandal . David Letterman says , " When they ask you for money , pay them " , a reference to the October 2009 scandal in which CBS producer Joe Halderman attempted to blackmail Letterman with information about his sexual affairs .

When a doctor explains auto @-@ erotic asphyxiation to Kenny , Kyle and Butters , he refers to the deaths of actor David Carradine and INXS singer Michael Hutchence . Michael Hutchence is referred to a second time later in the episode at Kenny 's funeral where Butters exclaims " There ! It was like that " , a reference to serial pest Peter Hore 's interrupting of Hutchence 's funeral . After it is explained to Kenny that auto @-@ erotic asphyxiation often involves wearing a costume of some type , he dons a costume of Batman , the DC Comics fictional superhero , and subsequently dies in the outfit . The title of the episode is derived from the song of the same name by soul singer Marvin Gaye . A version of the song , sung by series co @-@ creator Trey Parker , is featured at the end of the episode , when the celebrities claim the sexual addiction has left their bodies . The angry and violent confrontations between Woods and Nordegren are portrayed not as reality within the episode , but as simulated elements of the newest Tiger Woods PGA Tour video game installment by EA Sports . Scientists from the Center for Disease Control , a federal agency under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services , conduct experiments on chimpanzees in " Sexual Healing " to discover why celebrities crave sex with multiple women . The ending where President Obama is addressing a crowd at the United States Capitol is a reference to the ending of Deep Impact .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast on March 17 , 2010 , " Sexual Healing " was watched by 3 @.@ 7 million viewers , according to the Nielsen Media Research , making it the most watched South Park debut since the third season premiere " Rainforest Shmainforest " in 1999 . The day it aired , " Sexual Healing " was the highest @-@ rated show in all of television among men between ages 18 and 34 , and was the highest rated cable show among adults between ages 18 and 49 . March 17 ranked as the most @-@ watched night of the year for Comedy Central . " Sexual Healing " drew a 2 @.@ 6 overall rating , a 2 @.@ 4 rating among adults between ages 18 and 49 , a 5 @.@ 2 rating among men between ages 18 and 34 , and a 6 @.@ 9 rating among men between ages 18 and 24 . " Sexual Healing " aired before the series premiere of the animated comedy series Ugly Americans , which drew 2 @.@ 1 million viewers . The network was also the highest @-@ rated and most @-@ watched overall television network among men between ages 18 and 24 , and the highest @-@ rated and most @-@ watched cable network among adults between ages 18 and 49 and men between ages 18 and 34 .

" Sexual Healing " received generally mixed reviews . Bill Harris of the Toronto Sun praised the timeliness of the episode , which he said has kept South Park relevant throughout its 14 seasons . Harris complimented the episode for addressing the larger issue of how sexual acts among celebrities are dissected and analyzed by the media and public . MTV News praised the Woods

parody , which they said was particularly timely because of the golf pro 's recent announcement to return to golf . It said , " It was on @-@ the @-@ nose while still being clever , which is a balance that the makers of " South Park " have mastered brilliantly . " Bill Brownstein , from the Canwest News Service , called it " an absolutely blistering and timely satire " on Woods and sexual addiction . A CNN review called the Woods satire " brilliant " and a strong improvement over the previous season 's " Dead Celebrities " , which also included several cameos of celebrity parodies . The review also found the ending of the episode , with Stan and Cartman growing bored with their video game once it focused on golf rather than sex scandals and fighting , to be a " pretty hilarious gag " . Ryan Waxon , of The Cowl , said " Sexual Healing " stood out from other Woods jokes and proved Parker and Stone " can do satire like nobody else " . He particularly praised the Woods video game and the subplot with Butters trying to learn about women 's pubic hair , claiming , " Butters ? low intelligence and complete innocence make for some the greatest moments that the show has to offer . "

Entertainment Weekly television reviewer Ken Tucker said the episode was " rather short on laugh @-@ out @-@ loud funniness " , but included several clever ideas , including the Tiger Woods video game , the satire of the media attention to the Woods scandal , and " one of the best Kenny death scenes ever " . Newsweek writer Joshua Alston said the Woods parody " didn 't manage to be terribly funny or insightful " , and suggested the speed at which South Park writers can produce a topical episode just days before its broadcast is actually a detriment to the show . Alston said , " Whereas once the show 's creators swiftly turned around topical episodes because they could , now the South Park team is expected to seize on the news . " Ramsey Isler of IGN found much of the episode 's humor mediocre , in particular the rehabilitation of the celebrities and the CDC studies of the chimpanzees . Isler said he enjoyed Kenny 's death and Butters ' obsession with " bush " , but felt the theme of the episode was too obvious and less clever than previous South Park episodes . The A.V. Club writer Zack Handlen appreciated the timeliness and relevancy of the subject matter , but felt " the satirical target here wasn 't meaty enough to warrant a full episode , and the developing plot just felt too half @-@ assed " . Handlen said some individual jokes were funny , but the episode as a whole was too one @-@ note and redundant . Carlos Delgado of iF Magazine said the Woods scandal was several months old , so the episode felt stale and old news . Delgado felt the alien infection theory was too random and lazy , and the idea that men would cheat on their wives if they had more money and opportunity was offensive , but not entirely untrue .

Within days of the episode 's original broadcast , rumors began to spread throughout the Internet that EA Sports planned to sue Parker and Stone over their portrayal of the Tiger Woods PGA Tour video game in " Sexual Healing " . The rumor began with a March 21 post on the blog Daily Informer , which quoted an unnamed EA Sports source who said the episode had " a few copyright infringements in there that I ? m sure will be dealt with accordingly " . The claims quickly spread to other blogs and websites , but EA Sports specifically denied the rumor , claiming , " The reports that EA Sports is planning to sue the creators of ' South Park ' are completely false . "

= = Home release = =

" Sexual Healing " , along with the thirteen other episodes from South Park 's fourteenth season , were released on a three @-@ disc DVD set and two @-@ disc Blu @-@ ray set in the United States on April 26 , 2011 .