

= Garage Sale (The Office) =

" Garage Sale " is the nineteenth episode of the seventh season of the American comedy television series The Office and the show 's 145th episode overall . It originally aired on NBC in the United States on March 24 , 2011 . The episode was written by Jon Vitti and directed by series cast member , Steve Carell . The episode marks his third director 's credit for the series and the final physical appearance of Amy Ryan , having appeared as a regular since " Classy Christmas " .

In the episode , Michael (Steve Carell) decides to propose to Holly (Amy Ryan) , and runs into trouble thinking of how to do it well with his expensive diamond ring . He consults several coworkers on advice and for ideas on how to propose . Meanwhile , Dunder Mifflin Scranton 's warehouse and crew hosts a public garage sale .

" Garage Sale " was met with critical acclaim by both television reviewers as well as fans . Furthermore , HitFix reviewer Alan Sepinwall wrote that the episode could have served as Carell 's last episode . It is considered one of the best episodes of The Office . According to Nielsen Media Research , the episode was viewed by more than 7 million viewers and received a 3 @. @ 4 rating / 10 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 which marked a slight rise in the ratings from the previous episode , " Todd Packer " .

= = Synopsis = =

Michael decides to propose to Holly , and runs into trouble thinking of how to do it in the most elaborate way possible with his expensive diamond ring (which cost what he believes is the traditional " three years ' salary ") . He pours gasoline in the parking lot in the shape of letters , planning to light them on fire and show it to Holly . Pam stops it and gathers a meeting of Michael , herself , Jim , Ryan , and Oscar . They believe Holly truly is " the one " for him and give him anecdotes and ideas . He calls Holly 's father to ask his permission (although he leaves a message rather than speak to him personally) . Holly catches onto the idea when she calls her parents herself , but she notices her parents seem mentally disoriented . She talks to Michael later and says she wants to move back to Colorado to be there for her dad , and Michael supports her decision .

Michael takes Holly on a walk through the office , pointing out the locations of various events throughout their courtship . He opens the door to the kitchen , revealing all of the other employees holding candles . Various members of the office ask Holly if she will marry them (all of Michael 's plan) and she politely says no . Michael then leads Holly out to her desk , which is surrounded by dozens of candles . Michael gets down on his knee and begins to make a speech when the sprinklers go off from the candles . The water drenches everyone in the office and Michael proposes in a speech pattern similar to Yoda , reminiscent of the Season 4 finale when Holly is trying to fix her chair , as well as when Jim proposes to Pam in the rain in the Season 5 premiere . Holly accepts . Everyone then begins to congratulate Michael . However , Michael announces he is moving to Colorado with Holly . The scene ends with his employees in shock .

Meanwhile , Dunder Mifflin Scranton 's warehouse and crew host a public garage sale . Dwight attempts to walk away with the most expensive item by trading smaller items with his office mates beginning with a thumbtack (a reference to One red paperclip) and continuously trading up from table to table . One item on Jim and Pam 's table that piques his interest is a packet of " miracle legumes . " Dwight initially believes Jim is trying to prank him , but is astonished when they reappear after Jim had seemingly destroyed the packet . Eventually , his curiosity gets the better of him and he trades Jim a \$ 150 telescope for the legumes . At the end of the episode , Dwight plants and waters the seeds and Jim secretly replaces the pots with full @- @ grown plants .

Andy , Darryl , and Kevin play and bet on the Dallas board game (which Kevin had for sale) . As the instruction booklet is not with the game , Andy and Darryl make up the rules as they go along , much to Kevin 's objection . Eventually , Kevin notices the money they had bet on the game with is missing , and storms out . As Darryl and Andy look at each other in confusion , Kevin reveals to the cameras that he has the money , stating , " And that ... is Dallas " , mocking Andy and Darryl 's previous statement .

== Production ==

This episode was written by consulting producer Jon Vitti , his second writing credit of the series since joining the staff at the beginning of the seventh season . It was directed by series star Steve Carell , the third episode he has directed for the series . The episode marked Amy Ryan 's last physical appearance on the series , although she did speak in " Goodbye , Michael " . Ryan later said in an interview with New York that " The script was so sweet anyway that it made us all have a good cry " especially adding the fact that it was her final appearance . She also expressed her confidence that the series could survive without Carell and that it was the right move for him to leave . Vitti later submitted the episode for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series , but it was not nominated .

== Cultural references ==

" Garage Sale " features several callbacks to previous episodes . Kevin 's skills at poker were previously shown in " Casino Night " . Michael 's St. Pauli Girl sign was previously shown in " Dinner Party " . Michael mentions when Toby left for Costa Rica from " Night Out " .

When Dwight trades his thumbtack for various objects , this is a reference to the One Red Paperclip blog , in which a man trades his red paper clip for an eventual house .

== Reception ==

=== Ratings ===

In its original American broadcast , " Garage Sale " was viewed by an estimated 7 @. @ 07 million viewers and received a 3 @. @ 4 rating / 10 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 3 @. @ 4 % of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds , and 10 % of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This marked a slight rise in the ratings from the previous episode , " Todd Packer " , which received series lows . The episode ranked second in its timeslot beating the Fox crime drama Bones , which was seen by 8 @. @ 78 million households ; and CBS coverage of NCAA basketball , which was seen by 6 @. @ 82 million household ; but it was defeated by the ABC medical drama Grey 's Anatomy , which was seen by an average 10 @. @ 1 million households .

=== Reviews ===

This episode received critical acclaim and is considered one of the best Office episodes . HitFix reviewer Alan Sepinwall called it one of his " favorite ' Office ' episodes ever " and also called it one of the greatest romantic sitcom episodes of all @- @ time . He also said the episode could have served as Carell 's last episode . He also praised " Garage Sale " for its multiple sublots , its exploration of the ensemble cast , and Jim 's prank against Dwight . Sepinwall named it one of the best TV episodes of 2011 for series that were not great the whole year . He praised it for showcasing " the ridiculous and romantic sides of ' The Office ' " . He also wrote that it gave Fischer and Krasinski their best material for the series in years . Cindy White of IGN praised it for its mix of comedy and drama . She also complimented it for the showcase of the cast . She ultimately gave the episode a 9 / 10 . James Poniewozik of TIME said it " was unspectacular as an episode overall but did build to a delightful moment as Michael finally proposed to Holly . " He later named it one of his honorable mentions for the top 10 TV episodes of 2011 .

The A.V. Club writer Myles McNutt called the episode a " spiritual successor to ' Casino Night ' , which remains one of my all @- @ time favorite episodes of the series " for " turning what could feel like a gimmicky sitcom scenario into something that feels distinct to both the office [the characters]

[...] and The Office " . He ultimately gave the episode an A- . Kevin Fallon of The Atlantic compared the proposal to other television proposals on Friends , Cheers and Frasier . New York writer Willer Paskin praised the writers for being adept at writing for romance . Following the airing of the episode , Colorado governor John Hickenlooper issued a press release appointing Michael Scott to the position of Director of Paper Distribution in the Department of Natural Resources . " Garage Sale " was voted the third @-@ highest @-@ rated out of 24 from the seventh season , according to an " Survivor " episode poll at the fansite OfficeTally . It was later named the 20th @-@ best episode of the series according to an episode poll by OfficeTally . BuddyTV named the episode the 19th @-@ best TV episode of 2011 and it was the only episode of the series to make the list .