

= The Two Mrs. Nahasapeemapetilons =

" The Two Mrs. Nahasapeemapetilons " is the seventh episode of The Simpsons ' ninth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on November 16 , 1997 . It was written by Richard Appel and directed by Steven Dean Moore . The episode sees Apu Nahasapeemapetilon marry Manjula , and incorporates several aspects of Hindu wedding ceremonies , which the writers researched during the episode 's production . Appel pitched the episode several years before season nine but the idea was not used until Mike Scully became showrunner . The episode 's subplot , which sees Homer stay at the Springfield Retirement Castle , was initially conceived as a separate episode , but could not be developed in enough detail . The episode received mixed critical reviews .

= = Plot = =

At a bachelor auction , the available bachelors on display are deemed undesirable , and the auction generates no money at all . Marge then nominates Apu , who is deemed a success by the women at the auction . He goes out on dates with many of the town 's women , and begins to enjoy his bachelor lifestyle . However , he receives a letter from his mother in India , reminding him of his arranged marriage to Manjula , the daughter of a family friend . Not wanting to get married , Apu asks Homer for advice , who suggests Apu tell his mother that he is already married . Days later , Apu thinks that he has escaped the marriage until he sees his mother walking towards the Kwik - @ - E @ - @ Mart . To cover him , Homer tells Apu to pretend that Marge is his wife .

At the Simpson residence , Marge disapproves of the plan , but decides to do it for Apu 's sake . While the plan is under way Homer decides to stay in the Springfield Retirement Castle with his father , posing as resident Cornelius Talmidge . Homer enjoys his stay at the home immensely , until the real Cornelius returns , at which point he flees . He returns home and gets into bed with Marge . Mrs. Nahasapeemapetilon enters to say goodbye , but is shocked to see Marge in bed with another man , and Apu on the floor . Tired of the whole charade , Marge forces Apu to tell his mother the truth , who declares that the arranged marriage will proceed as planned .

The wedding is held in the Simpsons ' backyard , but Apu still has second thoughts about it . However , when he sees Manjula for the first time in years , he realizes how beautiful she really is and feels less reluctant . The pair decide that perhaps the marriage can work after all .

= = Production = =

Writer Richard Appel pitched " The Two Mrs. Nahasapeemapetilons " at a story retreat several years before the ninth season , but it could not be fitted into a season at that point . Mike Scully liked the idea and so decided to use it in his first season as showrunner . Homer 's subplot at the Retirement Castle was an idea that Scully had for a long time . The plot could not be sustained for a whole episode , so it was fitted into this one .

The bachelor auction was created solely to provide more evidence that Apu is the best bachelor in Springfield . Appel found that the scene " wrote itself " , as every other man in Springfield is essentially a loser compared to Apu . The scene acted as the episode 's opening set piece , a concept that Scully liked to use in every episode . The montage of Apu getting several different hair styles originally included three more , but they ended up being cut for time . The shot in which Apu 's mother falls to the ground , a joke that the staff love , was inspired by an incident when Moore saw a man fall in much the same way . The joke was only inserted to buy Apu and Homer more time to come up with a lie . Before the wedding , Bart fuels a " sacred fire " with pages from a hymn book . Originally , he used pages from The Bible , but after the scene had been animated , Scully found the joke " horrible " and changed the book title to " Hymns " .

Andrea Martin provided the voice of Apu 's mother , recording her part in New York . She wanted to get the voice perfect , so in between takes she listened to tapes of Hank Azaria reading lines for Apu , to make sure her voice could realistically be Apu 's mother 's . During the flashback to Apu 's

childhood , the animators made sure not to show Manjula , as they wished to reveal her at the end of the episode .

The staff researched into arranged Hindu marriages , learning about ideas such as the lotus flower being used as a message , but a majority of the information turned out " not to be as hilarious [as the writers] had hoped " , and so was dropped . Steven Dean Moore , the episode 's director , researched into the design of every aspect of Indian culture shown in the episode . The events of the wedding , as well as many of the items present , were all taken from traditional Hindu marriage ceremonies .

= = Cultural references = =

The Foreigner song " Hot Blooded " plays over Apu 's bachelor binge , and he dances in a manner similar to Riverdance . Additionally , an Indian version of The Carpenters ' song " (They Long to Be) Close to You " is sung at the wedding ; an Indian vocal group was hired to sing , while Alf Clausen wrote the instrumental part . The scene where Moe walks on and off the stage without breaking his stride was loosely based on a moment that occurred during a stand up show of comedian Redd Foxx . During a show in Las Vegas , Foxx came on stage to the Sanford and Son theme song , only to find that there were very few people in the audience . Foxx reacted angrily refusing to do a show with such a small audience and walked off . The house orchestra , puzzled by Foxx 's leave simply played him off with the Sanford and Son theme song again . This incident was also referenced in the later episode " Trash of the Titans " , when Ray Patterson is reinstated , although the reference is more similar to the real event then .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " The Two Mrs. Nahasapeemapetilons " finished 22nd in ratings for the week of November 10 @-@ 16 , 1997 , with a Nielsen rating of 11 @.@ 6 , equivalent to approximately 11 @.@ 4 million viewing households . It was the third highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week , following The X @-@ Files and King of the Hill .

Todd Gilchrist of IGN named the episode as one of his favorites of the ninth season in his review of the DVD boxset , while 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 good fun episode " . Ian Jones and Steve Williams criticized the episode , calling it " a messy , unfocused lampooning " of arranged Hindu marriages . Homer writing " Where are the sticky buns " on a sheet of paper after Apu asks him for advice is one of Mike Scully 's favorite jokes .