

= Phyllis ' Wedding =

" Phyllis ' Wedding " is the sixteenth episode of the third season of the American comedy television series The Office , and the show 's 44th overall . It first aired on February 8 , 2007 on NBC . The episode was written by staff writer Caroline Williams and directed by Ken Whittingham . Actors Creed Bratton , Rashida Jones , and Bobby Ray Shafer guest star .

The series depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In this episode , the office attends Phyllis Lapin 's (Phyllis Smith) wedding to Bob Vance (Shafer) , and Pam Beesly (Jenna Fischer) becomes upset with how many similarities there are between her canceled wedding and Phyllis ' . Meanwhile , Michael Scott (Steve Carell) embarrasses the bride and groom , and Pam reconnects with her ex @-@ fiancé Roy Anderson (David Denman) .

Brian Baumgartner 's character appears as a drum player in the episode , forcing the actor to take lessons for the instrument and rely on a stunt musician . According to Nielsen Media Research , an estimated 8 @.@ 8 million viewers watched the episode at the time of broadcast . It received mixed reviews from television critics , as some reviewers found Michael 's actions unrealistic and cartoonish . " Phyllis ' Wedding " won a NAACP Image Award for Whittingham 's directional work and received a nomination from the Writers Guild of America .

= = Synopsis = =

Phyllis Lapin (Phyllis Smith) has asked Michael Scott (Steve Carell) to push her father 's wheelchair down the aisle at her wedding , a role that she gave him to secure six weeks off for her honeymoon . Michael assumes that his doing so will be the wedding 's highlight . Pam Beesly (Jenna Fischer) is upset that many details of Phyllis ' wedding , from the invitations to the wedding gown , were copied from her own canceled wedding .

During the procession , Michael becomes petulant when Phyllis ' father " upstages " him by walking under his own power . Goaded by Jim Halpert (John Krasinski) , Dwight Schrute (Rainn Wilson) hunts down wedding crashers . He ousts Phyllis ' Uncle Al , who fails to pass Dwight 's questioning due to dementia .

Michael makes several attempts to recapture the limelight , including an embarrassing toast at the wedding banquet , which gets him kicked out of the reception hall by Phyllis ' husband Bob Vance (Bobby Ray Shafer) . Dwight does not let him re @-@ enter , and Michael must sit outside listening to Uncle Al 's ramblings . Pam stares as Jim and Karen Filippelli (Rashida Jones) dance together , and when Jim catches her eye , his face turns to sadness as she looks away .

Roy Anderson (David Denman) pays " Scrantoncity " , the Kevin Malone @-@ led (Brian Baumgartner) wedding band to play his and Pam 's song , " You Were Meant for Me " . The two dance and leave together to Jim 's obvious dismay . However , Jim soon states that " Here 's a non @-@ hypothetical : I 'm really happy I 'm with Karen . " When Phyllis leaves the reception hall with Bob Vance , she thanks Michael for finding her Uncle Al , and the newlyweds ride off in a Vance Refrigeration van .

= = Production = =

" Phyllis ' Wedding " was written by staff writer Caroline Williams and directed by Ken Whittingham , his fifth such credit for the series . Recurring guest stars Creed Bratton , Rashida Jones , and Bobby Ray Shafer appeared in the episode . The episode is the first of the series to revolve around a wedding . In an interview with Entertainment Weekly , Baumgartner described the episode , " Michael plays a very important role in that wedding . He is to walk Phyllis ' dad down the aisle by pushing him in a wheelchair , which in his mind is him walking Phyllis down the aisle , a very important position of authority . Of course , Phyllis has asked him to do this only so she can get six weeks of vacation time . But for him it 's a place of honor , and from there , things don 't go quite the way that he hopes . "

The episode features Kevin Malone playing the drums in a band , which had been an idea circulated since the first season , when allusions to him being in a Steve Miller tribute band were written ; the scenes had to be removed from the series due to issues negotiating with the singer . The crew later decided to have Kevin be in a Police tribute band called Scrantoncity because he " talks so low , and has very little expression , and there is no band that sings higher and with more expression than the Police . " While Kevin was always intended to be the band 's lead singer , executive producer Greg Daniels approached Baumgartner about possibly playing an instrument , but the actor replied he could not play anything . Daniels and Baumgartner then discussed instruments that would be " funny " to play and brought up harmonicas , saxophones , and drums . They ultimately decided on the latter because they deemed a " drumming lead singer [to] be the funniest choice , " regardless of the fact that the actor had " absolutely no drumming experience , and it 's a difficult instrument . " Baumgartner took some drum lessons , but found filming of the episode to be " the hardest thing that I 've ever done artistically . " He was aided by a stunt musician who hid behind a curtain near the band .

= = Reception = =

" Phyllis ' Wedding " first aired on February 8 , 2007 in the United States on NBC . According to Nielsen Media Research , an estimated 8 @. @ 8 million viewers watched the episode , and it earned a 4 @. @ 4 / 11 ratings share among adults aged 18 to 49 . In other words , it was seen by 4 @. @ 4 percent of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds , and 11 percent of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast .

AOL TV 's Jay Black called the episode " amazing " , partly because he believed the out @- @ of @- @ office setting made Michael 's " social awkwardness and emotional neediness a lot more enjoyable . " Black observed that the " main romantic plotline had some nice movement tonight as well , " and praised the Pam @- @ Roy and Jim @- @ Karen storylines in particular for their realism . Writing for IGN , Brian Zoromski rated " Phyllis ' Wedding " with 7 out of 10 , an indication of a " good " episode . He asserted that the episode contained some " great moments " such as Jim 's Altoid prank on Dwight and Michael 's conversation with Phyllis ' amnesiac uncle . In contrast to Black however , Zoromski believed Michael 's " over @- @ the @- @ top cartoonishness " actions stretched " the believability of the show 's " illusion as reality , especially because they occurred outside of the office .

Give Me My Remote 's Kath Skerry speculated that after several episodes of a " semi @- @ normal " Michael , the writers " were aching to bring back cringe worthy Michael . " She criticized the decision , calling his behavior " borderline ridiculous (and not in a good way) . It just seems implausible that someone could be so very clueless that they would act like that in public . " Skerry however did find high points , such as the opening sequence and any scene with Dwight and Angela . Television Without Pity graded the episode with an " A " .

Entertainment Weekly columnist Abby West praised Smith for " again proving how sly her seemingly diffident character really is " by manipulating Michael . West also noted that she ended up " feel [ing] a little sorry " for Michael after the episode , due to the revelations learned from his childhood . Carell later recalled that many fans " hated " Michael for disrupting Phyllis ' wedding . For his work in the episode , Whittingham won a NAACP Image Award in the " Directing in a Comedy Series " category . Along with two other Office episodes , for her work on this episode , Caroline Williams was nominated for a Writers Guild of America Award for Best Screenplay ? Episodic Comedy .