

= Bart Stops to Smell the Roosevelts =

" Bart Stops to Smell the Roosevelts " is the second episode of the twenty @-@ third season of the American animated sitcom The Simpsons . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on October 2 , 2011 . The episode was the first to feature Superintendent Chalmers as the central character and Chalmers ' flashbacks references the films The Breakfast Club and Fight Club . In the episode , Principal Skinner challenges Superintendent Chalmers to take over Bart 's education after one of his pranks . Chalmers accepts and starts teaching Bart about Theodore Roosevelt and manliness . After he takes Bart and his friends on an unauthorized field trip which results in one of the children breaking an arm , Chalmers is fired . Bart and his friends then take over the school in an effort to save his job .

The episode was written by Tim Long , directed by Steven Dean Moore , and features the voice of Theodore Roosevelt through archive recordings . The opening sequence was guest directed by Canadian animator John Kricfalusi , who previously created the animated television show , The Ren & Stimpy Show . In its original American broadcast , it was viewed by approximately 6 @.@ 19 million people . The show overall received positive reviews for the story . Special praise was given to the guest directed opening sequence by Kricfalusi .

= = Plot = =

Springfield Elementary School is hosting a fundraiser auction and invites all the families with children in their classes , including the Simpson family . Every item in the auction is sold to an English widow named Edith Knickerbocker , who is bidding over the phone . When the auction is over , Bart reveals that he was the real Mrs. Knickerbocker and that there is no money for the school . Frustrated over Bart 's latest prank and pressured by his supervisor Superintendent Chalmers , Principal Skinner challenges Chalmers to take over Bart 's education . Chalmers accepts and immediately gives Bart his own lesson plan , which primarily consists of former U.S. president Theodore Roosevelt . He makes Bart interested in the subject by talking about Roosevelt 's heroic and rebellious nature . Classmates Milhouse , Nelson , Jimbo , Kearney and Dolph soon join Bart in his education .

With the success of his lessons , Chalmers plans to take them all on a field trip to Springfield Forest , in which Roosevelt left one of his spectacles . The field trip does not go well , however , as Nelson breaks his arm when he tries to reach for the spectacles . Since it was an unauthorized field trip , Nelson 's mother threatens to sue the school for medical expenses , which leads to Chalmers getting fired . In order to save Chalmers ' job , Bart and his friends , who now go by the name " The Brotherhood of the Spectacles " , take over the school in a hostage situation and stand up for the teacher who made a meaningful impact to them . They lock all of the teachers out of the school and demand that Chalmers get reinstated . A SWAT team prepares to storm the school , before Chalmers walks up to convince Bart to stop . Luckily , Chief Wiggum accidentally drops his gun , knee @-@ capping the school representative State Comptroller Atkins , who thereafter agrees to reinstate Chalmers because they can recover the money lost in the previous lawsuit with a new lawsuit against the police department .

= = Production = =

" Bart Stops to Smell the Roosevelts " was written by Tim Long and directed by Steven Dean Moore . The episode features former American President Theodore Roosevelt with the use of archival audio recordings . The use of Roosevelt 's voice was first announced at the San Diego Comic @-@ Con International in San Diego , California , on July 23 , 2011 . Showrunner Al Jean revealed to the press that " we [the staff] have actual audio of Roosevelt (taken from a speech circa 1918) in the show . I thought , ' Finally ! We can put a president in the show . ' And a good one too . We 're going to give him a little credit at the end . "

Even though Superintendent Chalmers was first introduced in the season four episode " Whacking

Day ", the character had never been a central part to an episode . This episode marks the first time in which the entire episode follows Chalmers . In Chalmers ' flashback from his teaching days , the scene looks like the library of Shermer High School from the film The Breakfast Club from 1985 . The students however refer to the club as Fight Club .

= = = Opening sequence = = =

Canadian animator and creator of The Ren & Stimpy Show , John Kricfalusi , guest animated the couch gag for the episode . This was the second time The Simpsons had chosen a guest director for its opening sequence , following the previous season 's episode " MoneyBART " , which was guest directed by British graffiti artist and political activist Banksy . Previously , Kricfalusi had criticized The Simpsons staff in the show 's early years by saying that " the show succeeded despite the writing " and similarly derogatory comments . The producers responded with the fourth season episode " The Front " (1993) , in which The Ren & Stimpy Show is nominated for a cartoon award . During the award ceremony , the clip from the nominated episode is merely a black screen with the text " Clip not done yet " , a comment on the slow production time of the show . The show was mentioned again in the season six episode " Another Simpsons Clip Show " (1994) , when Lisa claims that Ren & Stimpy recycles animation to make new episodes , while referencing Itchy & Scratchy 's habit of doing the same . Despite this , Kricfalusi changed his tone in an interview with Aaron Simpson in 2007 and claimed that The Simpsons made it easier to do more edgy work : " Well it started with Bakshi ? s Mighty Mouse : The New Adventures and Pee Wee Herman . Those were kid shows , but with layers of perversion in them . Then The Simpsons came along and did edgy material in prime time cartoons . "

After the positive response to the opening sequence by Banksy , creator Matt Groening and Jean came to Kricfalusi and asked him if he could do something similar . Originally , they only wanted him to do the storyboards and then let their regular crew animate it , but Kricfalusi insisted on doing the animation himself , explaining that " If we had done it that way , no one would even have known that I had anything to do with it because it would have ended up on model and all pose to pose " . On The Simpsons , the animators draw key poses and then let tweeners interpolate between those poses . The interpolation however , is a straight a to b animation . That way the animation ends up having the characters just going from pose to pose . Kricfalusi explains that on The Simpsons he " wanted to try moving the characters in crazy fun ways , not just looking funny each time they come to a stop " , and further elaborated " that the way things happened was even more important than what was happening in my work . You can ? t write visual performance . You have to actually draw it . "

He showed Groening and Jean his Adult Swim shorts and Groening responded by giving him free hands to do the 35 @-@ second @-@ long segment . Groening told him to break all The Simpsons rules , but Kricfalusi explains that he " tried not to break any rules in the characters ? personalities , just in the execution of the visuals . I didn ? t follow any models ? not even my own " . The more rules he broke , the more pleased Groening and Jean were with the result . Contrary to Banksy , who lives a life in secrecy , Kricfalusi was involved in every detail and even oversaw the dubbing of the final soundtrack . While Kricfalusi animated the 2D parts , he had John Kedzie to help him with the computer graphics and Sarah Harkey and Tommy Tanner to do the assistant animation .

In an interview by Neil Bennett from Digital Arts Magazine , Kricfalusi revealed that he would have taken a different approach to the animation if he were to animate the entire episode . Primarily , the animation would be slower paced than it was in the 35 @-@ second @-@ long segment . The couch gag was done at a faster pace so he was able to include all of his ideas . Kricfalusi explains that " [if I did a whole episode] , I would definitely keep on experimenting with the way they move and the acting . I 'm sure I would do of my trademark long scenes of two characters interacting with each other without a cut . I would [also] want to do more stuff with Marge . I loved animating her and was inspired by the way the Fleischers animated Olive Oyl . I couldn 't animate a whole half hour myself , so I would hire other animators (and designers , painters , etc .) with strong styles and cast them according to which parts of the story would best take advantage of their individual

talent . "

= = Release = =

The episode originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on October 2 , 2011 . It was watched by approximately 6 @. @ 19 million people during this broadcast . The show received a 3 @. @ 0 Nielsen rating in the demographic for adults aged 18 ? 49 , which was a 23 % drop from the season premiere episode , and an eight percent audience share . The Simpsons became the second highest @- @ rated program in Fox 's Animation Domination lineup that night in terms of total viewers and in the 18 ? 49 demographic , finishing with a higher rating than The Cleveland Show and American Dad ! , but a lower rating than Family Guy . These three other animated shows were part of a crossover event , called Night of the Hurricane , in which they shared the same storyline . For the week of September 26 ? October 2 , 2011 , " Bart Stops to Smell the Roosevelts " tied for 29th place in the ratings among all network prime @- @ time broadcasts in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

Since airing , " Bart Stops to Smell the Roosevelts " has been well received by television critics . Hayden Childs of The A.V. Club gave this episode a " B " rating and commented that " The Simpsons episodes that strive to have a little heart without going overboard are generally going to work better than the random @- @ gag episodes , at least at this point in the storied history of The Simpsons , and ' Bart Stops To Smell The Roosevelts ' has enough wee little heart to see this episode through " , but further wrote that " there were a number of jokes that didn 't work , Milhouse 's final scene in particular , but the episode had a steady stream of gags to push through the lean times . And that 's all we can ask for . " Ology 's Josh Harrison was also positive and gave the episode a rating of seven out of ten , while commenting that he " thought this was a definite downgrade from the season premiere in terms of sheer comedic value , but the sincerity of Bart 's educational experience , combined with the enthusiasm of his mad quest for justice , definitely made this one a winner . "

The couch gag for the episode was critically acclaimed by television critics . Amid Amidi of Cartoon Brew called the opening revolutionary and explained that " in 35 short and sweet seconds , he liberates the animation of The Simpsons from years of graphic banality . " He continued : " The visual look of the show , which has been so carefully controlled by its producers , becomes a giddy and unrestrained playground for graphic play , and the balance of creative authority is shifted from the writers ' room to the animators in one fell swoop . " When comparing the segment to Banksy 's , Amidi concluded that it is " in fact , far more subversive because he focuses almost exclusively on making a pictorial statement , relegating the show 's dominant literary elements to the back seat . " Similarly , Television Blend 's Katey Rich wrote that she appreciates " The Simpsons always being willing to push the envelope in different ways " , but admitted that it would take her " some time to get the gangly @- @ legged Marge Simpson and the leering Homer Simpson out of [her] brain . "