

= The Otto Show =

" The Otto Show " is the twenty @-@ second episode of The Simpsons ' third season . It first aired on the Fox network in the United States on April 23 , 1992 . In the episode , Bart decides that he wants to become a rock star after attending a Spinal Tap concert , so Homer and Marge buy him a guitar . He shows the guitar to Otto the bus driver , who plays it and consequently makes the children late for school . Racing to Springfield Elementary , Otto crashes the school bus and is suspended until he can get his license back . Bart , who respects Otto , invites him to move in with the Simpson family .

The episode was written by Jeff Martin and directed by Wes Archer . It was the first episode of the show to feature Otto Mann in a prominent role . " The Otto Show " features an appearance from Spinal Tap , a parody band that first appeared in the 1984 mockumentary film This Is Spinal Tap . The episode guest stars Michael McKean as David St. Hubbins and Christopher Guest as Nigel Tufnel . Harry Shearer , who is a regular Simpsons cast member , also starred in This Is Spinal Tap and reprises his role as Derek Smalls .

In its original airing on the Fox Network , the episode had an 11 @.@ 5 Nielsen rating and finished the week ranked 41st . The episode received positive reviews and Spinal Tap was ranked as the 18th best guest appearance on the show by IGN .

= = Plot = =

Bart and Milhouse attend a Spinal Tap concert , which degenerates into a riot . Nonetheless , Bart is impressed by the band and wants to become a rock guitarist . Homer and Marge decide to buy Bart his own electric guitar , but he finds it impossible to play as he is not musically gifted like Lisa (when she tries to play a duet with her sax) . The next morning on the school bus , Bart tells Otto he thinks his guitar is broken , but Otto wows his passengers with an impromptu concert . The performance meant that they are now late for school , so Otto is forced to drive recklessly to get there in time . The bus causes numerous incidents before turning over onto its side in the town square , where it also smashes into the statue of Jebediah Springfield .

When Officer Lou asks for Otto 's driver 's license , Otto is forced to admit he does not have a license (nor is he wearing his own underwear on which he wrote his name as proof of his identity) . He is suspended without pay , and Principal Skinner takes over his route . However , Skinner finds driving the bus hard going , being a less aggressive driver than Otto , and ends up being trapped at a busy intersection for an entire day . Otto , meanwhile , goes to the Springfield Department of Motor Vehicles but he fails the driver 's test that is administered by Marge 's sister Patty partly due to his poor driving ability and partly due to the fact he asks Patty if she was born male . He is also unable to find a new job , and therefore cannot pay his rent and is evicted from his apartment . Bart finds him living in a Trash Co . Waste Disposal Unit , and agrees to let him live in the Simpsons ' garage . Homer and Marge disapprove of this but reluctantly agree to let him stay .

Otto quickly makes a nuisance of himself . Homer begins to lose patience with Otto and demands that he be sent on his way . Marge and Bart encourage him to give the driving test one last try . Otto goes to the DMV to take the test again , angry that Homer called him a " sponge " . Patty refuses to let him take the test after a comment he made about her being born a man . However , when Otto tells her that he wants to pass so he can prove Homer wrong and " staple his licence to Homer Simpson 's Big Bald Head " , she relents out of spite for her brother @-@ in @-@ law . Otto performs even worse in his second test , but Patty grants Otto his license anyway after he entertains her with stories of Homer 's crude behavior . Now a properly licensed driver (albeit under probationary status) , Otto regains his job and Skinner is happy to return to his normal job as Principal .

= = Production = =

" The Otto Show " was written by Jeff Martin and directed by Wes Archer . The episode 's title is a

pun on auto show . The episode was the first to feature bus driver Otto Mann in a prominent role . Otto 's full name is revealed for the first time . Writers Jay Kogen and Wallace Wolodarsky had originally wanted to name him Otto Mechanic , but the animators gave him the last name Mann .

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= = Cultural references = =

When Homer puts on an old jacket he finds a can of Billy Beer in one of the pockets . While waiting in the car during the Spinal Tap concert (as well as the ensuing riot) , Homer sings along to the song " Spanish Flea " by Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass . The writers had a difficult time getting the rights to the song , but a writer who is related to a member of the band was able to get the rights at the last minute . Homer also hums along to " Summer Samba " at a later segment in the car . Homer makes a comment on their situation with Otto , saying " This is not Happy Days and he is not The Fonz ! " Otto then walks in and says to Homer , " Heeeeeyy , Mr. S , " in reference to the long @-@ running situation comedy . The song Otto plays on the school bus is " Free Bird " by Lynyrd Skynyrd . Otto 's statement that he would prefer to be sleeping in a Dumpster brand trash container over a " Trash Co . Waste Disposal Unit " alludes to the word 's status as a registered trademark for a brand of large trash containers .

= = Reception = =

In its original airing on the Fox Network , the episode had an 11 @.@ 5 Nielsen rating and was viewed in approximately 10 @.@ 59 million homes . It finished the week of April 20 ? 26 , 1992 ranked 41st , down from the season 's average rank of 35th . The Simpsons was the fourth highest rated show on Fox that week after Married ... with Children , Beverly Hills , 90210 and In Living Color .

The episode , like the whole of the third season , received mostly positive reviews from critics . The authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide , Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , wrote , " A nice episode for Otto and some great moments for Skinner as he tries to drive the bus , but especially memorable for Homer 's moment of forgetfulness after the concert . Michael McKean , Christopher Guest and Harry Shearer reprise their roles from This Is Spinal Tap perfectly . " MovieFreak.com 's Dennis Landmann named " The Otto Show " as one of the stand @-@ out episodes from the third season . Nate Meyers of Digitally Obsessed was also positive about the episode , giving it a rating of five donuts out of five and writing " The writing is at full throttle here , cramming tons of jokes into the episode 's 20 @-@ minute runtime with stunning success . " DVD Movie Guide 's Colin Jacobson wrote that it was " another solid episode . Actually , it regresses somewhat from the high quality of its predecessors . The Spinal Tap material feels somewhat tacky ? it was a tie @-@ in with their then @-@ current attempt to sell a new album ? and Otto 's not a strong character . I don ? t think the series ever made him the lead again , and he works best in small doses . " Otto : remains very good , but it doesn ? t compete with the year ? s best shows . " "

Especially the guest appearance of Spinal Tap was noticed . Bryce Wilson , in his review of the third season for Cinema Blend , wrote " Simpson ? s [sic] voice actor Harry Shearer ... reunites Spinal Tap just for " The Otto Show " , an episode full of the trademark Tap banter and stage disasters that rival even the mighty 18 inch Stonehenge . " IGN named Spinal Tap as the ' 18th best guest stars ' in the show 's history for this episode . Andrew Martin of Prefix Mag named Spinal Tap his favorite musical guests on The Simpsons out of a list of ten .