

= Andy and April 's Fancy Party =

" Andy and April 's Fancy Party " (sometimes referred to as " Fancy Party ") is the ninth episode of the third season of the American comedy television series Parks and Recreation , and the 39th overall episode of the series . It originally aired on NBC in the United States on April 14 , 2011 . In the episode , Andy and April hold a dinner party , which turns out to be a surprise wedding , much to Leslie 's concern . Meanwhile , Ben mulls whether to remain in Pawnee or return to his old job in Indianapolis , and Ann feels extremely uncomfortable while attending a singles mixer .

The episode was written by Katie Dippold and directed by Michael Trim . The wedding between Andy and April was a culmination of a romantic subplot between the two characters that began in the second season episode " Hunting Trip " . The Parks and Recreation staff tried to keep the wedding secret to surprise viewers , but NBC accidentally ran a commercial advertising the wedding two months earlier , after the episode " Ron & Tammy : Part Two . " Series co @-@ creator Michael Schur initially said the promo was meant to refer to Ron and his ex @-@ wife Tammy , but later admitted it was an error .

" April and Andy 's Fancy Party " featured several guest performances by actors who appeared in previous episodes , including Ben Schwartz as Jean @-@ Ralphio Saperstein , Josh Duvendeck and Blake Lee as Derek and Ben , Minni Jo Mazzola as Natalie Ludgate , and Mark Rivers , Andrew Burlinson and Alan Yang as Andy 's band @-@ mates . According to Nielsen Media Research , the episode was seen by 5 @.@ 16 million household viewers , a slight increase over the previous original episode , " Camping " . It received generally positive reviews .

= = Plot = =

During a cold open scene , Ron (Nick Offerman) horrifies the entire parks department by apparently pulling an aching tooth out of his own mouth with a pair of pliers . He later admits it was a prank , as a dentist had removed the tooth the previous day . Later , Andy (Chris Pratt) and April (Aubrey Plaza) invite everyone to a dinner party at the home of Andy 's band @-@ mate Burly (Andrew Burlinson) , where Andy is living . Ben (Adam Scott) tells Leslie (Amy Poehler) that his boss in Indianapolis wants him back on the road , but he has also been offered a job to work under Chris (Rob Lowe) in Pawnee . Although Leslie wants Ben to stay , she is hesitant to say so outright , disappointing him and leaving him conflicted over which job to take .

At the party , Leslie discovers Andy and April plan to surprise everyone by getting married that night . Leslie spends most of the party trying to dissuade them , since they have been dating less than a month and have no place to live . However , Ron believes it is not Leslie 's place to interfere with their decision . Tom (Aziz Ansari) is thrilled when Andy makes him his best man , but his excitement lessens when Andy also asks Ron , Chris , and several others to be his " best men " . Tom tries to throw an impromptu bachelor party and give a speech to make himself the " best " best man , but fails each time .

Although Leslie plans to object during the ceremony , she cannot bring herself to do it and comes to accept the marriage . Andy and April officially become husband and wife . Afterward , Ron explains to Leslie that she did not object because deep down she knew that Andy and April would get married no matter what , and that there is no correct way to do things when it comes to matters of the heart , using his own two former marriages as an example . During the reception , April privately tells Leslie how much she appreciates her , flattering Leslie . Andy makes a speech to the guests , where he calls Tom his " best " best man , much to Tom 's delight . He tells the crowd that life is short and he and April simply did what made them happy . Taking Andy 's advice , Leslie asks Ben to stay in Pawnee , and he surprises her by revealing that he has already accepted Chris ' job offer .

In a subplot , Ann (Rashida Jones) goes to a singles mixer where she is extremely uncomfortable . She runs into Donna (Retta) , who at first views Ann as competition , but then offers her advice after witnessing Ann 's awkward flirting . When Ann hears about Andy getting married from Leslie , she considers going home , as she and Andy dated for several years . Donna tells Ann to forget her

past and enjoy herself in the present . Ann ends up having a good time at the mixer and gets several phone numbers .

= = Production = =

" Andy and April 's Fancy Party " was written by Katie Dippold and directed by Michael Trim . It is referred to simply as " Fancy Party " in some publications . During a break between the development of the first six episodes of the season and the remaining episodes , the writing staff was contemplating what direction they should take with the romantic relationship between Andy and April . Parks co @-@ creator Michael Schur said they wanted to avoid the " standard @-@ issue TV romance plots : fights , other men / women driving them apart , and so on " . They decided the two should get married after dating for only a short time because it was funny , it made sense with the characters ' personalities , and it raised the stakes for future stories involving the two . Schur said : " We just thought about who they were ? two impulsive goofballs who don ' t approach their lives in a responsible , adult manner ? and decided , what the hell ? What if they just make a rash decision and get hitched ? "

The cast and crew of Parks and Recreation made a conscious effort not to discuss the Andy and April wedding during media interviews with the hopes of keeping it a surprise . However , after the original broadcast of the third season episode " Ron & Tammy : Part Two " , NBC ran a commercial advertising " April and Andy 's wedding registry " on the official Parks and Recreation website . At this point in the series , April and Andy were separated and had not yet reconciled . Shortly after the episode aired , HitFix television reviewer Alan Sepinwall wrote that the commercial mistakenly used the wrong names and was actually referring to Ron and Tammy 's wedding registry . However , after " Andy and April 's Fancy Party " aired , Schur admitted the commercial was intended to run with that episode , but ran with " Ron & Tammy : Part Two " due to an error by NBC employees :

" In an effort to undo the spoiler , we publicly stated , in a number of interviews , that NBC had just accidentally gotten the character names wrong , and that there was no upcoming Andy @-@ April wedding . We sincerely hope that fans of the show are cool with us gently lying to them , in an effort to maintain the surprise nuptials as much as we could . Now if you 'll excuse us , we have to go shoot the season finale surprise Jerry @-@ Donna wedding scene . "

" Andy and April 's Fancy Party " featured several guest performances by actors who had appeared in previous Parks and Recreation episodes . Ben Schwartz reprised his role as Tom 's playboy @-@ like friend Jean @-@ Ralphio Saperstein . April 's flower men were Ben and Derek , played by Josh Duvendek and Blake Lee . Derek is April 's bisexual ex @-@ boyfriend and Ben was the boy he dated while simultaneously dating April ; the two had appeared in several second season episodes . Minni Jo Mazzola reprised her recurring role as April 's sister Natalie Ludgate . Andy 's band Mouse Rat , which has appeared in previous episodes starting with the first season finale " Rock Show " , also appeared in " Andy and April 's Fancy Party " . Mark Rivers played the drums , Andrew Burlinson played guitar and Parks and Recreation screenwriter Alan Yang played bass guitar . Eric Isenhower made his first appearance on the show as Orin , a creepy Goth friend of April . The character was mentioned offhandedly in the episode " Time Capsule " and Dippold loved the idea of him , so she worked Orin into the script .

The day the episode first aired , the term " Ron Swanson " , and the misspelled " Rob Swanson " , were so commonly discussed on the social @-@ networking website Twitter that they were listed among the site 's trending topics , which are indicative of being the most popular topics being discussed on Twitter at a given moment . Shortly after the episode 's original broadcast , NBC started a fake wedding website about the wedding called " Andy and April 's Awesome Sauce Wedding " , which included photos and a guestbook website visitors can sign .

= = Cultural references = =

Andy gets married wearing the jersey of Reggie Wayne , wide receiver for the Indianapolis Colts . April had previously given him the jersey as a gift in the second season episode " Christmas

Scandal " . The Simon and Garfunkel song " April Come She Will " plays while April walks down the aisle . Chris performs a break dance to the House of Pain hip hop song " Jump Around " . While trying to understand why the wedding is happening so quickly , Leslie asks whether April is dying , like the lead character from the 2002 romance film A Walk to Remember . While trying to decide on a joke for his best man speech , Tom asks Jean @-@ Ralphio which Vince Vaughn movie he should choose ; Jean @-@ Ralphio confidently answers Fred Claus , a 2007 Christmas comedy film .

Ben was asked to bring the 2009 science fiction film Avatar to the wedding , along with 50 pairs of 3 @-@ D glasses and a 3 @-@ D @-@ capable television . At one point , Tom makes fun of Ben 's nerdiness by making a reference to the The Lord of the Rings film trilogy , but Ben explains he did not enjoy the film adaptation by director Peter Jackson . When someone refers to actress Julia Roberts , Ron only recognizes her as " that toothy girl from Mystic Pizza " . After seeing Ann flirt awkwardly , Donna asks her " Did you grow up in the woods ? Are you Nell ? " , referring to Jodie Foster 's character from the film Nell . In one scene , Andy used the phrase " Xbox pancake " , a reference to a video game console , while describing the idea of combining two great things .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original American broadcast , " Andy and April 's Fancy Party " was seen by an estimated 5 @.@ 16 million household viewers , according to Nielsen Media Research , with a 3 @.@ 1 rating / 5 share among all viewers and a 2 @.@ 5 rating / 7 share among viewers between ages 18 and 49 . It constituted a slight ratings increase over the previous original episode " Camping " . Parks and Recreation was defeated in its 9 : 30 p.m. timeslot by the Fox crime drama Bones , which was seen by an average of 11 @.@ 1 million households . However , Parks defeated repeats of the ABC medical drama Grey 's Anatomy , which drew 4 @.@ 18 million household viewers , and the CBS crime drama CSI : Crime Scene Investigation which , although it had more viewers at 8 @.@ 23 million households , had a lower rating than Parks , drawing 1 @.@ 5 rating / 4 share among viewers between ages 18 and 49 . " Andy and April 's Fancy Party " also outperformed an original episode of the CW Network drama Nikita , which drew 2 @.@ 14 million households .

= = = Reviews = = =

" Andy and April 's Fancy Party " received generally positive reviews . Alan Sepinwall of HitFix called it " one of the funniest , sweetest , just plain best episodes of this season of this great comedy " , and that it embodied " intoxicating mix of laughs and sweetness that " Parks and Rec " consistently nails " . Sepinwall particularly praised the scene when April declared her love for Leslie , and enjoyed the comedic pairing of Ann and Donna . Time magazine writer James Poniewozik said the episode showed Parks and Recreation in " top form " , and he praised the episode for avoiding television cliches about weddings . In most shows , he wrote , April and Andy would have been persuaded to stop the wedding at the last moment , or Andy would have panicked after realizing the enormity of what he had done . Matt Fowler of IGN called the episode " charming , effortless , and hilarious " and wrote " the strength of this episode was that it actually convinced us all that April and Andy getting married , after just a month of dating , was a great idea " . TV Guide writer Matt Roush called " Andy and April 's Fancy Wedding " the highlight of the night among NBC 's Thursday comedy shows , and said he particularly loved the scene with Ron Swanson pulling out his tooth , and another later scene where Ron criticized Chris for bringing a vegetarian loaf to the party instead of cake .

ChicagoNow writer Andy Daglas said the fact that Andy and April 's wedding was subdued , not overhyped in commercials to attract ratings , shows how much the writers understand and respect their characters . He also praised the episode 's blend of " humor and heart " , of which he said : " No show on the air , and few shows I can think of ever , does it better . " Zap2it writer Rick Porter

said he was surprised by the wedding twist , particularly by the fact that the wedding was not stopped at the last moment by a " TV @-@ style complication " . He also praised the subplot with Ann and Donna , and said he hoped the two characters would continue to interact with each other throughout the season . The Atlantic writer Scott Meslow said " Andy and April 's Fancy Party " showed how well the April and Andy characters have developed since their romantic story arc began in the second season episode " Hunting Trip " . Meslow said the episode " couldn 't have been better " and was even effective during unabashed sentimental scenes , like the wedding itself and April voicing her appreciation for Leslie . Steve Heisler of The A.V. Club said the wedding felt appropriate for the two characters , and he enjoyed the progression of Leslie going from dreading the wedding to accepting it . Heisler wrote , " Truly , I don 't think I 've ever watched an episode of Parks & Rec without feeling great at the end . "

Eric Sundermann of Hollywood.com said the fact that the wedding scene works shows how genuine the characters are and how well they are presented by the writers . Sundermann also praised the cold open with Ron ripping his tooth out , and said he enjoyed the way Ann Perkins ' character has continued to develop through the season . Steve Kandell of New York magazine called April and Andy perhaps the " most convincingly matched and resoundingly sympathetic couple in sitcom history " , and said their storylines have been handled much more effectively than those of Jim Halpert and Pam Beesly in the NBC comedy The Office . Kandell was more critical of the Ann character , and said she did not seem to fit as a part of the show anymore . Some reviews were less positive . Entertainment Weekly writer Hillary Busis said there were individual elements of the episode she enjoyed , but felt the wedding happened too quickly and the lack of buildup reduced the tension leading up to the event . Joel Keller of TV Squad said , " In a mostly stellar season , this one sits near the bottom of the list . " Keller said the wedding ruined an otherwise funny episode , and that it felt ineffective and rushed because April and Andy were fighting with each other only four episodes earlier . He also criticized the Ann Perkins character : " I 've never seen Rashida Jones play a character this wishy @-@ washy before , and it 's not pleasant to watch . "