

= Jerome Is the New Black =

" Jerome is the New Black " is the seventh episode of the eighth season of the animated comedy series Family Guy . It originally aired on Fox in the United States on November 22 , 2009 . The episode follows Peter , Joe and Quagmire as they go on a search for a new friend , in the absence of Cleveland . The group eventually decides on Jerome , a hip bar patron , which Peter goes on to regret when he eventually finds out that Jerome and Lois used to date . Meanwhile , Brian attempts to discover the source of Quagmire 's personal dislike of him , only to become upset once Quagmire scolds him during a dinner date .

The episode served as a follow @-@ up to the exit of the main character Cleveland Brown , who left Family Guy in order to star in his own Fox spin @-@ off , entitled The Cleveland Show . Voice actor Kevin Michael Richardson , who also stars as Cleveland Brown , Jr. on The Cleveland Show , guest starred as Cleveland 's replacement , Jerome . He would not appear again until the Season 11 episode , " Save the Clam " , but he has appeared more regularly since then . It was first announced at the 2009 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International .

The episode was written by series regular John Viener and directed by Brian Iles . It received mixed reviews from critics for its storyline and cultural references . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 7 @.@ 38 million homes in its original airing . The episode featured guest performances by Kevin Michael Richardson and Nana Visitor , along with several recurring guest voice actors for the series . " Jerome is the New Black " was released on DVD along with seven other episodes from the season on June 15 , 2010 .

= = Plot = =

Upset that Cleveland left the quartet to move to Stoolbend , Virginia , Peter , Quagmire and Joe decide to interview potential friends to fill the vacancy , and are approached by a fellow bar patron named Jerome . After impressing the group with his dart skills , they decide to let Jerome join as their new fourth member . Later , when Peter introduces Jerome to Lois , she reveals that the two used to date . Peter grows jealous and , in a fit of drunken rage , throws a bottle through the window of Jerome 's home , inadvertently causing a fire and burning down his house . Jerome , unaware of the fact that Peter was the vandal who burned down his house , later told Lois " When I find the guy who did it , I 'm gonna rip his arms off and do his wife in front of him ! " The next morning , Peter discovers that Lois has invited Jerome to live with them . As time goes on , Peter cannot contain his jealousy and eventually appears to dress as a member of the Ku Klux Klan , though it is immediately revealed that Peter 's intention is to dress as a ghost carrying a torch , kicking Jerome out . During an argument , Lois reveals that Jerome had bought Peter a gift , and he goes on to apologize to Jerome for being so insensitive . Jerome forgives him and he remains friends with Peter , but admits to having had sex with Meg , to which Peter indifferently responds .

Meanwhile , Brian tries to join Peter 's group , but Peter says it is not a good idea because Quagmire dislikes him . Brian attempts to rectify the situation outside Quagmire 's house . However , Brian ends up making things worse by mistaking Quagmire 's sister , who is hiding out from her abusive boyfriend , for one of his dates . Brian tricks Quagmire into going to dinner with him by making him think Cheryl Tiegs , Quagmire 's long @-@ lost love , is the one inviting him .

At dinner , Brian attempts to make small talk , but Quagmire does not soften up . Finally , Brian asks Quagmire why he does not like him . Quagmire responds with an angry tirade detailing everything about Brian he finds reprehensible , at the end of which he calls Brian " a big , sad , alcoholic bore " . Brian then returns home , having been crying on the way back . Stewie cheers him up by saying that he only needs to like himself , and then professes his own admiration for Brian by letting him spend the night in his room .

= = Production and development = =

First announced at the 2009 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International , the episode was written by

series regular John Viener , and directed by Brian Iles before the conclusion of the eighth production season . The episode was produced to introduce a new fourth member to replace Cleveland Brown , after removing him from Family Guy , in order to create the spin @-@ off series The Cleveland Show , which is also executive produced by Seth MacFarlane , as well as his voice actor , Mike Henry , and writer Richard Appel . Voice actor Kevin Michael Richardson , who portrayed Jerome in the episode , based the character largely on his role as Rockefeller Butts on the short @-@ lived ABC comedy series The Knights of Prosperity . Series regulars Peter Shin and James Purdum served as supervising directors , with Danny Smith , Seth MacFarlane and David Zuckerman serving as staff writers for the episode .

In addition to the regular cast and Richardson , actress Nana Visitor briefly appeared as a crying woman in the episode . Recurring guest voice actors Johnny Brennan , Chris Cox , Ralph Garman , writer and showrunner Mark Hentemann , writer Alec Sulkin and writer John Viener also made minor appearances .

= = Cultural references = =

In the opening scene of the episode , Peter , Joe and Quagmire are shown watching television at the Drunken Clam , when an infomercial featuring Rat Pack members Frank Sinatra , Sammy Davis , Jr . , and Dean Martin is shown , featuring several songs with racially offensive lyrics . Immediately after , the group believes that they see their old friend , Cleveland , who moved to Virginia , across the bar , but are disappointed when it is revealed to be a lamp . Peter then goes on to express his desire to finally replace Cleveland , stating that their group is just like the Muppets character Statler without Waldorf . Deciding to hold auditions for a replacement , they first audition actor Kevin Connolly , who is discouraged from joining once Quagmire attempts to steal his Lucky Charms cereal .

At one point Peter suggests Jerome " shoot people in the D.C. area " in reference to the Beltway sniper attacks . Feeling sorry for Jerome , Lois invites him to stay at their home , with Peter reluctantly agreeing , before suddenly being cut off mid @-@ sentence by the Mac OS X spinning wait cursor . The next day , after Jerome decides to cook for Lois , Peter and Chris , sitting in the other room , overhear Lois passionately complimenting Jerome , and believe they are having sex . Racing to the kitchen , the two discover that she was only complimenting his food , with Don Knotts as Ralph Furley from the sitcom Three 's Company also appearing .

Attempting to win over Quagmire , Brian decides to invite him to dinner , using model and actress Cheryl Tiegs as bait . Soon discovering the invitation to be fake , Quagmire is crushed , causing Brian to suggest that they can be a better team than Lewis and Clark , and a third member who enjoyed " ripping up maps . " After Jerome is convinced to leave by Peter , Lois reveals a gift from Jerome of an original garbage structure from the sitcom Family Ties .

= = Reception = =

" Jerome Is the New Black " was broadcast on November 22 , 2009 , as a part of an animated television night on Fox , and was preceded by an episode of The Simpsons , and Family Guy creator Seth MacFarlane 's new show The Cleveland Show . It was followed by MacFarlane 's second show , American Dad ! . It was watched by 7 @. @ 39 million viewers in its original airing , according to Nielsen ratings , despite airing simultaneously with the 2009 American Music Awards on ABC , Sunday Night Football on NBC and The Amazing Race on CBS . The episode also acquired a 3 @. @ 8 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , surpassing The Simpsons , The Cleveland Show and American Dad ! in addition to edging out all three shows in total viewership .

Reviews of the episode were mostly mixed , calling it an " inconsistent mixed bag episode , " with many jokes " [ falling ] flat . " In a simultaneous review of the episodes of The Simpsons and American Dad ! that preceded and followed the episode respectively , as well as The Cleveland Show , The A.V. Club 's Todd VanDerWerff commented that he thought the episode " started out well before sort of just petering out as the episode went on , " comparing it to South Park 's attempt

to replace Kenny McCormick , before ultimately reintroducing the character into the series . In the conclusion of his review , VanDerWerff praised Quagmire 's monologue , commenting " it 's certainly amusing that the show is spending all of this time tearing down the one character who 's a mouthpiece for the creator . " Ahsan Haque of IGN criticized the episode for its " execution , " stating , " Auditioning friends to replace Cleveland seemed like a better idea on paper . " Haque praised Quagmire 's tirade against Brian , however , as " completely unexpected " and " mildly amusing , " but ultimately gave the episode a 6 @. @ 4 out of 10 . In a subsequent review of Family Guy 's eighth season , Ramsey Isler of IGN listed " Jerome Is the New Black " as " remarkably unfunny , with lazy and unoriginal writing . "