

= Kamp Krusty =

" Kamp Krusty " is the first episode of The Simpsons ' fourth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on September 24 , 1992 . During summer vacation , the children of Springfield attend Kamp Krusty , a summer camp named after Krusty the Clown . The camp is extremely unpleasant , leading to the campers rebelling against the camp director . The episode was written by David M. Stern and directed by Mark Kirkland .

= = Plot = =

Bart and Lisa excitedly discuss their visit to Kamp Krusty , a summer camp run by Krusty the Clown . Homer has made Bart 's visit conditional on him getting at least a C average on his report card . Bart receives a D- in each subject from Ms. Krabappel , so he changes each grade into straight A 's . Homer chides Bart for not faking plausible grades , but lets him go to camp anyway , because he does not want Bart hanging around throughout the summer .

The camp 's director , Mr. Black , has licensed Krusty 's name from the comedian . The campers find out that the camp is a dystopia . Dolph , Jimbo and Kearney , the camp counselors , take the children on death marches , and force them into making knockoff wallets for export .

Homer and Marge enjoy their summer alone , with Homer losing weight and growing hair . Lisa writes to them , describing the camp 's brutal conditions , but her parents think she is exaggerating . Bart hopes that his hero Krusty , will save them , but Krusty remains unaware of the camp 's nature , and is currently visiting England for the Wimbledon Tennis Tournament .

To keep the children complacent , Mr. Black informs the campers that Krusty has finally come , but it is actually Barney Gumble disguised as Krusty . Bart leads the campers in rebellion , driving out Mr. Black and the bullies . Kent Brockman reports on the revolt , where Bart explains the camp 's deplorable conditions that caused him and the campers to rebel in the first place . The stress of seeing Bart as the leader of the rebellion during the report on TV causes Homer to immediately lose the hair he grew and regain the lost weight . Krusty is called away from his vacation , and arrives at the camp where the kids at first don 't believe its him , until a rough search reveals his iconic pacemaker scar . Krusty apologizes to the children for the poor conditions , saying that he was bribed to approve the camp . As compensation , Krusty takes them to " the happiest place on Earth " , Tijuana , Mexico .

= = Production = =

The idea that the children should go to a camp run by Krusty was first suggested by David M. Stern . The animators were enthusiastic about making this episode because they had all gone to summer camps as children and thought it would be a fun episode to write for . The writers also thought that " it would be fun if while the kids are gone Homer and Marge find that as the kids are miserable their marriage is better than ever . " The layout for Bart and Lisa 's cabin was influenced by the director , Mark Kirkland , who as a child went to a Boy Scout camp that had exposed wires and other similar faults . Kirkland was also sure that the character Mr. Black was going to reappear later in the series , but he never did . Al Jean commented , " I guess that the hydrofoil really got Mr. Black out of the show forever . "

After he saw the completed episode , James L. Brooks called the writers and suggested that the Kamp Krusty script be used as a plotline for a film . However , the episode ran very short , and to make it barely fit the minimum time the Kamp Krusty song had to be lengthened by a number of verses . The episode was also chosen to be the first episode of the season , further complicating matters . As Jean told Brooks , " First of all , if we make it into the movie then we don 't have a premiere , and second , if we can 't make 18 minutes out of this episode how are we supposed to make 80 ? "

Along with the following episode " A Streetcar Named Marge " , " Kamp Krusty " was a holdover from the previous season 's production run . It was the final episode to be produced in this run and

so the last animated at Klasky Csupo , before the show 's producers Gracie Films moved its domestic production to Film Roman .

= = Cultural references = =

Some elements of the plot are borrowed from the Allan Sherman song " Hello Muddah , Hello Fadduh " , a song about a kid who went to camp and hated it . The idea for the song sung by the children was from a 1960s TV show called Camp Runamuck , which has a theme song that is similar to the Kamp Krusty song . The song was later used in " Marge Be Not Proud " , and inspired the title of a later episode .

The scene where Lisa gives a bottle of whiskey to a man on horseback ( payment for delivering a letter ) is a reference to Meryl Streep 's scene from the film The French Lieutenant 's Woman . Some aspects of the episode are references to the novel Lord of the Flies ( a pig 's head on a spear , kids using primitive weapons and wearing war paint , and a burning effigy ) .

The scene where Kearney beats a drum to make the campers work in the sweatshop is taken from the slave galley scene in the 1959 film Ben @-@ Hur . The episode ends with the song " South of the Border " . According to the DVD commentary , the song is not sung by Frank Sinatra but by another artist impersonating him . The plot of the episode inspired the 1991 video game spin @-@ off from the television series called Bart Simpson 's Escape from Camp Deadly .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " Kamp Krusty " finished 24th in ratings for the week of September 21 ? 27 , 1992 , with a Nielsen rating of 13 @.@ 5 , equivalent to approximately 12 @.@ 6 million viewing households . It was the highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week . Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , the authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide , had mixed views about the episode . They said that it is " A bit baffling to non @-@ Americans unfamiliar with the summer camp system . But top grade stuff nonetheless . Anyone who 's worked as a counsellor in such a place can testify to this episode 's authenticity . " The episode 's reference to Ben @-@ Hur was named the 31st greatest film reference in the history of the show by Total Film 's Nathan Ditum .