

= I Dream of Jesus =

" I Dream of Jesus " is the second episode of the seventh season of Family Guy . It originally aired on Fox in the United States on October 5 , 2008 . In the episode , Peter finds Jesus Christ ( voiced by Alec Sulkin ) working at a record shop , and convinces Jesus to make his second coming .

Directed by Mike Kim and written by Brian Scully , the title of the episode refers to the television series I Dream of Jeannie . The episode makes a prominent use of the song " Surfin ' Bird " by The Trashmen . The episode guest starred Chris Cox , Ike Barinholtz , Amanda MacDonald , Niecy Nash , Sulkin and Paris and Perez Hilton . The episode received divided reviews from critics , with the more negative reviews going to the portrayal of Jesus , while the positive reviews went to the " Surfing Bird " plot . According to Nielsen Media Research , " I Dream of Jesus " was Fox 's most @-@ watched program the evening it first aired , with 8 @.@ 4 million views . Seth MacFarlane was nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Voice @-@ Over Performance and an Annie Award for his role as Peter Griffin in this episode . This was one of three episodes ( along with " Road to Germany " and " Family Guy " ) submitted the year Family Guy was nominated for the " Outstanding Comedy Series " .

= = Plot = =

The family goes to Nifty Fifties Diner , a 1950s @-@ themed restaurant , and they see waiters dressed up as celebrities from the 1950s , including James Dean , Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley . Peter obtains a record of his favorite song , The Trashmen 's " Surfin ' Bird " from the restaurant ( which was about to be thrown away because it was released in 1963 ) . Peter repeats the song over and over on the way home in bed and even when waking up Lois , annoying his family . However the final straw of the family 's hatred of Surfin ' Bird is when Peter spends over \$ 6 @,@ 000 of the family fortune to buy himself a two @-@ minute clip on TV saying that " I dream of an America where everybody knows that the bird is the word " and singing the song again .

Stewie and Brian steal the record while Peter is asleep one night and destroy it . In a fit of rage , Peter accuses the others , saying they had a motive as he changed his will and left everything to the record . Oblivious to the fact that Lois , Chris and Meg have evidence to prove they did not take it he accuses them of conspiring to destroy his record , and suspects his kids for possible motives . He then furiously goes to the town 's only record shop the next morning to buy another copy , but it turns out the stores had already been visited by " a dog " and " a baby " ( Brian and Stewie ) who bought all the copies . Peter is frustrated , but gets distracted as he recognizes the record sales clerk to be Jesus Christ .

Jesus reveals he goes to Earth every 100 years or so to check on the world , and since his father had become highly irritable after giving up smoking , he needed some time away . He and Peter become friends , and Peter invites him to dinner , along with Brian . Brian asks Jesus for proof he is Jesus Christ , so Jesus proves he is , by turning everyone 's dinner into sundaes and , on Peter 's request , makes Lois ' breasts enlarge to massive proportions . Peter convinces him to make his second coming public . Jesus walks on water to retrieve a dollar bill that blew out of Peter 's hand . Consequently , he becomes famous and makes celebrity appearances on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno and the MTV Movie Awards . He begins to neglect his friendship with Peter , due to him now being popular . The next day , Peter watches the news , where Tom Tucker reports that Jesus was found in Mary @-@ Kate Olsen 's apartment that morning face down and unconscious . Tom reports that police have revived and arrested the disoriented Jesus , who quoted " Jews are responsible for all the world 's wars " . Jesus is arrested for his illegal prank and is sent to jail . Peter is asked by Jesus to bail him out . Now in disrepute , Jesus decides that maybe he was not mature enough to return to the world yet and bids farewell to the family . Before he leaves this world , Jesus gives Peter a present , another record of " Surfin ' Bird " , and it ends with Stewie and Brian groaning in genuine rage when Peter begins annoying his family with the song again .

Surfin ' Bird then plays as the credits roll .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by one of this season's co @-@ executive producers Brian Scully , on his first writing job for the show . It was directed by Mike Kim , who had been with the show since its fifth season when he directed the episode " Stewie Loves Lois " . Series regulars Peter Shin and James Purdum served as supervising directors for the episode . The episode's music was composed by Walter Murphy . Actors Chris Cox , Ike Barinholtz , Amanda MacDonald , Niecy Nash , Paris Hilton and Perez Hilton guest starred . Recurring voice actors for the show , including Patrick Warburton , Adam West , Johnny Brennan , writer Alec Sulkin , writer John Viener , writer Kirker Butler , co @-@ executive producer Steve Callaghan , co @-@ executive producer Mark Hentemann and executive producer Danny Smith also made minor appearances .

" I Dream of Jesus " , along with the first eight episodes of the seventh season were released on DVD by 20th Century Fox in the United States and Canada on June 16 , 2009 , one month after it had completed broadcast on television . The " Volume 7 " DVD release features bonus material including deleted scenes , animatics , and commentaries for every episode .

= = Cultural references = =

The episode's name is a play of the title of the NBC sitcom , I Dream of Jeannie . The scene in which Stewie and Brian destroy the record is nearly identical to a scene in the movie Office Space in which the characters destroy a printer , including use of the same song . Peter makes Jesus admit that he is the messiah by threatening to urinate over albums of Christian artist Amy Grant . Peter attempts to top Jesus ' story about his crucifixion during a dinner conversation with a story about how he and his friends " got wrecked on Southern Comfort " before going to see The Chronicles of Riddick . George W. Bush explains to the American people that going to war was correct because he answers to Jesus Christ , then Peter and Jesus interrupt him to disagree with him like in Woody Allen 's Annie Hall . Jesus is invited to the Tonight Show , hosted by Jay Leno .

Jesus assists the MTV Movie Awards , which is being hosted by Dane Cook , to present an award alongside The Pussycat Dolls . Jesus is found in Mary @-@ Kate Olsen 's apartment . While at the MTV Movie Awards , Jesus says " I used to hang around with only one whore " . When Jesus is arrested , he rants saying that " Jews are responsible for all the world's wars " , a reference to a similar outburst during Mel Gibson 's DUI arrest . Lindsay Lohan is lampooned in the episode . In the record store Peter meets Jesus , some of the posters featured on the wall include the cover artwork for Pink Floyd 's The Dark Side of the Moon , Nirvana 's In Utero and R.E.M. 's Automatic for the People .

= = Reception = =

According to Nielsen ratings , " I Dream of Jesus " was the most @-@ watched program on Fox the night it originally aired . It was watched by 8 @.@ 4 million viewers , and earned a 4 @.@ 3 / 10 ratings share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . Richard Keller of TV Squad praised the " Surfing Bird " and Office Space parody segments . Ahsan Haque of IGN rated the episode a 7 / 10 , claiming the episode had entertaining moments , but was not one of the show's strongest efforts . Haque wrote , " Jesus on Family Guy should have been a big deal and featured far more laughs than it did . " Steve Heisler of The A.V. Club praised the " Surfin Bird " plot , but stated that the Jesus story was abrupt , adding , " There was a lot of ground Family Guy didn't tread that they wanted to " . L. Brent Bozell III of the Parents Television Council , a common critic of the show , took offense at this episode's portrayal of Jesus . Bozell said " this lying , slacker Jesus is even dumber than Peter , the greatest idiot on animated television today . "

Seth MacFarlane was nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Voice @-@ Over Performance for his role as Peter Griffin in this episode , MacFarlane was also nominated for an Annie Award for Voice Acting in an Animated Television Production or Short Form for his work in I Dream of Jesus but lost to Ahmed Best for his role as Jar Jar Binks in Robot Chicken : Star Wars

Episode II . According to Seth MacFarlane , " I Dream of Jesus " was one of three episodes ( along with " Road to Germany " and " Family Gay " ) submitted for consideration for " Outstanding Comedy Series " in the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards in 2009 . He explained , " We picked three of our edgier shows as a choice . We figured if we are going to be damned , let 's be damned for what we really are . " The series was ultimately nominated for the award , the first time an animated series was nominated for the same category since the ABC sitcom The Flintstones in 1961 .