

= Andy 's Ancestry =

" Andy 's Ancestry " is the third episode of the ninth season of the American comedy television series The Office . The episode originally aired on NBC on October 4 , 2012 . The episode was written by Jonathan Green and Gabe Miller , and was directed by David Rogers . The episode guest stars Randall Park as Jim and Pam 's actor friend , Steve .

The series depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In this episode , Andy Bernard (Ed Helms) brags about his discovery that he is related to First Lady Michelle Obama . Darryl Philbin (Craig Robinson) finds his new job as Assistant Regional Manager difficult . Dwight Schrute (Rainn Wilson) attempts to teach Erin Hannon (Ellie Kemper) the Dothraki language from HBO series Game of Thrones so that she can impress Andy 's educated family . Nellie Bertram (Catherine Tate) tells Pam Halpert (Jenna Fischer) that Jim Halpert (John Krasinski) may be having an affair ; meanwhile , Jim reveals his entrepreneurial plans to Darryl Philbin (Craig Robinson) in the warehouse .

" Andy 's Ancestry " received moderately positive reviews from television critics . Many felt that the emotional elements in the episode were effective and that the cold opening was particularly humorous . Many noted that the episode bore stylistic similarities to early episodes of the show . Some , however , were slightly disappointed by the episode 's various subplots . " Andy 's Ancestry " was viewed by 4 @. @ 14 million viewers and received a 2 @. @ 2 rating among adults between the age of 18 and 49 . The episode ranked fourth in its timeslot and was also the highest @- @ rated NBC series of the night .

= = Plot = =

In the cold open , an Asian man (Randall Park) arrives to the office and sits at Jim Halpert 's (John Krasinski) desk . Dwight Schrute (Rainn Wilson) asks who he is . The man claims to be the real Jim , and offers proof : he is able to recall his last sales , Pam Halpert (Jenna Fischer) gives him a kiss , and he has a picture of Pam and himself and their two Asian children . Dwight begins to worry , but Pam explains in a talking head that the man is an actor friend of Jim and Pam 's named Steve .

Andy Bernard (Ed Helms) demands that Nellie Bertram (Catherine Tate) research his family tree . To spite him , she falsely tells him that he is related to U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama . He begins to brag about his discovery , which causes his co @- @ workers to wonder if Andy 's family ever owned slaves . In order to get back at his co @- @ workers , Andy asks Nellie to " dig up dirt " on the rest of the office . In turn , she makes up more fake facts as a prank . It is revealed by Andy 's mother that the Bernards never owned slaves : they simply transported them .

Meanwhile , Pam has been helping Nellie practice for a driving test . The two bond after Nellie shows appreciation for Pam 's art . After telling her that she is worried that her husband Jim is not telling her something , Nellie immediately states that Jim is probably having an affair . Nellie later asks Pam to paint a mural in the warehouse .

Darryl Philbin (Craig Robinson) has been promoted to Assistant Regional Manager and as a result is inspired to find ways to be more productive , for himself and the office . However , his ideas for the office are ignored by Andy , leading to a discussion with Jim in the warehouse about their increasing dissatisfaction with Dunder Mifflin . Jim tells Darryl about his sports marketing job opportunity in Philadelphia and offers him a possible position . However , as Jim has yet to tell Pam , Darryl says he should before going forward . When Pam comes back , Jim reveals the job opportunity to Pam , who , despite giving her approval , is upset that Jim didn 't consult her beforehand .

Dwight attempts to teach Erin Hannon (Ellie Kemper) the Dothraki language from the HBO series Game of Thrones so that she can impress Andy 's educated family . Andy , however , points out that it is a fictional language , leaving Erin dejected . However , as the office leaves for the day , Pete (Jake Lacy) gives Erin a Dothraki farewell .

= = Production = =

" Andy 's Ancestry " was written by co @-@ executive producers Jonathan Green and Gabe Miller , making it their first joint writing credit for the series . The episode was directed by series editor David Rogers . This was Roger 's seventh directing credit for the series , he previously directed the seventh season entry " Ultimatum " . The episode guest stars Randall Park as Jim and Pam 's actor friend . After the release of the episode 's plot synopsis , Geni.com , a genealogy and social networking website , claimed that Ed Helms is in fact Michelle Obama 's 18th cousin once removed . The NBC website later produced the " real " Bernard family tree after the release of the full episode .

= = Cultural references = =

Dwight attempts to teach the Dothraki language from the popular book series A Song of Ice and Fire by George R. R. Martin . The books were later turned into the HBO fantasy series Game of Thrones . Dwight later compares learning Dothraki to learning Klingon , a fictional language from franchise Star Trek . Andy refers to Ladysmith Black Mambazo as " Ladysmith African @-@ American Mambazo " in an attempt to prove he is not racist . Kevin Malone (Brian Baumgartner) later changes Andy 's ringtone to the song " Dixie " .

After Andy asks her to find information regarding the relatives of the office members , Nellie intentionally lies and tells Andy that Kevin is related to John Wayne Gacy and John Wayne Bobbitt . He is disappointed to learn that he is not related to either John Wayne or Dwayne " The Rock " Johnson , whom he erroneously calls " Wayne " . Andy also informs the office that Jim is related to former president Richard Nixon and that Meredith Palmer (Kate Flannery) is related to infamous axe @-@ murder suspect Lizzie Borden . Before he realizes that all of the office members ancestors are fakes , Dwight admits that his were members of the German American Bund , a pro @-@ Nazi group in the 1930s .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Andy 's Ancestry " originally aired on NBC on October 4 , 2012 . The episode was viewed by 4 @. @ 14 million viewers and received a 2 @. @ 2 / 6 percent share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . This means that it was seen by 2 @. @ 2 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 6 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . The episode marked a slight increase when compared to the previous episode , " Roy 's Wedding " . The Office finished fourth in its time slot , being beaten by an episode of the ABC series Grey 's Anatomy which received a 3 @. @ 8 / 10 percent rating ; an entry of the CBS drama Person of Interest , which received a 3 @. @ 0 / 8 percent rating ; and an installment Fox series Glee , which received a 2 @. @ 6 / 7 percent rating . Despite this , The Office was the highest @-@ rated NBC television program of the night .

= = = Reviews = = =

Erik Adams of The A.V. Club gave the episode a moderately positive review and awarded it a " B " . Adams highlighted the serious discussion between Darryl and Jim in the warehouse , noting that " Jim ? s extrication is something to root for " , and that it honored " Craig Robinson ? s dedication to the show " . While feeling that some of the episode 's subplots were " forced " , he did , however , compliment the Pam and Nellie pairing due to " Pam ? s past ability to break through [people like] Angela and Dwight ? s defenses " . Bonnie Stiernberg of Paste magazine noted that , despite Andy 's regression to " his old ways " , it was beneficial for the episode and allowed for many jokes to be

played out . Furthermore , Stiernberg applauded the subtle drama that ran throughout the entry , writing Darryl , Erin , and Pete 's interactions with Andy were important to the overall storyline . Mark Trammell of TV Equals named it " the best episode of the final season of ? The Office ? to date " because it " played to the show 's strengths " . Furthermore , he complimented the character development of Nellie , writing that she " really started to grow on me this week " and that his favorite line was Darryl 's " words of wisdom " to Jim : " It 's not real until your wife is on board . " Michael Tedder of New York magazine gave the episode a positive review and noted that " It 's been a while since The Office was this surprising and moving . " He wrote that the main plot allowed for " overdue development " in regards to other characters and applauded the continued drama involving Pam and Jim ; he called the last shot " quietly heartbreaking " . He did , however , call it a " particularly overstuffed episode " , and felt that Erin 's subplot could have been saved for a different episode .

E ! Online called Pete " especially charming " after " Andy 's Ancestry " , and named him one of the " Best Things in Pop Culture " . Joseph Kratzer of WhatCutlure ! awarded the episode four out of five stars and called it " another enjoyable episode " which continued to signal " the triumphant return of The Office " . He explained that the success of the first episodes of the ninth season " comes from a fluidity not seen in recent years , an organic component that helped make the series such a success in its second and third seasons " . Ultimately , he noted that it was not " the tightest plotted episode " but that it was " better than 90 % of last season " . IGN writer Cindy White awarded the episode an 8 @.@ 2 , designating a " great " episode . She applauded the fact that " the show is returning to its roots " as well as the fact that the actors themselves " seem more invested " in the series . She also called the conversation between Darryl and Jim a " nice change of pace " . She concluded that the plot allowed for a " good source of laughs in the smartly written " episode .

Other reviews were more mixed . Dan Forcella of TV Fanatic awarded the episode three and a half stars out of five and called it " another decent episode " . Furthermore , he wrote that Pam and Nellie 's bonding was the subplot that " worked best " . Nick Campbell of TV.com wrote that " the writers [are] trying to shove Andy Bernard in a Michael Scott @-@ shaped hole . " Furthermore , he called Nellie " the greatest square peg of them all . " Brett Harrison Davinger of the California Literary Review , despite enjoying the tension between Pam and Jim , felt that the main story never went anywhere . He called the main action of the episode " lifeless " , but wrote that the entry as a whole " set up the conclusion of the series " . Davinger also applauded Darryl 's sound byte call back .

The episode 's cold open attracted particular praise . Adams called it a " killer cold open " . Stiernberg referred to the sequence as " one of the funniest in a long time " . Kratzer called Steve 's remark to Dwight about " not seeing race " one of his " favorite moments " from the episode . Forcella called it " hilarious " and " one of the best openings we 've seen in a long , long time . " Trammell called the prank " classic Office " .