

= Seahorse Seashell Party =

" Seahorse Seashell Party " is the second episode of the tenth season of the animated comedy series Family Guy , an episode produced for season 9 . It originally aired on October 2 , 2011 in the United States on Fox . The episode mainly centers around the Griffin family , who are riding out an oncoming hurricane . In their attempt to pass the time , they participate in numerous activities and games . After being condemned by her peers , Meg lashes out and confronts her family . Meanwhile , Brian consumes magic mushrooms which cause him to hallucinate .

" Seahorse Seashell Party " is the second part of the Night of the Hurricane block with The Cleveland Show and American Dad ! . The episode was first announced by Seth MacFarlane at the 2010 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International . It was written by Wellesley Wild and directed by Brian Iles . Originally scheduled to air on May 1 , 2011 as the sixteenth episode of the ninth season of Family Guy , the episode was postponed due to the April 25 ? 28 , 2011 tornado outbreak subsequently coinciding with the timing of the scheduled episodes .

Critical responses to the episode were negative , particularly for its humor and main plot . An estimated 6 @.@ 91 million viewers tuned into the episode upon its initial airing , while also garnering a 3 @.@ 5 / 8 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic according to the Nielsen ratings . The episode featured guest performances by Ioan Gruffudd , Dee Bradley Baker , Debra Wilson , Kat Purgal , and Colin Ford along with several other recurring guest voice actors for the series .

= = Plot = =

As the Griffins prepare for an approaching hurricane which had already hit Stoolbend , Brian decides to use magic mushrooms , to the curiosity of Stewie . As the mushrooms take effect on Brian , he has hallucinations and cuts his ear off , believing it would stop World War II . Stewie tries to take care of Brian , whose hallucinations become more overwhelmingly disturbing , to the point where he sees Stewie transforming into a hideous demon towering over him before he perceives himself in a grotesque , hellish world . During his nightmare sequence , Brian is continually attacked by various monsters resembling the Griffin family and Quagmire . He recovers when Stewie helps him downstairs to drink some water .

The rest of the family passes the time by playing charades and other games . Peter , Lois and Chris play a game of " finger @-@ bang , " until Meg joins in . They shun her , using the sexual connotation to insult and demean her and again later gang up on her when she disturbs Peter 's humming by opening a soda can . At her limit after years of their abuse , Meg finally gets the nerve to turn on them .

She starts with Chris by calling him " a bastard " for being a terrible brother to her , berating him for all the ill treatment he has given her over the years , and how he never takes her side when their parents abuse her . Lois condescendingly tells Meg that she is simply taking her own problems out on everyone else invoking Meg to bring up her mother 's delinquent past . Meg tells her that she is far from the perfect parent , harshly berates her for constantly and ruthlessly pointing out Meg 's shortcomings . Lois tries to justify that she 's a better person because of her past and she is open that she isn 't the perfect parent , but Meg tells her that she 's the farthest thing from and states how she has neglected to protect her from harm and guide her through life . Meg also informs Lois that when she turns 18 , she may never want to see her again . This breaks Lois ' heart and she finally admits that she 's been a terrible mother to Meg . Finally , Meg turns on Peter who , unable to comprehend her insults , thinks that his daughter 's argument is amusing , even when she points out Peter 's destructive tendencies and that he would go to jail if someone could witness his negative treatment towards her . It dawns on Peter that he is being insulted when Meg calls him a " waste of a man . "

A shocked Peter asks Lois to tell Meg to " knock it off , " but Lois refuses because he didn 't stick up for her . Within moments , Peter , Lois and Chris turn their abusive criticisms and insults on each other . Peter finally runs to his room crying , leaving Meg and Brian , who is now full recovered from his trip , to discuss what just happened . Despite Brian complimenting her for standing up for herself

, Meg comes to the conclusion that her family cannot survive without a " lightning rod " to absorb the dysfunction , and the only way they can get along is if she continues to take their abuse . Brian tells her that she is more mature than her family . She then lies to them , saying that she was only taking her own problems out on everyone , restoring their egos and original opinions although she only did this to prevent further fighting and will return being abused by the family , as the hurricane heads for Langley Falls .

Before the episode ends , Stewie then breaks the fourth wall by telling the viewer about the dangers of drugs : " Tonight 's Family Guy was a very special episode about drug use , but the simple fact is , it 's no laughing matter . To learn more about drugs , visit your local library . There 's probably a guy behind there who sells drugs . "

= = Production and development = =

The episode was first announced in July 2010 by series creator Seth MacFarlane at the Comic @-@ Con International in San Diego , California . Kevin Reilly , the entertainment president of the Fox Broadcasting Company , originally pitched the idea for the crossover , which was inspired by theme nights of comedy shows from the 1980s . MacFarlane described the crossover event to be an " enormous challenge " and a " substantial undertaking " ; he chose to do one central story line so that each writing staff would not have to write stories for unfamiliar characters . MacFarlane was also willing to do another crossover event if this one receives successful ratings .

In April 2011 , executives of the Fox Broadcasting Company officially announced that " Seahorse Seashell Party " would air on May 1 . However , on April 29 , it was announced that the crossover event would be removed from the schedule , in response to a series of tornadoes that killed nearly 300 people in the Southern United States . The episodes were subsequently replaced by repeats of " I Am the Walrus " from American Dad ! , " Brian Writes a Bestseller " from Family Guy , and " Ain 't Nothin ' But Mutton Bustin ' " from The Cleveland Show . MacFarlane agreed with the decisions after consulting with the executives of Fox , and a spokeswoman for the company later announced that the episodes would air the following season .

" Seahorse Seashell Party " was written by Wellesley Wild and directed by Brian Iles . It features guest appearances from Ioan Gruffudd , Dee Bradley Baker , Colin Ford , and Debra Wilson . This episode marked Gruffudd 's first guest appearance since the season eight episode " The Splendid Source " and Wilson 's first guest appearance since the season three episode " And the Wiener Is ... " .

= = Cultural references = =

" Seahorse Seashell Party " features several references to media , music , film , and other pop culture phenomena . The episode 's title references dialogue from the viral video " Drinking out of Cups " by electronic musician and composer Dan Deacon .

Peter mentions wanting to watch ' G.I. Jose ' , which leads to a cutaway parodying the G.I. Joe : A Real American Hero public service announcements . Peter mentions the film Fletch while playing charades . One of the many passing @-@ time gags involves Peter performing a sing @-@ a @-@ long to the opening chase music from Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade . As Brian 's hallucinations begin to worsen , Stewie attempts to calm him , reminding him that seeing Lady Gaga nude was a worst @-@ case scenario . Towards the end of the episode , a cutaway gag involving a confrontation between an African American woman and an Italian American man parodies the National Geographic 's documentaries . A reference to the social networking site Twitter was also made by Stewie .

= = Reception = =

" Seahorse Seashell Party " first aired in the United States on October 2 , 2011 as part of the animation television night on Fox . It was preceded by episodes of The Simpsons and The

Cleveland Show , while being succeeded by an episode of American Dad ! . It was viewed by 6 @.@ 91 million viewers upon its initial airing , despite simultaneously airing with Desperate Housewives on ABC , Amazing Race on CBS , and a game between the Baltimore Ravens and the New York Jets on NBC . Total viewership for the episode was the highest out of its respective line @-@ up . " Seahorse Seashell Party " garnered a 3 @.@ 5 / 8 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , according to the Nielsen ratings , also becoming the highest rating of the animation television night on Fox . Total viewership and ratings were significantly down from the previous episode , " Lottery Fever " , which was watched by 7 @.@ 69 million viewers and garnered a 4 @.@ 1 / 9 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

The main plot of " Seahorse Seashell Party " received negative reviews . Kevin McFarland of The A.V. Club wrote of the episode , " This far into the show ? s run , shifting to a much more dramatic bottle episode and reaching for emotional payoffs felt far too little too late . " He resumed : " Nobody cares about any member of the Griffin family the way we care about every last Simpson . I feel bad about Meg becoming the scapegoat . Not because she ? s a good character , but because instead of tweaking and working to make her appreciated or comically valuable , Family Guy spent years going down the path of least resistance and simply joined the fan chorus of hatred . One episode of pointed , forced justification for that shift doesn ? t change a thing . " McFarland concluded his review by giving the episode a grade of D + . Similarly , Terron Moore of Ology felt that much of the episode was wasted . In his review , Moore stated that " Seahorse Seashell Party " was " an episode that spends a lot of time addressing something that didn ? t need to be addressed . " He gave the episode a 4 @.@ 5 out of ten points . TV Fanatic 's Kate Moon was less negative of the episode , stating that even though Meg confronting her family in regards to her treatment was long overdue , she concluded that it felt contrived and uninteresting .

Critics were polarized with the episode subplot . While McFarland expressed enjoyment of some of the animation of the episode , he asserted that it " fell flat . " Moon exclaimed that the subplot would have been more interesting had Stewie ingested the mushroom alongside Brian .

The episode debuted in the United Kingdom on May 20 , 2012 , and achieved 1 @.@ 6 million viewers . Although US reception was negative , UK critics praised the episode for its subplot animation and bold storyline .