

= The Revenge (Seinfeld) =

" The Revenge " is the seventh episode of the second season of the NBC sitcom Seinfeld , and the show 's 12th episode overall . The story revolves around George Costanza 's (Jason Alexander) plot to exact revenge on his boss , with his friend Elaine Benes ' (Julia Louis @-@ Dreyfus) help , after he quits his job at Rick Barr Properties and is refused re @-@ employment . Meanwhile , Jerry (Jerry Seinfeld) and his neighbor Kramer (Michael Richards) get even with a laundromat owner ? who they believe has stolen money from Jerry ? by pouring cement into one of his washing machines .

Written by series co @-@ creator Larry David and directed by Tom Cherones , the episode premiered in the United States on NBC on April 18 , 1991 . Largely based on David 's own experiences , " The Revenge " was the first episode he wrote without Seinfeld 's collaboration . The episode also contained the first mention of Newman , as a suicidal man who lives in Jerry and Kramer 's apartment building , who would later become a popular recurring character . As the episode is the first in which Kramer does physical comedy , some cast and crew members consider it a turning point for the show . When first broadcast in the United States , the episode gained a Nielsen rating of 14 @.@ 4 / 24 and was met with positive response from critics .

= = Plot = =

The episode relates three parallel plots , in intertwining scenes . The first plot concerns George being banned from the executive toilet . Because of this he quits his job , but immediately regrets the decision . He discusses job opportunities with Jerry , but is unable to think of an occupation that would suit him . Jerry suggests that George could try to go back to work and pretend he never quit . George takes this advice , but his former boss , Rick Levitan (Fred Applegate) , refuses to let him stay and insults him . As revenge , George decides to slip a Mickey Finn into his drink during an office party , and enlists Elaine Benes to help him . At the party , Elaine distracts Levitan while George puts the mickey in his drink . When Levitan notices George , however , he decides he was unreasonable and tells George he can have his job back . George attempts to intercept the drink , but after Levitan welcomes him back with a toast sprinkled with insults at George 's expense , he changes his mind . In the following scene we see George once again brainstorming job opportunity ideas , the subtext being that his boss discovered the spiking of his drink , connected it to George , and has fired him once again .

The second plot of the episode revolves around Jerry ; when he prepares to go to the laundromat , Kramer asks him to take his laundry with him . Jerry agrees after some reluctance , insisting that their clothes remain segregated . After retrieving the laundry the following day and returning Kramer 's portion , Jerry remembers that he had hidden a large sum of money in his laundry bag , but is unable to find it . The owner of the laundromat (John Capodice) , tells him that he did not see the money , but also points out that he is not responsible for valuables . Kramer and Jerry both assume Vic stole the money and Kramer comes up with a plan to put cement mix in one of Vic 's washing machines as revenge . Once they have acted out the plan , Kramer discovers that he had the money all along ; and it turns out to be just enough to cover the damage to the washing machine .

In a subplot , Kramer tells Jerry about his suicidal friend Newman who repeatedly threatens to kill himself by jumping off the apartment building . When he does jump , he jumps from the second floor and survives , much to Kramer 's amusement . At the end of the episode , Newman threatens to jump again , Kramer asks Newman if he wants to go shoot some pool with him , but Newman declines , stating that he has plans to go to the movies .

= = Production = =

" The Revenge " was written by series co @-@ creator Larry David and directed by Tom Cherones . All prior Seinfeld episodes were co @-@ written by Seinfeld and David . The Revenge is the first episode written by David alone , though Seinfeld did proofread the script and would continue to do

so for all scripts up to the eighth season . George 's storyline in the episode is based on David 's own experiences while a writer at Saturday Night Live . David had quit SNL halfway through the 1984 @-@ 1985 television season , but felt he had made a mistake once he reached his home . His neighbor Kenny Kramer , who later served as the main inspiration for Kramer , suggested David return to work the following day and act as if nothing had happened . Unlike George Costanza , the ploy succeeded for David , who remained with SNL 's writing staff until the end of that season . George 's reason for quitting was inspired by Seinfeld writer Larry Charles ' use of the private restroom in Seinfeld and David 's office instead of the public one . The Newman sub plot was inspired by one of David 's neighbors , who once jumped from the second floor of the apartment building in which they both lived . The unseen character Mr. Papanickolas , who is mentioned by Kramer , was named after Pete Papanickolas , a member of the production crew .

" The Revenge " was first read by the cast of the show on February 13 , 1991 and was filmed in front of a live audience on February 20 , 1991 . Filming of the episode had been delayed two days due to President 's Day . Both Alexander and Louis @-@ Dreyfus praised the scene in which Jerry and George discuss the types of employment George could apply for after he quit his job . Louis @-@ Dreyfus stated she was jealous that she was not in the scene . A number of scenes in the episode were removed prior to broadcast , such as one in which George and Kramer meet in the hallway and Kramer informs George that Jerry has gone to the laundromat . The writers decided that George could just say Kramer told him Jerry was at the laundromat and , upon that addition , the scene was cut . Initially , during Jerry and George 's conversation about jobs , George mentions Regis Philbin , when they discuss George being a talk show host . Additional dialogue between George and Jerry at the laundromat was also removed . Because the episode " The Stranded " did not air until mid season three , the few references " The Revenge " contained to the episode , were cut . The Newman subplot was significantly reduced ; the character initially appeared in one scene , but it was never filmed . In that scene , he would have explained to Jerry and Kramer that he jumped from the roof , but an awning broke his fall , though Jerry and Kramer would remain skeptical . The episode also involved the second appearance of Harold the building superintendent , who had previously appeared in " The Apartment " . Harold would inform the main characters that Newman made up the story about the awning breaking his fall , though , with the reduction of the Newman subplot , the scene was removed .

The cast considered the episode a turning point for the show . As a method actor , Richards insisted on dumping a real bag of cement into the washing machine used on set , so that the proper physical reactions to such a heavy object would be present . Richards stated that at that point , " rather than talking funny , I wanted to do funny " . During the first take of the scene , Richards fell through a door , and it had to be filmed again . " The Revenge " is also the first episode in which the George and Elaine characters collaborate . Louis @-@ Dreyfus later stated that she and Alexander immediately had " some sort of shorthand with one another comedically , and [she] really relished that . "

Although Newman 's appearance was ultimately cut from the episode , auditions were held for the role ; Tim Russ , who would go on to star in Star Trek : Voyager , auditioned , as did William Thomas , Jr . , known for his appearance on The Cosby Show , who was cast in the part . Newman does share a brief dialogue with Kramer at the end of the episode , David recorded the lines , though he was not credited . The show 's writing staff did not intend to have the character return in any later seasons , but because the idea of having actor Wayne Knight as a neighbor appealed to them , they re @-@ cast Knight in the role of Newman for the season 3 episode " The Suicide " . Afterwards , Knight re @-@ recorded Newman 's lines for the syndicated version of this episode to establish better continuity . Both Knight 's and David 's dialogue were included on the Seinfeld : Volume 1 DVD boxset . Additionally , Fred Applegate guest @-@ starred as George 's boss and John Capodice portrayed Vic , the laundromat owner . Deck McKenzie , who worked as Seinfeld 's stand @-@ in , portrayed George 's colleague Bill . Teri Austin portrayed Ava , a co @-@ worker of George 's ; she would appear again later in " The Stranded " , which was filmed as part of season two , but aired as part of season three . Patrika Darbo , who played George 's co @-@ worker Glenda , would reappear later in the season five episode " The Sniffing Accountant " as a woman

Newman flirts with .

= = Reception = =

First broadcast in the United States on NBC on April 18 , 1991 , Nielsen Media Research estimated that the episode gained a Nielsen rating of 14 @. @ 4 and an audience share of 24 . This means that 14 @. @ 4 % of American households watched the episode , and that 24 % of all televisions in use at the time were tuned into it . Seinfeld was the 15th most @-@ watched program of the week it was broadcast in , and the sixth most @-@ watched program broadcast on NBC . Entertainment Weekly reviewers Mike Flaherty and Mary Kaye Schilling gave the episode a mixed review and graded it with a C , stating " Although neat for its parallel plotting and George 's hilariously clueless career chats with Jerry , ' The Revenge ' is not so sweet " . IGN critic Andy Patrizio considered " The Revenge " one of his personal favorites of season two . The scene in which Kramer struggles to put cement in one of the washing machines has gained positive responses from critics . Margery Eagan of The Boston Globe cited the scene as a perfect example of Kramer 's personality . Neal Justin of the Minneapolis Star @-@ Tribune also considers the scene to be one of the show 's " classic moments " . Daily News of Los Angeles critic Jody Leader also praised Seinfeld for how he distracted Vic in the scene .