

= Cocktails (The Office) =

" Cocktails " is the eighteenth episode of the third season of the US version of The Office . It was written by actor Paul Lieberstein and directed by Lost series creator J. J. Abrams , his first such credit for The Office . NBC hired Abrams and Joss Whedon to each direct an episode during their February sweeps week . Michael Patrick McGill , Dan Cole , Owen Daniels , and Jean Villepique guest starred .

In the episode , Michael , Dwight , Jim and Karen attend a cocktail party at CFO David Wallace 's house . While there , Michael and Jan make their relationship public , Karen makes Jim uncomfortable by pointing out all of her ex @-@ boyfriends in attendance , and Dwight inspects the home . Meanwhile , the rest of the office goes to a bar and Pam tries to be more honest with Roy .

The first American broadcast of " Cocktails " occurred on February 22 , 2007 to an estimated 8 @.@ 3 million viewers . The episode was positively received by television critics , with one believing it was one of the best of the season .

= = Synopsis = =

Jan (Melora Hardin) , Michael (Steve Carell) , Dwight (Rainn Wilson) , Jim (John Krasinski) , and Karen (Rashida Jones) attend a cocktail party hosted by Dunder @-@ Mifflin 's CFO David Wallace (Andy Buckley) . Jan and Michael choose to make their relationship public at this event . With the branch managers away , the remainder of the office goes to happy hour at Poor Richard 's . Pam (Jenna Fischer) reminds Roy (David Denman) that , as her boyfriend , he needs to attend as well . Understanding that he needs to be a better boyfriend , Roy shows up along with his brother , Kenny .

At the party , Karen plays a joke on Jim by identifying many people at the party as former boyfriends . Dwight takes it upon himself to give the house a thorough inspection , and spends the night criticizing the layout of the Wallaces ' house , while Michael 's public displays of affection make Jan uncomfortable . Towards the end of the evening , David invites Jim to play basketball in the backyard . As Michael and Jan drive home together , they have an awkward argument regarding their future together .

At Poor Richard 's , Pam tells Roy she wants a fresh start in their relationship and tells him about the " Casino Night " kiss . Roy reacts violently , and , along with his brother , begins destroying the bar . Pam , seeing his destructive response , immediately calls off their relationship for good . After Roy 's brother uses the jet ski money to pay off the bar for damages , Roy stares off into the distance , saying , " I am gonna kill Jim Halpert . "

= = Production = =

" Cocktails " was written by Paul Lieberstein , who plays Human Resources representative Toby Flenderson on the series . Lost series creator J. J. Abrams was hired on as episode director , his first such credit for the series . Abrams disliked the American series when it first premiered , due to his love for the original British series . The director explained , " I resented it before I saw it , because I thought , ' well , how are you going to do what Ricky and Steve did . In fact , the first season I didn 't get into it at all . In the second season , they really found their voice . And that 's despite having to make 22 episodes , which is twice the length of what the BBC show did . And I thought that the show became brilliant . I was really impressed by how it worked . "

Abrams had been rumored as director since December 2006 , and NBC confirmed this the following month . He and Buffy the Vampire Slayer creator Joss Whedon were both hired to direct an episode during February sweeps week . Abrams had known cast member Kate Flannery years before , when he used to write in a restaurant where Flannery worked as a waitress . The two were reunited on The Office set , where he stated that he was pleased with her success .

Jenna Fischer found her character 's break @-@ up scene with Roy " really dark , " as she is friends with David Denman outside of the show . She explained , " To see him turn like that , for me

it was even more shocking because I know him as a big teddy bear . He played it so well and I think that cliffhanger of ' I ? m gonna kill Jim Halpert ' is one of the best last lines of our episodes ever . " " Cocktails " included recurring guest star Michael Patrick McGill as Kenny Anderson , who called working on The Office " a blast . " Other guest stars included Dan Cole as Dan Gore , Owen Daniels as the Wallaces ' son , and Jean Villepique as Rachel Wallace .

The season three DVD contains a number of deleted scenes . Notable cut scenes included Stanley reacting violently when he sees Ryan talking to his daughter Melissa ; Pam and Roy talking about her Dunder Mifflin painting , the talking head interview with Jan over relationships , Dwight 's upstairs house inspection , and his conversation with the CFO 's son ; and Michael showing off his framed " love contract " .

= = Reception = =

" Cocktails " first aired in the United States on February 22 , 2007 . An estimated 8 @. @ 3 million viewers tuned in to the episode , a drop of less than 10 percent from the previous week . Among adults aged 18 ? 49 , The Office earned a 4 @. @ 2 / 10 ratings share , an increase of seventeen percent from its lead @- @ in .

Television critics tended to view " Cocktails " positively . Kevin Fitzpatrick of UGO Networks praised the episode 's writing and directing , explaining that " Alot [sic] of the credit goes to Paul Lieberstein for his ruthlessly funny writing , but ol ' J.J. really knows how to run with the material and make awkward situations just that much more painful with his direction , one of the best episodes of the series . " Buddy TV writer Oscar Dahl noted that " besides a couple of crafty camera moves , his work was mostly invisible , which is exactly what you want from a director on The Office . " IGN 's Brian Zoromski appreciated the spotlight on female characters Jan , Pam , and Karen , and thought there were " quite a few great little moments this episode , " including " a great Creed moment as he revealed he runs a fake ID company out of his car . " Entertainment Weekly columnist Abby West enjoyed Karen conning Jim at the party , called Rashida Jones ' performance " brilliantly played " ; West also liked Pam 's newfound confidence , but believed she was " dumb " for telling Roy of her kiss with Jim .