

= Mother Tucker =

" Mother Tucker " is the second episode of the fifth season of the animated comedy series Family Guy , an episode produced for Season 4 . It originally aired on Fox on September 17 , 2006 . The episode follows Peter 's mother , Thelma , divorcing from Peter 's father , Francis , and dating news anchorman Tom Tucker . Peter becomes closely attached to Tucker , only for his mother to suddenly end the relationship , leaving Peter feeling abandoned . Meanwhile , Stewie and Brian are employed as DJs on a local radio station , but have creative differences over the tone of the show , which eventually forces Brian to quit .

The episode was written by Tom Devanney and directed by James Purdum . It received mixed reviews for its storyline , and many cultural references . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 9 @. @ 23 million homes in its original airing . The episode featured guest performances by Jon Benjamin , Max Burkholder , Phyllis Diller , Phil LaMarr , Joe Lomonaco , Tamera Mowry , Anne @- @ Michelle Seiler , Tara Strong , Nicole Sullivan , Gore Vidal , Gedde Watanabe , and Wally Wingert along with several recurring guest voice actors for the series . " Mother Tucker " was released on DVD along with twelve other episodes from the season on September 18 , 2007 .

= = Plot = =

Peter 's mother , Thelma , visits the Griffin family home , and alerts her son , Peter that she has finally left his father , Francis . In an attempt to find her a new husband , Peter 's wife , Lois , takes her to a meeting for " single people , " where she meets local news anchor Tom Tucker . Thelma and Tom begin dating , which upsets Peter , causing him to attempt to sabotage the new relationship . He is eventually persuaded by Tom that he should let his mother be happy , and the two begin bonding . Eventually , his mother suddenly ends the relationship , however , causing Peter to believe it is his fault . The next day , Peter learns that it is important for fathers and sons to spend time together , and tells Tom that he should spend more time with his own son , Jake , instead .

Meanwhile , after interrupting a broadcast of local radio station WQHG 's program " Weenie and the Butt " , Brian gets his own radio talk show , when one of the station 's producers compliments his speaking voice . Attempting to have an intelligent dialogue with his listeners , and distancing himself from " Weenie and the Butt " ' s constant overuse of sound effects , Brian is immediately heckled by Stewie 's prank phone calls . After first planning to cancel Brian 's show , the station 's producer announces that he loved the calls , and eventually decides to hire Stewie as co @- @ host . Stewie then turns Brian 's sophisticated talk show into a lewd , raucous , shock jock @- @ style comedy show called " Dingo and the Baby " , much to Brian 's chagrin , who is reluctant to accept the new format . Upon discovering that people love the new show , however , Brian decides to play along with Stewie 's idea . However , when author Gore Vidal , whom Brian had contacted for an interview on his original show , walks into one of his " Dingo and the Baby " broadcasts and leaves in disgust , Brian quits his job in shame . The show is soon replaced by one featuring Cleveland and Quagmire , entitled " Dark Chocolate and the Rod " .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by series regular Tom Devanney , and directed by James Purdum . During the " Weenie and the Butt " scene , several sound effects can be heard . Each of these were recorded individually by people who have sung at such venues as the Academy Awards , and other high publicity events . Family Guy creator Seth MacFarlane has commented that these sound effect recordings took much longer than expected , as they did not sound professional enough . The episode featured guest performances by actress Phyllis Diller , who has portrayed Peter 's mother Thelma in various episodes , and Tamera Mowry in her third appearance . Author Gore Vidal appeared as himself in the episode . In the scene involving Thelma trying to convince Peter to accept that she is dating Tucker , she comments , " Tom here has won a local Emmy for his work

with the retarded " . The Fox Broadcasting Company has a specific rule stating that the word " retard " or " retarded " cannot be said on their network , but this scene was nevertheless permitted . MacFarlane has commented that he cannot understand why the word is not permitted on Fox , given that it is allowed on other networks . According to MacFarlane and other episode commentators , the scene provoked an angry reaction among the mental health community .

There were several scenes throughout this episode that were removed from the script , and not broadcast . One of these comes just after Tom Tucker apologizes to Peter about losing his temper ; it was intended that Jake Tucker would appear , and the origin of his upside @-@ down face would be revealed . The scene with " The Peanuts Reunion " was originally meant for the season four episode " Patriot Games " , but was moved to this episode to ease time constraints in " Patriot Games " . The scene was described by 20th Century Fox worker Leann Siegel as being depressing .

" Mother Tucker " , along with the twelve other episodes from Family Guy 's fifth season , were released on a three @-@ disc DVD set in the United States on September 18 , 2007 . The sets included brief audio commentaries by MacFarlane and various crew and cast members for several episodes , a collection of deleted scenes and animatics , a special mini @-@ feature which discusses the process behind drawing Peter Griffin , and mini @-@ feature entitled " Toys , Toys Galore " .

In addition to the regular cast , voice actor Jon Benjamin , child actor Max Burkholder , actress Phyllis Diller , voice actor Phil LaMarr , actor Joe Lomonaco , voice actress Tamera Mowry , actress Anne @-@ Michelle Seiler , voice actress Tara Strong , voice actress Nicole Sullivan , author Gore Vidal , actor Gedde Watanabe , and voice actor Wally Wingert guest starred in the episode . Recurring guest voice actors Chris Cox , Ralph Garman , writer David A. Goodman , writer Mike Henry , writer Danny Smith , writer Alec Sulkin , and writer John Viener made minor appearances in the episode .

= = Cultural references = =

The episode opens with the Griffin family attending the local Airshow in Quahog , and are shown to be anxiously awaiting one of the pilots to crash . After a pilot successfully lands , Peter expresses his boredom , and states that he would rather be home watching " the tape from the The Ring " . In a flashback , Peter begins playing the film , after first being warned , with the 1987 film Mannequin appearing instead and having the same effect as the cursed tape . Deciding to stay at the airshow to watch their neighbor , Glenn Quagmire perform , he flies his plane through several billboards (specifically through the crotch of the women 's images on the boards) , including those for Veronica Mars , The Simple Life and On the Record w / Greta Van Susteren (which he can only do after " getting some help " from a Jack Daniel 's Tennessee whiskey billboard .

Returning home , the Griffin family decide to watch a television show entitled Roundtable , featuring guests Al Michaels , Harold Ramis , Ray Romano and Kermit the Frog . Once Thelma appears , and alerts Peter of her split @-@ up with his father , Peter is shocked , stating that the same happened at the Peanuts reunion , with Charlie Brown then appearing as a punk rock drug dealer .

When Peter finds Thelma and Tom in bed , a cutaway shows Stewie reading a quotation from the movie Harold and Maude .

After Thelma leaves Tom , he begins showing Peter more affection , causing Lois to believe it to be strange . Peter then states that it is no stranger than when Darth Vader from the film franchise Star Wars was a parking attendant . Vader is then shown in the contemporary world as a failure , and making minimum wage . This scene , as with all scenes that contain references to Star Wars or its characters , was sent to Lucasfilm for approval , in order to protect copyright . After Stewie takes over Brian 's radio show , the two begin playing random sound clips from various films and television shows , including dialogue from the 1993 drama film Philadelphia , which was acknowledged as a mistake by Stewie .

In an attempt to rebel from his father , Peter decides to reach for the freezer to take out some ice cream during dinner , much to the chagrin of Tom Tucker , who attempts to stop him . As Peter lifts

a spoon of ice cream to his mouth , he is warned by Tucker several times not to eat it . When he does , however , Tucker repeatedly spansks him , in reference to the 1979 drama feature Kramer vs. Kramer (even though the spanking does not occur in the movie) . After author Gore Vidal appears at the radio station Brian had invited him to speak at , Vidal quickly leaves after he finds the show to be low @-@ brow . This causes Brian to quit the show , noting that he has become " worse of a sell @-@ out " than when Stewie appeared in a Butterfinger commercial . Stewie is then shown eating a Butterfinger , and says " Nobody better lay a finger on my Butterfinger " , which is a parody of the many Butterfinger commercials featuring Bart Simpson , and utters the annoyed grunt , D 'oh ! , a phrase used regularly by The Simpsons character Homer Simpson . The bit is also a reference to the negative criticism and similarities between Family Guy and The Simpsons .

= = Reception = =

In a slight decrease from the previous week , the episode was viewed in 9 @. @ 23 million homes in its original airing , according to Nielsen ratings . The episode also acquired a 3 @. @ 3 in the 18 ? 49 demographic , slightly edging out The Simpsons , in addition to series creator Seth MacFarlane 's second show American Dad ! , in both rating and total viewership .

Reviews of the episode were mixed , calling it a " slow start to the season . " Dan Iverson of IGN reviewed the episode positively , noting that the episode " would make even the most anti @-@ Family Guy television viewers out there laugh pretty hard . " Iverson went on to comment , however , that " it probably won 't be remembered as fondly as some of the episodes from the first few seasons . " For him , the " funniest aspect of the episode " was the radio scene , in which " we get the impression that [radio jockeys] are immature , simple @-@ minded idiots . " Brett Love of TV Squad reviewed the episode slightly more negatively , stating that " the whole Peter story just didn 't do much for me . " Love did find that the " Stewie and Brian stuff was the best part of the episode , " but went on to proclaim that " there are 20 more episodes to get it right . " In his review of the Family Guy Volume 5 box set , Francis Rizzo of DVD Talk wrote that the radio subplot is " a perfect parody of everything that 's wrong in radio . "