

= Like Father , Like Clown =

" Like Father , Like Clown " is the sixth episode of The Simpsons ' third season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on October 24 , 1991 . In the episode , after recalling a traumatic memory , Krusty the Clown reveals to the Simpson family that he is of Jewish heritage , and that his father , Rabbi Hyman Krustofski , disowned him for pursuing a career in comedy . Krusty is emotionally upset and Bart and Lisa decide to try to reunite Krusty with his long @-@ estranged father .

" Like Father , Like Clown " was written by the duo of Jay Kogen and Wallace Wolodarsky . Krusty 's religion had not been part of the original concept of the character , so Kogen and Wolodarsky decided to parody the 1927 film The Jazz Singer and establish that Krusty is Jewish . The episode was carefully researched and two rabbis , Lavi Meier and Harold M. Schulweis , were credited as " special technical consultants " . It was directed by Jeffrey Lynch and Brad Bird ; as it was Lynch 's first credit as a director , Bird was assigned to help him . Comedian Jackie Mason , who had once been an ordained rabbi , provided the voice of Rabbi Krustofski . The rabbi later became an infrequently recurring character voiced by Dan Castellaneta . Mason returned to voice the character in several later episodes .

In its original broadcast , " Like Father , Like Clown " finished 34th in ratings with a Nielsen rating of 12 @.@ 7 . Jackie Mason won a Primetime Emmy Award in 1992 for Outstanding Voice @-@ Over Performance for his performance as Rabbi Krustofski .

= = Plot = =

Although Krusty the Clown agrees to have dinner with the Simpson family as part of his repayment for Bart 's help in exonerating him in the episode " Krusty Gets Busted " , Krusty keeps canceling , much to Bart 's disappointment . An upset Bart writes a letter to Krusty saying he is no longer his fan . Krusty 's secretary is so moved by the letter that she angrily threatens to quit if Krusty does not keep his promise to Bart , finally persuading him to do so . Upon learning that Krusty is coming to the Simpson house for dinner , Milhouse comes along , to which Bart reluctantly allows . When asked to say grace , Krusty recites a Hebrew blessing . Realizing that Krusty is Jewish , Lisa speaks of his heritage , making Krusty break down in tears . After some convincing from the family to why he 's so depressed about it , Krusty tells the family his real name , Herschel Krustofski , and describes his upbringing in the Lower East Side of Springfield .

His father , Hyman Krustofski , was a rabbi and strongly opposed young Herschel 's wish to become a comedian ; he wanted the boy to go to yeshiva instead . Krusty did attend the school , where he said he made the other students laugh by doing funny impressions of his father . As a result , Krusty became a slapstick comedian behind his father 's back . One night , Krusty performed at a rabbi 's convention and a rabbi squirted seltzer on him , washing off his clown makeup . Rabbi Krustofski , who was in the audience , recognized him , was furious and disowned his son , and now it has been 25 years since they have seen or spoken to each other .

In the weeks following this admission , Krusty thinks about his father and becomes depressed , breaking down on live television after watching a father @-@ son related Itchy and Scratchy cartoon . Bart and Lisa decide to help reunite father and son , but the rabbi still refuses to accept Krusty 's career choice , explaining that Krusty " turned his back on their traditions , on their faith , and on him " . They decide to try to outsmart the rabbi , and Lisa does research and finds Judaic teachings that urge forgiveness , but Rabbi Krustofski has responses for each of them out of stubbornness . In a last @-@ ditch effort , Bart convinces the rabbi to realize his stubborn ways with a quote from Sammy Davis , Jr . , a Jewish entertainer just like Krusty , in which the entertainer makes a passionate speech about the struggles that the Jewish people have overcome . This quote finally convinces Rabbi Krustofski that entertainers have a place in Jewish heritage . A deeply depressed Krusty is glumly doing a live telecast of his show , when Rabbi Krustofski appears . The two joyously hug and reconcile in front of the audience of children , with Rabbi Krustofsky accepting a cream pie from Bart and throwing it in his son 's face .

= = Production = =

" Like Father , Like Clown " was written by the duo of Jay Kogen and Wallace Wolodarsky . Krusty 's religion had not been part of the original concept of the character , so Kogen and Wolodarsky decided to parody The Jazz Singer and establish that Krusty is Jewish . They pitched the idea to co @-@ executive producer Sam Simon , who rejected it , but it was approved by James L. Brooks . Krusty 's last name , Krustofski , was established in this episode as pitched by Al Jean . The portion of the episode where characters quote the Bible in support or opposition of clowning were carefully researched . Cited passages from the Bible include Exodus 20 : 12 and Joshua 1 : 8 . The quotations from the Talmud were also researched , and two rabbis , Lavi Meier and Harold M. Schulweis , were credited as " special technical consultants " . Schulweis was asked to take a look at a draft of the script . While not a fan of the show , he felt " it was profound " and added some corrections . He later commented , " I thought it had a Jewish resonance to it . I was impressed by the underlying moral seriousness . "

The episode was co @-@ directed by Jeffrey Lynch and Brad Bird . It was Lynch 's first credit as a director , so Bird was assigned to help him out and " usher [Lynch] into the world of directing things quickly " . Krusty is one of Bird 's favorite characters , and he always tries to animate a scene in every Krusty episode .

Rabbi Krustofski was voiced by Jackie Mason , who had once been an ordained rabbi , but had resigned to become a comedian . Mason recorded his lines in New York City , and Dan Castellaneta , voice of Krusty , went there to record with him . In the script , Bart and Lisa try to trick Rabbi Krustofski into meeting with Krusty by arranging a lunch date between him and Saul Bellow , the " Nobel Prize @-@ winning Jewish novelist " . Originally , this was intended to be Isaac Bashevis Singer , but the writers changed it when Singer died . Mason 's lines had to be re @-@ recorded in order to complete the change . Rabbi Krustofski became an infrequently recurring character , and his occasional speaking parts were voiced by Castellaneta . Mason later returned to voice the rabbi in " Today I Am a Clown " in the fifteenth season , " Once Upon a Time in Springfield " in the twenty @-@ first season , and " Clown in the Dumps " in the twenty @-@ sixth season , in which the character dies .

= = Cultural references = =

The episode is an homage to the film The Jazz Singer , about a son with a strict religious upbringing who defies his father to become an entertainer . The film is mentioned when Rabbi Krustofski states , " Oh , if you were a musician or a jazz singer , this I could forgive ! " Lisa tells Homer that there are many Jewish entertainers , including Lauren Bacall , Dinah Shore , William Shatner and Mel Brooks , the latter of which shocks Homer . In Krusty 's flashback , he and his father walk down the street in a parody of a scene from The Godfather Part II . In the Simpsons house , Krusty plays The Concert for Bangladesh . In Krusty 's studio , there are pictures of him with Alfred Hitchcock and The Beatles . At the end of the episode , Krusty and his father sing " O Mein Papa " , a 1952 song originally by Eddie Fisher . Bart quotes a passage from Sammy Davis , Jr . ' s 1965 autobiography Yes , I Can . When Rabbi Krustofski reads the menu at a restaurant , the sandwiches are named after Jewish comedians including Joey Bishop , Jackie Mason (the voice of Rabbi Krustofski) and Krusty the Clown himself .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " Like Father , Like Clown " finished 34th in ratings for the week of October 21 ? 27 , 1991 , with a Nielsen rating of 12 @.@ 7 . It was the highest rated program on Fox that week . Mason won a Primetime Emmy Award in 1992 for Outstanding Voice @-@ Over Performance for his performance as Rabbi Krustofski . He was one of six voice actors from The Simpsons to win the award in its inaugural year . He is one of three The Simpsons guest stars to win

the award ; Marcia Wallace won in 1992 for voicing Edna Krabappel , and Kelsey Grammer won for voicing Sideshow Bob in 2006 .

The authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide , Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , called the episode , " a magnificent show , with Jackie Mason wonderfully over the top as Krusty 's long @-@ lost pa , and Lois Pennycandy giving Krusty a good talking to about Bart. " Alan Sepinwall and Matt Zoller Seitz of The Star @-@ Ledger listed " Like Father , Like Clown " as one of the ten episodes of The Simpsons that shows the " comic and emotional scope of the show . " They wrote , " Most Krusty the Klow episodes go heavy on celebrity cameos , while playing up the character 's misanthropic greed . This one gave him a heart , as Bart and Lisa try to reunite him with his estranged rabbi father (voice of Jackie Mason) , who has never forgiven his son for going into show biz . " DVD Movie Guide 's Colin Jacobson wrote that the episode " lacks a surfeit of guffaws , but it manages to be sweet and heartfelt without becoming sappy . It 's more of a charming show than a laughfest , but it does the job . "