

= The One with the Cast of Night Court =

" The One with the Cast of Night Court " is the third episode of the third season of the American television comedy series 30 Rock . It was written by co @-@ executive producer Jack Burditt , and directed by Gail Mancuso . The episode originally aired on the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) in the United States on November 13 , 2008 .

The episode received mixed reception from television critics . According to the Nielsen ratings system , it was watched by 7 @.@ 5 million households during its original broadcast , and received a 4 @.@ 6 rating / 7 share among viewers in the 18 ? 49 demographic . For her performance in this episode , Aniston received a Primetime Emmy Award nomination in the category for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series .

= = Plot = =

Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) and Jenna Maroney (Jane Krakowski) await the arrival of their old Chicago roommate , Claire Harper (Jennifer Aniston) . The two are not thrilled with her visit as they find her exhausting to be around . Immediately , their boss Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) is attracted to Claire , but Liz tells him not to get involved with her . Jack , however , reveals to Liz that the two have already slept together . At a General Electric formal function , Claire surprises Jack by singing " Happy Birthday " to him . He tells her that she needs to leave , so Claire loudly threatens to kill herself . To help Jack , Liz gets Claire to abandon her plans with Jack and instead go out nightclubbing with her and Jenna . At the club , Claire does not show up , which prompts Liz to call Jack to warn him about potential danger . He finds Claire inside his apartment and ends up sleeping with her again . When asked to choose between Liz and Claire , Jack chooses Claire , but Claire , thinking that the relationship has gotten boring , turns on Jack .

Meanwhile , NBC page Kenneth Parcell (Jack McBrayer) is not happy with the new page uniforms . Wanting to see Kenneth happy again , Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) gets actors Harry Anderson , Markie Post , and Charlie Robinson from the television show , Night Court . Kenneth is excited when he finds out that he can watch the Night Court wedding between the Anderson and Post 's characters , Judge Harry Stone and Christine Sullivan , before the show is canceled by the network . When a conflict between Anderson and Post ensues , it seems that the wedding will not take place . However , Anderson and Post make up and rehearse . As Tracy and Kenneth finish taping the final scenes of Harry and Christine 's wedding , Harry declares it illegal to wear the new page uniforms and demands the old ones be brought back . Tracy tells Kenneth that he added that part in the script as he complained to Kenneth 's superiors to bring back the old uniforms , which makes Kenneth happy .

= = Production = =

" The One with the Cast of Night Court " was written by co @-@ executive producer Jack Burditt , and directed by Gail Mancuso . This was Burditt 's eighth writing credit , and was Mancuso 's fourth directed episode . It originally aired on NBC in the United States on November 13 , 2008 , as the third episode of the show 's third season . Its title , " The One ... " , is the convention used to name episodes of guest star Jennifer Aniston 's prior sitcom Friends .

In August 2008 , it was announced that actress Jennifer Aniston would guest star on 30 Rock . The following month it was confirmed by NBC that she would play a woman obsessed with Alec Baldwin 's character , Jack Donaghy . She filmed her scenes on August 29 and September 4 , 2008 . In November 2008 , it was announced that actors Markie Post , Harry Anderson and Charles Robinson , the cast of the situation comedy show Night Court , would make a cameo on the show .

Two filmed scenes from " The One with the Cast of Night Court " were cut out from the airing . Instead , the scenes were featured on 30 Rock 's season 3 DVD as part of the deleted scenes in the Bonus feature . In the first scene , Liz and Jenna recall their wild nights with Claire , including when Jenna and Claire danced around an opened fire hydrant , while Liz tells them that she does not feel

safe . They also remember when they crashed a Polish wedding , in which Claire is seeing dancing around a group of men . In the second scene , Harry Anderson is in Tracy 's dressing room , after leaving rehearsal . Tracy enters to convince him to make up with Markie Post . In another room , Kenneth is seen with Markie Post . Anderson complains to Tracy about Post , as does Post about Anderson to Kenneth . Tracy tells him to forget about the past and fulfill Kenneth 's dreams of a Night Court wedding to make Kenneth happy , as he is displeased with the new page uniforms he is forced to wear .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " The One with the Cast of Night Court " was watched by 7 @. @ 5 million households , according to the Nielsen ratings system . It received a 4 @. @ 6 rating / 7 share among viewers in the 18 ? 49 demographic , meaning that 4 @. @ 6 % of all people in that group , and 7 % of all people from that group watching television at the time , watched the episode . This was a decrease from the previous episode , " Believe in the Stars " , which was watched by 8 @. @ 0 million American viewers . This episode was the tenth highest @- @ rated show on the NBC network during the week of November 10 ? 16 , 2008 . Jennifer Aniston received a Primetime Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series at the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards for her work in this episode , but lost to Tina Fey for her satirical portrayal of Sarah Palin on Saturday Night Live .

Since airing , " The One with the Cast of Night Court " has received mixed reception from television critics . Nathan Rabin of The A.V. Club wrote that the episode was " kooky , ooky and over @- @ the @- @ top " and enjoyed every minute of it . " For the more esoteric viewer , it 's a milestone episode " , said The Age 's Farah Farouque . Cameron Adams for the Herald Sun called the episode hilarious , while The Boston Globe 's Matthew Gilbert felt that it was flaccid and clichéd . IGN contributor Robert Canning said that the episode " did have its moments " and that the storylines " had their potential , and their share of laughs , but I can 't help but feel they both could have been so much more . " He opined that the Kenneth and Tracy story was " more up 30 Rock 's style " but that it was a shame that the story could not " quite knock the concept out of the park . " Overall , Canning rated " The One with the Cast of Night Court " a 7 @. @ 9 out of 10 . Jeff Labrecque for Entertainment Weekly reported that the episode fell flat .

Critical opinion was divided on Aniston 's performance as Claire . TV Guide 's Matt Mitovich wrote that Aniston " looked sweet , but the role was juuuuust [sic] a bit much ... [and] over @- @ the @- @ top . " Jeremy Medina of Paste said that the show did not really seem to know what to do with Aniston in this episode . Tom Stempel for Slant Magazine said 30 Rock was " smart enough " not to make Claire resemble Aniston 's former television character , Rachel , from Friends . Further in his review , Stempel said that Claire was a " great choice of character " for Aniston to play , and praised her for knocking the role " out of the park . " Kerrie Murphy for The Australian was equally positive noting that Aniston fits in smoothly as Liz 's former roommate . Murphy added , " Not only is it a reminder that Aniston is a gifted comic actor [...] With her , the show 's regular cast easily hold their own . "

Bob Sassone of AOL 's TV Squad enjoyed the cameos of Harry Anderson , Markie Post , and Charles Robinson in the episode . Robert Philpot for the Fort Worth Star @- @ Telegram wrote that the Night Court cast stole the show from Aniston . Television columnist Alan Sepinwall for The Star @- @ Ledger wrote that he " got a much bigger kick out " of the Night Court story . Medina , who wrote that the episode was " mostly a success " , disliked the Night Court subplot , claiming it was not funny .