

= Cartman 's Mom Is a Dirty Slut =

" Cartman 's Mom Is a Dirty Slut " is the first season finale of the American animated television series South Park . It originally aired on Comedy Central in the United States on February 25 , 1998 . The episode is the highest viewed episode in the entire South Park series , with 6 @.@ 4 million views . It is part one of a two @-@ episode story arc , which concluded with " Cartman 's Mom Is Still a Dirty Slut " . The episode follows Eric Cartman , one of the show 's child protagonists , becoming curious about the identity of his father . He discovers that his father is most likely a man his mother had sexual intercourse with during an annual party called " The Drunken Barn Dance " . Meanwhile , his friends Stan , Kyle and Kenny participate on America 's Stupidest Home Videos , after filming Cartman playing in his yard with plush toys .

The episode was written by Trey Parker and staff writer David A. Goodman , and directed by Parker . It featured a guest appearance by comedian Jay Leno , who provided cat sounds for Cartman 's cat . " Cartman 's Mom is a Dirty Slut " had a cliffhanger ending ; the identity of Cartman 's father was intended to be revealed in the second season premiere , but Parker and co @-@ creator Matt Stone wrote an unrelated April Fool 's Day episode instead . This was much to the dismay of South Park viewers . This episode was met with positive responses from critics .

In the summer of 2013 , fans voted " Cartman 's Mom Is a Dirty Slut " as the best episode of season one .

= = Plot = =

Stan , Kyle and Kenny decide to check on Cartman when he does not show up for school . They discover that he is having a tea party with his stuffed animals in his backyard . Their school counselor Mr. Mackey advises them to videotape Cartman , so he can study him psychologically .

Meanwhile , Cartman does not have a father to take to the annual father @-@ and @-@ son dance and asks his mother who he is . His mother explains that she met his father , a Native American named Chief Running Water , at the 12th annual " Drunken Barn Dance " . However , Chief Running Water informs him that his mother dumped him for Chef . Chef tells Cartman that his mother preferred Mr. Garrison over him . Mr. Garrison admits that he had slept with Mrs. Cartman , but then argues " But who here didn 't ! ? " , to which Mayor McDaniels , Principal Victoria , Jesus and Father Maxi share guilty glances with each other . Dr. Mephisto is willing to perform DNA testing to resolve the issue , but requires \$ 3 @,@ 000 for the test . Cartman gets depressed , as he does not have the money .

In the meantime , Kyle , Stan and Kenny watch America 's Stupidest Home Videos ; they hear there 's a \$ 10 @,@ 000 grand prize for the stupidest home video . They decide to enter the competition with the video they made of Cartman . Cartman approaches Kyle and Stan (Kenny was dragged to a train track by Stan 's go @-@ cart and killed by an oncoming train) with the depressing news about his lack of funds to find out his real father . Stan and Kyle agree that if they win the video contest they will give Cartman the \$ 3 @,@ 000 needed for the DNA testing . Cartman is overjoyed , but quickly becomes extremely angry after seeing the aired video . Though they do not win the competition , as Stan 's grandfather wins with a videotape he made of Kenny 's death , they receive a \$ 3 @,@ 000 runner @-@ up prize instead , which is still enough for the DNA test . Dr. Mephesto calls together Cartman , his mother and all potential fathers (including the 1989 Denver Broncos) , when he gets the test results which is where Kenny comes back to life . When he is about to reveal the identity of Cartman 's father , a narrator states that the answer will be revealed in the new South Park episode four weeks later , much to Cartman 's annoyance and anger .

= = Production = =

" Cartman 's Mom is a Dirty Slut " was written by South Park co @-@ creator Trey Parker and staff writer David R. Goodman , and directed by Parker . South Park would sometimes have guest appearances by celebrities , but they would usually voice a supporting or minor character ; Academy

Award winning actor George Clooney had previously provided dog barks for the episode " Big Gay Al 's Big Gay Boat Ride " . Comedian and talk @-@ show host Jay Leno provided the sounds of Cartman 's cat Mr. Kitty in the episode . Leno would return later as himself in the season two episode " City on the Edge of Forever " . Toddy Walters provided the vocals for the song used at " The Drunken Barn Dance " (which is a parody of " My Heart Will Go On ") . Walters was romantically involved with Parker at the time the episode was being produced . She would continue to write and sing for the show throughout its third season .

The episode was to conclude with the first episode of the second season , on April 1 , 1998 , four weeks after " Cartman 's Mom is a Dirty Slut " was first broadcast . However , instead of continuing the episode 's storyline , Parker and co @-@ creator Matt Stone made an episode regarding the South Park minor characters Terrance and Philip , as an April Fool 's Day prank on viewers of the show . Upset fans wrote more than 2 @, @ 000 angry e @-@ mail complaints to Comedy Central within a week of the episode 's original broadcast , and media outlets said some fans harbored a grudge against the show more than five years after the episode was broadcast .

= = Theme = =

Writing for Newsday , television critic Tom Carson stated he felt the episode was " a really plaintive story about craving something , anything , to hold onto " , as Cartman tries to adapt the culture of each man he believes to be his father . Jeffrey Andrew Weinstock , author of the book Taking South Park Seriously , also felt the episode was a good example of a " kind of equivalency between ethnic , racial and sexual identities " , but felt " the humor lies partly in Cartman 's parody of mass culture 's stereotypes of Native Americans and African Americans " . In his book American politics and society today , Robert Singh noted that the episode gives the most prominent example of how Cartman 's rude behaviour is the result of being raised without a father . This correlated with a theory by Paul Cantor , author of the book The Simpsons : Atomistic Politics and the Nuclear Family , regarding Homer Simpson , of FOX 's The Simpsons , " that merely by being present , a dutiful and attached father can provide a meaningful influence , despite his dysfunctional behaviour and errant educational ways . "

= = Release and reception = =

The episode was first aired in the United States on the cable television channel Comedy Central on February 25 , 1998 . It received a Nielsen rating in the 8 @. @ 0 range . In Canada , the episode premiered on The Comedy Channel on August 20 , 1998 , it was the last of a three @-@ week South Park marathon aired by the network . A little over 300 @, @ 000 viewers watched the episode , which was a record for the channel , which had only been part of Canada 's cable networks for ten months . The complete three @-@ week marathon was watched by an average 186 @, @ 307 viewers per minute per day .

When first broadcast in the United States , " Cartman 's Mom is a Dirty Slut " gained positive responses from critics . Writing for The Vancouver Sun , Brian Lowry and Alex Strachan defined " Cartman 's Mom is a Dirty Slut " , as well as " Damien " , " Mecha Streisand " and " Mr. Hankey , the Christmas Poo " , as season one 's " classic episodes " , commenting that " Cartman 's Mom is a Dirty Slut " was " a heart @-@ warming , tender episode " . Carson also praised the episode for its " hilarious sex @-@ jokes " . In a top ten list of South Park 's best episodes , compiled by Chicago Tribune reporter Allan Johnson , " Cartman 's Mom is a Dirty Slut " was ranked third , behind " Osama bin Laden Has Farty Pants " and " Mr. Hankey , the Christmas Poo " .

On April 27 , 1999 , " Cartman 's Mom is a Dirty Slut " was released on the " South Park : Volume 7 " VHS tape which also contained " Cartman 's Mom is Still a Dirty Slut " , in a third series of South Park home video releases . Volume 7 was sold along with Volume 8 , which contained " Chickenlover " and " Ike 's Wee Wee " , and Volume 9 , which contained " Conjoined Fetus Lady " and " The Mexican Staring Frog of Southern Sri Lanka " . All thirteen episodes of the first season , including " Cartman 's Mom is a Dirty Slut " , were released on a DVD box set on November 12 ,

2002 . Parker and Stone recorded commentary tracks for each episode , but the tracks were not included on the DVDs due to " standards " issues with some of the statements ; refusing to allow the tracks to be censored or edited , Parker and Stone 's commentary tracks were released on a separate CD .